

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



Catholic  
**Children's Aid**  
FOUNDATION

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3 **A New Direction**
- 4 **A Message From the Chair**
- 5 **A Message From the Executive Director**
- 6 **Charting a New Path**
  - Our First Priorities
  - Keeping Families Together
- 7 **Youth Readiness**
  - The Demise of the Garbage Bag
- 8 **Program Highlights**
  - External Grants
  - CCAF Programs
  - Scholarship Program
- 9 **A Hero to Children and Youth**
- 10 **Designing Her Future with a Village**
- 11 **Financial Report**
- 12 **Board of Directors**



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# A New Direction

In '22-23, the Board revisited our strategic orientation as initially articulated in our early years and made enhancements which reflect the following guiding principles: our ongoing commitment as a funding arm of the Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCAS), increased disbursement requirements as a charitable organization, concomitant need for a robust cash stream and continued dedication and commitment to overall capital preservation.

## Our Promise

Protect children and strengthen family life in the Catholic Community

## Our Mission

Preserving and growing the capital base of our Foundation to fund impactful children's aid programming in the Toronto Catholic Community

## Our Strategic Pillars

### Fundraising

Develop and execute on a strategic fundraising capability

### Donor Engagement

Fortify donor relationships with high-value interactions and reporting

### Programming

Fund research-based innovative programs to support child and family welfare, in collaboration with CCAS

### Investment Management

Ensure capital preservation by maximizing the value of the Foundation's assets in a manner consistent with CCAF's risk appetite



# A Message From The Chair



This past year saw the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF) make great strides in our effort to evolve into a stronger and more robust charitable foundation to support our strategic partner, the Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCAS) as well as the broader Catholic community of Toronto.

Of particular note this year was the documentation of our organizational purpose, our vision and the strategic pillars which will serve as a roadmap for all of our undertakings. We also reinforced our commitment to the goals and objectives of the CCAS and established more formal interaction for the sharing of plans for future development.

I'm most proud of the Board's approval of the CCAF's first major grants to the CCAS to support two significant undertakings: firstly, a differential response program wherein the workers' focus shifts from intervention to one of case specific response designed to maintain family sustainability, and secondly, an enhanced youth readiness regimen to support the transitioning of youth from care to independence as adults.

We also strengthened our financial oversight with the introduction of a formal Investment and Finance Committee which provided significant value to the Board throughout the year in reviewing and reporting on investment results, cash management and compliance with regulatory requirements as a not-for-profit organization.

At the same time, we continued to provide strong financial support for our traditional programs, including Scholarships, in which more than 70 students took advantage of this support in continuance of their education, our Christmas and summer camp programs as well as emergency financial support for those most in need.

All of these successful undertakings wouldn't be possible without the generous financial support of our donors. We continue to be grateful for their ongoing consideration as a faithful partner.

On a personal note, I will be stepping down as Chair in June but will remain on the Board for another year. It has been a wonderful and fulfilling experience for me for these last few years as we set up the Foundation and gave it direction to fund impactful programs in the Catholic child welfare sector. I wish to thank the Board for their continued support, management for their stewardship of the organization and our partners in the CCAS.

May God bless you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Gillin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**PHIL GILLIN**  
**CHAIR**

# A Message From The Executive Director



In my first year as leader of the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF), I'm proud to report that we accomplished much, identified more to be done and set the stage for future accomplishments.

Our focus on programs intensified this year as we continued to provide the traditional CCAF offerings such as Scholarships, Christmas, Emergency Funding, external grant management and the ever-important Sacramental Funding as we continued to witness our faith through our work.

As Phil mentions nearby, of singular importance and success was our collaboration with the Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCAS) in providing multimillion-dollar strategic grants for developmental programs in support of activities related to the changing focus of workers away from intervention and major enhancement to our youth readiness strategy. Both programs suggest potential paradigm shifts in grassroots child welfare activities.

In the coming year, we expect to grow our collaborative relationship with CCAS even deeper in solidifying and enhancing our processes, developing a long-range program pipeline and partnering in outreach discussions with potential community organizations.

During the year, management worked closely with the Board in solidifying our interactions with Committees and lead directors in ensuring proper oversight and good governance. We also worked closely with the Board in the development of our strategic architecture which will help to guide us in the future as we consider potential grants to the CCAS.

Our financial performance, challenged by the vagaries of the capital markets early in the year, recovered somewhat near the end and overall allowed us to be in an acceptable position for both our Disbursement Quota requirement and cash position. We expect to continue to monitor our investments closely and work with our Outsourced Chief Investment Officer (OCIO), Aon, in adjusting our portfolio in pursuit of an overall optimal investment position.

We continue to pursue a best practice foundation model and this year we identified areas for improvement, including certain business processes and data management. In the coming year, we will be striving for greater productivity and more aggressive actions in support of new fund-raising opportunities and enhanced donor relations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James K. Gilligan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**JAMES K. GILLIGAN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# Charting a New Path

In the past year, the Foundation moved aggressively in fulfilling its new mandate to fund creative and innovative programs which are grounded in research and support the family and child welfare sector.

Although continuing to fund our traditional suite of programs, we are working collaboratively with the Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCAS) in identifying multi-year initiatives which can become the foundation for leading-edge solutions and can change the narrative permanently for Catholic children and families served by the CCAS.



## Our First Priorities

Right out of the block this year, we funded two highly significant, multi-year and multi-million-dollar programs: Differential Response (now known as HARP-Holistic Assessment and Response Pathways) and Youth Readiness. Both are aimed at developing foundational capabilities which can evolve into enhanced, paradigm-shifting services for CCAS.

## Keeping Families Together

HARP replaces the traditional child protection approach of forensic investigation and risk assessment with a family and child-focused clinical model and multi-service approach, including a strong network of community-based partners and services. Its focus is to provide services families want, need and deserve to help keep them together.

**The key objectives of this multi-year development program are:**

1. Ensuring that children and youth remain safe within their homes/families/communities.
2. Using a community-based approach to protecting children and strengthening families and communities through early intervention, prevention and timely support.
3. Building appropriate culturally-based support services and organizational capacity which will drive a reduction in the disproportionality of Black and Indigenous families in the child welfare system.



# Youth Readiness - The Demise of the Garbage Bag



In speaking to Catholic Children’s Aid Society (CCAS) workers about their thoughts on youth leaving care, invariably they will reference the image of a **young person packing their worldly possessions into a garbage bag as they exit** their final residence. It is a stark symbol of the inadequacy of the system to prepare youth to live on their own with the support and resources they need, and the knowledge that they are truly valued.

The Readiness Strategy involves the design, implementation and evaluation of a program featuring a suite of services, both internal and external, to support healthy development and well-being for young people in out-of-home care while simultaneously, preparing them to live successfully once they transition to interdependence.

The strategy is designed to close the gap in outcomes for youth in care versus those of their non-child welfare involved peers. This would include areas such as physical and mental health, education, employment, financial security and lifelong connections to caring others.

In the next three years, the CCAS will undertake a process of transformation in the way they provide services to young people in out-of-home care in pursuit, uncompromisingly, of better outcomes. We’re pleased to advise that part of this transformation is **the replacement of the garbage bag with an appropriate piece of luggage for every youth**, emblematic of a transition out of care with dignity and the necessary resources to commence life as a fully engaged young adult.



# Program Highlights

## External Grants

As the needs of the children and families supported by the Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCCAS) grow, so in-turn does our need for donors and grant partners who help to fill that void. We enjoy the support of organisations like **Children's Aid Foundation of Canada** (CAFC) through their regular grants that make it possible for us to provide programs like **Ignite the Spark** (sports and recreation), **Home Based Funds** (support for housing cost) and **Friends and Loved Ones** (support for travel to visit family and friends).



## CCAF Programs

We continue to support all of our traditional programs, including **Christmas** (consisting of several smaller initiatives which energize both donors and volunteers to give of their time and resources); **Emergency Funding** (ongoing initiative providing financial resources when families need immediate support) and **Sacramental** (sustaining the the spiritual needs of children in care).

## Scholarship Program

We are proud of our Scholarship Program which provides supports to Crown wards of the Catholic Children's Aid Society who are enrolled in College and University Programs. Through our donors' generosity we provided over \$200,000 in financial support to over 70 students in the past year.

### The following are our Scholarships and Endowments:

Balbino/Bentinck	Maria Cabrita
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto	Matthew O'Brien
Catholic Women's League	Nelson Mandela
Colin Maloney	Orest John and
CUMBA	Justina Derewlany
CUPE Local 2190: Rita Manna & Myron Klymko	Rudy and Rita Koehler
Dr Mary Grogan	Simon Fiandaca
Dr. Hugh Siddall	Sister Sheila McAuliffe (A Capella)
Ellen Anne Leon	Sisters Of Service
Eva Elizabeth Smith	Stephen and Eva Taylor, NAIOP
John Bright	The Koehler Family
Knights Of Columbus	
Loretto Sisters	





# A Hero to Children and Youth



When kids entered into care, the first person who welcomed them for over 40 years was Dr. Hugh Siddall.

He began working with our youth in 1981 and did much to support children in care. He looked after group home admission and discharge medical exams for thousands of CCAS kids. Even today, he remains committed, consistently providing medical services to CCAS youth in care.

He also attended to the physical and emotional needs of CCAS residents-in-care and many CCAS youth in independent living and beyond.

Kids in the programs were more than patients to Dr. Siddall. He treated each child as an individual. Each child was made to feel as though their personal needs and concerns were being addressed. He remembered the name of each of his patients, and he greeted them in the waiting room.

Kids in our programs rely on Dr. Siddall when they needed encouragement and support as they moved toward independent living. Many have told us that Dr. Siddall was not only their physician but also their protector, champion and hero. In one case, a youth preparing to move out on her own compiled a list of priorities with the help of her Child and Youth Worker. The first item she put on the list was obtaining Dr. Siddall's telephone number.



**DR. HUGH SIDDALL**

Dr. Siddall has also been a generous donor to the Foundation's Scholarship Program since 2007 and so it was appropriate that we recognized Dr. Siddall's extraordinary efforts and generosity in support of the work of the CCAS at our Scholarship Awards Night in August.

Thank you, Dr. Siddall for all you have given to our many children and youth down through the years.



# Designing Her Future with a Village

Julia's journey to the stage at the Humber College commencement exercises, where she was recognised for her outstanding work in the school's Interior Design Program, had an inauspicious start many years before but was aided along the way by a growing village, even one online.

Julia was eight years old when she had just moved into her foster mom's house. She had to build a new life, and as a kid that meant making new friends and adapting to a new environment which was extremely challenging for her as a child.

During this period, she came across the Minecraft community. Minecraft is an online video game like Lego which lets you build your favourite worlds and scenes, lets your imagination go and make your own friends in the process.

**"It was a place I could connect and play with new friends. It allowed me to be creative and have fun". But how creative can it be? Julia explained, "I love challenges, so I made a 'toilet' out of square blocks to show my friends it could be done!"**



Julia's foster mom realized that Minecraft was fueling the spark of her creativity, and by Grade 8, she began encouraging her to consider the field of architecture and interior design. Further, she joined a dual credit program at her high school and Sheridan College to create her portfolio so she could find an entry into a college Interior Design Program.

In Grade 12, she was accepted into Humber College's prestigious Interior Design Program. Her CCAS case worker then helped her to complete the scholarship application from the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF) and, in short order she was granted a scholarship for her entire program at Humber.

**"The scholarship meant I could focus on my studies. I was not worried about how I could afford to follow my dream."**

Julia's award at graduation was for excellence in designing a fictional building on Queen St. W. to support kids in the 12 to 14 age category who would like to pursue a career in art. "It was difficult to access an art career in high school, and I hope my project can become a reality for kids who are at an impressionable age and need support."

Upon graduating, Julia was immediately hired by the company that sponsored her co-op placement at Humber College.

There are creative and brilliant minds like Julia for whom a hand of encouragement and support can make a difference. Julia found this through a growing village including her foster mom, an online community and both the CCAS and CCAF who, she says, carried her on this journey. Lack of financial support slows down the pace for bright minds to perform at higher levels and integrate into society. For Julia, this is when CCAF stepped in to support and continue to aid others in realizing their dreams.



# 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.

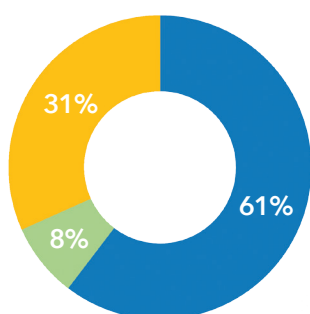
The Foundation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, which includes grants and donations. The Investment Income represents interests, dividends, income distributions from pooled funds, and realized gains and losses, net of related fees. This income declined in 2023, further to presenting broader market conditions. Included in the program disbursements is the Child, Youth, and Family Support Fund and two newly funded projects for 3 years. These included HARP and Youth Readiness.

The complete set of financial statements, audited by KPMG, is available upon request.

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

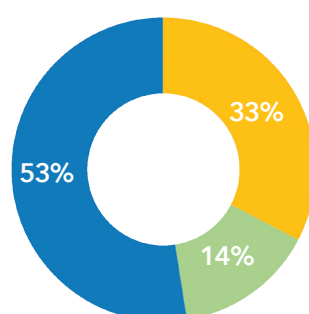
	2023 in '000	2022 in '000
<b>Revenues</b>		
Scholarship contributions	194	248
Program	54	132
Donations	121	174
Other income	446	460
Investment income	172	6,213
Contributions from the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto	-	417
	<b>987</b>	<b>7,644</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Scholarship	194	238
Program disbursements	681	543
Program administrative	97	123
Property	78	27
Salaries and benefits, net of allocation	181	184
Administration and professional fees	520	513
Amortization of capital assets	47	7
	<b>1,798</b>	<b>1,645</b>
<b>Excess of (Expense over Revenue)/Revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<b>(811)</b>	<b>5,999</b>

Donations by donor type



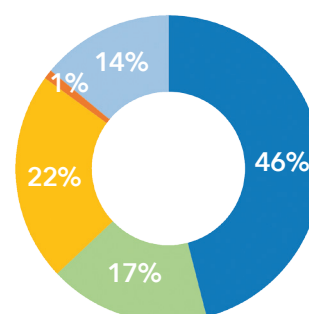
Individuals  
Foundations  
Corporations

Donations by designation



Endowments & Scholarships  
Highest Priority Needs  
Specific Programs

Supported programs



Scholarships  
CYFS Fund  
Other Programs  
Emergency Grants  
Christmas Programs



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Phil Gillin**  
CHAIR



**Tony Cocuzzo**  
VICE CHAIR



**Susanne DesRochers**  
SECRETARY



**Peter Brennan**  
TREASURER



**Tara Timmouth**  
BOARD MEMBER



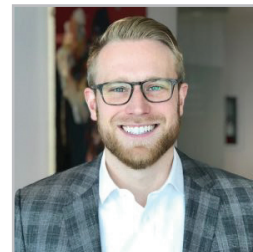
**Geoff Grayhurst**  
BOARD MEMBER



**John Voutsinos**  
BOARD MEMBER



**Teresa Palandra**  
BOARD MEMBER

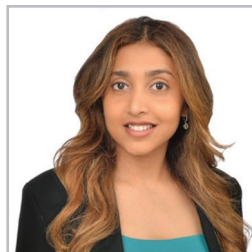


**Cameron Murphy**  
BOARD MEMBER

## Employees



**James K. Gilligan**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Jewel Silveira**  
FOUNDATION ASSISTANT



**Marichelle Lumingkit**  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



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