

You Brightened Her Life

Donor Impact Report
2023-2024



Braelynn,
2023 Ambassador



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Mission

Children’s Rehabilitation Foundation raises funds to improve the lives of children who access services through the Rehabilitation Centre for Children and SSCY Centre.



Vision

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



Your Kindness and Commitment are Outstanding

It's our privilege to share with you - our valued donors and supporters - how your thoughtfulness this year brightened so many young people's lives. Your passion, efforts and belief in this tremendously important cause are commendable.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are pleased to provide our Donor Impact Report for the year ending March 31, 2024. Your contributions helped make these past twelve months exciting, emotional, collaborative and precedent setting. It is because of your support the Foundation achieved its highest ever recorded revenue, nearly \$1.84 million including investments.

We look ahead with optimism, buoyed by your continued enthusiasm and desire that every child receive opportunities to connect, participate and thrive. We are exceptionally grateful for the interactions we share with you and each one truly inspires us. You provide hope and we are eternally thankful.

Warm regards,

Chris Wullum
Chair, Board of Directors

Jane Kidd-Hantscher
Executive Director, Children's Rehabilitation Foundation

Board of Directors

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Cheryl Susinski, Executive Director, RCC

Jane Kidd-Hantscher, Executive Director, CRF



Your Generosity Transformed Lives

Breakthroughs you made possible!

3,500+ Children & Families

supported thanks to your generous gifts.



Nearly

You helped make history!

Last year, **138**

youth attended LIFE Program's Sun and Fun Camp, which supports campers with physical, developmental and social needs.

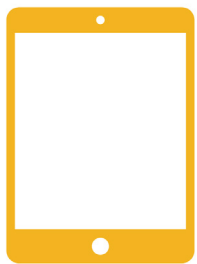
200

pieces of specialized equipment were gifted to clients.

\$1.72

million

in funds raised to help Manitoba youth living with disabilities.



20 ongoing research and quality projects

to advance RCC's clinical experience and contribute to child healthcare in Canada.



Thank You

As I reflect on the past year, I am grateful to you – the donors, supporters and volunteers of the Children’s Rehabilitation Foundation. Your steadfast commitment enables the Rehabilitation Centre for Children to offer exceptional services to children and youth across Manitoba.

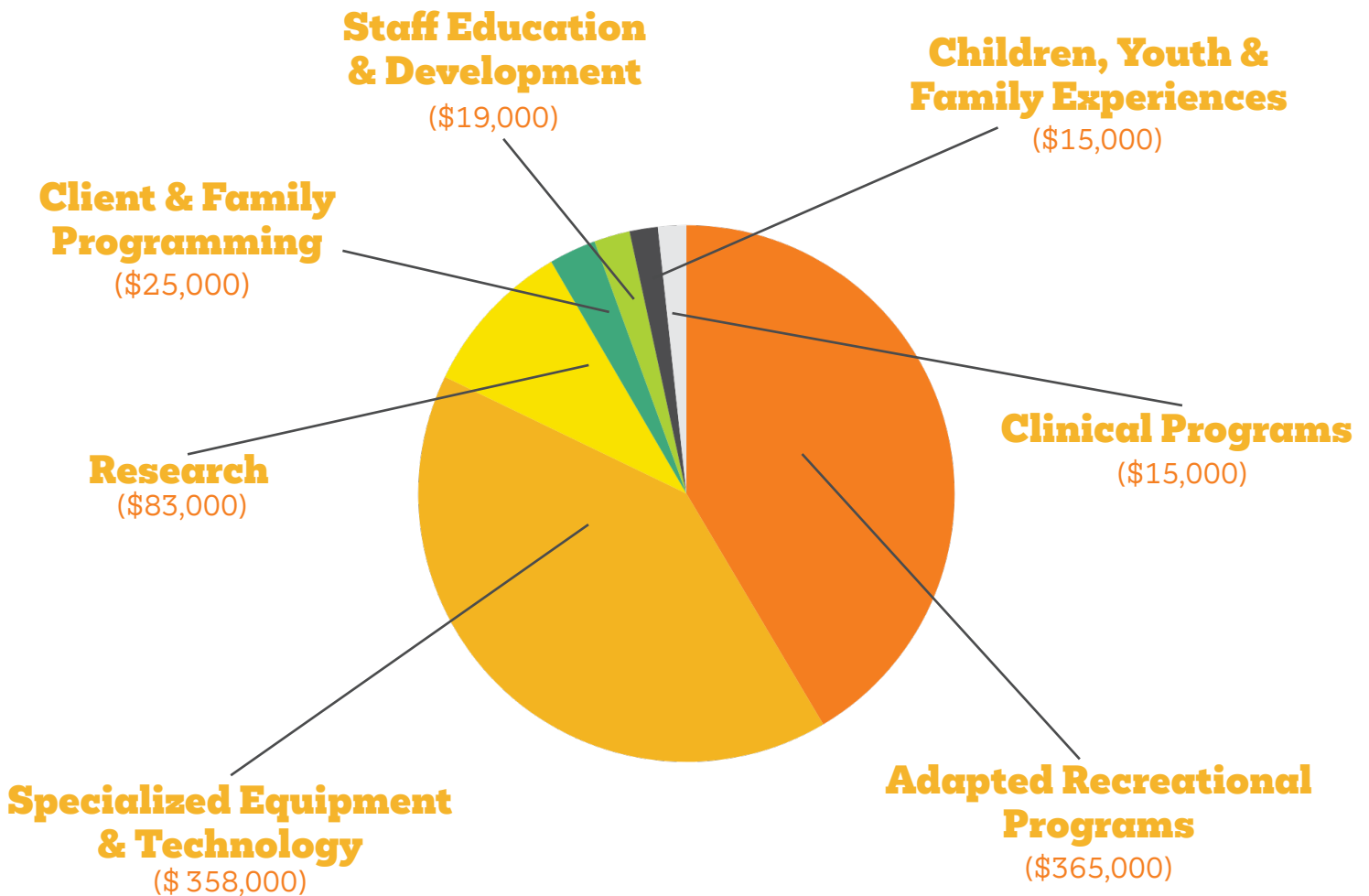
Your support is key to the Centre being a national leader in healthcare and recognized amongst our counterparts for our innovative and family-centered clinical care. The impact of your generosity is wide and vast. You helped fund specialized equipment, vital programs, leading-edge technology, clinical practices, knowledge transfer and fascinating pediatric rehabilitation research.

Your contributions provide incredible opportunities for the clients we care for to explore their potential and fully participate in inclusive supportive communities. Leading the Rehabilitation Centre for Children and witnessing the many ways your investments change lives is an honour.

Cheryl Susinski
Executive Director, Rehabilitation Centre for Children



Your Donations Invested





Your Kindness Extended Far and Wide



Sara
Communication iPad Recipient

Communication iPads provide independence and enable Sara to communicate with friends, family, peers and classmates.

Portage la Prairie

Winnipeg



Nina
Chill-Out-Chair Recipient

Chill-Out-Chairs provide comfort, stability and a safe place for regulation, allowing Nina to recharge and enhance well-being.

Steinbach



Henry
Specialized Bike Recipient

Henry's specialized bike gives him independence, mobility, increased strength and fun with friends and family.

Altona



Riley
Specialized Bike Recipient

A specialized bike is a gateway to autonomy, mobility and helps Riley be active with classmates and peers.

Your Support Provided Amazing Gifts

Your generosity gave children a voice

Youth living with complex communication needs often rely on someone else to assume and communicate their inclinations and wants. This has been the reality for 11-year-old Nathan, one of many Manitoba children who need your help to communicate.

Nathan was diagnosed with a rare congenital condition resulting in cerebral palsy, which prohibits him from using his voice.

During a visit to RCC, Nathan's speech language pathologist assessed and determined an Eye Gaze was the most suitable communication device for his needs and ability. This technology is used to communicate along with an iPad.

With this specialized tech equipment, Nathan and other children with communication difficulties gain independence and can be heard, often for the first time.

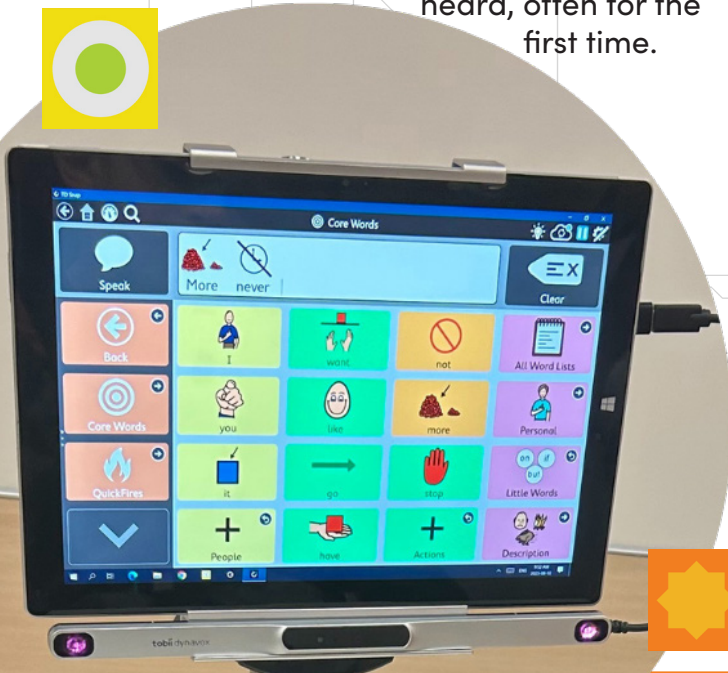


Thanks to many donors all across Manitoba including Winnipeg Kinsmen, Nathan and other youth can express themselves confidently, strengthening their relationships with family, friends and peers.

“Receiving an eye gaze has opened up a whole new world of communication possibilities. As Nathan learns this new device, we hope it opens up the lines of communication between him and the people around him.”

- Nathan's Dad, Justin

You made several miracles realities by providing youth living with complex care needs the means to communicate freely and effectively. Thank you so much.



Creating an inclusive community

Your gifts boost confidence and independence

The joy and growth of children and youth living with disabilities is possible due to donors who believe in the power of belonging. The LIFE Program Sun & Fun Summer Camp offers a variety of specialized camp themes including Chef, Swim, Wilderness, Music, Snapshot, and Out & About. This ensures children can thrive, regardless of their abilities. Your support extends beyond the campers, positively impacting their families and inspiring siblings to serve as a Recreation Support Worker (RSW) or “camp buddy.”

Dedicated staff ensure children who may otherwise be unable to participate in certain activities due to their diagnosis can become active participants with the support of a camp buddy. These experiences help build skills, boost confidence and empower campers to embrace their abilities.

Long-serving RSW Antonio Guerra, who marked his sixth year at Sun & Fun Summer Camp in 2023, brings unwavering compassion, patience, and kindness to ensure his camp buddies have the best experience possible.

Campers’ families are overwhelmed by the program’s impact and some siblings become involved. A noteworthy bond between camper Evan and his sister Avery has led her to become an RSW this year.

“Evan has been going to the camp for seven years now and seeing how much he enjoys camp made me interested in becoming an RSW,” said Avery.

Beyond the campers, families experience profound relief knowing their children are in a safe, supportive environment. Parents seeing their child participate in activities that were once inaccessible is transformative. Your generosity makes it possible for families to envision a future where their children are celebrated for their strengths.



For many campers, Sun & Fun Summer Camp is a lifeline to social connection and personal growth. Thanks to the generosity of the CIBC Foundation, The Winnipeg Foundation, Federated Co-op, Rotary Club of Winnipeg West and other individuals, the camp hosts adaptive activities, provides specialized equipment and trains staff to meet each participant’s unique needs.

“Camp is something Evan looks forward to all year. Thank you for the continued sponsorship of this program. It is highly valued by those of us whose children go to camp.”

- Evan’s Mother, Beverly

LIFE Program's Cooking Club

**Influencing lives
one recipe at a time**

The core of the LIFE Program Cooking Clubs is a commitment to empowering and including youth living with disabilities. Your generous support of the After-School Cooking Clubs in Winnipeg, Niverville, Selkirk and Portage la Prairie, along with the Saturday Cooking Club and Friday Supper Club, fosters connection and life skills.

Living with daily physical or developmental challenges, the young participants are enthusiastic and determined, engaging fully in every aspect of the cooking process alongside their peers each week. Beyond recipes, cooking becomes a gateway to connections and life-changing experiences.



**“This is exactly what
my son needed. This
program has been
incredible for
helping him meet
other kids.”**

- Parent of a Cooking Club participant

The charitable giving of major donors, including ivari Healthy Steps, CIBC Foundation and Tim Hortons transforms the Cooking Club experience into more than just a culinary art. It becomes an activity which enhances motor skills, coordination and sensory exploration.

Over 300 youth actively participate in meal preparation, mastering techniques, learning how to use adapted cooking utensils, and gaining confidence with each chop. The nurturing environment fosters physical development as well as cultivates independence and self-assurance.

In addition to culinary skills, Cooking Clubs serve as essential training grounds for life skills. Participants learn teamwork, ingredient management, and efficient kitchen navigation.

Community generosity paves the way for every child and youth living with a disability to discover their strengths, forge meaningful connections, and lead lives filled with joy and fulfillment. Thank you for playing a crucial role in the journey of Cooking Club participants. Your support helps create an atmosphere where these young chefs can thrive and grow.



230
Adaptive bikes were repurposed through the W.A. Laddie Hutchison Bike Clinic last year.

Your Commitment Provided Freedom

Turning bike-riding dreams into a reality

Children dream of bike-riding experiences, however for youth living with a disability, it is a much more involved undertaking.

Thanks to individual donor support and Red River Co-op, hundreds of bikes are designed and modified each year at the Rehabilitation Center for Children's Bike Clinic, providing youth with the opportunity to participate in this rite of passage.

A multidisciplinary team of engineers, occupational therapists and clinical technologists collaborate to understand the unique needs of each youth, resulting in a product tailored to help them achieve their full potential.

Adaptive bikes provide numerous benefits for children living with disabilities including autism spectrum disorder or cerebral palsy. Each bike is

designed to enhance leg strength, core balance and coordination, creating a lasting impact on the rider's health. For children with poor eyesight, an adaptive bike naturally encourages users to focus more on their surroundings, enhancing their visual and spatial perception. Additionally, each bike comes with adjustable features for the seat, handlebars and foot pedals, offering optimal support for growing youth.

These bikes are so much more than an off-the-rack bike. They give youth independence, freedom and mobility as they participate with friends, family and peers. Thank you for making such a positive impact on the lives of these young people!



Leading Edge Research Breaks Barriers

Your support of research provides RCC's Research Department with the means to collaborate with external researchers and continuously learn about issues important to children, youth and families impacted by disabilities. These efforts lead to improved clinical care and family services, new technology and adapted equipment and an enhanced quality-of-life for children, youth and their families.

with Disabilities: Learning from Family Units." Children living with disabilities can have fewer opportunities for play, as their time is devoted to therapies and treatments in addition to barriers a youth living with a disability may face. This study suggests using a social robot as a supportive tool for play can help youth living with physical disabilities gain the critical developmental skills needed to thrive.

Through a researcher/RCC Research collaboration, an interesting project was implemented at SSCY Centre: "Re-Thinking Social Robots for Children

These results will further the technological design of social robots, making them more user-friendly and tailored to the child's specific social and physical disabilities, enabling them to engage in meaningful interactions.



Family Networks Improve Well-being

Thanks to donor generosity and grants from Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries and Rexall Care Network, CRF maintained a community for caregivers, siblings, clients and parents through the FASD Family Network Youth Leadership Program and RCC/SSCY Family Network.

Through your kindness, RCC is able to recognize caregiver efforts, create inclusive spaces for family members to discuss their experiences of having a loved one who lives with a disability and gain feedback on programming.

Guided by the RCC/SSCY Family Advisory Council, Family Network programs provide support for each facet of care at Parent to Parent Cafés, Sibshops, the Youth Advisory Council, Powerful Tools for Caregivers and Family Mentoring.

"Sibshops is an incredibly important resource for my child and our family. It helps my son feel belonging. He always seems happier and lighter after attending."

- Parent of a Sibshop participant



Advancing Equity & Spreading Joy You helped them meet their hometown heroes

Community support helps youth and their families enjoy amazing experiences, promoting equity and spirit. In November, young Jets fans were treated to a special gathering with their families to meet their favourite hockey players at the Winnipeg Jets Meet and Greet. This energized visit to SSCY Centre created many smiles and memories as the youth mingled with the players, had their Winnipeg Jets merchandise signed and showed their support for our hometown team.

Throughout the year, families can attend sporting events through CRF's Jets subscription and thanks to generous gifts from individuals and organizations. The Foundation is able to provide accessible tickets, often enabling children and youth to experience professional sports for the first time.

The joy and incredible memories created from these experiences are heartwarming. Thank you for your support - you make these opportunities possible. And thank you to the Winnipeg Jets and True North Sports & Entertainment for bringing joy to deserving youth.

Collaboration Promotes Client Potential

Georgia, a talented teen living with autism, was in her element at LIFE Program's Sun and Fun Art Camp, where she expanded her love for art in an inclusive and supportive environment. Her talent piqued CRF's interest, leading to a collaboration of her artwork on WeHeart Winnipeg apparel. She expressed her perspective and experience as someone living on the spectrum.

"When I found out I had autism, I was told everyone is a star in their own way so I incorporated them into the design. I was also inspired by different Manitoba flowers, like Prairie Crocus and Clover, which represent growth, opportunities and resilience."

Thanks to community support, Georgia's design helped raise **\$1,400** to help other young people.



Your Involvement Enhanced Lives



For the first time, Cruisin' to Change Lives was held at a new location and featured a new name, embodying the spirit and motivation to support children and youth living with disabilities. Together, sponsors, participants and volunteers raised an all time high of **\$172,000!** They demonstrated drive for change by forming teams, challenging each other to contribute to this amazing cause. We extend our gratitude to the Fettes Family Foundation, our presenting sponsor, for their unwavering support.



Thank you to our sponsors, golfers and volunteers who made the Tee Off For Ability Golf Tournament on July 18 a day to remember! Your tee-rific participation set the bar for years to come, as this sold-out event raised nearly **\$90,000**. The day featured beautiful weather, exciting hole contests with prizes, a live auction, and delicious food. A special thank you to Canadian Tire, the tournament's presenting sponsor, for your continued support of youth in our province who receive care from the RCC. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!



Your involvement and attendance made A Night of Miracles a memorable evening! Nearly 400 people came together for this spooky soiree hosted at The Met. Held Friday, October 13, the evening honoured our 2023 Ambassador Braelynn and celebrated youth who live with a disability. Presented by Gerry and Barb Price, Miracle raised an incredible **\$205,000**. These funds are directed to buying specialized equipment and maintaining crucial programming. What an amazing impact!

Community Partners Made A Huge Difference



Your participation in this year's Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign broke their donation record, raising an incredible **\$320,000** in Winnipeg, Selkirk and Stony Mountain. This milestone was achieved thanks to the support of Tim Hortons and the generous community members who bought Smile Cookies. These funds will help our youth thrive in every aspect of their lives. Thank you for contributing to this powerful impact!

Fantastic involvement from the Manitoba women's hockey community made the Michael Gerl CanPlay Hockey Classic a tremendous success! Held mid-January, this special event showcased many female hockey teams in high action games. MWJHL, U18AAA and U15AA teams worked together to spread awareness and fundraise. This event raised an amazing **\$13,000**, helping youth achieve their sport and participation dreams. A heartfelt thank you to Michael Gerl for his passion and dedication to helping youth.



An exciting new collaboration with Fête Ice Cream and Coffee helped Manitobans cool off during the summer with Braelynn's Unicorn Extravaganza. This delightful ice cream sandwich was sold in-store, delivered to Winnipeg organizations for corporate ice cream days, and featured at the Shelmerdine Farmers Market. As an added attraction, we partnered with Wild Willow Ranch, a nonprofit animal organization, reflecting Braelynn's love of unicorns. The collaboration raised **\$3,500**, dedicated to a communication device and other specialized equipment for children and youth living with disabilities.

A long-standing partnership with the Manitoba Street Rod Association (MSRA) has transformed the lives of youth who receive care from RCC. Between the spring Rodarama Car Show and fall Toy Run Car Show, an amazing **\$22,000** was donated to CRF, funding five adaptive bikes. Thank you MSRA for your kindness and generosity.



MANITOBA STREET ROD ASSOCIATION



We Love Capturing Your Kindness!



**Avros Hockey Team
CanPlay Hockey Classic**



Cruisin' to Change Lives



One Child's Dream - Jude



Braelynn's Unicorn Extravaganza



Smile Cookie Media Launch



Rexall Care Network

Thank You!

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**Children's
Rehabilitation
Foundation**