



**Children's
Rehabilitation
Foundation**



YOU SUPPORTED THEIR INCLUSION

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

2022-2023



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CRF's vision at a glance.

For all children to have the support
required to realize their abilities.



3,500
lives changed

\$1.35 Million Raised



Nearly \$900,000 invested

Thank you for your incredible generosity. You
enabled children and youth to achieve their
potential.

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YOU SUPPORTED REBUILDING, ADVANCEMENT AND EXCELLENCE.

It's an honour to share with you - our treasured donors and supporters - how your generosity enhanced young lives this past year. Your kindness and commitment enabled progress and "firsts" which contributed to the Rehabilitation Centre for Children continuing to be a centre of excellence.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are pleased to provide our Donor Impact Report for the year ending March 31, 2023. Moving forward after a challenging period, our focus in 2022/23 was on rebuilding, revenue diversification and strong partnerships. We took a few leaps of faith along the way to raise awareness and funds for this incredibly important mission. And we made some hard decisions to advance the organization. It is just too important to have done otherwise.

While the journey was and will be a bit windy going forward, we are so grateful you are by our side and in the corner of children and youth from across our province. When painting a picture of the impact of your thoughtfulness, the canvas is filled with the smiles you created and the joy you brought to others.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for all you did and how you did it. Thank you.

Chris Wullum

Chair, Board of Directors effective June 2022

Jane Kidd-Hantscher

Executive Director, Children's Rehabilitation Foundation

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Jane Kidd-Hantscher, Executive Director, CRF



Specialized Children's Equipment

YOUR GIFT OF COMMUNICATION HELPS BREAK NEW BARRIERS

Generous donors gave children a voice.

Communicating with family and friends is something many of us take for granted. For non-verbal children and youth, this skill is critical to enhancing their ability to be active and engaged participants in their family, school and community.

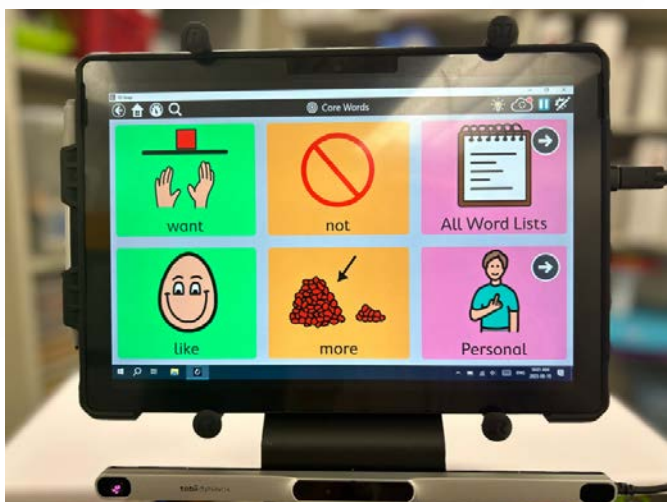
Thanks to incredible donors, including **TELUS** and **The Winnipeg Foundation**, the Rehabilitation Centre for Children's Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Program has taken a giant step forward.



The AAC program follows a crucial and structured process which ensures a child's eligibility is compatible with Eye Gaze equipment. This leading-edge technology detects what a child is trying to communicate through eye tracking and movement.

To ensure this equipment is the right option, a child will embark on a 10-week trial period. During this time they will learn and practice using this remarkable technology. Generous donors have provided two Eye Gaze devices which are being used for the trials. This is helping increase the number of kids being assessed and providing opportunities for children to use their voices.

You made this innovative technology a reality, enabling children and youth with complex needs to communicate their thoughts, expressions and desires effectively.



Specialized Children's Equipment

YOUR GENEROSITY PROVIDED INDEPENDENCE.

Bike-riding dreams became reality.

You have enriched Sebastian's life. This delightful five-year-old with an infectious smile had a special dream fulfilled last year. You made it possible for Sebastian to experience the sense of independence his peers enjoy.

Sebastian and other children living with disabilities often require customized and adapted bikes to meet their individual needs. Thanks to your generous donations, the Foundation was able to fund more than 50 bikes in 22/23.

Your generosity enabled the investment of over \$200,000 toward new bikes.

Sebastian is having a great time riding his handcycle and exploring his neighbourhood. He has never moved so quickly on his own, and he remarked to his parents "Look at me, I'm just like Mario Kart on TV." Your investment has provided Sebastian with mobility, independence, improved health and fun.

The physical, therapeutic and social benefits of bikes are tremendous.

Thank you for believing in the impact these bikes can have on young lives.



Adapted Recreational Programs

TRANSFORMATIVE GRANT ENHANCED THERAPEUTIC POSSIBILITIES

Adapted musical instruments stimulate positive response.



A generous grant from MusiCounts TD Community Music Program provided a tremendous boost to the L.I.F.E. Music Therapy Program.

This significant grant was instrumental in acquiring specially adapted musical instruments for children and youth living with physical and/or cognitive disabilities, heralding a new era of therapeutic possibilities.

Gabriel has always had a strong love for music. Until now though he has never had the tools accessible to expand his love into creation and participation.

“An instrument or drum kit that is modified enough so focus can be on learning to make music, becomes the difference between participating and observing. While great things can be learned through observation, we are already living in a world where those living with disabilities are expected to observe, rather than participate. Modified instruments and access to them, makes music a part of our life.”
- Vanessa, Gabriel’s Mom

With this transformative grant, the L.I.F.E. Music Therapy program now has a wide variety of specially adapted musical instruments. This includes adapted percussion instruments, customized keyboards and string instruments with alternative access options such as switches, padded surfaces, and modified finger boards. Youth are creating music in their own unique ways and having fun throughout the three seasons of programming. Our dedicated Music Therapist leads them on a musical journey which helps address physical, psychological, cognitive and social needs.



Adapted Recreational Programs

YOUR SUPPORT EMPOWERED DREAMS

L.I.F.E. programming provided an inclusive and welcoming space.

Garrett (pictured below) is a smiley upbeat 15-year-old who has been attending the L.I.F.E. Program's summer camp for the past four years. Camp, funded exclusively by donors, allows him to participate in adapted recreational programs where "there are other kids like me." His family is very grateful for your generosity, as camp provides a fun and safe opportunity for Garrett to enjoy independence.



The vital program enables children and youth living with physical and developmental disabilities to participate in a parent-free week of camp filled with their favourite activities! Your tremendous support fulfilled dreams and filled an essential program gap.

All campers are provided with a trained one-on-one support worker to help ensure this inclusive and fun environment is as comfortable as possible for both children and parents.

Your gift helped youth feel included and accepted in a supportive community which empowers and promotes skill development, including self-esteem and confidence. The various activities offered campers memorable experiences and gave them the resources to improve their physical, emotional and social well-being.

You contributed to amazing memories being shared with their peers.



Clinical Programs & Services

THEIR AMAZING CONTRIBUTION IS LIFE ALTERING
Thank you for the gift of independence.

An exceptionally generous donation from Robert (Bob) and Marnie Puchniak enabled the expansion of a tremendously important program last year. On Time Mobility, led by RCC therapists and engineers (formerly Early Powered Mobility), provides young children with the ability to move independently using modified powered vehicles, manual equipment and adaptive switches.

A fully supported program was a RCC dream which the Puchniak investment made a reality. A fleet of powered vehicles like Wizzybugs, Bugzi and Permobil Explorer Minis were purchased. These devices assist in teaching driving skills to very young children as a precursor to using an electric wheelchair.

"This generous donation provided our program with an incredible opportunity to get young children moving at the same time as their peers in age-appropriate powered mobility devices. Kids are joyful and a gateway to their future independence has been opened.

As RCC staff, we often get to see the beautiful firsts in our families lives, and this donation has provided many of those firsts. The first time moving by yourself, the first time running your siblings over, the first-time playing tag, and so many more wonderful moments. Having multiples of the devices has been invaluable and allows for loans so children can practice their skills at home where they are most comfortable."
- Rowen Guncheon, EIT Electronics Engineer – Rehabilitation Engineering

We are so grateful to the Puchniaks for their gift which supported program capital as well as three years of operating costs.



Clinical Programs & Services

**DONOR GIFT
ADVANCED DELIVERY
OF ORTHOTICS &
PROSTHETICS**

**New equipment
streamlines clinical
processes.**

Technological advancement has transformed the landscape of orthotics and prosthetics, bringing a new era of efficiency, comfort and enhanced support for children living with disabilities. A Peel 3D scanner and new industrial sewing machine were funded by a generous Manitoba Street Rod Association contribution.

The scanner ensures children received their orthotics quickly and with more ease. Traditionally, the process of crafting orthotics and prosthetics involved time-consuming and uncomfortable hand-casting methods, particularly burdensome for young people.



The new technology allows for comprehensive, high-precision scans which are digitally transmitted, expediting production of orthotic devices.

The digital template allows skilled technicians to tailor orthotics to the unique needs of each child, such as designing a specialized back brace for those with scoliosis. The speed and turnaround time of this technology is remarkable. The scanning process now takes a quick 20 minutes, is easier and more comfortable for the children.

A state-of-the-art sewing machine, equipped with a specialized arm and table, allows technicians to swiftly make in-house adjustments to shoes and boots, ensuring a perfect fit for braces and orthotics. Each year hundred of pairs of shoes and boots are modified for many children. Children and youth are experiencing greater mobility and walking with confidence as they navigate their environment with greater ease.



EXCITING RESEARCH PROJECT FOSTERS PARTICIPATION

Adapted controller provides an inclusive experience.



Your support for research provides the Rehabilitation Centre for Children's Research Team with the ability to collaborate with local, national and international researchers. Research is critical to advancing the clinical experience, treatments and adapted equipment and technology that help improve the lives of children and youth.

An exciting research project in the development stage features the RCC team collaborating on the feasibility to create adapted gaming controllers. Some children's physical disabilities limit their ability to play video games with friends and family. This research has helped advance a prototype which allows children and youth with disabilities the opportunity to participate fully.

Staff Development

THANK YOU FOR GIVING THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE.

RCC staff are leaders and experts in their fields. Your donations enable them to be exemplary service providers and supported valuable professional development last year.

Therapists attended the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine and the knowledge acquired has been integrated into programming in these fundamental areas. RCC team members also attended the Assistive Technology Industry Association conference which was instrumental in learning more about eye gaze technology and current assessment approaches.

Your generosity is key to nurturing excellence and the most progressive care possible. The skills and knowledge gained enables the Centre to continue offering evidence informed treatments and services, supporting children and youth achieving the best possible outcomes.



We Are Grateful To You

As the Executive Director of the Rehabilitation Centre for Children, I would like to express my gratitude to you – the donors of the Children’s Rehabilitation Foundation – for all your support over the past year.

Your gifts have high impact, enabling children and families to discover their potential and achieve their dreams through innovative assistive technologies. Your support of our therapeutic recreation programs provides children with friendship and belonging experiences, while building valuable life skills.

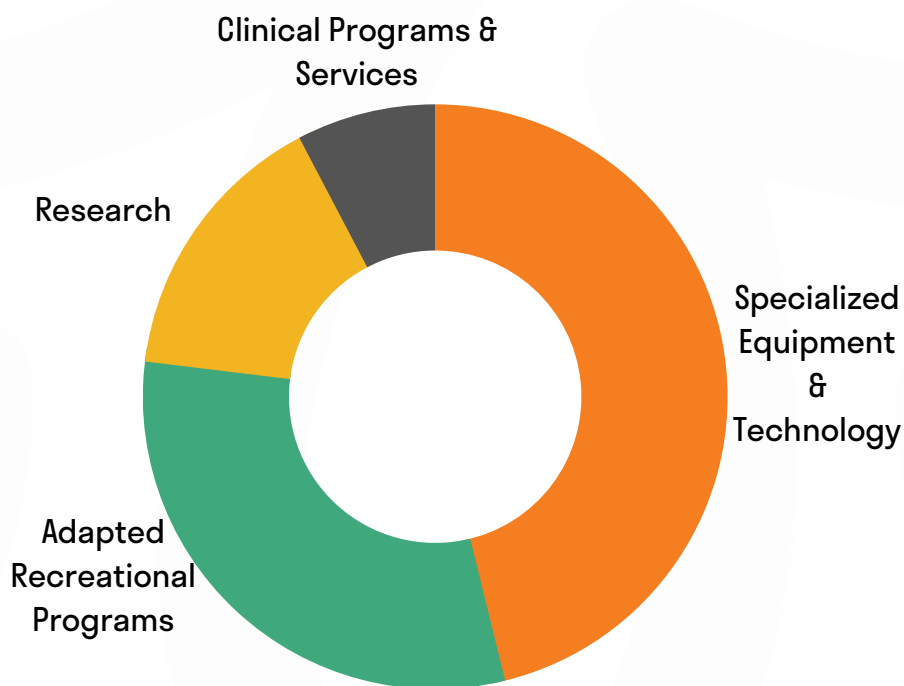
Donations toward research and education help our staff to advance the field of pediatric rehabilitation, ensuring children in Manitoba receive leading-edge treatment and interventions based on the best evidence from around the world.

By investing in the lives of the children and youth we provide service to, you are contributing to a more enriched and inclusive community overall. I extend my sincere appreciation for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Cheryl Susinski

Executive Director, Rehabilitation Centre for Children

WHERE YOUR GIFTS ARE INVESTED



Foundation Events

Your unwavering support and enthusiasm raised our events to new heights. We are so appreciative of all your efforts!



For the first time since 2019, our signature fundraising event was back to in-person! Our spirited participants, sponsors and volunteers helped raise nearly \$130,000. These funds make a tremendous difference in the lives of children and youth living with disabilities, supporting vital programming and specialized equipment. Our gratitude to Fettes Family Foundation for its continued investment as our presenting sponsor.



You pulled out your clubs and hit the links for the inaugural Tee Off for Ability golf tournament. Thank you to Canadian Tire as our presenting sponsor and to all our sponsors, golfers and volunteers for your participation in this life-changing event. A near sell-out, July 12th was a beautiful day on the course filled with fun and laughter. Your commitment to children and youth who receive care from the Rehabilitation Centre for Children is greatly appreciated. Over \$85,000 was raised for this important cause.



Your commitment made A Night of Miracles amazing! 340 people gathered for this unique and elegant evening hosted at Hargave St. Market. Taking a step back in time to the supper club era of the 1950's, we honoured our Ambassadors, Elias and Gabriel. It was a night to remember! The net result, \$135,000, an incredible amount with a huge impact.





A massive THANK-YOU to Tim Hortons and supportive community members who purchased smile cookies. A record-breaking **\$245,000** was raised in Winnipeg, Selkirk and Stony Mountain, enhancing the lives of so many children and youth. The Smile Cookie campaign funds are integral to kids reaching their potential. Thank you for your passion, generosity, and contributions!



The Rotary Club of Winnipeg West held its 71st Annual Chicken Fest last spring. As long-time supporters of the Foundation, Rotarians positively impact our community. Chicken Fest 2022 raised over \$15,000 and all the proceeds were directed to the L.I.F.E. Program's summer camp.



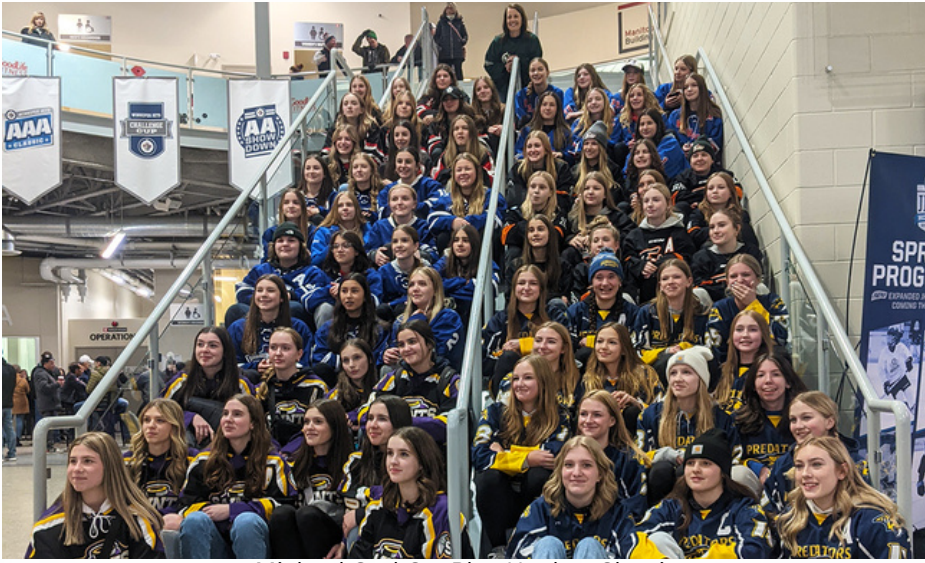
In early December, members of the Winnipeg Jets surprised children and youth who access services at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children. This special visit to the Centre created many smiles, memories and interactions which will be remembered for years to come. Thank you to the Winnipeg Jets and True North Sports & Entertainment for bringing joy to deserving youth.



Runners laced up once again in May and \$10,000 was raised through this spirited event. The funds helped provide equipment to individuals and schools. Lives were enriched thanks to engaged participants, generous local businesses and community organizations.



Your commitment & creativity changed lives



Michael Gerl CanPlay Hockey Classic



Bob Moore Cycling Fundraiser



Manitoba Law Students' Association



Rodarama 2022



Allen Family Pumpkin Fundraiser



Winnipeg Elks Lodge Number 10



Ozzie's First Birthday Fundraiser



Qualico Parking Lot Hockey Tournament



You created these amazing smiles!



Featuring

Elias & Gabriel (2022 Ambassadors)

Scarlett (One Child's Dream)

Lulia (Giving Tuesday)

THANK YOU!



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