



2023 - 2024

**DONOR ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT**



# INVESTING IN BRIGHTER FUTURES

## OUR MISSION

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

---

## OUR VISION

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

---

## 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



## ABOUT

# The Children's Aid Foundation of Halton

### WHO WE ARE

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

Life-changing programs, opportunities, activities and events provide the stepping stones to independence and enrich the lives of those we serve.

### 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.

We provide support and resources beyond the basic funding for child welfare operations provided by the government.

Our work is made possible through community donations and a committed partnership with 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 recognize that much more than basic financial support is required to provide equal chances to those who have experienced loss, trauma, and undue hardship.

We believe that all children and youth deserve the opportunity to find their strengths and pursue their dreams.



# A MESSAGE

## FROM JENNIFER & TINA

Through the support of generous donors and grantors we continue to make a tremendous impact on the lives of children, youth and families supported by the Halton Children's Aid Society; by enhancing the work of Halton CAS staff and extending services beyond government funding, we are offering opportunities to heal, grow, participate, and achieve goals that would otherwise not be possible.

It's incredibly humbling to speak with those who contribute to and believe in CAFH's mission to provide these life-changing opportunities. Our small but crucial role in supporting initiatives, knowing that our work helps keep families together and young people safe, focused and hopeful, motivates us to pursue all avenues of support, be it monetary, tactical or advisory. We are blessed to have so many supporters eager to partner with us, truly listening to the desired outcomes and where their help is needed.

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 work is crucial, it's busy and with increasingly complex needs it's becoming more challenging. We aim to keep families together, to empower and strengthen the entire family unit, and provide youth with the necessary support and guidance to become independent, strong adults.

This is what your gifts provide, practical help, hope, inspiration, motivation and joy!

Thank you for your continued generosity, for your moral support and kindness, and most of all, thank you for believing in the hopes and dreams of the young people whose lives are impacted by your gifts.

Sincerely,

Jennifer and Tina



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Gilbert'.

Jennifer Gilbert  
President 2023 - 2024



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tina Blatchford'.

Tina Blatchford  
Executive Director

2023 - 2024

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[Jennifer Gilbert](#), President

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

[Jonathan Harty](#), Treasurer

[Ryan Mills](#), Secretary

[Sally Aitken](#)

[Marilyn Benninger](#)

[Debora Hume](#)

[Suzannah Kelly](#)

[Vivian Salonga](#)

[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

Clara Costa

Tammy Davey-Wiebe

Mandy Deakin

Krista Dietrich

Shannon Drake

Cassie Gauthier

Brad Gibson

Rose Goddard

Bonni Green

Phil Grimes

Jonathan Harty

Jim Houghton & Michael Renken

Chris Jenkins

Jessica Johnson

Jeff Laforet

Stephanie Lamont

Elizabeth Law

Joan Lewis

Keith & Lyanne Matcham

Austin McNeil

Kathleen & Doug McPhie

Ryan Moffat

Steve O'Hearn

Lynn Oliver

Greg Pace

Don Pangman

Teresa Pitman

George Prieksaitis & Asa Sjoberg

Leslie Priest

Lisa Roach

Linda Roberts

John Romano

Kevin Schilz

Chris Scott

Christine Seidenberg

Carolyn Shaw-Koshan

Dade Sheppard

Wendy Sherren

Nicole Stewart

Chris Townley

Lynn Wilson

Daniel Young

# 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, so we offer support to children and youth to help them succeed in school and to access extracurricular activities, mentoring, and enrichment programs.

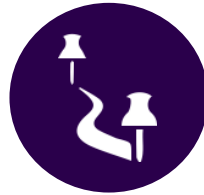
For additional information about our programs please visit [our website](#).



Bursaries  
and Education



Holiday DREAMS



Bridging the Gap



FUTURES



Youth in Care



DREAMS Begin at  
Home



# 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 support the work of Halton CAS and make happy childhood memories and life-changing opportunities possible.

## Halton CAS Service Stats 2023-2024

**5,000** children and youth served

**61%** of children and youth return to family or kin

**84%** 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



11

Youth awarded post-secondary bursaries



180

Children & Youth received new bicycles



450

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



5,000

**Children and youth served in 2023-2024**



72

DREAMS Begin at Home recipients of beds, Comfort Kits, Emergency & Life-start Kits



95%

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



171

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

INVESTING IN BRIGHTER FUTURES

2023 - 2024

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

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

**\$721,182 RAISED IN 2023 - 2024**

Thanks to your generosity

**Over \$8M**

in support has been provided to Halton CAS programs to date.

A healthy financial market in early 2024 provided investment returns that fully covered administrative expenses.

This translates to 100% of all donations going to our charitable cause, making a direct impact on those we serve.

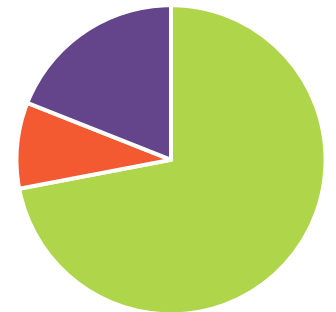
## SOURCES OF REVENUE

- 34% Grants
- 20% Investment
- 18% Gifts-in-kind
- 13% Individual
- 7% Third Party
- 5% Events
- 4% Corporate



## HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT

- 76% Charitable Purpose
- 9% Fundraising
- 15% Administration





# MCPHIE AWARD

## MARILYN BENNINGER

Marilyn joined CAFH's Board of Directors in 2011, bringing to the team a wonderful mix of creativity, expertise, and enthusiasm. Her corporate communications and marketing skills elevated CAFH's connectivity, this paired with event planning experience and a flair for role playing, meant she was a perfect addition to the planning committee of the annual Stardust Gala. In 2020 Marilyn was instrumental in shifting the Gala to a virtual event, maintaining connections and fundraising momentum. As President, she oversaw a historic property sale and a \$1 million investment.

Marilyn's dedication to supporting youth through coaching, community service, and donations earns her the McPhie Award. Her gifts of time, talent, and treasure exemplify the award's criteria, making her a truly deserving recipient.

Congratulations Marilyn!

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

2023 Sheila Parker --- 2022 Greg Pace --- 2021 Krista Dietrich and Chris Barrett

2020 Jonathan Harty -- 2019 Keith and Lyanne Matcham --- 2018 Nancy MacGillivray

2017 Terry Spearin --- 2016 George Prieksaitis & Asa Sjoberg --- 2015 Reya Ali-Dabydeen

2014 Lily & Richard Bellm --- 2013 Ken & Pearl Moffat --- 2012 Tammy Davey-Wiebe

2011 Don Pangman --- 2010 Phil Grimes --- 2009 Derek Zwiep --- 2008 Mandy Deakin

2007 Doug McPhie



On December 3, 2024 we learned of the passing of our dear friend and colleague, it's hard to believe this message sits on the same page as the news of her award presented less than a month earlier. Marilyn was a proud supporter of our organization and an integral member of the team in the office, the Boardroom and in the community. Her tireless dedication to staff, volunteers, youth and families in our community was remarkable, even throughout her illness. She will be remembered for her infectious laugh, quickness of wit and her effervescent presence. Through her leadership, generosity, and compassion, Marilyn left an indelible mark on our foundation and the lives of those we serve. She will be deeply missed; her legacy will continue to inspire us to make a meaningful difference in our community.

Marilyn Benninger 1963 – 2024.

# INSPIRATION AWARD

## NICKEL BROOK BREWING COMPANY

The Nickel Brook Brewing Company, founded by John Romano, has supported Halton's youth for over 20 years. Built on family values, the company encourages growth, skilled trades, and education, while contributing to various causes. Their Oktoberfest event, now a three-day Fall Festival, raises funds for Children's Aid Foundation of Halton, aiding youth transitioning to independent adulthood. With inclusive activities for all ages, the event generated approximately \$20,000 for CAFH. The Nickel Brook team's dedication and generosity have earned them the Inspiration Award, recognizing their exceptional community spirit and commitment to empowering young people in need.

Congratulations!

### PREVIOUS WINNERS:

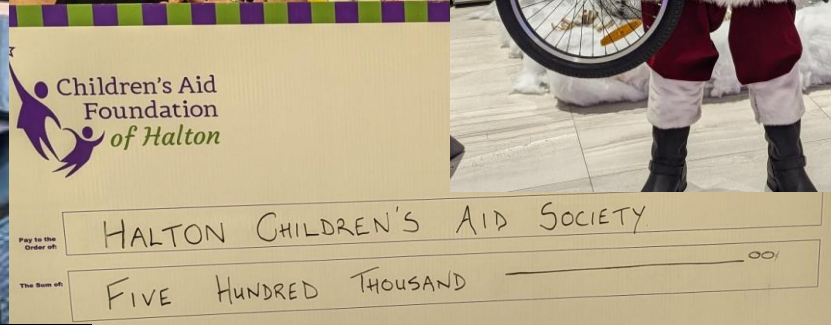
2023 Oakville Youth Group --- 2022 Home Depot Canada Foundation  
2021 Oakville Firefighters Association --- 2020 Uline  
2019 EddieO's Pourhouse & Kitchen --- 2018 The Petrachek Family  
2017 The Oakville Community Foundation --- 2016 Mike Lupo 2016 The Congregation of Hillspring Church  
2015 Jim Boyle & 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





# SPECIAL MOMENTS

Nickel Brook Oktoberfest 2023, Mandy Deakin's Christmas Coffee Morning, Waste Connections of Canada Bikes Build with Santa, Bikes for Kids 2023, Oakville Youth Group Holiday Cards, DREAM Auction 2024, Puck Drop with Hockey Canada, Home Depot Orange Door Campaign, Moon in June 2024, Seven Grandfather Teachings, so many wonderful celebrations.....



<p>Buffalo</p> <p>Respect</p>	<p>Bear</p> <p>Courage</p>	<p>Wolf</p> <p>Humility</p>	<p>The Seven Grandfather</p> <p>Teachings</p>
<p>Beaver</p> <p>Wisdom</p>	<p>Sabé</p> <p>Honesty</p>	<p>Turtle</p> <p>Truth</p>	<p>Eagle</p> <p>Love</p>

Dear Student,, who has gotten this, please study well and also have fun! I've packed this case with goodies! Love Another Student

Lovebirds Place



Oktoberfest

September 30 2023

# Congratulations!

## Amanda - Moen Award for Excellence



Amanda is a shining example of determination and passion. When she's not managing a team of employees at a retail store, where she expertly styles customers and leads by example, Amanda can be found pushing herself to new heights at the gym. A regular fitness enthusiast, she credits her active lifestyle with maintaining both her physical and mental well-being. But Amanda's true passion lies in the creative realm of graphic design. With a course enrollment on the horizon in January, she's eagerly anticipating the next chapter in her journey. Upon graduation, Amanda plans to turn her dream into a reality by launching her own graphic design business, where she can channel her innovative spirit and artistic talents to make a lasting impact. With her award-winning momentum and unwavering dedication, there's no doubt Amanda will excel in this exciting new venture.

Congratulations Amanda on winning the Moen Award!

# Congratulations!

## Argentina - McPhie Award



Argentina is a true artist; her illustrations are amazing and have transformed and evolved over the past five years. She recently graduated from a two-year arts program at Sheridan College and has been accepted into another program where she will study special effects makeup, she aspires to work on a film set one day. Argentina is an excellent student and a loyal friend and sister, evidenced by her ongoing advocacy on behalf of them both.

The criteria for the McPhie Award is to recognize an individual for exhibiting a strength of character in the pursuit of education while navigating and overcoming significant challenges that along the way.

Argentina has indeed shown true fortitude and dedication to her goals and dreams, and we are thrilled to present the award – Congratulations!

THANK YOU

# 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.



Aub & Marsha Baillie Family Fund, The David and Carmen Fuller Charitable Fund,  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Robert Bell Family Foundation, The GiveOakville Campaign

# SPECIAL MENTIONS

## Between July 2023 to June 2024

### Gifts Received in Memory of:

Mary Adams - Paul Brazukas - Tom Christopher – June Graham – Robert Allan Greenfield – May Jim - Terrence Raymond Lynham – Marg McCallum - Jason McDonagh – Gilles Nobert – Nadia Skutelsky

### Gifts Received in Recognition of:

Austin’s Adventure - Greg Pace - Mandy Deakin – Harry, Ben & Lily Buxton-Forman – Chris Barrett - Jennifer Gilbert & Rachel Wegner - Tina Blatchford & Lisa Janssen – Liz Yates – Lidia Taylor – Tim, Shannon, Jonah and Lindsay Wiebe – The MacKinnon Family - Oakville Youth Group – Staff & Volunteers of Halton CAS - “Thank you for caring for my son.” – “Thank you for the great work you do for this community.” – “In honour of all Youth in Care”.

### 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 – Staff of Grant Thornton LLP - Staff of Credit Valley Conservation Authority - Across the Floor Dance Centre – Grace Academy of Dance – Making Waves Swim Milton - The Oakville Students led by Andy Lin – Greg Pace & the Bikes for Kids team – Taiga Building Supplies – Dentistry At La Salle – Milton Curling Club - Aveva – Minty Gold & Silver Exchange – Halton Quilter’s Guild - Austin Administration – The Georgetown Santa Walk - Roach Family Real Estate – St. Paul the Apostle Parish – St. Scholastica – U13 AA Burlington Baracuddas - The Moon in June 2024 – Oktoberfest @ Nickel Brook Brewery - Oakville Fire Dept.

**Monthly Donors & Those Contributing through  
Payroll Deposits – A special THANK YOU to you!!**

# 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 and again in 2021, 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](#)



INVESTING IN BRIGHTER FUTURES





## INVESTING IN BRIGHTER FUTURES

[DONATE NOW](#)

 [@CAHalon](#)

 [CAHalon](#)

 [Children's Aid Foundation of Halton](#)

 [CAHalon](#)

1445 Norjohn Court, Unit 1 | Burlington, ON, L7L 0E6 | 905-333-4441 ext. 0707 | [www.cafh.ca](#)

CRA number: 134922475RR0001