

Committed to ensuring all children and youth thrive



Leadership message

More than two years after the COVID-19 pandemic began, the world is beginning the long process of recovery and rebuilding. For Children's Aid Foundation of Canada, this time of transition is also an important opportunity to pause and reflect – on the challenges of the past two years, and on the extraordinary courage and generosity of our entire community.

When we launched our Stand Up for Kids: Futures Transformed Campaign in April 2019, we could not have anticipated the unfolding of a global pandemic just under a year later – or how it would threaten to devastate the lives of children and youth already facing obstacles no young person should have to navigate.

**78% to our
\$75M goal**

As we pivoted to address the critical needs of the populations we serve, we also witnessed an unprecedented outpouring of support from people all across Canada – people who share our deep desire to help children, youth, and families involved with the child welfare system succeed and thrive.

**Impacted over
84,000 children
and youth**

In just three years, we're already 78 percent of the way to our \$75 million goal. Together, we've directly impacted the lives of over 84,000 children and youth – including 15,463 last year alone – and more than 20,000 families.

We have also experienced many incredible moments that demonstrated the true power and strength of our community. In the past year, those moments included the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada Gala – Special Edition, which welcomed hundreds of guests and raised over \$1.6 million for the children and youth we serve.

We hosted a virtual Stand Up for Kids Night, where we honoured the achievements of over 250 scholarship recipients and a record 100 graduation award recipients and celebrated the life-changing contributions of Mary Birdsell, Executive Director of Justice for Children and Youth and last year's Lynn Factor Stand Up for Kids National Award recipient.

And we were thrilled to receive support from many impactful events led by members of the broader community, including the annual Joe Carter Classic, peer-to-peer fundraising events like the Holiday Bike Challenge, and fun-filled EchoAge birthday parties, to name just a few.

We also launched and grew some of our most innovative and impactful programs to date, including Journey to Zero and Big Steps to Success (read on for more on these transformative programs).

It was a year we'll never forget – one that has set the stage for a future of truly unprecedented impact and, ultimately, the realization of a world in which every child truly thrives.

To every donor, partner, supporter, champion, and advocate: thank you. None of this would be possible without you.



Valerie M. McMurry

VALERIE MCMURTRY, CFRE
President & CEO




DANIEL BARCLAY
Chair, Board of Directors

Impact by the numbers 2021-2022

What we have achieved together with our community of donors.



\$17.2 million raised

19,568 young people and families were reached with life-changing supports



80 agency partners delivered high impact programs and services

Financial Highlights

Year ended March 31, 2022	2022	2021
Fundraising Revenue	\$ 16,700,252	\$ 21,750,450
Net Investment Income*	3,352,494	13,118,715
Gain on Sale of Property**	1,660,000	1,974,000
Rental Income	128,415	155,729
Total	\$ 21,841,161	\$ 36,998,894
Grants and Programs	\$ 11,518,579	\$ 17,537,947
Fundraising Expenses	1,295,430	1,232,427
Administrative Expenses	1,282,444	1,203,072
Advocacy	399,261	375,878
Total	\$ 2,977,135	\$ 2,811,377
Excess of Revenue over Grants and Expenses	\$ 7,345,447	\$ 16,649,570

* Includes unrealized gains on investments. Based on market performance/subject to market change and not available for granting.
 ** Being held in trust for CAS of Toronto's real estate purposes.

Audited financial statements may be obtained at cafdn.org/financialstatements
 Charitable registration number: 108076480RR0001

Children and families at risk

With your support, we're helping strengthen families to reduce the number of children who grow up in government care.

For families struggling with poverty, addiction, mental health concerns, and other challenges, access to community-based resources can mean the difference between staying together and being torn apart by abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

In 2021-2022, we helped 3,471 young people and 2,908 families across Canada access the services and supports they need to thrive.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Journey to Zero: A prevention intervention

Launched in 2019, Journey to Zero is an innovative early intervention program that aims to reduce the number of children growing up in government care. It was co-designed by Children's Aid Foundation of Canada and Children's Aid Society of Toronto with ongoing involvement from the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. The program is supported through a leadership gift from Balsam Foundation, as well as contributions from The Rossy Foundation, The McConnell Foundation, Echo Foundation, The McLean Foundation, and Louisa Huband and Craig Moffat.

Delivered in partnership with two leading child- and youth-serving agencies, Journey to Zero offers

family partnership meetings, intensive in-home supports for adolescents, access to early engagement teams, and other targeted approaches that help to empower families with the tools and resources they need to stay together.

Early indicators are showing us that Journey to Zero is working. Since its launch, 91 percent of families served by the program were prevented from having children admitted to care. Just 15 percent of cases were re-opened within a year of receiving support.

The Kuponya Project: Helping Black families thrive

Black children and youth are dramatically overrepresented in Canada's child welfare system – a direct result of systemic anti-Black racism and a lack of culturally relevant supports for Black families.

To help empower Black families with strength and resilience and prevent more Black children from coming into care, Children's Aid Foundation of Canada is proud to fund The Kuponya Project through the Teddy Bear Fund. This project is a unique initiative that supports Black families using a trauma-informed approach and is a collaboration between Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Caribbean African Canadian Social Services, and the Jean Tweed Centre.



The Kuponya Project offers support through two workshops designed for parents – Trauma 101 and Parenting Through Trauma – and by connecting families with a Community Resource Liaison, who helps them access culturally appropriate services in their community.



Identity protected.

Last year, The Kuponya Project supported 78 families and 190 children and youth in the Toronto area. An evaluation found that 80 percent of mothers felt their relationships with their children improved after participating in the program.

Children and youth in care

With your help, we're empowering children growing up in government care to overcome the odds stacked against them.

Right now, 63,000 children and youth across Canada are living in foster homes, institutional settings, or with extended family as a result of abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

Without access to the comprehensive supports they need to move forward in life, they are significantly more likely than their peers to experience adverse long-term outcomes.

In 2021-2022, we helped 7,543 children and youth in care across Canada find hope for a brighter future.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Big Steps to Success: Improving education outcomes

In Canada, less than half of young people growing up in government care graduate from high school. Research has shown that access to caring adult mentors is critical to helping youth in care achieve academic success – yet until now, very few formal mentorship programs have addressed the



Mentor KREE with mentee ERIC.

unique needs of youth who have experienced child welfare.

Through the power of partnership and collaboration, we're changing that. In early 2022, Children's Aid Foundation of Canada and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada launched Big Steps to Success – a first-of-its-kind mentorship program specifically for young people living in government care.

Made possible through transformational public-private investments from BMO Financial Group and the Government of Ontario, as well as the support of the Bridge Green Fund, Big Steps to Success strives to improve education outcomes for youth in care by matching specially trained volunteers with young people in communities across Canada.

Big Steps to Success is currently operating in Victoria, Saskatoon, North Bay, and Toronto. [Learn more about this ground-breaking new initiative.](#)

Back to the Land: Working to strengthen Indigenous children and families

Over half of children living in government care are Indigenous, and most of them are placed with non-Indigenous families – a reality that can result in intense feelings of separation and isolation from their identities, customs, and sense of community belonging.

In 2017, Children's Aid Foundation of Canada launched Back to the Land to help Indigenous children,



youth and families reconnect with their culture and heritage.

Created in response to recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the program engages children, youth, and families with a wide range of prevention and enrichment activities rooted in Indigenous traditions and customs – including fishing, medicine teachings, cedar harvesting, nature walks, traditional beading, cultural camps, and much more.

Back to the Land strives to help reduce the number of Indigenous children coming into government care while empowering children already in care with emotional resiliency and a strong sense of identity. The Back to the Land program is made possible through the support of the Tachane Foundation Inc. and Shaw Communications.

In 2021-2022, Back to the Land supported 408 children, youth, and families served by five child welfare agencies in Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia.

Youth transitioning out of care

With your help, we are ensuring youth leaving care have the supports they need.

Each year, approximately 2,300 youth in care “age out” of the child welfare system and must leave government care – some as young as 18.

Isolated, alone, and often ill-equipped to manage life on their own, youth from care face profound obstacles to their well-being and success. They urgently need our collective support to find stability and gain independence.

In 2021-2022, we helped 4,449 youth access the resources they need to establish meaningful, fulfilling lives after care.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Works: Helping young people find a pathway to employment

Young people raised in government care are significantly more likely to face unemployment and a lifetime of lost earning potential. They are also 200 times more likely than the average young person to experience homelessness, in addition to higher levels of criminal activity, human trafficking and youth pregnancy.

To help youth transitioning out of care achieve employment stability and long-term success, Children’s Aid Foundation of Canada launched Youth Works with support from RBC Future Launch and later expanded the program thanks to the support of the Government of Canada.

Currently active in six cities nationwide, Youth Works creates access to skill development supports, internships and job placements, funding for employment training, and wraparound supports that help youth maintain employment and reach their goals.

Between 2017 and 2021, 1,261 youth participated in the program. Approximately 60 percent of participants successfully secured employment, and over 75 percent reported feeling better prepared to enter the workforce and more optimistic about the future.

Learn more about Youth Works. Read our most recent reports in [English](#) and [French](#).

Investing in mental health and well-being

Young people transitioning out of government care often struggle with mental health issues stemming from trauma and abuse. The COVID-19 pandemic only intensified these challenges and far too many youth were forced to navigate disruptions to their education and employment without a family or support network to lean on.

Recognizing their challenges, the Foundation took steps to deepen our investments in the mental health and well-being of youth aging out of care.

The Connections program provides young people transitioning out of



care with access to mental health professionals who conduct a wellness assessment and create a customized care plan that enables the young person to get the help they need quickly. The program is supported by The Slight Family Foundation, National Bank Financial Group, P & L Odette Charitable Foundation, Echo Foundation and Green Shield Canada.

We also provided one-time grants of \$250 to help 306 young people in post-secondary programs access the mental health support they need.

And, with the support of National Bank and The Slight Family Foundation, we launched a new Youth Mental Health Fund, delivering funding to nine youth-serving organizations across Canada.

Lastly, with the support of Citi Foundation we created a new digital resource fostercommunity.ca – where youth can find resources about mental health, connect with service providers, and access other supports to help ease their transition out of care.

Board of directors & supporters

Thank you. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors and supporters.

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Donors who have made a campaign gift of \$100,000+ between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2022.

\$10 million +

In Honour of Ted and Loretta Rogers

\$5 million - \$9,999,999

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\$1 million +

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The Foundation's funding and the programs it offers really help us have the same opportunities as other kids to build our support networks and grow. Yes, it's the money that helps us financially, but it's so much more than that.

- KATE, youth ambassador and former youth in care



Members of the Foundation's Young People's Advisory Council (YPAC) share their lived and professional expertise, wisdom, and experiences to guide us on how to best serve Canada's young people involved in child welfare and represent the Foundation in the community. | 2021-2022 Council: ANDREA, SUZIE, JAY, RASNAT, TAWNYA, JESSE, ELLEN, SARAH, KIAUNNA, CONNER, VIVIAN AND RACHAEL. Pictured above: YPAC meeting July 2021.

Children's Aid Foundation of Canada is our country's leading charity dedicated to standing up for children and families involved in the child welfare system and standing alongside youth with lived experience.

We raise and grant funds and deliver a wide range of high-impact programs and services in partnership with 80 child- and youth-serving agencies across the country. Last year, we supported 15,463 children and youth and 4,105 families.



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