



# Keeping Comox Valley Families Together

Annual Report  
You Are Not Alone (YANA)  
2015 - 2016

**YANA**  
you are not alone



# Our story

Over thirty years ago, a little girl named Roberta became critically ill and had to be airlifted to Children's Hospital in Vancouver. A diagnosis of congenital heart failure with severe complications changed her family's life in an instant.

Roberta's mother, Sandra Williams, stayed in Vancouver with her young daughter for months at a time. Roberta's father stayed behind in the Comox Valley working and managing a household with three other children, while travelling to Vancouver whenever he could. The financial and emotional costs, during this time, were devastating to the Williams family.

Drawing from their own experiences, and after meeting other families in the same position from all over the province, the Williams family made a commitment to our community. They committed to the ideal that no family should be alone when faced

with having to leave their community for the medical treatment of a child.

YANA (You Are Not Alone) was founded in 1986. This grass roots organization had its humble beginnings operating out of the Williams' home and helping one family at a time. Sandra, her friends, and her family were determined to realize the vision of keeping families together during their most difficult times.

YANA now operates out of an office in Courtenay. We help children and pregnant mothers who reside in School District 71 who need to travel outside our community for medical care. We provide accommodation and funding to help with expenses. To date, this unique non-profit organization has funded thousands of trips for medical treatment in Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and other locations.

Our goal is to ensure our community can access the best medical care for their children and to keep Comox Valley families together during stressful times.

YANA's core belief remains unchanged; when a child is ill the whole family needs care. The Comox Valley has shared that belief for 30 years and continues to support YANA and the families in our community who access our services.

Sandra Williams, founder of YANA, passed away in 2009. She left a legacy of giving, compassion, and caring that has become part of the Comox Valley culture. We are proud to continue her work to ensure

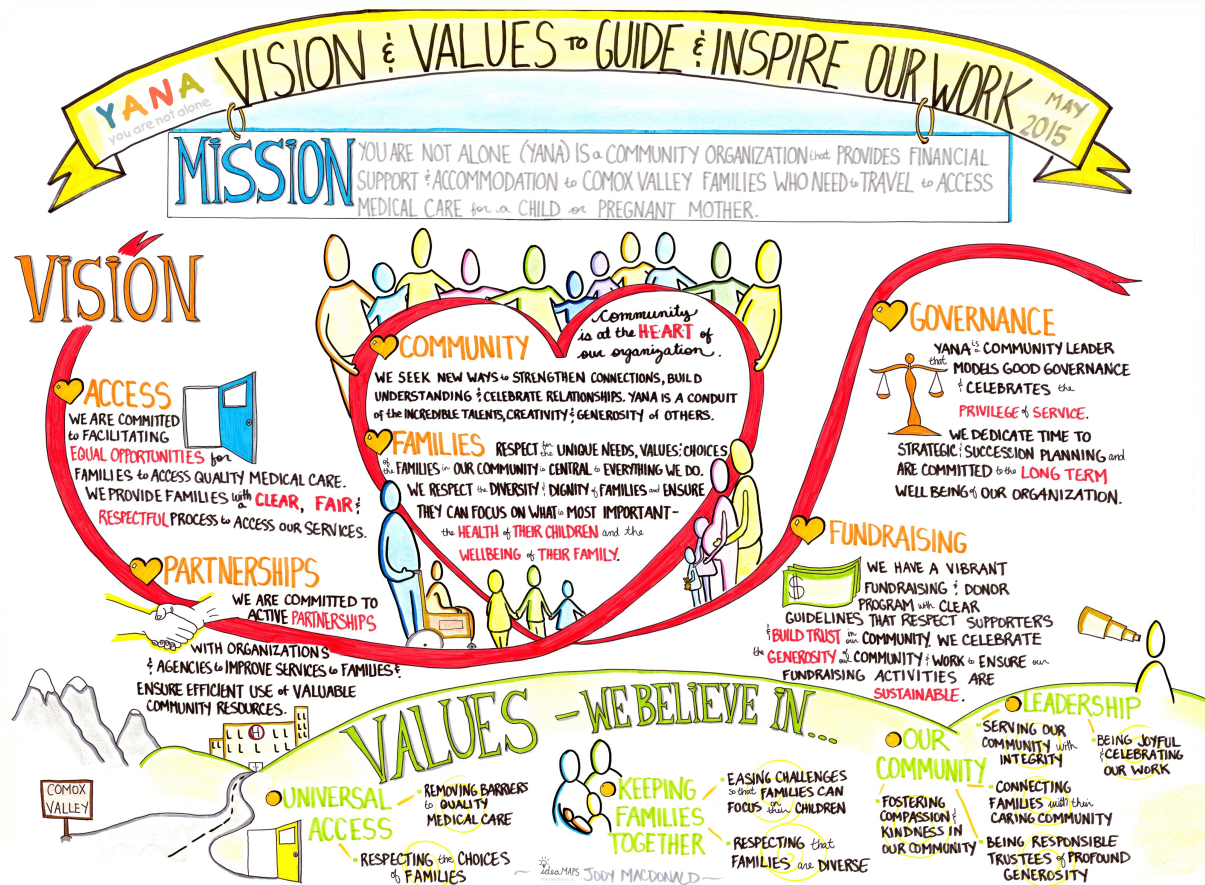
## you are not alone.



"Sandra Williams was an amazing individual. We are so proud of YANA continuing her vision for the community, allowing sick children to be with their families during illness without the stress of financial ruin."

~ Bonnie Edwards

# Our vision & values



## Mission

YANA is a community organization that provides financial support and accommodation to Comox Valley families who need to travel to access medical care for a child or pregnant mother.

## Vision

Our vision is focused around six themes:

- Access
- Partnerships
- Community
- Families
- Governance
- Fundraising

## Values

Our values are centred around four themes:

- Universal Access
- Keeping Families Together
- Our Community
- Leadership

"Being able to be under one roof and living in a much more normal environment has been great for us. You can't imagine how good it feels being out of hospital and having one part of our life feel like the old normal. The apartment is working wonderfully for us, it is the perfect transition spot being so close to care providers."

# Our people



YANA directors are elected annually at our fall AGM. Our directors bring a wide variety of experience and expertise to the organization. In addition to board volunteers, YANA is fortunate to have strong volunteer support in the community. Many of our events happen thanks to the efforts of skilled and passionate volunteer leaders. We are also fortunate to have two Vancouver-based volunteers to assist with client services and our apartments in Vancouver. For more information about our board or how to become involved with YANA, please visit our website.

## **Board of Directors**

President Judy Cryer	Vice President Kelly Rusk
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Treasurer Marcel Moose	Secretary Lauren Clark
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Director  
Ron Arksey

Director  
Kate Berg

Director  
Laura Bomback

Director  
Lesley Hunter

Director  
Hugh Mackinnon

Director  
Adam Wunderlich

## **Executive Director & Client Services**

Marcie Dumais

## **Community Relations Coordinator**

Ocean Varney

## **Client Services Relief Staff**

Kaleen Lohnes & Joan McCaughey

"Our children are our world. The thought of needing to care for them and not having that ability is terrifying for any parent. YANA is one of those uber-local charities that the community embraces as its own. Hopefully it will always be there."  
~ Terry Farrell, The Comox Valley Record



# President's message

This year YANA reached a 30 year milestone. It is amazing that Sandra Williams' vision in 1986 is stronger today than it has ever been. There have been times of struggle during those thirty years, but the community and core groups of volunteers have always managed to keep Sandra's vision alive. Our mandate has not changed. We provide accommodation and funding to Comox Valley families who need to travel outside the community for medical treatment for a child or for a pregnant mother. The vision and values work that we did last year reminds us of the reasons we are here and the way we proudly represent this community (page 3).

I thank our staff, Marcie and Ocean, for their constant dedication and their continued efforts to be the best they can be and to ensure that YANA maintains a position of trust and high regard in the community. We are at an all time high for community awareness through print media, social media, events and community engagement.

The fact that all of our board members have chosen to stay on for another year is an acknowledgement of their dedication as well. We have a great team who work together to accomplish great things. I thank all of them for the efforts they put in to attend and contribute to our meetings, for sharing their expertise on various committees, for representing YANA at community events and for always having the best interest of YANA as their number one priority. I actually think they all want to stay just because our meetings are so much fun.

Our YANA-led fundraisers continue to surpass our goals, both in outreach impact and financial success. These events require an incredible effort by our staff, our board and our volunteers and they are successful because of the support of our community. Many third-party fundraisers held throughout the year provide additional funds to support our cause and enable us to enhance our services while keeping within our mandate.

A major change this past year was moving to a new office location in Courtenay. Although the move was unexpected and originally concerning, after Marcie performed her magic, and kind and caring businesses and individuals stepped forward to help, we have come to truly love our new space in Tin Town. Thank you, Marcie, for having faith that we would.

I can't acknowledge our successful year without acknowledging the many individuals, businesses and organizations that keep us in their hearts as they choose how to share their charitable time and donations. We are honoured that they have put their trust in us to use their gifts wisely.

And last our gratitude goes to the amazing families who are the reasons we exist and who give us the inspiration to carry on Sandra Williams' dream. They are the brave ones and we are so honoured to be able to share the community's generosity with them.

It's been a very enjoyable year as the President of YANA. I am proud to sit on this board and to have an excuse to spend many volunteer hours in the office. I love the people, the cause and the inspiration all around me.

Sincerely,



Judy Cryer, YANA President



# Financial health



YANA is funded through donations, events and third-party fundraising. In order to continue to support families, YANA needs to raise or receive approximately \$250,000 per year. Almost all of YANA's annual funds are raised within the Comox Valley through the generosity of community members who want to reach out to support local families in their time of need.

\* Data for fiscal year June 1 - May 31

Assets	2016	2015	Liabilities	2016	2015
Current Assets	254,356	215,610	Current Liabilities	6,248	6,409
Property & Equipment	8,873	11,961			
Internal Restricted Funds	250,000	250,000	Net Assets	506,981	471,162
Total Assets	513,229	477,571	Total Liabilities & Net Assets	513,229	477,571
Revenue	2016	2015	Expenses	2016	2015
Donations	150,726	168,301	Advertising & Promotion	2,661	2,880
Fundraising	200,032	178,376	Amortization	3,089	4,288
BC Family Residence Program	11,300	7,050	Family Accommodation	89,485	84,793
Interest	2,413	2,349	Family Funding	84,376	80,804
			Fundraising	58,096	61,963
			Interest & Service Charges	1,077	1,357
			Office & Miscellaneous	27,571	22,131
			Professional Fees	3,037	2,088
			Wages & Benefits	59,260	50,967
Total Revenue	364,471	356,076	Total Expenses	328,652	311,271
			Net Annual Revenue	35,818	44,805

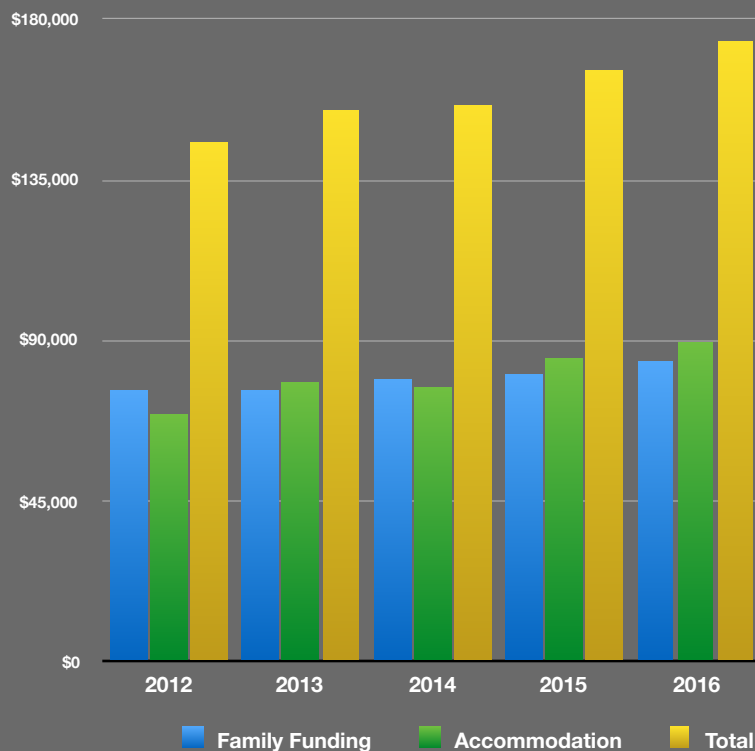
“Travelling with YANA's assistance allowed me to see our travel day as a chance to connect with my child rather than a worry. Thank you for giving me that and for the lesson on accepting help.”



## YANA Funding & Accommodation Program 2015-16

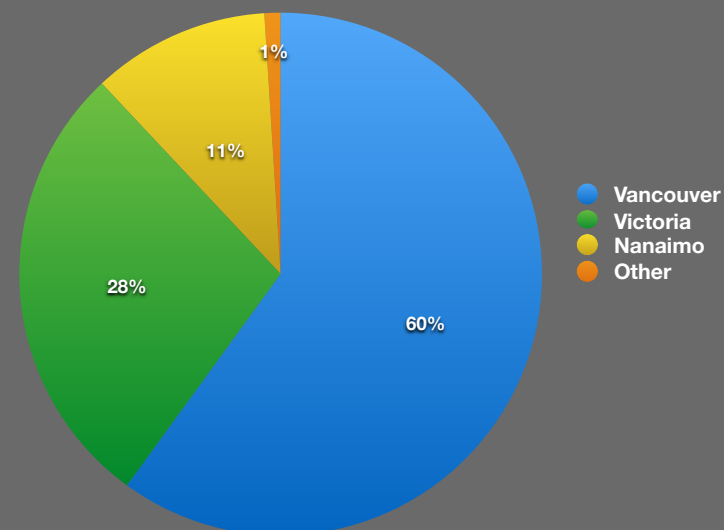
- 126 families assisted
- 141 children helped (0-19 years)
- 334 out-of-town trips funded by YANA , totalling \$77,477 in financial assistance
- 46 cash gifts to support ER transports from St.Joseph's Hospital, totalling \$6,900
- 62% annual average occupancy at four YANA apartments near BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver
- \$89,485 directed to accommodation for YANA families in Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and elsewhere

## YANA Family Funding & Accommodation Program 2012 - 2016



*More interested in YANA stories than these numbers? Meet Tessa and her family. We are proud to connect them with their caring community. [Click here.](#)*

## YANA Clients' Treatment Location 2015-16 (n=334)



Reason for medical travel outside the Comox Valley (Top 10)	% of 2015-16 trips
Cancer	18%
Neurology-related	10%
Birth-related	7%
Ophthalmology-related	7%
Autism/ADHD/Assessment-related	6%
Respiratory-related	5%
High-risk pregnancy	5%
Gastroenterology-related	5%
Surgical	5%
Cardiology-related	4%

Duration of stay	% of 2015-16 trips
Daytrip	22%
Overnight trip	26%
3 days	19%
4-7 days	18%
8-14 days	5%
15-31 days	5%
Over 1 month-3 months	4%
More than 3 months	< 1%

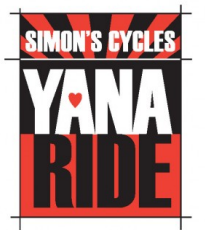
"Thank you so much for not forgetting about big kids and how they still need their moms and dads close by during a crisis."

# Looking forward



In addition to delivering a high-quality support program for Comox Valley families and leading excellent fundraising events and campaigns, we will work toward achieving the following goals for the next fiscal year:

- Review our funding formula and increase amount for clients' medical travel if budget allows.
- Acquire additional parking spots at the YANA apartments to ensure convenience and sense of security for all clients.
- Research and consult with Denman and Hornby stakeholders to understand their unique medical travel needs and determine if YANA can deliver a special program to support these clients.
- Continue to pursue partnerships for a special accommodation facility near Nanaimo Regional Hospital.
- Develop a special section on [yanacomoxvalley.com](http://yanacomoxvalley.com) for health care providers which incorporates an online referral form.
- Initiate an online YANA support group through Facebook and offer an in-person session on a topic of the group's choice.
- Continue outreach and further distribution of our rack card to raise awareness of our programs and services.
- Hire and train casual employees to manage Client Services when Executive Director requires relief in an effort to create a staffing model that addresses succession, workload and maintains our priority to provide exemplary care.
- Formalize YANA's budgeting process.
- Promote systematic and planned giving options on our website through development of donor stories and a compelling video channel.
- Continue documenting policies and procedures related to operations and board governance with particular attention to changes required by the New Societies Act.
- Continue development of YANA's two major fundraisers: The Big Love Benefit and the Simon's Cycles YANA Ride.



“We had such a great time at the YANA Ride! Every year there seems to be more details added to make it such a well-run event. YANA helps families who need to travel for medical reasons but at home it also brings our community together.”





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[yanacomoxvalley.com](http://yanacomoxvalley.com)

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Cover and client photographs courtesy of McKinnon Photography

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As these expectations, estimates, forecasts and projections are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions, actual results may differ from those projected.

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