



Land Acknowledgement

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, we acknowledge that the Children's Cottage is located in the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7. This includes the Tsuut'ina First Nation, the Stoney Nakoda – including Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Nations – and the Blackfoot Confederacy comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani and the Kainai First Nations.

We recognize and honour the people of the Métis, Districts 5 & 6, the Inuit nations, and the diversity of First Nations people from treaties across Canada who now call Calgary home. We appreciate the important role that Two-Spirit and gender-diverse individuals have served in Indigenous communities throughout history.

Here is where, together, we live, learn, play, and heal.

Our Core Funders



Building strong children and safe, nurturing families through prevention programs and support services.

Mission

Our Core Values



CHARITY INTELLIGENCE 2024

**TOP 10 IMPACT:
CANADIAN YOUTH
CHARITY**





Celebrating Collaboration

We're proud to be part of a compassionate network of organizations working together to support children and families. Each partner brings unique strengths, insights, and services that complement the support we provide.

Alberta Health Services
Alberta Home Visitation Network Association
Assure
Autism Calgary
Awo Taan
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Calgary Counselling Centre
Calgary Food Bank
Calgary Homeless Foundation
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association
CanLearn Society
Carya
Centre d'Appui Familial sud de l'Alberta
Centre for Newcomers
Centre for Sexuality
ChildbirthU
Closer to Home
Cochrane BGC
Cochrane FRN
Cochrane Pregnancy Care Centre
Community Kitchen
CUPS
Dollar Detectives
Distress Centre
Elbow River Healing Lodge
Families Matter
Hull Family Services
I Belong Backpacks
ICan4Kids Food Program
Inn from the Cold
Kindred Connections Society
LEAD Foundation
Legal Aid
Little Roots Learning Centre
LUNA
Magic of Christmas
Made by Momma
McMan Youth, Family and Community Services
Association of Calgary & Area

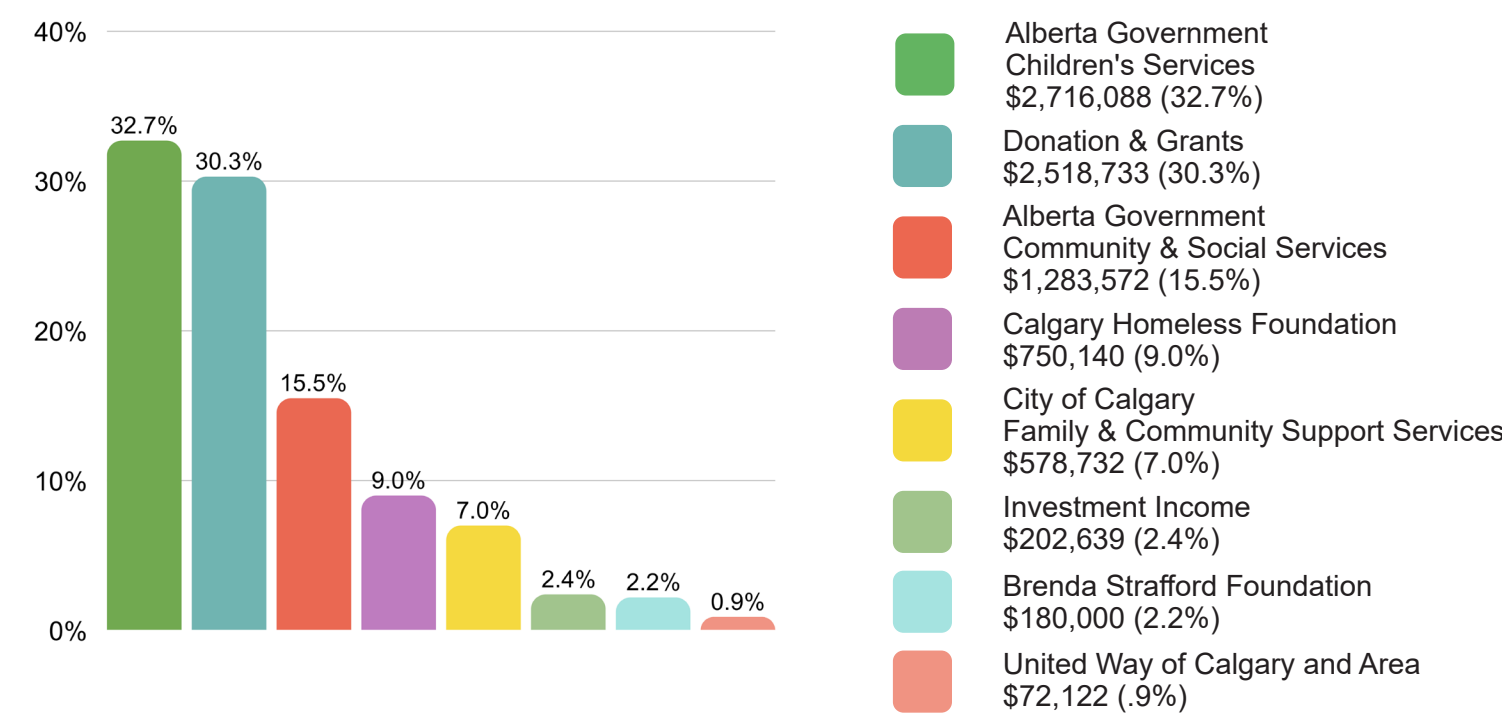
Momentum
Miskanawah
Newcomers Guide
North Hill Community Health Centre
NorthWest Community Health Centre
NSTEP
Okotoks FRN
Onward Homes
Portail de l'Immigrant Association
Renfrew
Shaganappi Health Centre
STEAMistic
Stoney Nakoda Nation
The Alex
The Further Education Society of Alberta
Trellis
Twins, Triplets & More Association of Calgary
UW-Natoo'si
Wheels for Kids
Wood's Homes
Worth Resolving
Youth Unlimited



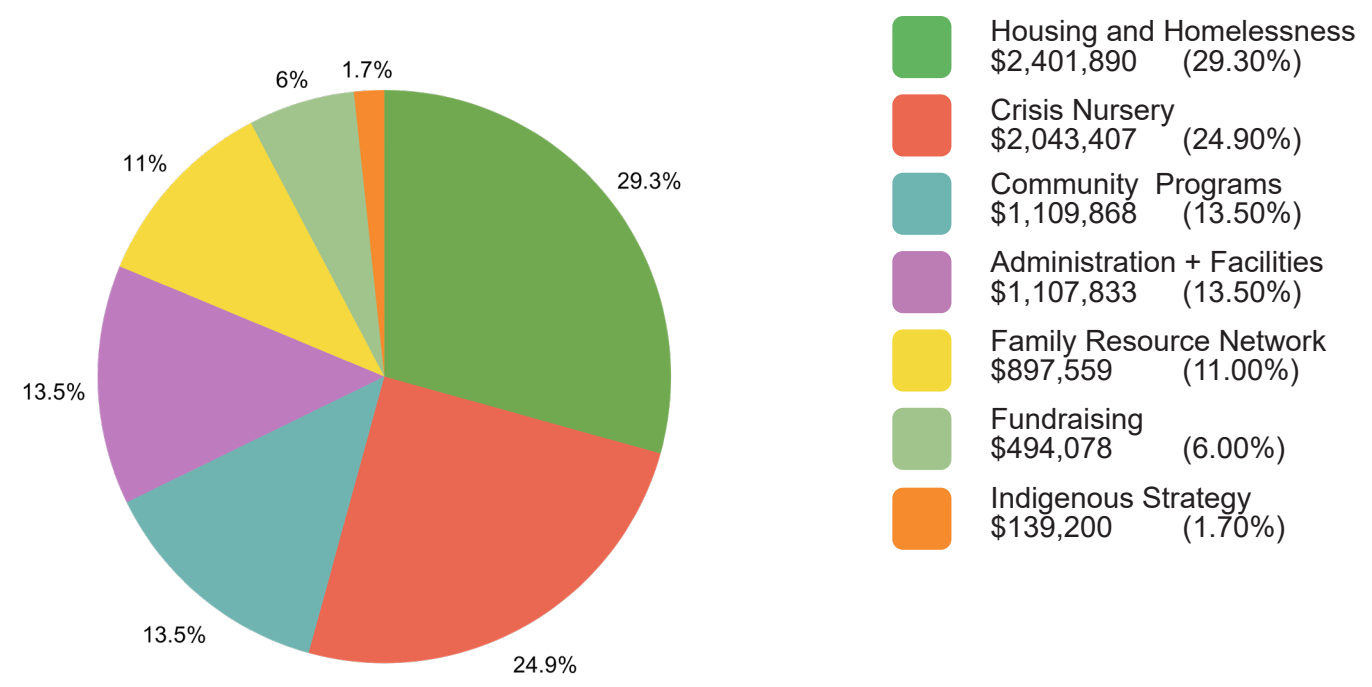
Together, we are
building stronger
families and
more connected
communities.
Thank you for walking
alongside us.

Annual Financial Review

Revenue



Expenditures



Our current and complete audited financial statements are available on our website.

Board of Directors

We are deeply grateful to our Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment, thoughtful leadership, and the countless ways they champion our mission.



Brad Hayden
Chair
Lawyer, Senior Partner
Norton Rose Fullbright



Tracy Baker, CPA, CA
Vice Chair
Consultant



Travis Robertson
Director
Advisor, EnerNext Partner



Elice Lee, MBA
Treasurer
Pembina Pipeline Corp



Candice Jones
Secretary
Lawyer, Canadian Natural Resources



Dr. Janice Heard
Past Chair
Pediatric Consultant



Pat MacDonald
Director
Community Volunteer



Dean Slater
Director
Professional Engineer



Peter Steenaerts,
MBA, ECFO
Director
Deputy Fire Chief, Risk Management



Dinesh Dattani,
FCPA, FCA
Director
Community Volunteer



Anna Premyslova, CFA
Director
Client Portfolio Manager,
CWB Wealth Partners



Joe MacGillivray
BA, MHSA, CHE
Director
Retired Health Executive



Carol DeLong, MBA
Director
Retired Business Operations Director



Harjit Baumann
Director
Executive Director
Nurse Practitioner Association of AB



Brad Hayden
Chair

The Children's Cottage Society has had an exciting year following our move into the new Child & Family Centre in April 2024, fulfilling a long-held promise to the community for more programs, stronger partnerships, and increased capacity to support Calgary's children and families.

Message from the Board Chair

We are grateful for the outpouring of community support. Donors helped complete our Capital Campaign and fund expanded programming, and our volunteer involvement tripled in size. It takes many hands to bring a vision ten years in the making to life, and to carry it through a successful first year.

Among those hands are our dedicated Board members, many of whom have supported this project since its inception. I would also like to thank our employees, who remained committed to delivering the highest quality of care during moves and ongoing changes as we established programs in our new Centre. Together, we are building a lasting resource that will support families for generations to come.

Message from the CEO

capacity of our new Crisis Nursery to accommodate 40% more children.

We partnered with the City of Calgary to support its Mental Health strategy as a family mental health crisis resource, strengthened our sector partnerships and forged new ones, which helped us expand our offerings for families.

The past year also saw the closure of our family shelter, Brenda's House. Still, we were pleased to collaborate with our community partner, Inn from the Cold, which was able to expand and accommodate families experiencing homelessness. It was a bittersweet goodbye for us as we wrapped up a 16-year program and bid farewell to our valued colleagues.

I am deeply grateful to our entire team of staff and volunteers, who have navigated many changes over the past year with grace and never wavered in providing excellent care and support to families and children.

The past year has been one of transformation and coming together for The Children's Cottage. The first year in our new Child and Family Centre brought us together as an agency, with almost all of our programs and our administrative team under one roof. It also increased the

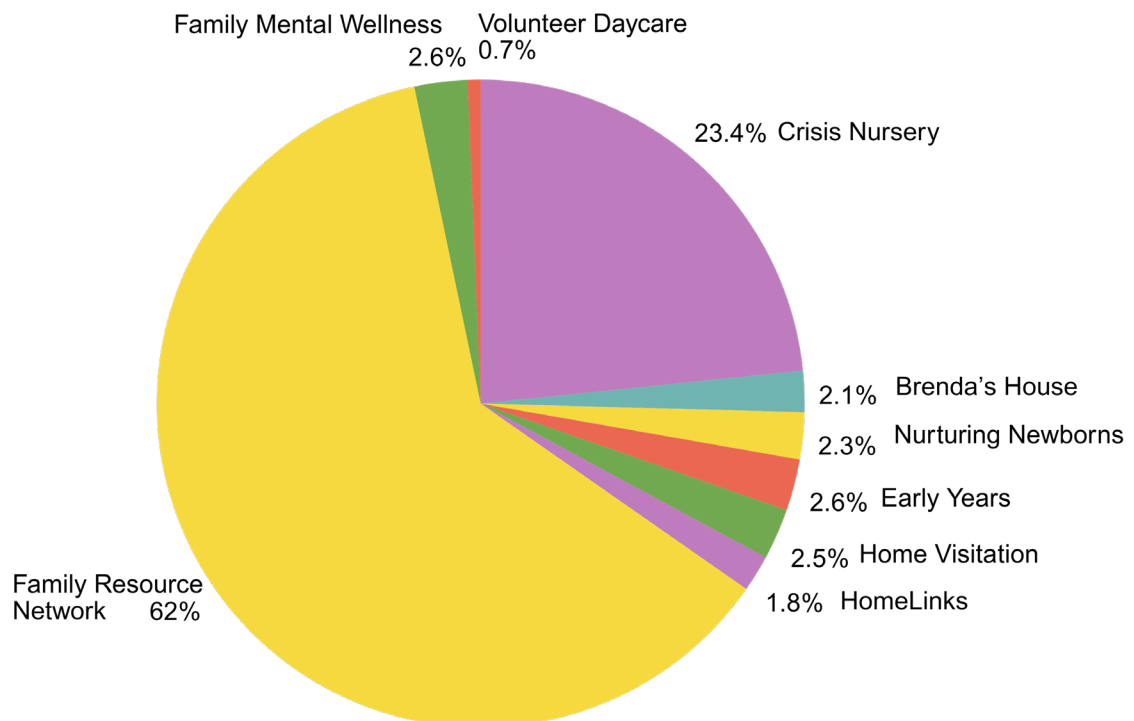


Danielle Ladouceur
Chief Executive Officer

Impact By Program

Program Name	Families Served	Children Served
Crisis Nursery	718	1182
Brenda's House	63	121
Nurturing Newborns	72	103
Early Years	79	117
Home Visitation	78	164
HomeLinks	56	91
Family Resource Network	1905	2412
Family Mental Wellness	81	-
Volunteer Daycare	20	30
Total	3072	4220

Families Served by Program



The glue that
holds a family
together isn't
perfection;
it's presence,
patience, and
shared laughter.



Reconciliation Through Action at The Cottage

The Children's Cottage has worked to develop strong relationships with Indigenous communities. Over many years, we have sat with, and listened to Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members. We have developed a deeper understanding of what we can contribute to the strengthening of their communities in general and their families in particular. We intend to continue this work to support the building of programs and services, as part of our Indigenous Strategy.

June 2024
Staff & Volunteers learn to set up and take down a tipi at Stoney Nation.



June 5, 2024
Indigenous Strategy launched, daily smudging practices begin, smudge bowls placed in meeting rooms. Ceremony room begins to take shape.

August 2024
Staff, families, and volunteers participate in a medicine picking ceremony with Miskanawah.



September 2024
Land acknowledgement workshop- all meetings now begin with a land acknowledgement. Staff are encouraged to write and share their own.



October 2024
Indigenous Advisory Committee formed, including Elders and community voices to guide our work.



September 2024
Staff honoured Truth & Reconciliation Day and wore shirts purchased from the Orange Shirt Society, supporting their nonprofit.

277

Hours of
Elder
Support



Weekly hours with Elder Blair, were introduced to community members, families and staff of Children's Cottage Society.

70

Children
attended
Kokum
Storytime



Children's Cottage Society introduced Kokum (Grandmother) Storytime to the children in our Crisis nursery. Kokum Bertha reads children's books from Indigenous authors.

50

Children
attended
Seven Sacred
Teachings



Children receive the opportunity to drum and understand the Seven Sacred Teachings through song by a talented Anishinaabemowin knowledge keeper.

First Nations,
Métis, and Inuit
Liaison Program

Provides cultural connections, court support, referrals for housing, and food, as well as family and parenting guidance.

33

Families
Served



40%

of families served
by The Cottage
in the past year
identified as
Indigenous.

It's Been
One Year
on Home
Road.



Working to Better Support Families

In April 2024, we opened the doors to our new Child & Family Centre on Home Road, a space intentionally designed to foster collaboration, improve service delivery, and support the wellbeing of both families and staff.

One year later, the results are clear: the move has transformed how we work and how we provide care and support. With most programs now operating under one roof, collaboration occurs in real-time. Staff can walk down the hall for advice, debrief with a colleague after a challenging visit, or collaborate across programs.

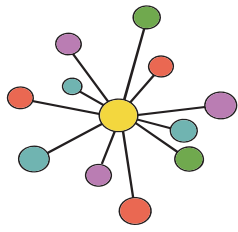
78,000
children
supported
since 1986



Open House,
Open Doors:
April 2024

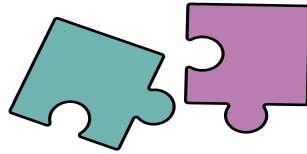
"It finally feels
like we're
working in
a space that
reflects how
important this
work is."





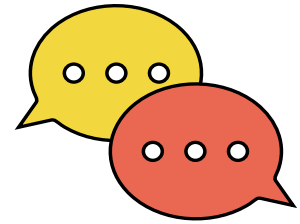
Collaborative Innovation

Being side-by-side has sparked new joint programming opportunities.



Program Integration

Cross-team referrals are now faster and more effective, improving access.



Improved Communication

Interactions and updates are more accessible, timely, and responsive.

Marking One Year: A Celebration of Community

In April 2025, we welcomed over 200 community members, agency partners, and supporters to commemorate one year in our new home. A surprise visit from our mascot, Jenny the Kangaroo delighted our youngest guests. That evening, we hosted “Cake & Candles for the Cottage,” an intimate gathering with our donors and supporters. It was a celebration of the stronger foundation we’ve created for the families we serve.



Answering Calgary's call for Family Mental Wellness



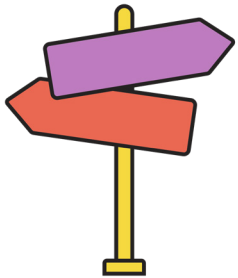
Building a Collaborative Model

In close collaboration with Miskanawah, Kindred, and the Calgary Counselling Centre, we developed a multidisciplinary, family-centered mental wellness hub grounded in trust, equity, and collaboration. Each partner plays a vital role in shaping a responsive care system that reflects the diversity and complexity of family needs.



Clinical Supports & Assessments

The Hub's clinical team includes specialists trained in trauma, grief, domestic violence, housing instability, and substance use. These professionals deliver direct therapeutic support with a focus on crisis response, assessment, and referral. Since its launch, the Hub has grown to serve dozens of families each month, starting them on their healing journey.



Family Wellness Connectors

At the heart of the Hub are our Family Wellness Connectors, staff who guide families through intake, referral, and follow-up. They ensure each family is met with dignity and empathy, helping them navigate and access community resources. This model ensures that no family walks alone when faced with a mental health crisis.

A
Vision
Realized

The Family Mental Wellness Hub is a reimagining of how mental health support can look: immediate, responsive, inclusive, and restorative. It stands as a testament to what is possible when community, culture, and clinical care come together in service of Calgary's families.



The Official Opening of The Family Mental Wellness Hub

“With this new centre, and the tireless work of the Children’s Cottage Society, no family in Calgary should ever have to face a mental health crisis without support.”

Mayor Jyoti Gondek

In May, we gathered our Circle of Hope donors, community leaders, media, and families to celebrate the official opening of the Hub. Mayor Jyoti Gondek joined our CEO, Danielle, and Director Lisa Congo to cut the ribbon and mark this historic moment. The celebration underscored a shared commitment to fostering a more accessible, inclusive, and family-centred approach to mental wellness in Calgary.



Integrating Indigenous Knowledge & Healing Practices

As part of our ongoing ReconciliACTION, the Hub introduced Elder Hours—dedicated time for families to connect in-person or virtually with Indigenous Elders. This culturally rooted initiative offers opportunities for connection, guidance, and healing through traditional knowledge systems. The inclusion of ceremony, storytelling, and cultural teachings creates a bridge between Western therapeutic approaches and Indigenous worldviews.

Crisis Nursery



The Power of Timely Respite

During a Family Resource Centre session, a volunteer quietly shared concern about a mother who appeared withdrawn and exhausted. A staff member checked in and quickly learned she was parenting alone, running on little sleep, and struggling to find care for her daughter.

When we offered our Day Respite program, Mom's eyes showed relief. Within the hour, her daughter was in our care, giving her Mom a much needed moment to rest safely without guilt.

That afternoon, she returned with a renewed sense of calm. Her situation hadn't changed, but a few hours of respite gave her the strength to carry on.



A Father's Call, Our Response

A father who was new to Canada called us in crisis, overwhelmed. His wife was in labour and didn't speak English. He had no support and two sons who needed him.

While he supported his wife at the hospital, he trusted us with his sons, who received safe, comforting care in our Crisis Nursery.

When he returned to pick up his children, our staff provided him with baby supplies, financial support referrals, and connections to other resources.

Before leaving, he shared with us: "The Children's Cottage feels like family. I didn't just receive help, I found community".

40%

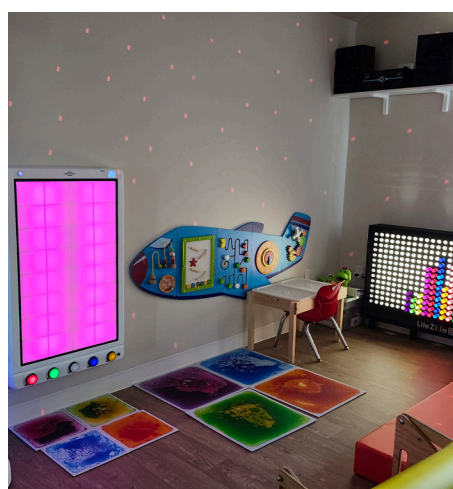
of parents indicated their child was in danger prior to admission

This data is self-reported by 183 families who reached out during moments when they felt their children were at risk of being harmed—a powerful reflection of their courage and commitment to safety.

94%

of these parents reported that the Crisis Nursery helped protect their children from danger.

A Space to Grow

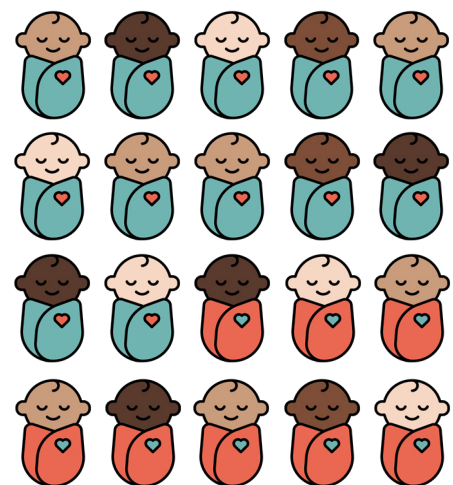


1182
Children

718
Families

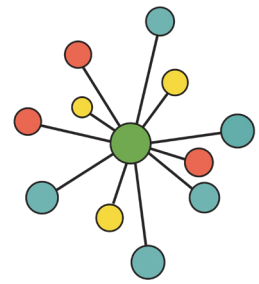
Received care & support
through the Crisis Nursery.

“Parents are relieved when they
see the beautiful, inviting space
where their children will stay.”



The Crisis Nursery
can now accommodate
40% more children.

The Family Resource Centre



As the designated hub for the provincial Family Resource Network (FRN) in West Calgary, we play a central role in ensuring families have consistent, accessible support.

While FRN funding provides the foundation, the actual impact of our work reaches far beyond its mandate. That's why we have started to refer to this vital initiative as the Family Resource Centre, a name that better reflects the breadth, depth, and collaborative strength of our offerings.

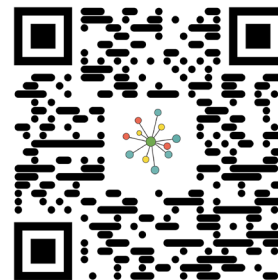
Through coordinated efforts with our four spoke partners and in partnership with organizations across health, education, and social sectors, we deliver a wide range of no-cost programs that are responsive, community-informed, and grounded in the real needs of families.



2412
Children

1905
Families

Participated
in Centre
Programs



Visit Our
Events
Calendar

Spoke Partners





Children's
Cottage
Society

My kid says,
"I want to go
to Rainbow House"



Reactions Spark Wonder



Hands Across Generations

my child always
cheers in joy
when we arrive.



Children's
Cottage
Society



Learning To Nourish



Connection Under Colour



Growing Stronger Together



Welcoming Every Voice

Early Childhood Development Strategy

In 2024, The Children's Cottage deepened our commitment to early childhood development through the launch of a new ECD strategy at the Family Resource Centre. This strategy provides families with access to early assessments and offers support to families on wait lists, ensuring that children with developmental lags receive immediate support.

Science in Practice

Early intervention is critical. Language development is foundational for lifelong learning, mental health, and social connection. We embed this science in practice, ensuring that families and staff have the tools to nurture every child's growth.

Building Staff Capacity

Speech Therapist consultations empowered staff with practical, easy-to-implement techniques for language modelling and play-based learning. Educators also observed real-time examples during circle time and transitions, helping bridge theory to practice.

Meeting Growing Needs

We worked closely with the Speech Therapist, to co-create communication-rich environments. Presence in playrooms enabled dynamic, responsive support for children, emotionally and developmentally, as well as linguistically.



"I was relieved when my child, who was non-verbal, started to speak full sentences. His social skills have improved remarkably."

-Little Blossoms Parent



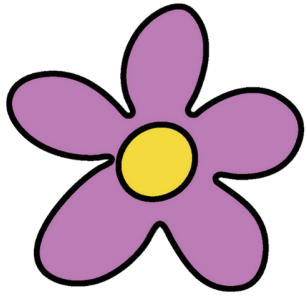
Child profiles were completed with individualized communication strategies.

37

Hours of professional Speech and Language support delivered to children.



Targeted professional development was provided for agency, and partner staff.



Little Blossoms

SCHOOL READINESS

Supported by the Steve & Tina Wilson Family Foundation



In March 2025, we launched Little Blossoms: a pilot program designed to help young children blossom through developmental support, connection, and play.

This school-readiness program serves children ages 3–5 who are experiencing developmental delays, and/or behavioural challenges, helping prepare them for a successful transition into the school system.

This program is a collaboration between Children's Cottage Society & Little Roots Learning Centre.

We introduced routine, structure, and visual aids to assist with transitions throughout the day.

Through a range of play-based activities, we've seen incredible progress with fine and gross motor skills, social and emotional growth, and self-help skills, while teaching and encouraging independence.

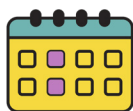
The children are acquiring the skills needed for a successful transition into the school system.

Little Blossoms Educator





Prenatal
to Age 6



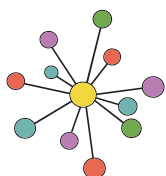
Weekly Visits



Strengthen
Early Childhood
Development



Build Parenting
Confidence



Local Resource
Connection



Calgary
Cochrane
Okotoks

Home Visitation

This program offers weekly in-home support to expecting parents and families with children up to age six. Serving Calgary, Cochrane, Okotoks, and nearby rural communities, the program builds parenting confidence, strengthens early childhood development, and connects families to local resources. Over time, Home Visitors build supportive relationships that promote long-term family well-being in ways that are respectful, responsive, and grounded in each family's unique journey.



Confidence Increased

After bringing home premature twins, two parents reached out for help with care and dealing with mental health challenges.

Through Home Visitation, they received calm, consistent support. Over time, the babies began to thrive, and the family found confidence, connection, and joy in daily life.

“We find ourselves asking, ‘What would our Home Visitor say?’. It’s become part of how our family navigates hard moments.”



Bridging Cultures

A new mom preparing to return to work was worried about separation from her child and cultural barriers.

With support, she created routines, found a culturally aligned day home, and prioritized her wellness. Her son flourished, and today, the family is financially stable and saving for their first home.

“As an immigrant woman, I am sometimes isolated, and the Home Visitation program is an important part of my life. I now feel very connected in our community.”

164
Children

78
Families

Received Home Visitation support from The Children's Cottage

Okotoks

After receiving dual diagnoses of autism and global developmental delay for her young sons, a mother in Okotoks felt overwhelmed and unsure of where to start. A friend referred her to the Home Visitation program.

Through regular visits, her Home Visitor completed developmental screenings and helped her set small, achievable goals. With consistent support and clear next steps, she began to feel confident in her parenting and better equipped to meet her children's needs.

Today, she's not just navigating milestones; she's celebrating them.

37
Children

18
Families

from Okotoks

Cochrane

A mother in Cochrane reached out when her son was diagnosed with ADHD, and daily routines became overwhelming. Unsure how to manage his energy or behaviour, she struggled to maintain calm at home.

With support from the Home Visitation program, she began to build structure and clarity. Her Home Visitor introduced strategies for emotional regulation, supported the creation of predictable routines, and tailored movement-based activities. As confidence grew, so did connection.

This mom now feels better equipped to navigate ADHD as a journey, not a crisis.

21
Children

10
Families

from Cochrane

Early Years

Through a partnership with the Alberta Vulnerable Infant Response Team, the Early Years Family Support program works alongside families through Family Life Coaches, Providing intensive in-home support to new parents addressing challenges.

Healthy
Child
Development

117
Children

79
Families

Foster Care
Placement
Prevention

Received support through the
Early Years Program.

Rebuilding Together

Melissa and Jordan were referred to Early Years Family Support while navigating substance use issues, unresolved trauma, mental health struggles, and a lack of social support. Their newborn daughter, Ava, had experienced a traumatic birth and required ongoing medical care.

Over the next 10 months, they fully engaged with the program. With consistent guidance from their Family Life Coach, they adopted sober caregiving, learned positive parenting strategies, and began rebuilding trust in their relationship. They also found strength in a peer network of other parents walking similar paths.

Today, Ava is thriving and meeting all developmental milestones. Better yet, her child protection file has been closed, and they are building a future together, as a family.

Essential
Resource
Connections

Enhanced
Parenting
Skills

Stronger
Support
Networks





Early Years:
The Impact,
as reported by
parents.

96%

Felt more confident
as caregivers

Restoring Connection

Child & Family Services referred parents Chloe and Rob to Early Years when their 3-month-old daughter, Mia was hospitalized following a serious incident at home. Mia's needs were not being met, and Chloe was experiencing mental health challenges and isolation.

With ongoing support, the family began to heal. Their Family Life Coach introduced safe care giving strategies, emotional regulation tools, and trauma-informed parenting guidance. Together, Chloe & Rob engaged in couples counselling and learned to communicate with empathy and accountability.

Chloe sought professional mental health care, reconnected with friends, and began to reintegrate into her community. As her wellbeing improved, so did her bond with Mia. Chloe and Rob became present and emotionally connected to Mia as nurturing, dependable caregivers.

96%

Improved their
knowledge of positive
parenting

100%

Increased their
knowledge of healthy
child development

“Early Years provided much-needed support during a difficult time for me as a new mom. It helped me learn valuable skills to care for my baby.”

100%

Connected to
community supports
like health centres,
food banks, and
financial resources

Every child deserves a safe, nurturing start. Through Early Years, high risk families rebuild, reconnect, and grow together.

91% of
families
remained
together with
Early Years
support.

Nurturing Newborns

Meeting families where they're at

Nurturing Newborns provides weekly in-home infant care and support to families navigating the early days of caring for a newborn, particularly those facing multiple stressors, including postpartum mental health concerns, isolation, or medical complexity. Perinatal Support Workers provide essential respite, help parents build confidence, reduce toxic stress, and promote secure attachment during a child's most critical stage of development.

Finding Stability with Triplets

For three months, Priya and her family received support on a weekly basis as they adjusted to life with newborn triplets.

Priya shared that the experience with the program was nothing short of remarkable. From day one, the support she received was compassionate, and her parenting confidence increased.



“This program gave us room to breathe, knowing our triplets were in safe, capable hands. We were able to rest, reset, and show up better for our babies.”



Healing Through Trust

“Knowing my son was safe, and cared for allowed me to focus on recovery, and connecting with other moms going through Postpartum Depression.”



After giving birth to her son, Amina found herself overwhelmed by postpartum depression and loneliness. The immense challenge of caring for a newborn and two other children alone was daunting.

From the moment she met her Perinatal Support Worker, something shifted. Not only did she receive much-needed respite, but she was also connected with a postpartum support group and had the opportunity to build up her social network of support.

Finding Hope in Crisis: A Father's Journey

When Luis found himself in a crisis, he turned to Nurturing Newborns, searching for support. With his wife Ana being hospitalized shortly after giving birth, Luis became the sole caregiver for both their newborn and 6 year old child.

Unable to return to work, Luis quickly began to feel overwhelmed, isolated, and hopeless.

That's when a Perinatal Support Worker from Nurturing Newborns stepped in offering emotional support and practical assistance. They explored financial resources, employment options, and child care.

Soon, Luis's adult daughter, Isabel, moved in to help care for the children. Although she had no prior experience with infants, she was determined to help her family. The Perinatal Support Worker supported Isabel, offering hands-on guidance, child care strategies, and encouragement, until Ana was ready to leave the hospital.

Now, the entire family is finding strength, together.



103
Children

77
Families

Received weekly
in-home support
and respite through
Nurturing Newborns

80%
of parents felt
more confident
in caring for
their infant
after receiving support
from Nurturing Newborns

We Made This House A Home

In March 2025, we turned the key one final time at Brenda's House, a space that offered more than shelter. It offered hope.

From 2009 to 2025, Brenda's House provided emergency shelter and support to 2,479 children and 1,331 families. While some families stayed more than once, each visit represented a moment of safety, care, and dignity during crisis.

Thanks to the **Brenda Strafford Foundation**, who generously provided the building since day one, the house became a place of healing and transformation for families experiencing homelessness.

As the program transitioned to **Inn from the Cold**, we marked the moment with a final celebration: a traditional smudge and blessing, shared memories, and a symbolic candle inscribed with "Hope" — it represented our shared commitment to continuing this essential work.

121
Children

63
Families

Served by Brenda's
House in 2024/2025

Brenda's House: A Legacy



“We were very blessed to get into Brenda's house because it kept our family together and it made us stronger, we bonded more, less stress and we never lost faith.”

94% of Brenda's House clients were happy with the support they received from their key shelter worker.

Moving Forward

While Brenda's House has closed, our mission continues. Through programs like the Crisis Nursery and the Family Mental Wellness Hub, Children's Cottage remains deeply committed to prevention, early intervention, and wraparound support for families facing homelessness.

HomeLinks

Linking Families to Safe Housing & Support

HomeLinks is a key part of Children's Cottage Society's housing continuum, offering up to two years of intensive case management for families exiting homelessness. This program supports families in finding and maintaining safe, affordable housing while building long-term stability through wraparound supports to ensure they do not return to homelessness.

Families receive individualized support, including housing search, landlord coordination, budgeting, parenting guidance, and mental health referrals. By reducing toxic stress and strengthening protective factors, HomeLinks helps families create a more secure and hopeful future.



56 Families Supported

89%
Sustained in Stable Housing

2 Families can receive up to two years of support

Rebuilding Stability

A single mother served by HomeLinks set two major goals: maintain sobriety and reunite with her teenage children. With support from her Case Manager, she found housing near their school, engaged in counselling, and completed an employment readiness program.

Today, she's living independently, maintaining her recovery, and actively seeking full-time work, in the process of reuniting with her children and moving forward with confidence.

A Confident Step Forward

When Cheyenne started with HomeLinks, she and her children had just left shelter. She was facing instability and newly diagnosed health challenges. Over 16 months, she stabilized her health, completed a diploma program, and secured local employment.

With initial rental subsidies, and financial coaching from HomeLinks, Cheyenne completed the program healthier, employed, and ready for what's next.

Core Services



Housing Search & Landlord Support



Mental Health & Community Referrals



Budgeting & Financial Literacy



Parenting Support & Life Skills



Rental Subsidies & Housing Retention

Hope's Cradle

A Safe Option When It's Needed Most

We're proud to be home to Calgary's first safe and anonymous infant surrender site. Installed in partnership with Gems for Gems, with the support of Calgary's First Responders, Hope's Cradle exists as a last-resort safety net for moments when all other options feel impossible.

Q & A

Has The Cradle Been Used?

Hope's Cradle exists for the moment it's needed—a moment of fear, crisis, or desperation. Even unused, it stands as a symbol of hope, and its availability alone can save lives.

Depending on the circumstances, we may inform the community. However, the safety and anonymity of the parent and child always come first.

Will the public be notified if it's used?

Since 1999, over 4,500 babies have been safely surrendered in the U.S. through Safe Haven cradles, saving countless infant's lives. The Hope's Cradle in Strathmore was used within its first year.

Do cradles like this work?

A parent has 30 days to reconsider their decision if the child was not harmed. This keeps the door open to reunification while still protecting the child.

Can a parent change their mind?

Awareness is everything. Spreading the word about Hope's Cradle could save an infant's life.

How can I help?



Learn more about our Hope's Cradle



HOPE'S CRADLE



A GEMS FOR GEMS INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT
THE SAFE SURRENDER OF INFANTS

For more information about installing Hope's Cradle in your community, contact Gems For Gems.
www.gemsforgems.com.



BRAIN STORY
CERTIFICATION

Brain Story

A Science-Based Framework
for Healing & Hope

What Is The Brain Story?

Developed by the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative, the Brain Story explains how early experiences shape brain development and how trauma, stress, and relationships impact lifelong health, learning, and behavior. It provides a shared language that bridges science and practice for those supporting children and families.

1

Serve &
Return
Actions

Engagement through intentional, responsive exchanges, eye contact, co-regulation, play. This engagement builds the foundations of healthy brain development.

2

Reducing
Toxic
Stress

HomeLinks, Crisis Nursery, and the Family Mental Wellness Hub help buffer the effects of trauma, poverty, and instability, supporting brains to heal and grow.

3

Building
Core
Life Skills

Parent coaching and mental wellness services help families develop emotional regulation, problem-solving, and decision-making rooted in brain science.

4

Healing
Through
Relationships

From Elder Hours to in-home visits, all of our programs are grounded in connection. Trusting relationships are the foundation for healing.

5

Supporting
Generational
Healing

Programs like Early Years Family Support and Nurturing Newborns focus on both parent and child, interrupting intergenerational trauma and strengthening families.

Did You Know?

All front line staff at The Children's Cottage are Brain Story Certified.

The Brain Story is more than a framework; it's foundational to how we work. The science validates what we've always known: safe, responsive relationships build resilience.

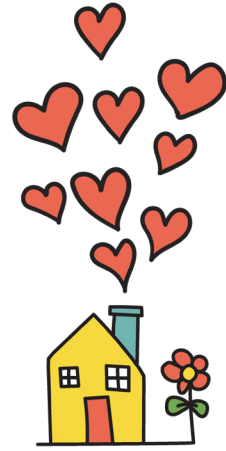
Every interaction is an opportunity to reduce toxic stress, support brain development, and strengthen futures.



Volunteers

The Heart of Our Community

This year, 3,252 volunteers gave their time, care, and expertise to Children's Cottage Society, contributing over 17,000 hours of hands-on support. Whether cuddling babies at the Crisis Nursery, prepping meals during the holidays, or folding laundry so staff could focus on care, their efforts had a tangible impact. Every hour strengthens families and builds resilience in our community.



3254
Volunteers

17,000
Hours

\$377K
Value

122
Groups

"You have to come back and help once you've witnessed what The Cottage does for children and families."



Fresh sand, delivered and replaced annually by the generous volunteers at Enmax

77
volunteers
over the age of
65

These senior volunteers bring life experience, patience, and compassion that enriches every program they support. Their presence fosters meaningful intergenerational connection.

Ho Ho Ho
239

Holiday
Volunteers

941

Holiday
Hours

Volunteering at The Cottage

Volunteers come to us for many reasons but stay because they feel purpose, connection, and the joy of making a difference.

The volunteer orientation opened my eyes to the level of support Children's Cottage provides. I was inspired to help after thinking about the families and children navigating difficult times.

Maria M



Every day offers moments like cuddling or feeding a baby, reading stories, playing on the floor with a toddler, or making a child smile. Even folding laundry feels meaningful when it means a staff member can give undivided attention to a child.

Mary C

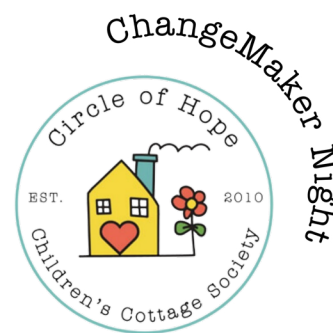


It's heartwarming to witness the community coming together to support one another, and I'm proud to be part of that. Each time I walk through the doors, I'm reminded that it's the small acts of care: taking time to show up, to be present, that truly make a difference in the lives of the children we support.

Samantha H



Fund Development



Notes from Fundraising

In 2024, Fund Development at Children's Cottage Society entered a new phase of growth. Through community-driven events, revived campaigns, and strengthened community relationships, the Children's Cottage raised critical funds and expanded awareness of our mission. These efforts directly supported our programs, ensuring children and families in crisis have immediate access to the care and stability they deserve.

We successfully sold out our 7th Annual Clays for the Cottage. We added events like our Circle of Hope ChangeMaker night and Cocktails for the Cottage. Plus, we revived an old fundraising tradition - our Radiothon. With a newly revised format, the Children's Cottage, along with our event partners XL103FM and Eighth Avenue Place, raised an incredible \$175,000. In December, we hosted our annual Stock the Cottage campaign, which saw great community engagement, ensuring we have the resources needed to support our families.

Looking ahead, the Fund Development team is excited to continue expanding opportunities for the community to support us in maintaining and expanding our programs, enabling us to continue meeting the needs of Calgary's most vulnerable families.

You can find
our donor
list on our
website.



Jenny's Troop: Recurring Gifts

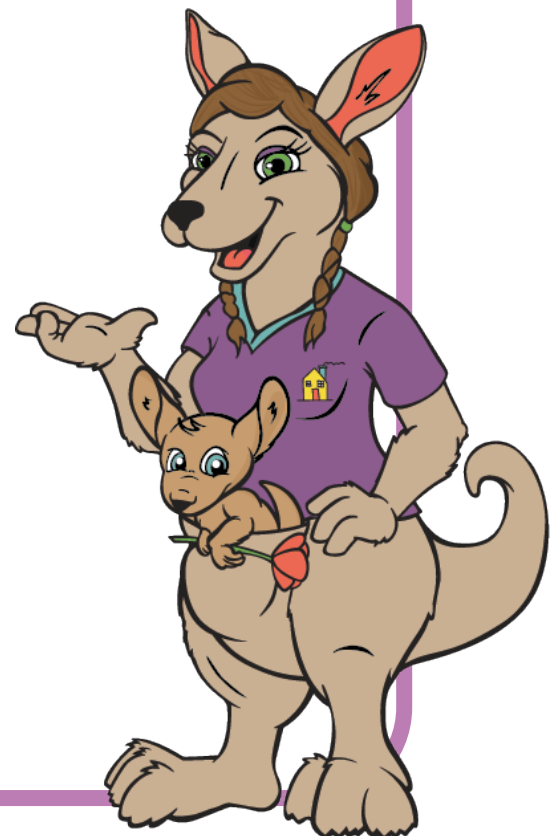
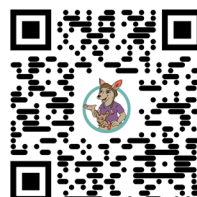
Jenny's Troop is our community of recurring donors who believe every child deserves to grow up feeling safe, supported, and loved.

By giving regularly, members of Jenny's Troop help the Children's Cottage Society plan, expand our reach, and respond when families need us most.

These ongoing gifts are a powerful way to support our science-based prevention programs and family services, not just in moments of crisis but in building long-term stability.

It's a simple, meaningful way to make a lasting difference: set up your gift once, and know you're helping children thrive every month.

Join Our
Troop Today





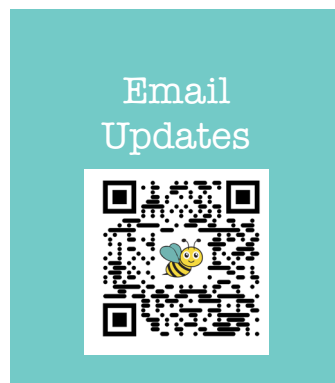
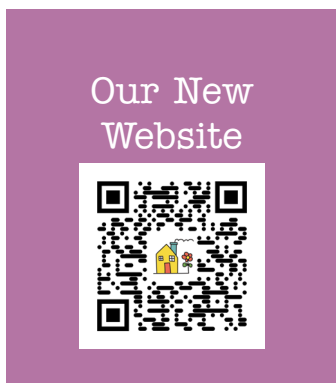
Marketing & Communications

In November 2024, we added a dedicated Marketing & Communications role, bringing full-time focus to agency-wide strategy, messaging and design.

This work has centered on aligning our brand, elevating our visual identity, and supporting every corner of the organization, from fundraising campaigns and events to internal communications and program materials.

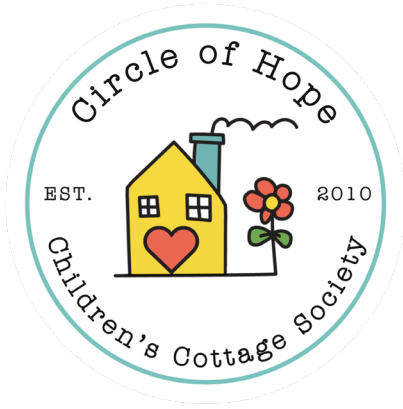
Over the next year we will be developing a clear internal and external communications strategy to ensure we're reaching each of our audiences in ways that are accessible, helpful, and respectful. This includes strengthening how we share stories, streamlining communication tools, and continuing to build a brand that reflects the values and voices of those connected to The Cottage.

Our Year in Social Media



Thank You





The Circle Of Hope

The Circle of Hope honours donors who contribute \$10,000 or more annually. Their support helps us in our mission to build strong children and safe, nurturing families through prevention, early intervention, and support programs.

Aeonian Support for Humanitarian Charities Foundation
 Barbara Killick
 Bonnie Butler
 Brian and Shannon Olson
 Calgary Construction Association
 Calgary Co-operative Association Ltd.
 Calgary Flames Foundation
 Canadian Natural Resources
 Canadian Progress Club - Elevate
 Cannonball Foundation
 Carmel and Jane Gatt Legacy Fund through the Calgary Foundation
 Chandos Construction Calgary
 Children's Hospital Aid Society
 Christian Bayle and Nicole Cramer
 CKLAS Foundation
 Clarence and Evelyn Buckley Family Trust
 Culbert Family Fund
 David and Shelley Kehrig
 David Powell
 Dawn Farrell
 Denise Bardeau
 Dr. Janice Heard and Bruce McFarlane
 EJO Fund
 Flynn Canada Ltd.
 Fonds Familial Louise Gloutnay & Réal Foley
 Gary Hall
 George and Sherry Elder
 Henry and Linda Crawford
 Inter Pipeline Ltd.
 Jeff Wilson
 Lawford Family Foundation
 Leianne Vye-Rogers and Greg Rogers
 Leslie McDaniel
 Margaret and Matt Aufricht
 Mawer Investment Management Ltd.
 Michael and Renae Tims
 Michael Fawcett
 Michael Mumby

Nadine McClure
 Nancy Lever
 Nickle Family Foundation
 Norma Dyck
 Norton Rose Fulbright Canada
 Oilympics Charity Hockey Tournament
 Olwen Priestnall Memorial Fund through the Calgary Foundation
 P.E.A.R.L. Foundation
 Ralph Ward Foundation
 Renton Family Foundation
 Richard and Cathy Bird
 Richard and Lois Haskayne
 Rickbeil Family Fund through the Calgary Foundation
 Royal LePage Benchmark
 Rundle College Society
 Sara and Conrad Kluge
 Shirley Glen Family Trust
 Steve and Tina Wilson Family Foundation
 Steve Laut
 Strathcona Resources Ltd.
 Tamarack Valley Energy Ltd.
 TD Securities Underwriting Hope Fund
 The Ark Foundation
 The Donald & Eleanor Seaman Family Foundation
 The Gauthier Family Charitable Fund
 The Graydon and Dorothy Morrison Flow Through Fund through the Calgary Foundation
 The Hunter Family Foundation
 The Kanovsky Family Foundation
 The MacNeill Family Foundation
 The McWilliams Family Foundation
 The Prosser Charitable Foundation
 The Scotlyn Foundation
 The Shaunessy Family Foundation
 The Trevor and Amy Cooper Family Legacy Fund through the Calgary Foundation
 The Welty Family Foundation
 Veren Inc.
 Whitecap Resources Inc.

Family is like a
garden, where
love and growth
are nurtured.





24/7 Link Line Parent Support Connection to Child & Family Programs

403-233-CARE (2273)
LinkLine@childrenscottage.ab.ca

Administration

403-283-4200
admin@childrenscottage.ab.ca



CHARITY INTELLIGENCE 2024

**TOP 10 IMPACT:
CANADIAN YOUTH
CHARITY**

