



Donor Accountability Report

2019-2020



Investing in Brighter Futures

The Children's Aid Foundation of Halton **at a Glance**

The Children's Aid Foundation of Halton (CAFH) was founded in 1990 as a registered charitable organization to raise funds for the children and youth being cared for by the Halton Children's Aid Society (Halton CAS). Funds raised allow the Halton CAS to provide additional services that enhance the lives of abused and neglected children and youth living in Halton.



Our Vision

The Children's Aid Foundation of Halton provides resources to help children, youth and families thrive.



Our Mission

Through fundraising and community partnerships, the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton enriches the lives of children, youth and families enabling them to thrive and reach for tomorrow.



Our Values

We value a society where every child is cherished and respected. We are committed to the HEART principles: Honesty, Education, Accountability, Respect, and Transparency



A Word From Tina

The Executive Director

July 2019 was the official start to the thirtieth anniversary of the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton, and what an amazing summer it was. There were fireworks over Oakville, summer camp, golf tournaments and the promise of an amazing year to come. Over the Holidays, we celebrated with children and youth at festive parties, welcomed donors to our doors and we found ourselves at several GO stations selling toques; there were so many happy occasions, who could have possibly known that those events were even more precious than we realized.

In March 2020, at almost the exact date of our anniversary, Ontario closed its doors. The entire world watched and waited as restrictions, recommendations and lockdowns were enforced. The pandemic has affected everyone, yet the variance of impact is extreme and for some the layers are numerous and shockingly traumatic.

For us in our role of support to the Halton Children's Aid Society, the show had to go on. The work of a children's aid society is essential, front line staff continued to visit homes, investigate allegations of abuse and maintain the crucial support of children, youth and families. We were very aware that emotional, physical and financial support were in dire need in order to help individuals who were juggling child-care and work; suddenly without an income; navigating COVID rules; isolated and anxious; or simply just lonely. There were also youth who rely on summer jobs to help with tuition payments, rent, groceries and the now required PPE, only to have those jobs cancelled.

We had to act. We cancelled the in person Stardust Gala due to restrictions, but we made it virtual. We were actually one of the first on-line events held during the pandemic and it was a

huge success! We spent the spring and summer reaching out to our donors and supporters, checking in and doing all we could to promote small businesses as they reopened in an effort to return their generosity, and we reached out to granting organizations. It was a challenging time, and we could not be more grateful to those who continued their support during these unprecedented circumstances.

Through these efforts and contributions, we have been able to continue financial support of specially crafted programs that meet the needs of young people in and beyond care. Discovering ways to cope with anxieties, learn crucial skills and overcome significant hardships are the key components of programming, all this is happening when our community joins with us #InvestingInBrighterFutures.

Throughout a person's lifetime there are many occasions when monumental events will come to mind, we remember where we were, who we were with, etc. There is no doubt that we at CAFH will remember 2020 for all we no longer take for granted; our health, our community, technology, generosity, the human spirit and hugs!

Thank you for your contributions, for your trust and most of all, for believing in the work we do and the young people we strive to support.

Stay well and stay strong!



Tina Blatchford
Executive Director



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Juliette Prouse*, Director of Finance

*Halton CAS staff p/t CAFH support

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Austin McNeil

Lisa Roach

Hello Friends and Support Workers,

I just wanted to share with you guys my recent success. Often you and the team are solving difficult problems, many unsolvable and I wanted to send something uplifting to you.

I was gainfully employed at the biggest movie and TV episodic studio in Toronto for nine months. I had the great opportunity to work on a number of movies and shows. Some are now reaching Netflix and other platforms. Check them out and feel good about helping a (big) foster kid make it:

The Old Guard
Monster Hunter
American Gods Season 3

Despite having grown up with a father with a head injury, and facing obstacles, CAS saw something in me and extended an unprecedented level of support throughout my journey.

I could not have done it without the tremendous lifelong support of Halton CAS. Everyone involved with the funding committees thank you for seeing potential in me. This is a huge success considering the low points of my life.

When you are doubting your role in a foster kid's life just think about what we have accomplished together.

Thanks,
Jason

About Our Programs

Transitions Home

We own a property that provides a safe haven where teenage children can live while their cases are assessed and they can return home or until suitable foster parents are identified. The home is furnished and decorated to provide a warm welcome to teens who are experiencing difficult and traumatic times. Partners in the community often help us with landscaping the gardens, painting or even donating new electronics or sports equipment so the teens can feel comfortable and relaxed in this setting. Our goal is to maintain the home in a way that makes the residents proud to call it their home.

Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap is an independent community program that supports and assists youth between the ages of 16 to 24 years of age who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The program is voluntary and based on client needs. It is focused on supporting and assisting youth in obtaining housing. This may include shelter placements, supportive and transitional housing. Bridging the Gap serves 600 to 700 youth annually in the Halton Region.



"My life hasn't been easy, but things are getting better now that I am in the programs offered by Halton CAS."

– Elijah

Bursaries and Education

We believe education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and abuse; increasing a child's self-esteem, confidence, and ability to succeed. Since post-secondary education is not funded by the government, our youth in care rely on the Halton Children's Aid Society to pay for any post high-school education that might benefit them. Since the Halton CAS and CAFH believe strongly that education is the first step towards a brighter future they work together to make educational opportunities available to all youth in care helped by the Society. Whatever the child/youth has a passion for, that their worker feels is an attainable goal, will be strongly encouraged by our Bursary committee and funded by the CAFH.

Seasonal Program

The Seasonal Program is not just about gifts under the tree, but also supports graduation, back to school needs, Thanksgiving celebrations, etc; all the things we do year round that we often take for granted. The Halton CAS assists children and youth who have experienced significant family trauma as well as families that have serious challenges with limited resources and are unable to provide their children/youth with basic needs and gifts over the holiday season.



About Our Programs



Sport and Recreation

We believe all children and youth should have the chance to run, skate, sing, learn a new activity, or simply have the chance to interact with other children and youth their age. We know from experience that encouraging children and youth to participate in organized sports and recreational activities such as hockey, dance, soccer and swimming, enables them to develop important life skills, self-esteem and confidence. We provide funds to ensure children have the chance to be children and create happy childhood memories with friends and mentors.



"Getting to go to College has been the best experience! I'm meeting great people, I'm learning so much and can't wait to start my career, life is good."

– Mia

FUTURES

The goal of the FUTURES Educational Program is to help youth receiving services from the Halton Children's Aid Society achieve their educational goals and support them as they transition into adulthood. Youth meet weekly to participate in a project-based learning series, working in teams to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, communication, social skills, academic learning, cultural awareness and life skills. FUTURES also runs a summer camp. The school year and summer camp programs are divided into junior and senior divisions. During the school year, the program runs weekly and the summer camp program runs for three weeks for each division. These are memories that last forever and are experiences we want to offer children who can't imagine this fun. Emotional or behavioural difficulties often preclude them from being accepted into 'regular' summer camps so we fundraise to ensure our camp will accommodate these strong and active children and youth who need the chance to experience some real joy.

Youth in Care

Our Youth in Care are the future of this community; the Halton CAS and CAFH must act as their parents. We fund a Life Skills program to help connect these youth to their community and better prepare them for adult life. Preparing for issues such as applying to university; budgeting; peer pressure; healthy nutrition; first aid and more; individually or in group settings with volunteers acting as mentors, the youth are encouraged to reach for their dreams and set out on the path to success. The success of this program is helping to keep our youth in school and assisting them to overcome their emotional issues in order to graduate from high school, look towards a fresh start and a brighter future. No one needs hope more than our youth, and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect need that hope more than ever. We've learned that introducing youth to this program in their early teens helps them through a very vulnerable time in their lives and guides them to find the hope they need.

Financial Highlights

Your contribution helps us build a strong support network. This network of services in turn strengthens our entire community and changes lives for the better.

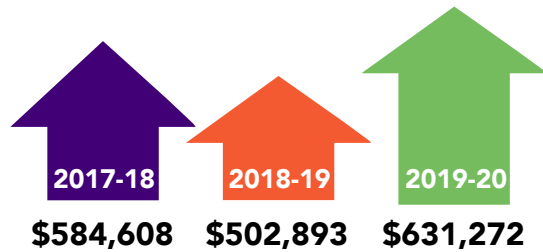
\$631,272 RAISED IN 2019 – 2020

Thanks to your generosity

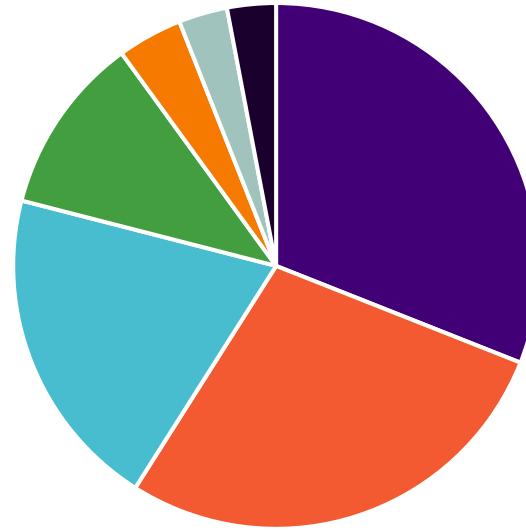
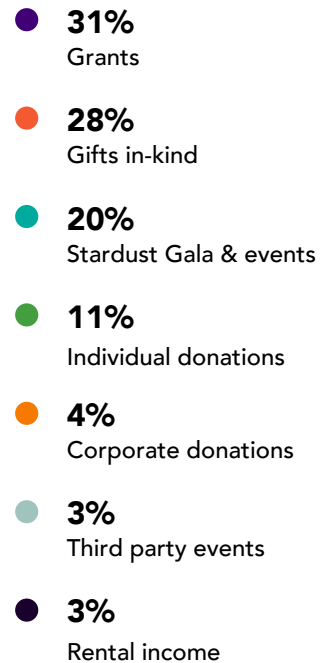
Over \$ 6M

in support has been provided to
Halton CAS programs to date

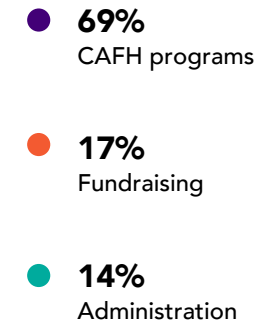
YEAR OVER YEAR EARNINGS



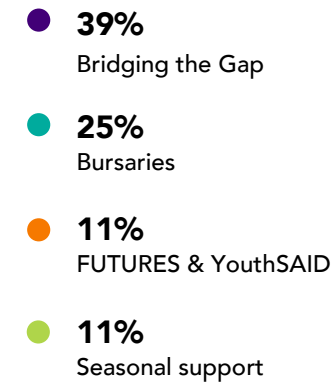
WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM



HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT



WHERE THE PROGRAM MONEY WAS SPENT



Your Impact By the Numbers

Thanks to you, we have changed lives this year. Through the generosity of your donations we have been able to make a positive impact on individuals, families and our communities, making a difference in so many important ways. Your generosity helped:

Halton CAS Stats:



~ 5000

Children and youth served in 2019 – 2020

97%



of cases enabled children and youth to stay with families

66%



of children and youth are discharged within one year

83%



of children and youth return to family or kin

67%



of children and youth in care are over the age of 12



28 Youth attend post-secondary programs



32 Youth participated in YouthSAID advocacy events



25 Residents in the Transitions Home



655 Youth aged 16-24 received outreach services through Bridging the Gap's homeless program



92 Children or youth participated in FUTURES



600+ Children, youth and families received support from the seasonal program

Award Winners

Uline Canada Inspiration Award

Uline is a shipping and supply company based in Milton and we are extremely grateful for the remarkable efforts the staff of Uline make on our behalf. For the past four years the Uline team have provided enormous amounts of in-kind support for special events throughout the holidays and also our annual Stardust Gala. What strikes us about the Uline team is that they think of everything!

Not just practical gifts, but tape, batteries and bags galore! In the last two years they have focussed on gift cards, which is an amazing boost to the Seasonal program and allows CAFH to provide more for the children, youth and families that depend on us. Thank you Uline team for being our partner in caring and for your amazing dedication to our cause. Congratulations!



Previous Award Winners

- 2019 EddieO's Pourhouse & Kitchen
- 2018 The Petrachek Family
- 2017 The Oakville Community Foundation
- 2016 Mike Lupo and The Congregation of Hillspring Church
- 2015 Jim Boyle & staff of Nu Skin
- 2014 The Herlihey Family - Rebecca's Gift
- 2013 Petrina Nesbitt & Merritt Goddard - Chuckles for Charity
- 2012 Rotary Club of Trafalgar - Dragon Boat Committee
- 2011 Greg Pace & the Bikes for Kids Team
- 2010 The Costa Family



Award Winners

Jonathan Harty McPhie Award

Jonathan is a former Director of the CAFH Board and was treasurer from 2006-2009. He resigned in June 2009 when moved by RBC Royal Bank to North Carolina. From the moment he joined the Board, Jonathan has been a constant supporter of CAFH.

His contributions have included the three T's of the perfect Board member, Time, Talent and Treasure. From Dragon Boat racing to financial advice, Jonathan has been an amazing Ambassador of CAFH.

Jonathan and his wife Diane live in Oakville and together also enjoy contributing throughout the Holidays, particularly pies at Thanksgiving or a brand new bicycle for a youth in need. Jonathan is the Senior Director, Strategic Response Group and Caribbean at RBC where his career has spanned more than 20 years. It's our absolute pleasure to recognize you with this award, congratulations!



Previous Award Winners

2019 Keith & Lyanne Matcham	2012 Tammy Davey-Wiebe
2018 Nancy MacGillivray	2011 Don Pangman
2017 Terry Spearin	2010 Phil Grimes
2016 George Prieksaitis & Asa Sjoberg	2009 Derek Zwiep
2015 Reya Ali-Dabydeen	2008 Mandy Deakin
2014 Lily & Richard Bellm	2007 Doug McPhie
2013 Ken & Pearl Moffat	



Award Winners

Halton Tech for Teens CAFH Special Service Award

Created this year to acknowledge the unprecedented events of 2020 and to recognize an organization that stepped up to the plate when children, youth and families really needed help. It is with great appreciation that we recognize Halton Tech For Teens – a local charity that collects gently used computer equipment, refurbishes it and re-distributes to youth in need at no charge.

Their tag line is “Yesterday’s Tech Helping Today’s Teens”. Since the middle of March when schools closed and e-learning became a household activity, the requests for equipment for school aged children and youth has been steady.

Thanks to Mike and Ryan at Halton Tech For Teens who have been coordinating offers of equipment, working as fast as possible to clean and restore items, ensuring that youth have what they need to keep up with their peers and stay current with their work. It’s our pleasure to recognize Halton Tech For Teens, specifically Mike Benninger and Ryan Moffat for their amazing support, congratulations!



“I love what I’m doing with my life now that I have the support of the Halton CAS and the CAFH.”
– Marcia



Success Stories

Abiola McPhie Award

Nominated by: Vivian W.

Vivian feels privileged to have been able to watch Abiola's determination and commitment to his school and work ethic develop over the years. He has been enthusiastically attending his second year at George Brown College in the Fashion Management program while working hard at two part-time jobs in the related field, all while living independently. Abiola needs no encouragement to complete required projects, tasks and obligations of both school and his work environment. He happily provides tutoring and assistance to fellow students who are struggling to complete assignments. Vivian is very proud of Abiola's accomplishments and knows that without the support of funds raised through the CAFH these opportunities would not have presented themselves to this very worthy young man.

Elizabeth Elizabeth Interiors Award

Nominated by: Darria de B.

Darria put forth Elizabeth for this award for numerous reasons. Elizabeth has always expressed a keen interest in the trades and the automotive industry. She won first place in the Tech Olympics held at her high school and was the first female student to represent her school in a regional championship. She continues to pursue her interest in the trades and automotive fields by attending the all-female dual credit program for welding and millwright at Sheridan College. She wants to continue her work in a male-dominated industry and inspire other female youth to follow their dreams, her ultimate goal is to become a welder. Liz has done so well despite the negativity she has experienced in her life. She works hard at school and her part-time job and saved enough money to purchase her own car and car parts to service her vehicle as well as those of friends and classmates. She is very grateful for the opportunities received through the CAFH.



For more stories about how your donations are helping our youth thrive, go to cafh.ca/meet-our-youth

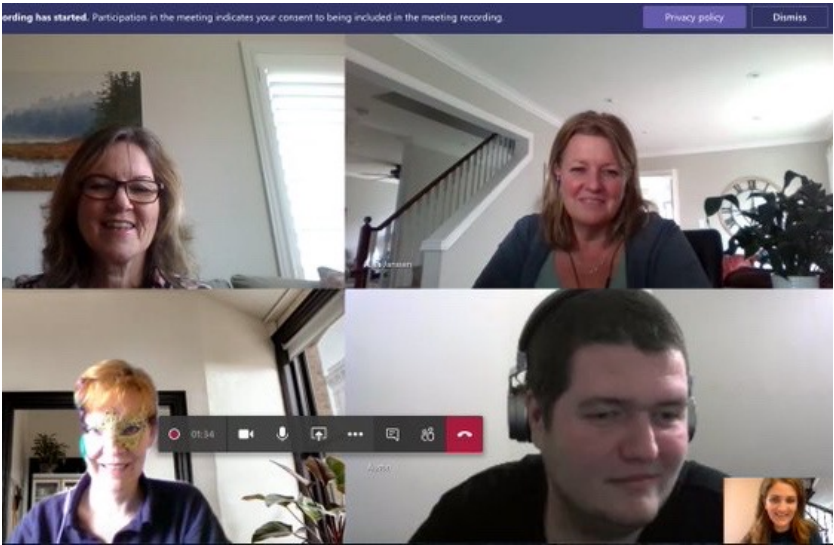
Year in Review



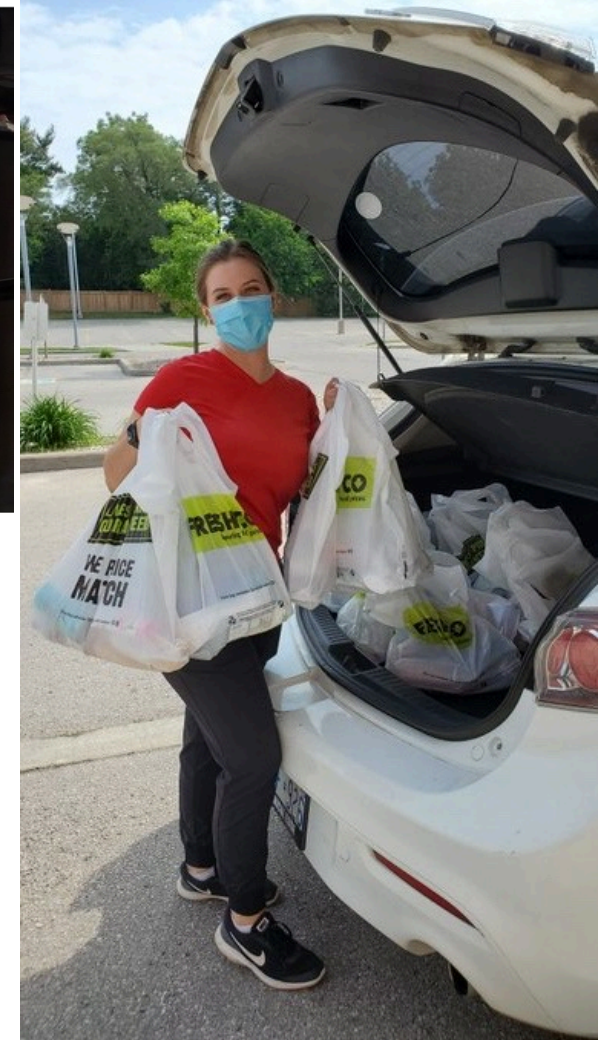
Year in Review



Year in Review



Year in Review





Thank you!

A heartfelt thank you to this amazing community for supporting the virtual Stardust Venetian Masquerade Ball.
To our sponsors, volunteers, donors and supporters, we are indebted to you for believing in our cause
and helping us sustain the support we offer to children, youth and families.

TOGETHER WE RAISED \$95,000!

A special thank you to all of our partners and sponsors

Each year our community gathers in support of Halton's youth and families in need at the Stardust Gala. Thanks to our Gala committee, volunteers, donors and sponsors, the Gala has raised over \$1 million since it's beginning.



Thank you for your continued support through the pandemic

Without the ongoing generous support of individuals, corporations and organizations in our community, we would be unable to provide the needed programs and services for the children and youth of Halton. The staff, volunteers and Board of Directors sincerely thank each of our corporate sponsors and grantors for their continued support during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Thank you to our cherished donors and partners in caring

President's Circle

Oakville Community Foundation fund holders - Walton Family Foundation, The Kenny Family Foundation, The Marcie Fund, The Alma Fund, The Larry and Gerry Wilson Family, Stephen Goodrich Foundation, Bowick-Peters Family, Pauline and Don Smith Family Foundation, Aub & Marsha Baillie Family and the Oakville Resiliency Fund, The Home Depot Canada Foundation, Burlington Community Foundation, Reya Ali-Dabydeen & Christina Li, Children's Aid Foundation of Canada

Partners

Halton Honda, Geotab Inc., George Prieksaitis & Asa Sjoberg, Elizabeth Interiors Limited, Hadrian Manufacturing Inc, Longo Brother's Fruit Markets, Oakville YMCA, May Court Club of Oakville, Moen Inc., Lucien Pinet.

Champions

Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington, CP24/Chum Charitable Foundation, Edith Friskney, Jennifer Gilbert, RBC

Foundation, Krista Dietrich & Alain Baird, The Wilson Family, Stephanie Lamont, CHML Children's Fund, Bill & Lori Palamar, Ryan & Angela Moffat, Ann & Dan Wiggins, Candice Chow & Jan Klakurka, Danyliw & Mann Professional Corporation, Samuel, Son & Co. Limited, Raising the Roof, Tina Blatchford, Mandy & Ian Deakin, Jonathan & Diane Harty, Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, Karen Horsman, Staff of Halton CAS, Karen Lohead, Keith & Lyanne Matcham, Marilyn & Mike Benninger, Chris Scott, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Janet Truant, Diana Howard, Dave & Michelle Jamieson, Mike & Sue Chisholm, Fengate Capital Management, M.L. Catania Company Ltd, Jose Guido, Gerard & Linda Herlihey, Lisa & Darin Deschamps, Famiizuu, Brent Pearson, Ted Charuk, Kenaidan Contracting Ltd, London Life Management Fund, My Safari Hygiene Inc., Brechin & Huffman, Paul & Lisa Silvestri, Dee & Jim Sarvinis, Tim & Vanessa Morrison, Tammy & Barry Norton, David Fuller, Lisa & Louis Duranleau, Rick & Suzanne Craven, Chris & Marion Barrett, The Frank and Azniv Lochan Fund

Change Makers

Scott Mackintosh, Jeff Laforet, Ken Kelertas, Kevin Brown, Cynthia Thomson, Wendy Hanson, Sally Aitken, Taiga Building Products, Cassie Magno-Palmer, Shelley & William Drake, Jodi Younger, Brad Saunders, Karen Kares For Kids, Ryan & Michelle Mills, Milton Stars Peewee Red Team, NinePoint Partners, Parkgate Financial Group Inc, Manulife Investment Management Limited, Elevae Strategy Advisory, Compugen Finance Inc., Elizabeth Williams, Kelly Waters, Doug & Kathleen McPhie, Jeff & Cathy Palmer, Wendy Rhodes, Donna Crockett, Ron Addis, Don MacLeod, The Social Work and Discharge Planning Team at Halton Healthcare and families

Gifts Received in Memory of

Martin Jansen, Roy (Buzz) J McKinnon, Charlie Howard, Gypsy Anne Carroll, Susan Strang, Jayce, Erik Bloksma, Uncle Roger Phillips, Walt Elliot, Cadbury Benninger

Gifts Received in Recognition of

Enza Trott, Christie Costa, Phil Grimes, Mike Kelly's 50th, the Piskorz Santa Run Pancake Kegger, Manny, Luca Cherubin-Kellogg, The staff of CH Norton PS, Jennifer Gilbert, Larry Ker, Austin's Graduation, The Moffatt Family, Chef Mike's Birthday, Mike's Trip to Ottawa, Mike & Marilyn Benninger, First Responders, From One Big Red to Another - Congratulations, For Brett my amazing nephew, The CAFH 30th Anniversary, In honour of all children and youth in care.

Thank you to the family and many friends of Rebecca Herlihey who gave so generously and continue to fill our hearts with love. The spirit of this young child lives on in the smiles of all those who received presents through Rebecca's Gift.



@CAFHalong



CAFHalong



linkedin.com/company/children's-aid-foundation-of-halong



Investing in Brighter Futures

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