

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



Catholic
Children's Aid
FOUNDATION

Serving The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto

2206 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, ON M1L 4S7 | 416-395-1505 | Charitable #720484682RR0001



OUR MISSION

Support Catholic children and families in need, through grants, programs and partnerships, while ensuring the long-term viability of the Foundation through capital preservation and inspired giving by the Catholic community.

OUR VISION

Enabled by inspired giving from the Catholic community, to grow the Foundation and increase funding to help more Catholic children and families in need to thrive - physically, spiritually and intellectually.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



More Committed Than Ever

The Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF) has had another successful year in supporting Catholic children, youth and families in Toronto. The Foundation manages a significant investment portfolio which is expected to generate a return sufficient to support our initiatives while also preserving our capital. In addition to our Christmas and summer camp programs, in 2021/2022 we provided 70 youth with scholarships that will transform their lives, while another \$260,000 was directed to youth and families struggling with the impact of the pandemic.

The Foundation, working through the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, is committed to funding programs and services that have a substantial positive impact in the lives of Catholic children, youth and families in Toronto. Our success would be impossible without the generous financial support of our donors. Many thanks for your continued support as we strive to improve the lives of Catholic families.

We have new leadership at the Foundation. James Gilligan joined us as Executive Director on May 16, 2022. Jim is a skilled executive with extensive strategic, financial and operational experience across several industries. As an active member of the Catholic community in Toronto, Jim supports the vision and values of the Foundation and our role in funding programs and services for children, youth and families involved with the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto.

Of additional note is the extraordinary dedication and outstanding performance of our Board of Directors. I extend my thanks and appreciation to the Directors for their ongoing commitment and contributions to the Foundation.

We look forward to another successful year as we strive to achieve the Foundation's goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Gillin'.

PHIL GILLIN
CHAIR

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am very pleased to take over as the Executive Director of the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation and look forward to providing stewardship that is in the highest tradition of the Vincentian values on which the Society was founded almost 128 years ago.

In the past year, the Foundation, still in its formative stage, continued to grow and develop as the incipient organizational structure began to take shape with policies and procedures established, new external service providers identified and our Service Level Agreement with the Society further refined.

We enhanced our financial stewardship by adopting an Outsourced Chief Investment Officer (OCIO) model which contemplates investment decisions made on our behalf by a third-party, in our case, Aon. Their decisions will comply with our Statement of Investment Policy and be consistent with our overall objective of capital preservation. Additionally, we moved toward more robust financial oversight by outlining, in general terms, a new risk framework and nominating two new board members with important financial competencies.

At the same time, the Foundation reinforced its primary mission to support the operational needs of the Society by providing the requisite funding for key stakeholder initiatives, including scholarships, Christmas programs and other critical needs. In the coming year we will be strengthening this relationship by streamlining our processes through revised roles and responsibilities which better reflect the respective strengths of each organization.

Finally, we also expect to develop a new strategy for philanthropy and, early in my tenure, I plan to reach out to our many faithful donors to confirm my commitment to the vision and goals of the Foundation and share our ideas on the imperatives of the organization. We appreciate your continuing generosity and look forward to building an even stronger relationship in the coming fiscal year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James K. Gilligan".

JAMES K. GILLIGAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Child, Youth, and Family Support Fund

The COVID-19 pandemic dominated much of 2021-22's philanthropy. With the generosity of our donors, the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation has committed **\$260,000** to 594 youth and families facilitated through the Child, Youth, and Family Support Fund. **Youth and families each received \$250 and \$500**, respectively. Financial support has provided important value to service recipients and has included such areas as groceries; rent and utilities; clothing; counselling and assessments; tuition and trade programs; and school needs. Through this, the Foundation has shown that the grants can lessen financial strain, improve mental health, stabilize access to food and housing, promote cultural identity, and alleviate the feeling of isolation among youth and families.



Family recipient: *"I humbly wish to express my profound gratitude and appreciation for the receipt of the sum of \$500 from the Catholic Children Aid Foundation. Thanks so much and ever remain blessed in the Lord God Almighty Father."*

Christmas Program



The Catholic Children's Aid Foundation, together with the incredible support of hundreds of individuals, families, business donors, and volunteers, has taken pride in making Catholic family's yuletide season a little brighter and merrier during the pandemic. While the program brought cheers to the children and youth, the Foundation also saw that the donors gained a more meaningful holiday experience by extending help to the disadvantaged.

The Foundation offers a big thank you for the generosity of the amazing community of donors, supporters, volunteers, and staff at the Catholic Children Aid Society of Toronto for making our Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program a success. The gifts and gift cards donated made Christmas morning for **over 3000** children and youth something to remember for years to come.

Family recipient: *"I'm trying to put together the right words to express how truly thankful, grateful and appreciative my family and I are for all the wonderful gifts and extra help you provided for us; but I don't believe there are enough words to express that. Not many things have been going right lately but when I got this shockingly wonderful last-minute surprise from a complete stranger, you gave me and my family hope, and a Christmas that we will never forget."*

Scholarship Program

Despite the difficulties brought on by the pandemic, a youth's desire to continue their education is undaunted. This truth was equally recognized by donors whose devotion to provide youth opportunities to pursue their post-secondary education held up so admirably in the face of the pandemic's uncertainties. In 2021, the Foundation provided **\$248,000 in scholarships**, allowing 56 former and current Crown Wards of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto to attend a trade school, college, or university. Through scholarships, the Foundation makes investments in the collective future – a future in which pursuit of a youth's dreams becomes a reality.

Social worker: *"I can't tell you how over the moon overwhelmed [youth] was to find out he had received a huge scholarship bonus in his bank account. The timing is impeccable. Things are never easy for him financially and he has been really down about it lately. So, thanks to you, he perked up right away and couldn't believe that there are many people who actually do care about him, aside from myself and a select few others."*



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Home Base Fund

Home Base Fund is supported by the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada (CAFC). The fund aims to address the urgent housing-related needs of young people in the process of leaving the care system and transitioning to independence. Transitioning to adulthood can be emotionally and financially daunting. With the assistance extended by the Home Base Fund, 33 youth were either able to secure for themselves a safe and an affordable home, pay rent and utility bills, or purchase home essentials. Having a stable and warm place to live in will enable the youth to work towards the important things that matter to them like their studies, job, and other life goals.



CHILDREN'S
AID FOUNDATION
OF CANADA

Family recipient: *"I am so happy for all the support that I have been given to make this challenging time a lot easier for me. Thank you very much to everyone who supported me."*

Ignite the Spark Fund

Ignite the Spark Fund is made possible by the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada (CAFC) and its willing donors. It is intended to provide enrichment opportunities for vulnerable children and youth. Through the fund, 54 at-risk children and youth were able to sign up for sports and athletics, recreation, arts, and cultural programs they would not otherwise have had the opportunity to explore. CAFC believes that being good at something can be the spark to build a child's self confidence and help build a brighter future.

Family recipient: *"The fund has helped to alleviate an added expense that I wouldn't have been able to make on my own. It has been difficult trying to make ends meet as I'm still in the midst of fighting for child support payments. I can't thank you both enough for giving us this generous gift and to be able to bring some light into their lives."*

Heart to Hand

The Heart to Hand program is a neighbourhood initiative that gifts groceries to families who don't have the resources to obtain them for themselves. Despite the simplicity of the program's working model, it yields immense joy to the children and families who are its recipients. From the fall through spring, sixteen needy families each receive more than \$800 worth of groceries and gift cards which have been donated and sourced by the more than 70 volunteers and donors whose beneficence is an inspiration to all communities served.



Social worker: *"Dear Heart to Hand Donors, I would like to thank you for assisting (family). (The family) has a very limited support network, and they are truly thankful for your generosity and kindness especially because it comes from people with a genuine and heartfelt desire to help. Your donations gave these families a psychological lift, enabling them to experience familial warmth, in spite of having no family in Canada. Thank you again for your thoughtful donations, for the time you invest connecting with families to make sure that the donations are culturally sensitive, and for the pleasure and joy you bring to them. Children feel their parents' happiness and positive energy, and for that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart."*

Get involved

Find out how your participation benefits our children and youth.

Donate online

Get your tax receipt instantly through our quick, secure and easy online tools.

www.ccafdn.ca

A FOUNDATION SUCCESS STORY

The Foundation takes immense pride in providing the financial resources required for the Society to provide an extra level of support to needy Catholic children and families. In this way, we are helping the Society to straighten the biblical crooked paths they encounter each day and when great success is achieved, we should recognize it.

What follows is one such success story - a letter from Barbara, a former Crown Ward and Foundation scholarship recipient who has pursued her education and is working hard toward a successful career. We think you will enjoy the read.

Note that Barbara is a pseudonym used to protect her privacy.

To the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation and the Generous Donors,

I would like to thank the CCAF and their donors from the bottom of my heart for all of the support provided to me during my first year of law school. When I first aged out of care at 18 years old, I never thought that my life now could actually be a reality, given my situation and lack of support. I recall barely passing high school as I was constantly skipping class to work as the anxiety and fear of aging out and supporting myself hung over my head like a big dark cloud. To me, post-secondary education, particularly law school, was something way out of my grasp and not even in the question. However, the CCAF changed this for me by offering me the support to pursue post-secondary education. This support allowed me to see that things could be different for me and that I did not have to fall into the same dysfunctional and tragic situations that seemed to plague my family. Without the Foundation's help, I do not think that I would have been able to make it this far, as the CCAF has also supported me throughout my entire academic career.



From college to university, and now to law school, the CCAF has been one of my most substantial supports and has enabled me to continue to pursue my academic ambitions. I cannot imagine what things would be like absent this support, and it makes me anxious to ponder the thought. To be transparent, this financial support is what allowed me to make my dreams become a reality to the extent that I was able to complete my first year of law school. With this support, I was able to focus on thriving instead of just surviving, which I believe played a significant role in me securing a summer position with the Ministry of the Attorney General in my first year of law school.

I cannot express my gratitude for this financial support in words, as it has completely shifted the trajectory of my life. Thank you does not express my level of appreciation, but it will have to suffice. I am beyond thankful for the difference the CCAF has made in my life and will continue to make in the lives of other youth in/from care.

With the utmost gratitude,

Barbara

PROGRAMS AND ALLOCATIONS

This has been an exciting year for the development of these collaborative processes in partnership with the Catholic Children's Aid Society! Significant work occurred throughout 2021-22 to support development of a strategic framework for the Foundation, including identifying a set of guiding values and principles, four priority populations, and a process to evaluate requests to the Foundation for funding.

Much of this work has been done in close partnership between the CCAF Board and CCAS, whose staff are well positioned to speak to unmet needs in their work and the populations that experience them. These represent areas where Foundation funding could have the greatest impact. Out of this collaboration, the following priorities for the Foundation funding were identified:

- **Families at risk of child welfare involvement**
- **Young people in and leaving society care**
- **Graduates from care (young adults who have left the care of the CCAS)**
- **Building a better child welfare organization and system**

Following the confirmation of these key areas, the Foundation tasked CCAS to design and implement an internal process to generate and solicit innovative ideas for programs/services from across the organization, assess the quality and fit of these ideas against the strategic priorities and values/principles of the CCAF, and select the most promising ideas to recommend to the CCAF for funding, with support from the Board's Programs & Allocations leads. The resulting process is inclusive of CCAS staff voice and expertise, flexible and focused on learning, and will be integrated into the broader planning cycle for the society on a go-forward basis. Building on the idea of the *Dragon's Den*, the approach has been dubbed the Robin's Egg Campaign, intended to be a kinder, gentler version that gives ideas (or "eggs") the support and nurturing they need to succeed.

The campaign was run for the first time in March-April 2022 and generated 16 pitches (eggs) that were reviewed by a panel comprised of staff from across CCAS. The panel scored the quality and feasibility of the pitches using a standardized assessment tool, and subsequently came together for a conversation to identify organizational readiness and impact for each pitch. This resulted in a shortlist of the most impactful projects being "green lit" to move forward. The society will continue to work these pitches up into fulsome proposals, with well thought-out budgets and report-back frameworks before making a recommendation to the CCAF Board. The Foundation will assess the requests and make an independent decision about funding.

We look forward to reports on progress of the funded programs in 2022-23.



FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2020, The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS) announced the creation of the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF), a registered charity under the Income Tax Act, and which operations began on April 1, 2020. In September 2020, investments and real property were gifted by CCAS to CCAF to help Catholic families that CCAS serves.

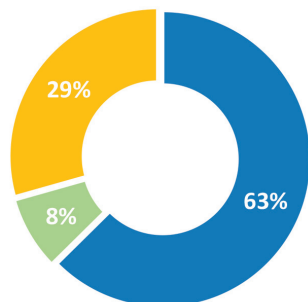
The Foundation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, which includes grants and donations. The Investment Income represents interests, dividends, income distributions from pooled funds, and realized gains and losses, net of related fees. Included in the program disbursements in the Child, Youth, and Family Support Fund that was created to provide financial assistance to service recipients during the pandemic.

The complete set of financial statements, audited by Ernst and Young LLP, is available upon request.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

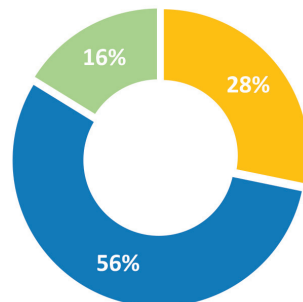
	2022 in '000	2021 in '000
Revenues		
Scholarship contributions	248	238
Program	132	143
Donations	174	59
Other income	460	399
Investment income	6,213	830
Contributions from the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto	417	41,113
	7,644	42,782
Expenses		
Scholarship	248	238
Program disbursements	543	143
Program administrative	123	74
Property	27	-
Salaries and benefits, net of allocation	184	111
Administration and professional fees	513	525
Amortization of capital assets	7	3
	1,645	1,094
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	5,999	41,688

Donations by donor type



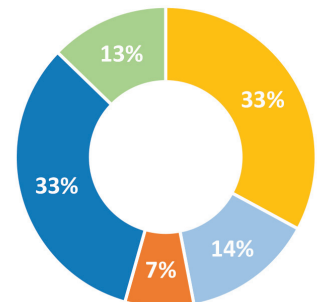
Individuals
Foundations
Corporations

Donations by designation



Endowments & Scholarships
Highest Priority Needs
Specific Programs

Supported programs



Scholarships
CYFS Fund
Other Programs
Christmas
Emergency Grants

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Phil Gillin
CHAIR



Veronica Pastor
1ST VICE CHAIR



Tara Tinmouth
2ND VICE PRESIDENT



Susanne DesRochers
SECRETARY



Erin O'Brien
TREASURER & PAST-CHAIR



Tony Cocuzzo
BOARD MEMBER



Geoff Grayhurst
BOARD MEMBER



John Voutsinos
BOARD MEMBER



Peter Brennan
BOARD MEMBER

Employees



Domenic Gratta
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



James K. Gilligan
NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Cathy Tiongco-Manuel
ACCOUNTING
ANALYST



Mark Kartusch
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CCAS
EX-OFFICIO CCAF

THANK YOU TO DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS



We will be saying goodbye this year to two outstanding Board members who have contributed mightily to the creation and development of the Foundation. Erin O'Brien and Veronica Pastor have both sacrificed a great deal of their personal time during their respective tenures in support of both Society and Foundation goals.

Erin has been on the Society Board for fifteen years and concurrently on the Foundation's Board for the last three years. She has been involved in all aspects of both boards and most recently has served as President of the Society Board and Chair of the Foundation Board.

While leading the Society Board, Erin was instrumental in sustaining the organization's high level of service provision to the children and families in need while her extraordinary efforts in establishing and organizing the Foundation will be felt for many years to come. She is a worthy heir to the generous O'Brien legacy of service and financial support of scholarships through the Matthew O'Brien Educational Fund.

Veronica has also served on both the Society and Foundation boards during her eight years of service. Though working on various committees, her primary focus has been on the Governance and Nominating Committee for both the Society and the Foundation.

Her exceptional efforts in this area have resulted in a significant enhancement to our overall governance and risk management capability. In similar successful fashion, Veronica oversaw the development and adoption of our skills matrix which has been instrumental in identifying the suitable skills needed for board and employee positions.

Thank you to both Erin and Veronica for their dedicated service and commitment to the mission and values of both the Society and Foundation.



"I will be forever grateful for the opportunities the Foundation has provided. It is easy to say thank you for a scholarship and relief of financial stress, but my thanks extends beyond that. Being a student - especially during the pandemic - has been challenging, but the Foundation helped me experience the student life with minimal stress. As a child, I dreamed of this experience, so I thank the Foundation for the precious education I have been able to receive and the people I have in my life because of it."

- Shea



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