



INVESTING
IN BRIGHTER FUTURES



2021-2022

DONOR ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT



ABOUT OUR FOUNDATION

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). These contributions allow Halton CAS to enhance their work by providing additional services that enrich the lives of abused and neglected children and youth living in Halton.

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 VISION

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

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 MESSAGE

FROM MARILYN & TINA

“Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.” - Babe Ruth.

This is one of many motivational expressions used since early 2020 that has helped us to learn, grow and change tactics while staying focused on our mission to support the needs of children, youth and families served by the Halton Children’s Aid Society.

By far, the most compelling motivator is hearing the words of youth who have benefitted from the generous donations received from amazing supporters; “I am so incredibly grateful for everything the agency has done for me over the last few years. Your support saved me from countless sleepless nights, hungry mornings and many panic attacks.”

As a small charity with the very big responsibility of funding life-saving and life-changing programs and activities, we compete with literally thousands of other fundraising entities. Moving to an on-line, virtual world has increased the competition and it’s more important than ever to engage with donors, tell the stories, and provide proof of a sound investment. We are also very aware that donors are bombarded with requests for help and so we are immensely grateful when people show support through contributions of various types and all sizes. Especially as, due to the level of confidentiality to which we are bound, we can’t provide names or arrange meetings or visits like many other charities can, and therefore the element of trust is even stronger. We can’t begin to express the depth of gratitude we have for that kind of faith and commitment.

It seems that each year we have something huge to report on. This year was a record one...we sold a property! For more than thirty years CAFH has owned residences that have been used as emergency placements and homes to teenagers in transition. Thankfully, the need for group homes has decreased significantly, with more nurturing family settings available in Halton. So we waited, took advantage of the real estate market’s peak selling period and timed the sale perfectly! Some of these funds were used to make a significant annual contribution to the Halton Children’s Aid Society which were directed in support of older youth who have been particularly challenged by the pandemic as they age out of care. The rest of the proceeds were added to our investment portfolio, ensuring funds are available to cover operational activities and sustain the support of the most vulnerable young people in this community.

Throughout Halton there are approximately 5,000 children and youth who require the assistance of the Halton Children’s Aid Society. For many of those the support CAFH provides is the difference between surviving and thriving. So, in keeping with Halton CAS’s theme “Providing the Wings for Our Youth to Soar” we, together with you our donors and supporters, are indeed providing the wind beneath those wings....(you’re singing it aren’t you 😊).

Thank you for all you do in support of this cause, for your belief in the work we do and most of all, for believing in the young people whose lives you touch every day.

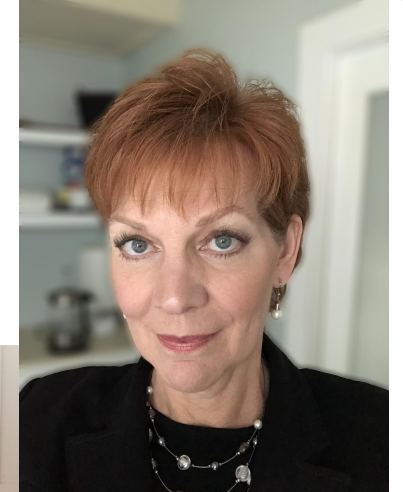
Sincerely,



Marilyn Benninger
President 2020-2022



Tina Blatchford
Executive Director



2021 – 2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LEADERSHIP TEAM

Tina Blatchford, Executive Director
Lisa Janssen, Partnership & Program Development
Heema Dhup*, Director of Finance



*Halton CAS staff p/t CAFH support

ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS



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. Education is the first step towards a brighter future and we work together with the CAS 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.



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 trauma, anxiety or other challenges 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.



Sports and Recreation

We believe all children and youth should have the chance to run, skate, ride a bicycle, paint, 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 enables them to develop important life skills, self-esteem and confidence. We provide funds and in-kind gifts to ensure children have the chance to be children and create happy childhood memories with friends and mentors.



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.

ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS



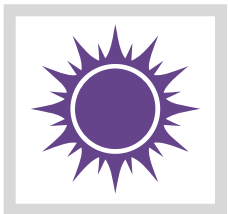
DREAMS Begin at home

This program became an essential source of support during the pandemic lockdown and recovery. Beds, Life-Start Kits and Comfort Kits, are provided to children and youth in need. A Life-Start Kit consists of essential household items, all that a youth might need to set up home independently. Comfort Kits are issued to a child or youth who has come into care or is moving to a new placement. Kits have pjs, socks, personal hygiene products, a book, etc which help in the transition. A complete bed, with mattress and box spring bring a good night's sleep and with it the ability to focus on school and a secure future. The impact is immeasurable.



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 an average of 500 youth annually in the Halton Region.



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.



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:



30

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



16

Youth attend post-secondary programs



31

Youth participated in YouthSAID advocacy events



437

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



Over 5000

Children and youth served in 2021 – 2022



72%

of children and youth are discharged within one year



97%

of cases enabled children and youth to stay with families



73

Children and youth participate in FUTURES/ Youth In Care Day, OECT and other Seasonal Events and Festivities



600 +

Children, youth and families received support from the seasonal program

2021 – 2022

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.

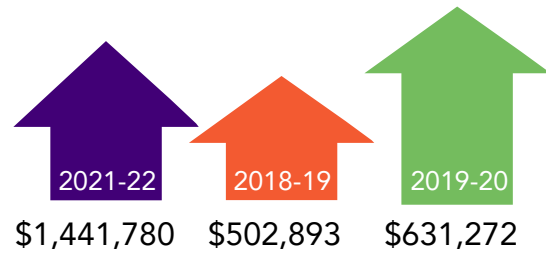
\$1,441,780 RAISED IN 2021 – 2022

Thanks to your generosity

Over \$7M

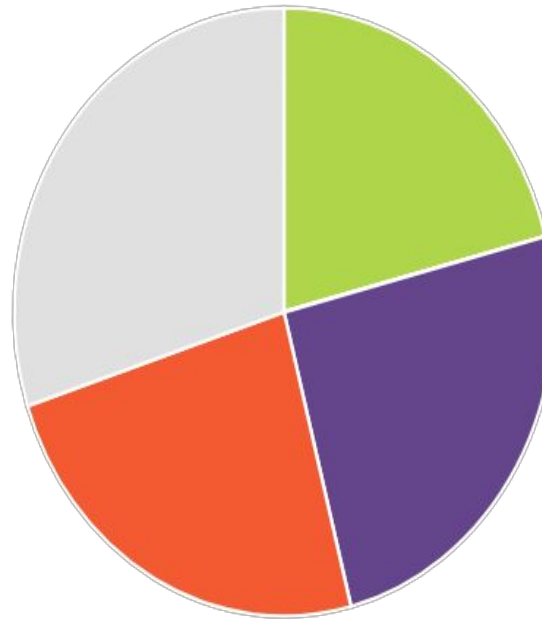
in support has been provided to Halton CAS programs to date

YEAR OVER YEAR EARNINGS



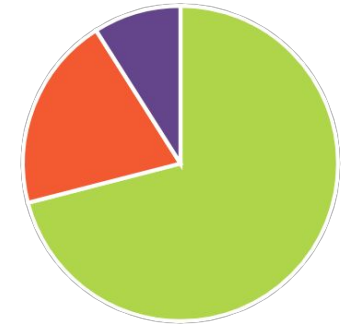
SOURCES OF REVENUE

- 25% Gifts in-kind
- 24% Individual donations
- 21% Grants
- 13% Third party events
- 9% Special events
- 8% Corporate donations



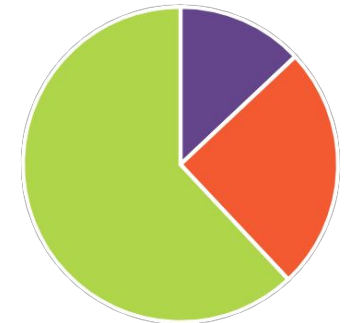
HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT

- 71% CAFH programs
- 20% Fundraising
- 9% Administration



WHERE THE PROGRAM MONEY WAS SPENT

- 62% Educational Support
- 25% Exceptional Circumstances Fund
- 13% Bridging the Gap



INSPIRATION AWARD

THE HOME DEPOT CANADA FOUNDATION BURLINGTON & MILTON STORES

In 2014 Home Depot Canada Foundation launched the Orange Door Project. The campaign supports organizations and initiatives that provide services to youth at risk of or facing homelessness. Through an application process, CAFH and the Bridging the Gap program were successful in being chosen as partners by the Home Depot stores in Burlington and Milton. It has been an amazing journey!

Through the partnership initiated in 2014, the Bridging the Gap program has received over \$250,000. These funds have come in the form of \$2 "Orange Doors" at check out and grants for renovations. As well, the support has become even more meaningful with gift cards for special projects, supplies for Life-Start Kits and even a brand new BBQ!

We recognize the inspiration of the Home Depot Canada Foundation, for recognizing the need for supporting youth across Canada, and we particularly acknowledge the staff of the Burlington and Milton Home Depot stores for their enthusiasm and commitment to the success of the campaign. Thank you for your amazing dedication to our cause.

Congratulations!



PREVIOUS WINNERS:

Uline, 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, The Costa Family, Greg Pace & The Bikes 4 Kids Project, The Dragon Boat Festival Steering Committee of the Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar



MCPHIE AWARD

GREG PACE

For more than 15 years Greg has been leading a team of loyal and generous supporters of the Bikes for Kids program. Way back, Greg simply brought in two brand new bicycles with the thought of bringing joy to two lucky children on Christmas morning. Little did he know what he started!

Inspired by the knowledge that so many children in the Halton CAS circle had never ridden a bicycle and certainly never received a new one of their own, the Bikes for Kids program was launched.

Now the partnership has grown to include numerous individual and corporate donors and a very special partnership with Canadian Tire Fairview. Collectively the team has raised over \$100,000 to provide close to 1,000 bicycles and sporting equipment for those without.

Greg is the first to recognize that this is a group effort, however, it takes someone with passion and dedication to lead the charge and fulfill such a great accomplishment.

Consequently, in recognition for many years of leadership and generosity it's our absolute pleasure to recognize Greg with the McPhie Award.

Congratulations!

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

Jonathan Harty, Keith & Lyanne Matcham, Nancy MacGillivray, Terry Spearin, George Prieksaitis & Asa Sjoberg, Reya Ali-Dabydeen, Lily & Richard Bellm, Ken & Pearl Moffat, Tammy Davey-Wiebe, Don Pangman, Phil Grimes, Derek Zwiép, Mandy Deakin, Doug McPhie



We Raised \$12,000 for
Bridging The Gap!



SPECIAL MOMENTS

Burlington Home Depot Store, Milton Home Depot Store, Toque Tuesday - Raising the Roof, Bikes for Kids, Catch the Ace, Austin and Emmanuelle - Camaraderie of Hope, Sound of Music Festival.



SUCCESS STORIES

Emily - Elizabeth Interiors Award for Excellence

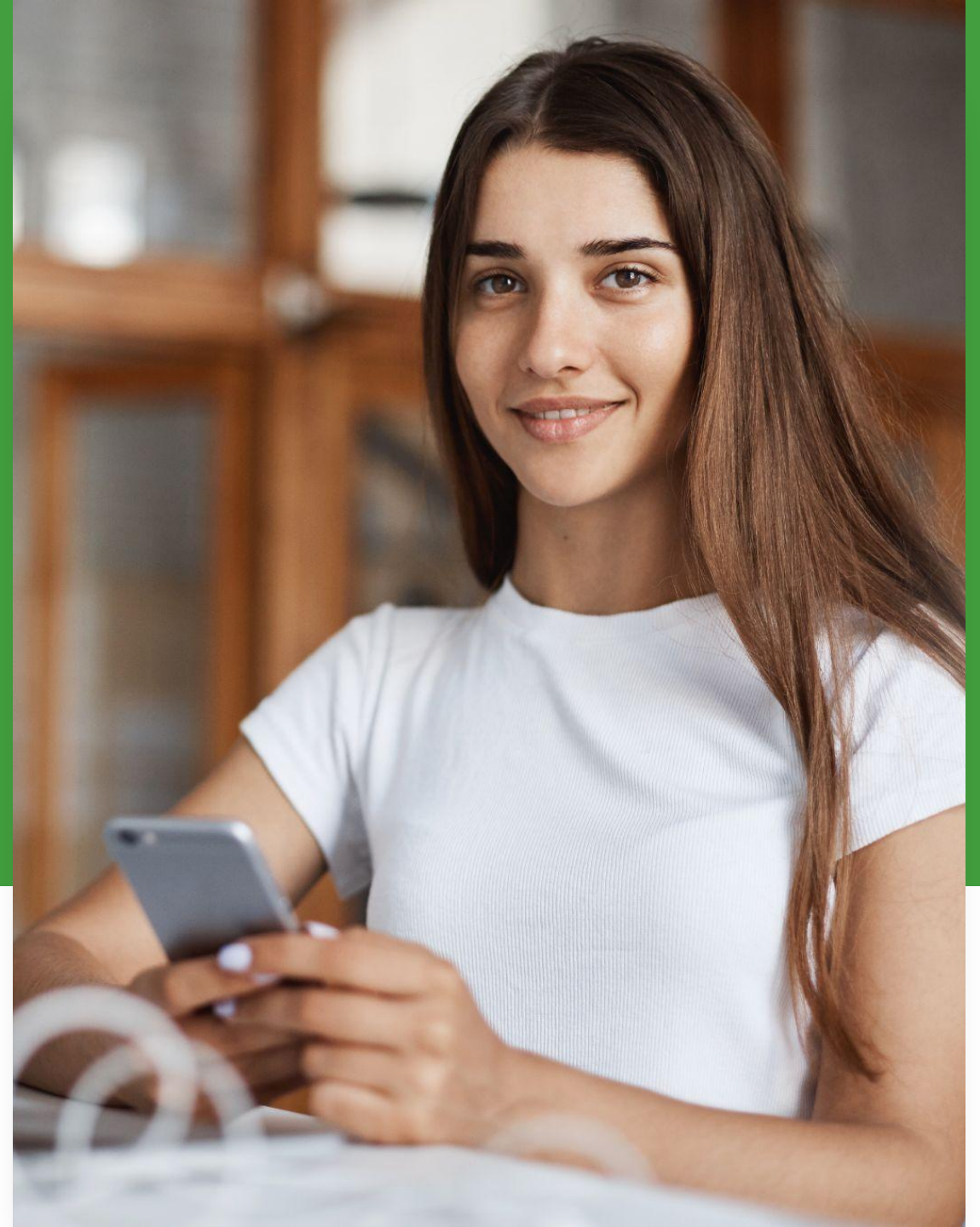
Emily is 22 years old and is enrolled in her 5th year of a 6 year Concurrent Education Program through Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Emily's worker of four years says that she has been truly impressed to watch Emily grow into an amazing young woman. Not only has Emily managed to thrive academically, maintaining an A average, but she has also become extremely passionate about working with Indigenous People. For the past two years, Emily has volunteered with Frontier College as an English Tutor working with Indigenous children. This past summer, Emily was hired to work as a mentor/tutor at the Lieutenant Governor's Indigenous Summer Camp Reading Program on a local Reserve. Emily says this experience changed her forever and she will most likely dedicate her career to working with Indigenous children.

Emily is excited for her future and hopes to go on to complete her Master's in Education.

The criteria for the Elizabeth Interiors Award includes "community involvement, mentoring others or securing a placement/internship". Emily has excelled in all these areas and is totally deserving of this award.

Congratulations Emily, we applaud your passion!



SUCCESS STORIES

Jordan - McPhie Award

In recognition of her strong sense of determination to overcome challenges and diversity, this year's recipient of the McPhie Award is Jordan.

At the age of 16 and in her last year of high school, Jordan found herself in need of housing and life's basic necessities such as food and clothing. Determined to succeed yet recognizing she needed help, she met with Halton CAS and the Bridging the Gap (BTG) team where she found vital supports. Not only did she go on to graduate high school but she also set out a plan to continue her education, feeling confident and supported.

Jordan, now 18, is enrolled in the Hotel and Restaurant Management two-year diploma program at Humber College. She is enjoying life in Humber residence overlooking the beautiful Humber River and adores the view of the Toronto skyline from her room. Her dream is to one day move to Calgary, Alberta and become a manager in the hotel industry.

BTG Worker Kevin *"Congratulations to a very deserving, inspirational and motivated young lady. Wishing Jordan continued success always."*

Congratulations Jordan, and may all your dreams come true!



THANK YOU

TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

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.



SPECIAL MENTIONS

Gifts Received in Memory of

Sylvia Niezen - Mary Rose - "Ma" - Jordan - Charlie Howard - Rebecca Herlihey - R. Peterson - David Blatchford - Connie Lucier - Dalton McIntyre - Tom Christopher - Matti Matti

Gifts Received in Recognition of

Juanita Gransaul -Rebecca Christou - Mrs. A Reed - Mme J. Phillips - Jose Guido - Chef Mike & Marilyn Benninger - Joshua Jackson - The Edwards Family - Ed Coady - Christine Hartley - Tim, Shannon, Jonah & Lindsay Wiebe - Tina Blatchford & Lisa Janssen - Krista Dietrich - Jen Gilbert & Rachel Wegener - Dr. Samil Gupta & Dr. Swati Khanna - Maria Ingarra - Otilie Niemkamper - Customers of Robin & Hen Handmade - Greg Pace - Torin Dokuchie - Staff & Volunteers of Halton CAS - In honour of all children and 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 - Ladies of Burlington Golf & Country Club - Members of Hopedale Presbyterian Church - Families of Hillspring Church - Islamic Circle of North America Sisters (Oakville) - Inamullumani - Employees of IBM Canada - MDP LPP - Staff of Credit Valley Conservation Authority - Across the Floor Dance Centre - Oakville Students led by Andy Lin - the Bikes for Kids team.

**Monthly Donors & Those Contributing through
Payroll Deposits - THANK 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, 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 interest to necessary administrative costs, meaning 100% of our treasured donors' contributions can go directly to the children and youth we support





INVESTING IN BRIGHTER FUTURES



DONATE NOW

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