



Catholic
Children's Aid
FOUNDATION

2025-2026

Impact Report





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Vision, Mission & Values

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

We raise and grant funds that help improve the individual lives and outcomes for every child, youth and family served by the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto.

Our Values

We are inspired by the legacy of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, now the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto.

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.

A Message from Leadership

Early this fiscal year, a new pontiff was elected. Greeting the crowds in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Leo XIV shared his motto “In the One, we are one” drawn from St. Augustine’s exposition on Psalm 127 and its emphasis on unity in Christ.

That theme of unity, grounded in Christian principles, describes the strong relationship we maintain with our sole beneficiary, the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS). We develop programs together and deliver them as one, to the children, youth, and families we support.

This year saw the continuation of HARP, our initiative to transform how parents experience the child welfare system at the moment admission decisions are made about their children. It rests on two ideas: greater sensitivity to the challenges families already carry, and a deliberate disruption of the admission process that opens the door to third party services, strengthening a family’s situation and, in turn, helping prevent a child from entering care. Having restructured the “intake” stage, this year we moved into the “ongoing” stage, where the work will carry on through FY’27–’28.

We also continued providing immediate financial aid to families and to RSG youth (“Ready Set Go,” ages 18–23). In a city as costly as Toronto, this support grows more critical each year. And this summer, two small groups of young people travelled: a pilgrimage to Rome for the Holy Year, by way of the Marian shrines at Fatima and Lourdes; and a journey for Black youth to Ghana, a cultural and historic experience.

True to our theme, this was the year we reengaged our longtime Hope for Children donors and joined them with our new supporters in this era of the Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation. United, there is no limit to what we can achieve for the children, youth, and families CCAS serves. Our financial position remains strong, with disciplined stewardship and active board oversight across investments, overhead, fundraising, and risk.

Our work would not be possible without your support, financial and fraternal. Your messages of encouragement bring more meaning to it and push us toward a greater good.



Jim Gilligan
Executive Director



Tony Cocuzzo
Board Chair

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Our year in numbers

Behind every story in this report is a wider circle of impact: a community – including you – united in support of children, youth, and families. Here is a snapshot of this year's impact across the Foundation's programs, made possible by your generosity.

\$1.9M+

Invested in programs and supports

2,046

children, youth, and families supported

\$354K+

invested in immediate supports for children, youth, and families

800

children and families supported through our Christmas Program

486

families supported through HARP

94

youth supported through scholarships

65

families supported through Access & Family Support

Programs That Transform Lives

Your donations to the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation funded 12 programs supporting people involved with the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, meeting needs in the places where government funding often falls short. Different as they are, every program serves one purpose: to keep children safe, families together, and young people connected to the people and community who believe in them.



Supporting education and learning

- Camp 4 Kids
- Ignite the Spark**
- Scholarship Program



Supporting young people & families in need

- Sweet Dreams
- Gift Card Program
- Emergency Grants Fund
- Home Base Fund**



Supporting better experiences & outcomes in child welfare

- HARP
- Access & Family Support
- Youth Readiness Program



Supporting Catholic children, youth & families to grow in faith

- Trinity Fund
- Christmas Program



** The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of generous grants from the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada for, Home Base Fund, and Ignite the Spark.

Walking alongside Families

HARP PROGRAM



One infant with complex medical needs had been in hospital since birth, her extended family watching from another province, unable to stay close when it mattered most. With timely support through HARP, her grandmother was able to remain nearby and help plan for her future. Today, that little girl is going home to family, in her grandmother’s care, instead of entering the child welfare system.

That is what HARP makes possible: children kept within their own families, supported by their own communities.

A family’s first encounter with child welfare can shape everything that follows. Historically, that first encounter often began with an investigation, regardless of the family’s immediate needs. Thanks to your support, HARP has changed that. Families are now met with a conversation about what they need, and connected to real help, from food and housing to mental health care. This year, HARP reached a defining milestone: it moved from pilot to standard practice across the Society.

486

intake cases through HARP this period

74%

met with assessment, not investigation

224

referrals to community partners

\$22K+

in direct help to families

“Acts of service, big or small, can make a difference in the lives of families.”

Katherine Gilliam,
Intake and Assessment Worker

Building the Program Around the Bond

YOUTH READINESS PROGRAM

Nine years ago, Diana Elabd answered a Facebook post from the Society looking for a mentor willing to drive to Wasaga Beach, where two sisters were living with a foster parent. She said yes, and began travelling from Aurora to spend time with 12 year old Julissa. Go-karting, rock climbing, and beach days slowly became something deeper. Diana stopped being just a

mentor and became a big sister, to Julissa and to her younger sister Sarah. Last November, the sisters joined Diana at her baby shower, and Julissa now calls herself the baby’s auntie. Now 22 and nearing the end of care, Julissa knows the bond is built to last. Diana has made that clear: it will continue for as long as Julissa wants it to.



Diana Elabd (left) and Julissa (right)

“Two little sisters for life.”

Diana Elabd,
as told to The Catholic Register

No one should step into adulthood alone. Yet many young people aging out of care face it with no fallback and no consistent adult in their corner. Youth Readiness, developed this year by the Foundation and the Society, is being built to change that. It gives youth years, not months, to build the practical skills for adulthood, and it pairs young people aged 17 to

22, including RSG (“Ready Set Go”) youth, with caring adults like Diana who stay in their corner through the transition to independence.

One mentor and one young person, becoming family: that is what Youth Readiness will make possible for every young person leaving care.

Supporting Families Through Connection and Care

Strengthening Families

THE ACCESS & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

“Strengthening my relationship with my daughter will always be my number one goal. We are all working together.”

Parent supported through the Access & Family Support Program

That is how one parent described this program, and it is exactly what it exists to do: help families involved with the child welfare system stay connected to one another. Through supervised access visits and in-home support, parents stay close to their children and build the skills to care for them. This year,

the Society redesigned the program around the families it serves. Instead of being directed from the outside, parents are coached, encouraged, and included in planning, with clearer goals and steadier support. The redesigned program welcomed its first families in January 2026.

65

Families receiving support

74

Parents & caregivers supported

108

Children supported

100%

Launch Goals Achieved

Supporting Faith, Belonging, and Hope

TRINITY FUND

For many Catholic families, the sacraments mark life’s most meaningful moments, and financial hardship can place them out of reach. The Trinity Fund ensures children and families can celebrate Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation regardless of financial circumstances.

This year, your generosity carried families through joy and grief alike. A single mother of three, raising children with special needs on her own, saw her one wish come true: her youngest child baptized, just like her older children. And when a mother died suddenly last summer, the fund covered funeral expenses for her grieving daughters, aged 8 and 13, placed within days in their grandmother’s loving care.

Opening Doors to Opportunity

Scholarships That Transform Futures

THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In 1999, brothers Brandon and Sean entered foster care at just five and eight, old enough to understand the uncertainty of being moved again. Then they met Paul and Marlene. Through hockey, music, camping, and steady encouragement, Paul and Marlene gave them what every child deserves: stability, support, and people who believed in them. With Catholic Children’s Aid Foundation scholarships, Brandon studied Public Health and Sean studied software engineering. Today they are

a firefighter in Ottawa and an accomplished software engineer. “They are my parents. That’s how I think of them today,” Brandon says. “I definitely wouldn’t be where I am if it weren’t for them.” For youth in and from care, the cost of higher education can put even an acceptance letter out of reach. Your support of the Scholarship Program bridges that gap, opening doors to university, college, and skilled trades.



Brandon (left) and Sean (right)

This year, the story came full circle. Brandon and Sean established the Middaugh Scholarship Fund with the Foundation, to support a youth pursuing post-secondary education, a young person living through circumstances they know all too well.

94 Youth

Youth Supported Through Scholarships this year.

University | College | Skilled Trades

“We lived what these youth are going through. We want them to know a strong community stands behind them.”

Brandon

A Family Legacy

One family, one mission.

THE DI IORIO FAMILY: SERVICE, REMEMBRANCE, AND GIVING

For nearly six decades, one family has devoted itself to the children and families of the Society, one generation after another.

It began with Joanne. In 1967, fresh out of high school, she walked through the doors to start as a typist, in a suit, hat, and gloves, as the era required. By 1970, she was one of the first staff to handle Telephone Intake, the calm voice that greeted families at the very moment they reached out for help. Across 42 years, she became the backbone of department after department, retiring in 2009 as the longest-serving employee in the Society’s history. Her colleagues still remember her last day: a white limousine, well-wishes, and confetti made from leftover three-hole-punch scraps.

Her family followed. Joanne’s youngest daughter, Luisa, is today the Society’s Child Protection Supervisor for Telephone Intake, the very team her mother helped build. Joanne’s niece, Carmela Niro, continues the family’s connection through her work in Human Resources at CCAS.

The family’s service is matched by its remembrance. Joanne’s son Joe suffered a brain aneurysm at the age of sixteen, and for nearly two decades his family cared for him without wavering, until he passed away in his early thirties. Out of that love, the Di Iorio



Carmela (left), Luisa (middle) and Joanne (right)

family created the J. Di Iorio Memorial Fund, supporting children and youth with disabilities and special needs so they can experience the same joys as any child: summer camp, sports, the arts, and the right equipment.

Joanne herself passed away in January 2025, surrounded by her family. But the circle she began remains unbroken. Luisa, who was just two months old when Joe became ill, took over administering his fund in 2024, so requests for help now arrive through the same front door her mother first opened, reviewed by the sister who loved him.

A mother’s service, a brother’s memory, and a family’s enduring commitment, meeting in one place. In the one, they are one.

A CLOSING WORD

The Di Iorio family’s story is a powerful reminder that care, compassion, and service can shape generations. And it points to the truth running through every page of this report: none of this work is done alone. A family held together, a child welcomed home, a young person mentored, a door opened, a sacrament shared, a legacy carried forward. Each is the work of many people moving as one.

In the One, we are one. Thank you for being part of it.

2025-2026 Financial Report

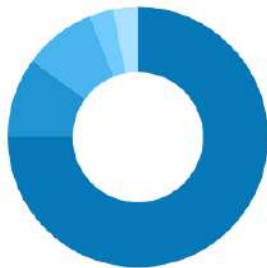
Statement of Operations

Revenues	2025-2026	2024-2025
Investment Income ¹	4,018	3,314
Other Income	413	407
Scholarship Contributions	364	337
Program Revenue	171	182
Donations	161	467
	5,127	4,707
Expenses		
Program Disbursements	3,303	2,110
Administrative and Professional Fees	550	507
Salaries and Benefits	488	453
Scholarship Disbursements	372	345
Fundraising	336	274
Amortization and Accretion of Capital Assets	107	76
Property	90	90
	5,246	3,855
Extraordinary Income ²		
Excess of Revenue (Over Expenses)	356	4,738

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 matters.



Foundation Supported Programs

75% **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.

10% **Scholarship Disbursements** provide youth with the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education.

9% **Child, Youth and Family Support** includes recreation, housing necessities, camp, tutoring, baby cribs and much more.

3% **The Christmas Program** is our annual Adopt-A-Family initiative where families can “adopt” a family or youth and give the joy of Christmas.

3% **Emergency Grants** are one-time financial assistance remittances made in support of the children, youth and families that we serve.

Board of Directors

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Chair
- Geoffrey Grayhurst**
Board Member
- Peter Brennan**
Treasurer
- John Voutsinos**
Board Member
- Tara Tinmouth**
Secretary
- Teresa Palandra**
Board Member
- Kathleen O'Brien**
Board Member
- Cameron Murphy**
Board Member
- Mario Calla**
Board Member
- Nicole Bonnie**
Board Member

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- Steven Dos Santos**
Comptroller
- Marichelle Lumingkit**
Executive Assistant
- Jewel Silveira**
Marketing Coordinator
- Fion Law**
Development Officer



In Illo Uno Unum

“In the One, we are one.”

THE MOTTO OF POPE LEO XIV



Photo taken by CCAS youth during the Rome Trip for the Jubilee Year.

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.

www.ccafdn.ca

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.



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