

A full-page background image showing three children jumping joyfully on a gravel path. The child in the center is a girl with long blonde hair, wearing a purple shirt, purple shorts, and a straw hat. She is jumping with her arms raised high, and her hat is flying off. To her left is a young boy in a striped shirt and grey shorts, also jumping with arms raised. To her right is another boy in a striped shirt and blue shorts, jumping with one arm raised. They are all wearing backpacks. The scene is set outdoors on a gravel path, with trees and bushes in the background. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. A dark purple curved banner runs across the bottom of the image.

# 2022 - 2023 DONOR ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

INVESTING IN BRIGHTER FUTURES





# INVESTING IN BRIGHTER FUTURES

## OUR MISSION

Providing life-changing opportunities for children, youth and families supported by the Halton Children's Aid Society.

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## OUR VISION

A community where all children, youth and families can reach their full potential.

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## 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



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# ABOUT OUR FOUNDATION

## WHO WE ARE

The Children's Aid Foundation of Halton (CAFH) is a charitable organization that enhances the well-being and prospects of children, youth, and families who are supported by the Halton Children's Aid Society (Halton CAS).

## WHAT WE DO

CAFH works closely with Halton CAS, which is responsible for supporting an average of 5,000 at-risk children and youth in the Halton region each year.

Our work is made possible through community donations and a committed partnership with the Halton CAS.

## WHY WE DO IT

CAFH is dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk children, youth, and families in the Halton region.

We provide support and resources beyond the basic necessities that are covered by government assistance.



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## A MESSAGE FROM JENNIFER & TINA

“From Beds to Bursaries!”, this is the reality of what we are providing to children, youth and families here in the Halton community. The need for assistance has increased over the last few years and the type of support provided has become much more varied, be it something as basic as beds and emergency supplies, or the inspirational gift of education; we have re-strategized our capacity to support crucial programs and activities and it’s all thanks to your generosity!

Through the support of generous donors and grantors we’ve been able to make a tremendous impact on the lives of those who are receiving services from the Halton CAS; by enhancing the work of Halton CAS staff and extending support beyond government funding, we are offering opportunities to heal, grow, participate, and achieve goals that would otherwise not be available.

The Children’s Aid Foundation of Halton is the only charity in the Region whose sole purpose is to provide for children, youth and families involved in the child welfare system, the only one! This means that your gift makes the difference to a child experiencing summer camp, or a student receiving tutoring, provides a place to sleep for a homeless youth, employment training for young adults, or celebrating special milestones such as graduation, job interviews, and gatherings with “Family” (Friends who are your Family), the list goes on.....in other words your gifts bring practical help, hope, inspiration, motivation and joy!

Thank you for your continued generosity, we simply cannot express well enough how grateful we are for your support and partnership, and most of all, thank you for believing in the young people whose lives are impacted by your gifts.

Sincerely,

Jennifer and Tina



Jennifer Gilbert  
President 2022 - 2023



Tina Blatchford  
Executive Director



2022 - 2023

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[Jennifer Gilbert](#), President

[Matthew Rasmussen](#), Vice-President & Communications Director

[Jonathan Harty](#), Treasurer

[Ryan Mills](#), Secretary

[Sally Aitken](#)

[Marilyn Benninger](#)

[Jose Guido](#)

[Debora Hume](#)

[Suzannah Kelly](#)

[Lidia Taylor](#)

[Lynn Wilson](#)

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

[Tina Blatchford](#), Executive Director

Lisa Janssen, Partnership & Program Development

[Andrew Pike\\*](#), Director of Finance

\*Halton CAS staff

## AMBASSADORS

Reya Ali-Dabydeen

Aub & Marsha Baillie

Chris Barrett

Randa Bassil

Richard & Lily Bellm

Mike Benninger

Robyn Bowman

Candice Chow

Tammy Davey-Wiebe

Mandy Deakin

Krista Dietrich

Shannon Drake

Cassie Gauthier

Brad Gibson

Phil Grimes

Jonathan Harty

Jim Houghton & Michael Renken

Chris Jenkins

Jessica Johnson

Jeff Laforet

Stephanie Lamont

Elizabeth Law

Steve Levac

Keith & Lyanne Matcham

Austin McNeil

Kathleen & Doug McPhie

Ryan Moffat

Greg Pace

Don Pangman

George Prieksaitis & Asa Sjoberg

Leslie Priest

Lisa Roach

Linda Roberts

John Romano

Kevin Schilz

Chris Scott

Wendy Sherren

Chris Townley

Lynn Wilson

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## ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

CAFH funds a variety of life-changing programs designed to address the unique needs of the children and youth being supported by Halton CAS. These programs go beyond providing food, housing, and basic necessities. CAFH recognizes the importance of education in a young person's life. We offer support to children and youth to help them succeed in school. This includes funding for extracurricular activities, mentoring, and enrichment programs.

For additional information about our programs please visit [our website](#).



Bursaries  
and Education



Holiday DREAMS



Bridging the Gap



FUTURES



Youth in Care



DREAMS Begin at  
Home



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## 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 Service Stats 2022-2023

**5,000** children and youth served

**71%** of children and youth return to family or kin

**78%** of children and youth in care are over the age of 12

**97%** of cases enable children & youth to remain with their families



**30**

Youth participated in the Youth Collective Impact with a focus on training, education and employment



**10**

Youth awarded post-secondary bursaries



**40**

Youth participated in YouthSAID advocacy events



**437**

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



**5,000**

**Children and youth served in 2022- 2023**



**77**

DREAMS Begin at Home recipients of beds, Comfort Kits, and Lifestart Kits



**93%**

of eligible youth aged 18 – 21 are actively pursuing education, employment or training



**73**

Children and youth participate in FUTURES/ Youth In Care Day, Ontario Education Champion Team, other Seasonal Events and Festivities



**800 +**

Children, youth and families received support from the seasonal program

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# 2022 - 2023

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

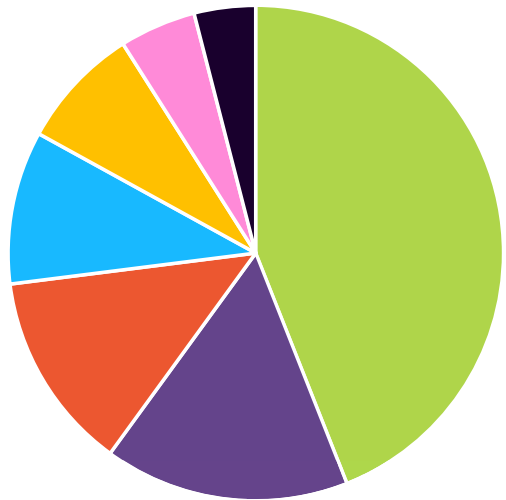
Your contribution helps us build a strong support network. This network of services in turn strengthens our entire community and changes lives for the better.

\$853,251 RAISED IN 2022 - 2023

Thanks to your generosity  
**Over \$7.5M**  
in support has been provided to Halton  
CAS programs to date

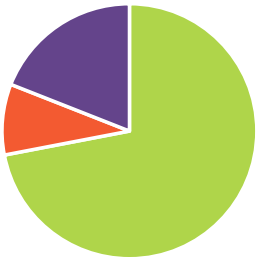
SOURCES OF REVENUE

- 44% Grants
- 16% Investment
- 13% Gifts-in-kind
- 10% Individual
- 8% Third Party
- 5% Events
- 4% Corporate



HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT

- 74% Charitable Purpose
- 9% Fundraising
- 17% Administration





## MCPHIE AWARD

### SHEILA PARKER

Sheila is an absolute treasure, a whirling dervish and an EXCEL-lent aficionado! Sheila first began volunteering at Halton CAS as a mentor, guiding youth in money management where her skills as a retired CA were put to great use, as well the role of volunteer driver deepened her understanding of the work within the Society. She says, "We live very fortunate lives in Canada and I really wanted to help disadvantaged children any way I could." It wasn't long before Sheila lent her connections and skills in support of the annual auction hosted by CAFH. Securing auction items from friends and colleagues is the obvious form of support, but behind the scenes Sheila also brought invaluable organizational skills, proficiency in Excel and, with an accounting lens, she took on the menial administrative tasks that make for accurate, efficient tracking.

Further to all of this, Sheila's husband Neil works at an organization where volunteer hours contributed to a charity by employees and spouses are matched by dollars donated. Says Sheila, "It's a win-win-win. People have the opportunity to support charities, charities benefit from the valuable contributions...and it enables \*CN Railroaders to walk alongside in supporting communities. It's so much more valuable than just cutting a cheque." In 2022 Sheila received the Impact Award from Volunteer Halton for her compassionate and dedicated service to Halton CAS, this year we wish to add to that accolade by presenting Sheila with CAFH's most prestigious award, congratulations Sheila and thank you for your passion, dedication and your contagious "joie de vivre!"

\*CN Railroaders is an employee program at CN Rail initiated to support the community. Since her initial volunteer involvement and through Sheila's extensive time commitment CN Rail has annually contributed over \$2,000.

Congratulations!



#### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

Greg Pace, Krista Dietrich and Chris Barrett, Jonathan Harty, Keith & Lyanne Matcham, Nancy MacGillivray, Terry Spearin, George Prieksaitis & Asa Sjoborg, Reya Ali-Dabydeen, Lily & Richard Bellm, Ken & Pearl Moffat, Tammy Davey-Wiebe, Don Pangman, Phil Grimes, Derek Zwiep, Mandy Deakin, Doug McPhie

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## INSPIRATION AWARD

### THE OAKVILLE YOUTH GROUP

In late 2021 the Oakville Youth Group, Andy, Angela, Juno & Victoria reached out to CAFH with a very simple message, "We are a group of students from Oakville whose goal is to help as many kids as we can who may not be as fortunate as ourselves and hopefully give them an opportunity to flourish within our own communities. As students ourselves, we believe that everyone deserves an equal shot at education and more."

Since then, this dynamic group has coordinated book fairs, a piano recital, toy/book drives, debate tournaments and most recently is collecting original art to create greeting cards to be sold in support. The group is active on Instagram and having graduated high school and enrolled in post-secondary programs, members of the group are continuing efforts of support by sharing their story at their respective universities. This passion is such an inspiration and one we are especially grateful for, youth helping youth.

To date the Oakville Youth Group has contributed approximately \$4,000 to the goal of giving "an equal shot" to other youth.

For their creativity, thoughtfulness and very mature sense of self-awareness, we are thrilled to present this year's Inspiration Award to the Oakville Youth Group.

Congratulations!



#### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

Home Depot Canada Foundation, Oakville Firefighters Association, Uline, EddieO's Pourhouse & Kitchen, The Petrachek Family, The Oakville Community Foundation, Mike Lupo & The Congregation of Hillspring Church, Jim Boyle & staff of Nu Skin, The Herlihey Family - Rebecca's Gift, Petrina Nesbitt & Merritt Goddard - Chuckles for Charity, Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar - Dragon Boat Committee, Greg Pace & The Bikes for Kids Team, The Costa Family

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## SPECIAL MOMENTS

Nickel Brook Oktoberfest 2022, Mandy Deakin's Christmas Coffee Morning, Creative Space Yoga PJ Drive, DREAM Auction 2023, Camaraderie of Hope Golf Tournament 2022, Bikes for Kids, Oakville Youth Group Book Fair, Thanksgiving for Youth, Home Depot Orange Door Campaign, Roach Family Real Estate DREAMS Campaign.



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# SUCCESS STORIES

## Elijah - Elizabeth Interiors Award for Excellence



There is no question that this year's recipient meets the true definition of a "good work ethic." Having watched Elijah's journey from high-school where he removed himself from the family home to rent a room elsewhere in order to apply himself to both academic success and his love of basketball, which he played competitively.

In fact, his athletic skills were so pronounced that we supported his successful application to a private academy in Fort Erie, from which he graduated in good standing and was scouted by junior colleges in Canada and the United States. Today Elijah is attending the University of Waterloo studying geography and environmental management and is on the varsity basketball team.

Through all his success in academics and athletics Elijah recognizes the importance of support from positive role models and has recently signed up to become a mentor in the Halton Youth Collective Impact program, thereby giving back to youth who are experiencing many of the challenges he faced in his journey to success.

Congratulations Elijah, we are cheering you on from the sidelines at every slam dunk!



# SUCCESS STORIES

## McKenna - McPhie Award



The McPhie Award Bursary is typically presented to a student enrolled in post-secondary education, whose commitment to learning and strength of character has impressed the panel. However, McKenna who is this year's recipient, has yet to decide her next path but was nominated for the award based on the immense challenges she has overcome throughout her high school career.

Imagine, if you can, being homeless yet still attending class, not having ready access to technology yet still completing assignments on time, or, searching for part-time employment without an address, references or bus fare and being successful. McKenna not only achieved all that she maintained a 99% attendance in class!

Happily, through support from the Bridging the Gap program, McKenna has secured housing in Halton and is on track to complete grade 12 this year.

We have no doubt that graduation and the pursuit of post-secondary education are on the horizon for McKenna, we are in awe of all she has accomplished, and we wish her every success in her endeavors.



# THANKYOU

## TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS AND GRANTORS

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.



HATCH



GEOTAB®



J.P. Bickell Foundation, SSQ Foundation, The David and Carmen Fuller Charitable Fund,  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Robert Bell Family Foundation, The Give Oakville Campaign

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# SPECIAL MENTIONS

## **Gifts Received in Memory of**

June Ashwell – Tom Christopher – John Galassi - Pearl Houghton - Charlie Howard - Ron Visheau

## **Gifts Received in Recognition of**

Mandy Deakin - Jennifer Gilbert - Tina Blatchford & Lisa Janssen – Jason McDonagh – Montessori Country School of Milton - Ursula Neary - Rebecca P - Greg Pace - Staff & Volunteers of Halton CAS - Ted, Steph & Andrew - In honour of all children and youth in care – Barb, a ripple that started a wave (Bikes for Kids).

## **Special Thanks to the Following Groups who go above & beyond to support children, youth & families**

Guests of Mandy Deakin's Christmas Coffee Morning - Staff of Uline Canada - Birchtree Family Medicine - Home Depot Stores Burlington & Milton - Members of Hopedale & Knox Presbyterian Churches - Families of Hillspring Church - Islamic Circle of North America Sisters (Oakville) - MDP LLP - Staff of Credit Valley Conservation Authority - Across the Floor Dance Centre – Arctic Traveller Canada - The Oakville Students led by Andy Lin - the Bikes for Kids team – Rotary Club of Burlington Central – Taiga Building Supplies – Dentistry At La Salle – Aveva - Au-Jewelry Exchange – Austin Administration – The Blk Swan Pubs - Ecclesiastical Ins – SB Partners

**Monthly Donors & Those Contributing through  
Payroll Deposits - THANK YOU!!**

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# KEY COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Building a legacy requires reflection, vision and a reality check. The population of Halton and the age of the youth we support are increasing. We anticipate a greater demand on needs for older youth in the future, and recognize the growing operating costs that are a necessity in a competitive field. Presented with an opportunity to invest proceeds from the sale of property in 2013, the Board of Directors, with an obligation to the youth we serve and the donors to whom we remain transparent and responsible, seized the chance to plan for the future education of youth. Proudly, but cautiously, we oversee the fund with the aim of directing earned income to necessary administrative costs, meaning 100% of our treasured donors' contributions can go directly to the children and youth we support.

**DONATE NOW**



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