



Catholic
Children's Aid
FOUNDATION

Catholic Children's Aid Foundation

Impact Report 2024-2025

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Our Vision

We protect children and strengthen family life. We're striving for a Toronto Catholic community in which every child involved with child welfare is supported intellectually, emotionally, spiritually and financially to discover their gifts and realize their potential.

Our Mission

We raise and grant funds that help improve individual lives and outcomes for everyone served by the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto.

Our Values

Inspired by the legacy of the St. Vincent de Paul Children's Aid Society, now the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, we carry forward the values of the patron saint of charities in our work as the foundation supporting children, youth and families served by the CCAS.

Compassion: We are passionate and motivated to do whatever it takes to help people in need.

Humility: Our work is not about us. Everything we do is designed to benefit others.

Generosity: We provide financial support with a generosity of spirit that reflects the values of the Catholic faith.

Fuelled by Generosity, Focused on the Future

A Message from the Chair and Executive Director

This past year marked a meaningful milestone—our fifth year of operations—and it was shaped by you. Thanks to you, the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF) expanded its support for children, youth and families served by the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS), increasing funding by 7% to reach \$1.63 million. These funds helped meet urgent needs that government funding does not cover.

Your belief in our mission transforms lives and reflects the enduring values of St. Vincent de Paul: compassion, humility and generosity. As we enter our sixth year, we are evolving from a focus on compliance and disbursements into a bold, future-ready foundation—grounded in financial strength, driven by innovation and powered by donors like you.

It takes all of us to complete the picture. Together, with your support, we fill the missing piece—bringing connection, care and hope to make the picture whole. This shared commitment is reflected in the programs you help make possible.

Together with CCAS, we completed the first phase of our flagship HARP program. HARP reimagines the front end of the child welfare system by equipping frontline staff to offer tailored support based on each family's unique needs. The goal is

to build trust, promote dignity and keep families together. Because of your support, we are reinvesting over \$3 million in the next three years to deepen this impact.

You also helped us grow the Youth Readiness Initiative, which supports young people in our Ready Set Go cohort, ages 18 to 23, as they prepare for adulthood. With new tools like laptops, driver's education and personalized skills assessments, youth are building the confidence and capabilities they need to live independently. We're investing close to \$1 million to expand this program and reach younger teens earlier, setting them up for long-term success.

Behind the scenes, we've been building a stronger foundation for the future. We partnered with expert advisors to enhance our fundraising infrastructure and completed a comprehensive review of legacy donors to better steward their lasting impact. We also welcomed a new Director of Development, Lianne Black, and introduced a risk management framework to guide thoughtful growth.

Thanks to your generosity and our commitment to sound stewardship, CCAF continues to manage resources wisely. Because of this, we met our operational needs without compromise and also were able to provide for families in crisis, especially through HARP.

With Heartfelt Thanks

At the heart of every achievement is you. Your generosity restores hope, creates opportunity and changes lives. Whether supporting a young person's first steps into adulthood or keeping a family together, you make the difference.

On behalf of all of us at the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation—and the children, youth and families we serve—**thank you for believing in their future and walking beside us.**



Jim Gilligan
Executive Director



Tony Cocuzzo
Board Chair



Programs in Action: Faith at Work

Your donations to the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation funded 15 programs that support people involved with the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto in areas where government funding typically doesn't reach. Together, we helped:

- Build stability and opportunities for more than 3,000 children, youth and families
- Provide youth scholarships
- Support innovation in child welfare

1 Access & Family Support:
Restructuring access visits between parents and children in care to rebuild bonds and teach relationship skills.

2 HARP Pilot: Offering flexible support tailored to each family's needs so they can stay together.

3 Male Engagement Worker Pilot Program: Engaging struggling dads with service and support to keep their families safe.

4 Young Parents Wraparound: Connecting young Catholic parents to services that empower them to build stable futures.

5 Youth Readiness Strategy: Building skills and connections to help youth transition safely out of care to independence.

6 Scholarships: Providing bursaries to current and former youth in extended society care for university, college and trade school.

7 Camps 4 Kids: Sending children and youth in care to overnight and day camps.

8 Christmas Programs: Providing Catholic families with food, clothing and gifts at Christmas.

9 Emergency Grants Fund: Helping families in crisis pay for food, shelter and other necessities.

10 Gift Cards: Providing gift cards to help struggling children, youth and families.

11 Sacramental Funds: Helping Catholic children receive baptism, confirmation and other sacraments.

12 Sweet Dreams: Providing new cribs and sleepwear to keep babies safe.

13 Friends & Loved Ones:** Funding holiday travel or bonding activities for young people.

14 Home Base Fund:** Addressing housing-related needs of youth moving out of foster care.

15 Ignite the Spark:** Covering enrolment costs for kids' sports, arts or recreation programs.

***For these programs, the Foundation graciously acknowledges the support of generous grants from the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada.*



Keeping Families Together

The Foundation's \$1.15 million investment in the groundbreaking HARP program supports families and helps keep children out of the child welfare system. Rooted in Catholic values, HARP asks: *"What does your family need, and how can we help?"* Your donations support this compassionate transformational approach.

Why was HARP developed?

Approximately 85% of child welfare cases referred to the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS) stem from chronic family challenges like poverty, caregiver mental health or substance use—issues that can profoundly affect child development. Yet most interventions are designed for the roughly 15% of cases involving allegations of serious abuse and/or neglect. HARP addresses this gap.

What is HARP's goal?

Instead of the standard, one-size-fits-all, forensic investigation approach to referrals, where appropriate, HARP offers a range of responses tailored to supporting families' needs. Families receive timely and helpful services and, where needed, emergency assistance, so children can remain safe and thriving at home.

What's different about the new HARP assessment approach?

HARP workers go beyond standard provincial assessments to ask more in-depth questions of families and referral organizations. This helps identify underlying issues, family strengths and supports, and connects families to community resources. This trauma-informed approach shifts the lens from *"What's wrong with you?"* to *"What happened to you?"* which better fits the realities that bring most families to the attention of child welfare.

What supports might families receive?

CCAS collaborates with community partners to provide families with:

- Food and household supplies
- Housing assistance
- Primary health care
- Mental health services
- Academic support
- Intimate Partner Violence programs, and more.



HARP Impacts



How HARP Supported a Struggling Child and Parent

When Malik* was repeatedly missing school, the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto received a referral. The HARP team discovered the boy was grieving multiple family losses, facing bullying and struggling emotionally. His parent needed help supporting his educational and mental health needs.

Through HARP and with Foundation funding, Society staff were able to bypass waitlists and quickly connect the family with therapy through TAIBU Community Health Centre to initiate. The family also received fresh groceries and gift cards to address food insecurity, and an emergency grant to cover basic needs such as clothing.

With assistance and community services, Malik is back in school, his learning needs are being met, and his parent is engaged and gaining confidence. This family is gaining stability and resilience thanks to CCAF donors.

**Identifying details changed for privacy*

How HARP Helps

270

families served by HARP from May 2024 to March 2025.

99%

Percentage of cases that did not have admissions after being assessed and supported through HARP.

71

referrals to community partners for assistance, mental health care and culturally appropriate support.

51

CCAS clients who accessed the fresh food box program through HARP and the partnership with Food Share Toronto.

"Families have told us they really feel heard, seen and supported,"

says Stephanie Panzarella, Child Protection Supervisor and HARP Lead.



Program for Dads Receives Government Funding



A groundbreaking father-focused program funded by the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF) has received Ontario government funding for expansion.

The Male Engagement Worker Program, piloted at the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS), was created to support men involved with child welfare due to Intimate Partner Violence. Previously, services focused

on fathers' harm without acknowledging their experiences and trauma.

Last year, 61 fathers connected with Male Engagement Workers at CCAS. Through one-on-one conversations, safety planning, and the Catholic Family Services of Toronto's "Being a Dad" program, fathers learned to foster safer home environments. That's crucial, as a portion of CCAS referrals

stem from children's exposure to Intimate Partner Violence.

Paul*, one participant with childhood trauma, learned to regulate his emotions and rebuild trust with his partner and children. With provincial support, even more families will benefit from this transformational approach, made possible by your donations.



Helping Youth after Foster Care

Over the past three years, your donations helped provide:

- a website of youth resources
- Home Start Up kits for 165 youth
- a Youth Pantry used by 210 youth
- Life Skills Programs for 58 youth
- access to housing and basic needs support for 39 youth.

Next, this initiative is developing mentorship and life skills programs for 13- to 15-year-olds.

Your support helped 19-year-old Dante*. Excited for college, he faced racial discrimination while trying to secure housing. Your donations to the CCAF helped cover residence fees, giving him a strong start.

Nearly one in four people experiencing homelessness in Ontario are under 24. Many have come from foster care. Youth exiting child welfare often face food insecurity, financial hardship education gaps and mental-health challenges.

The CCAF-funded Youth Readiness Strategy supports 18- to 23-year-olds transitioning from care to living independently.

Supporting Financial Stability, Faith & Fun



Emergency Grants Fund

When crisis hits Catholics in need, your support is there to help. Last year, the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF) helped 250 families cover urgent expenses like rent, groceries and baby supplies—needs not covered by government support. As housing costs rise and food-bank use grows in Toronto, \$100,000+ in Emergency Grants made a tangible difference.

We were there for Carolina*, a 19-year-old college student who cared for her younger brother and sister after their mother's sudden death. With financial support covering rent, counselling and more, the CCAF enabled her to keep her family together and out of care.

Sacramental Funds

The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto provided 25 families with funding for baptism, confirmation and other spiritual needs. The fund helped Amir* purchase a suit for his baptism and covered funeral expenses for bereaved father Daniel*.



Camps 4 Kids

With CCAF support, 113 children, aged five to 17, created memories at day camps and overnight camps. "Camp was the best time of my life because it was fun, energizing, and well needed," says Marissa*, a former foster child. When you support CCAF, you're offering fresh air, friendship, learning and confidence building for kids who need it most.



Building Futures with Scholarships

Last year, **79 youth** received **\$345,000** in bursaries from the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF) to attend college, university or trade programs. This support makes post-secondary education possible for current and former youth in extended society care, who face rising education and housing costs, limited family resources and minimal government funding. Your donations helped fund brighter futures.

Funding scholarships helps youth beat the odds:

Less likely to graduate

46% of Ontario youth in care graduate [high school](#), compared with 89.5% of all [Ontario students](#).

Less likely to go to college

Youth in care are 50% less likely than peers to enrol in [post-secondary education](#); those who do are more likely to [drop out](#).

High education costs

The estimated cost of a four-year [university degree in Canada](#) today is \$96,000.

No degree, lower income

Workers with a university degree earned an average of 59% more per year in 2020 than those without [higher education](#) (\$60,000 vs \$35,520).

Your giving empowers young people

With the support of CCAF scholarships, Breanna received her undergraduate degree at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, which serves Deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Breanna works at a camp for Deaf young people and is planning to get her MBA. She's giving back, thanks to her hard work and your generosity.

Thank you for helping role models like Breanna, and other youth involved with the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, create a better life.

Breanna graduated with support from CCAF scholarships.



2024–2025 Financial Report

Statement of Operations

Revenues	2024-2025	2023-2024
Investment Income ¹	3,314	486
Donations	467	740
Other Income	407	440
Scholarship Contributions	337	362
Program Revenue	182	117
	4,707	2,145
Expenses		
Program Disbursements	2,110	1,817
Administrative and Professional Fees	507	625
Salaries and Benefits	453	378
Scholarship Disbursements	345	367
Fundraising	274	82
Amortization and Accretion of Capital Assets	90	76
Property	76	145
	3,855	3,490
Extraordinary Income²	3,886	500
Excess (Deficiency of Revenue Over Expenses)	4,738	(845)

Amounts are in thousands of dollars

¹ Depends on market performance and subject to market fluctuations. Not available for granting. All investment income is reinvested.

² One-time revenue related to settlement of legal matter.

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



67% CCAS Grants are provided to the Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS) to develop transformational and innovative programs such as HARP and Youth Readiness.

14% Scholarship Disbursements provide youth with the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education.

11% Child, Youth and Family Support includes recreation, housing necessities, camp, tutoring, baby cribs and much more.

4% The Christmas Program is our annual Adopt-A-Family initiative where families can "adopt" a family or youth and give the joy of Christmas.

4% Emergency Grants are one-time financial assistance remittances made in support of the children, youth and families that we serve.

Your Compassion Made This Possible—Thank You

With grateful hearts, we thank you for your generosity: together, we helped more than 3,000 children, youth and families in the Toronto Catholic community. We dedicate this report to you. These inspiring success stories are made possible through our many supporters, including individuals, families, corporations, foundations and community partners. With your help, we've made tremendous progress and will continue our mission to protect children and strengthen family life in the year ahead.

One Family's Gift Helps Six Students

Through a meaningful gift to the Foundation, **Janet and Bill L'Heureux** helped six current and former youth in care access post-secondary education by establishing the L'Heureux Family Scholarship. Inaugural recipients included Neveah*, who earned straight As in her second year of university while working part-time; and Avery*, who recently graduated from college and landed a job.

"Through education, these youth can begin to believe in a positive future for themselves," says Janet. "They'll have the chance to find a good job, start a family and contribute to their community."

This is the kind of lasting impact made possible by donors who choose to invest in young people's potential. We thank the L'Heureux family for helping youth build bright futures.

**Names of youth have been changed*

A Powerful Legacy That Continues To Shape Lives

We extend our sincere gratitude to the John Bright Foundation for their generous and ongoing support to the Scholarship program over the years. Their commitment enables us to offer scholarships that empower youth and help shape their futures.



Our Board and Team

Board of Directors

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Team

Jim Gilligan
Executive Director

Steven Dos Santos
Comptroller

Marichelle Lumingkit
Executive Assistant

Jewel Silveira
Marketing Coordinator

Lianne Black
Director of Development

3 Ways You Can Keep Supporting Catholic Children, Youth and Families

1. **Donate.** You're funding programs that help people today while building a better child welfare system for tomorrow.
2. **Stay connected.** Enjoy heartwarming stories about how your donations are helping local children and families. Cheer for scholarship students. Repost an inspiring story. Leave an encouraging comment.
3. **Volunteer.** Share your time and talents. Learn more about how you can support.



Catholic
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FOUNDATION

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