



Annual Report

2020/21

Kids Kottage Foundation would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territories of the Indigenous peoples of the Treaty 6 region and the Métis Settlements and Métis Nation of Alberta, Regions 2, 3 and 4. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our community.

EVOLVING THROUGH UNCERTAINTY AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR

We unwaveringly believe all children have inherent value as individuals and are recognized to have specific rights established under the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Kids Kottage Foundation is coming to the end of our 25th year anniversary celebration. 25 years ago, Edmontonians recognized the importance of protecting all infants and children. It is inspiring to look back at our history to see the evolution of the Kottage, how it has grown, programs that have been developed and expanded, and community partnerships forged. The strength and tenacity of the Kottage team, especially throughout the last 12 months, has had a profound impact on the community.

The services of Kids Kottage Foundation have never been so critical as they are now, during our communities' most disruptive times in history. Providing protection and shelter for the most vulnerable, infants and children. All the while walking alongside the families and caregivers through the Follow-up program and providing community referrals.

We are all working towards the same goal, building a resilient future for our most vulnerable, preventing the spread of intergenerational trauma, and providing support to families in crisis. Together, we will keep infants and children safe and families strong.

Sincerely,



Rajesh Ramakrishnan
Board Chair
Kids Kottage Foundation



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In reflecting on the past year, and the fact that we are still faced with uncertainties related to COVID-19, the theme of this year's report is to highlight both the stark reality of today and hope for tomorrow as we move forward together.

I would like to communicate two important messages; First, Kids Kottage's objectives. Kids Kottage Foundation promotes the well-being of children by preventing child-abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exposure to trauma - we exist to keep infants and children safe and families strong. Second, all of the ways that our organization has been navigating through the pandemic. It is a remarkable story of evolution through resiliency of our team members in the face of adversity.

Evolving and Resilience in the Time of COVID-19

We continue to be inspired every day by the resilience and bravery of the clients who come to us for support and the children who stay in our care. We continue to offer these caregivers our compassion, and guidance as we support them in keeping their infants and children safe. This year, an important part of that support has been forming relationships with other resources and community agencies. Together we help our clients navigate these critical pathways to ensure their children are given every opportunity to thrive. Kids Kottage Foundation is a bridge. We bridge the gap over what often feels like a chasm, for the families we support. I like to think this is a bridge where no one is left behind.

But what does it mean to build resilience together in a global pandemic? Most often someone overcoming adversity comes to mind. Or, in the case of the many infants and children we shelter, we think of traumatic childhood experiences. One trend we have noticed is that the majority of our clients are dealing with issues that are related to poverty and trauma. This includes homelessness, food insecurity, a lack of diapers in the home, no utilities and the list goes on.

Lock-downs put more stress into an already volatile environment. Children staying home from school, and caregivers unable to work caused tensions that reached toxic levels across the board. We are just now seeing the impact this pandemic has had on our children's mental health. According to Children First Canada, 70% of children aged 6-18 have reported COVID-19 has had an impact on their mental health, and the number of suicide attempt admissions have increased by 100% on average among children during the pandemic.

At Kids Kottage, we know that the effects of trauma on a child's developing mind may linger for the rest of their life. We are an early intervention and prevention essential service that keeps infants and children safe and families strong. As humans, we all have empathy and have survived many disruptive historical events. We have continued to evolve - not because we are independent and alone, but by working together and building a community of support. The last 15 months have served as a reminder of the deep and profound impact service to our community can have, especially to the most vulnerable, infants and children. We are determined to remain vigilant and dedicated to our mission statement. All children have inherent value as individuals, and it is our duty to champion and protect their rights.

I would like to profoundly thank and acknowledge the people we serve - all of the infants, children, families, and guardians; as well as our stellar Board of Directors for their patience, kindness, creativity, and support during this pandemic. So many people have dedicated time and resources that have allowed us to serve our community, and I feel eternally grateful for everyone's continued support. As you might guess, this has been an exceptionally difficult time - but the unwavering dedication of everyone at Kids Kottage Foundation to ensure infants and children are protected and supported has given me unending amounts of hope and gratitude. THANK YOU!



Janine Fraser
Executive Director
Kids Kottage Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janine Fraser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Earth Angels + Partners





A LETTER FROM THE FUND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

While the 2020–2021 fiscal year had its challenges, there were still so many wonderful moments that took place. Even in the midst of a pandemic, our community has rallied together to make a huge impact on the most vulnerable among us.

Over the past year, Kids Kottage celebrated its 25th year of serving Edmonton and area's most vulnerable infants, children and families; started a web series called KottageVision to highlight individuals and organizations who are making an impact in our community; and received invaluable support from so many fellow Edmontonians, community leaders, organizations, and donors.

Here are a few of the major highlights from the past year:

Tamara Leeder
Fund Development Manager
Kids Kottage Foundation

25th Anniversary

Since June of 1995, Kids Kottage has sheltered over 30,000 infants and children and helped over 14,000 families. Our organization might look a little bit different today than it did 25 years ago – the Kottage itself has grown, our programs have expanded, community partnerships have been forged – but our heart and mission to keep infants and children safe and families strong, remains unchanged.

To kick off our 25th year of keeping our community's most vulnerable safe, we worked together with Mammoet, Telus World of Science Edmonton, and some of our generous volunteers, to deliver 25 baskets to 25 families we have served over the years.

Radiothon

Our 26th annual Radiothon event served as our main fundraising event, as the rest of the 2020/2021 fiscal year events were cancelled. With that, we knew we needed to aim high in order to reach funding goals. When we set our Radiothon fundraising goal at an ambitious \$100,000, we knew it was a high expectation, especially with uncertainties during the pandemic. Our community rallied together and more than DOUBLED our initial goal. To say we were blown away by the support we received throughout this fundraiser would be an understatement. Together, our community helped us raise \$255,000 for infants, children and families in need. For that, we are so grateful.



COVID-19

With the warmer weather and sunshine, it is difficult to imagine that the world is still in the grasp of a global pandemic and crushing economic crisis.

From all corners, people, and most aspects of life have been impacted by COVID-19, but none as harshly as the most vulnerable among us – infants and children.

One thing that has remained unchanged is Kids Kottage Foundation's commitment to supporting our community's most vulnerable and their caregivers.

Throughout this past year, the Crisis Nursery saw families who were experiencing crises such as domestic and family violence, poverty, and parental physical and mental health. The crisis line and the Follow-up Program were essential in providing these families with critical pathways to get them out of crisis. We remained vigilant in keeping alignment with all Alberta Health Services health orders and guidance.

Throughout the past year, 70% of the children who were in crisis were of Indigenous descent. 72% of the children who experienced crisis came from a single parent family. These families were living either at, or close to the poverty level.

We are grateful for the support that enabled us to keep hundreds of infants and children safe and support those

families in need. Kids Kottage Foundation continues to add significant value to the community with our twenty-four-hour, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days a year crisis line. We are continuing to provide shelter, food, clothing, and trauma-informed care to infants and children up to ten years of age. As well as, immediate support for caregivers experiencing crisis, homelessness, addictions, poverty, health, and food insecurity through our Follow-up Program.

Kids Kottage Foundation is positioned to foster resilience despite current challenges, and we will continue to deliver on our value statement of keeping infants and children safe and families strong. Together, we are building a stronger and more vibrant community.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Without question, Kids Kottage Foundation's operations were impacted during this last year. Our programs were continuously needing to pivot in order to meet the needs of our community, while also ensuring the health and wellbeing of the families we serve, and our staff. One thing that never wavered was our dedication to keeping infants, children, families and our staff safe throughout this time. We greatly appreciate the guidance from Alberta Health Services, and the Government of Alberta for working tirelessly to ensure the safety of the public.

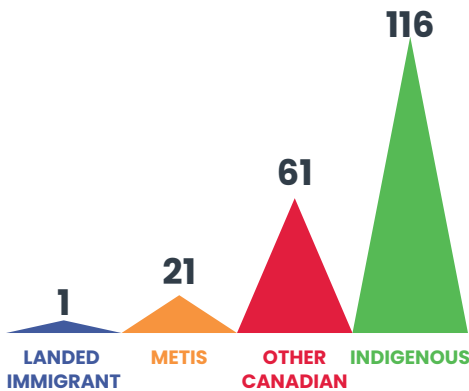
We continue to remain vigilant for the health and safety of our infants, children, family and staff members. The Kids Kottage team members have shown amazing dedication and resiliency working throughout this last year, making pivots, and evolving to ensure we can still serve our most vulnerable and keep them safe.

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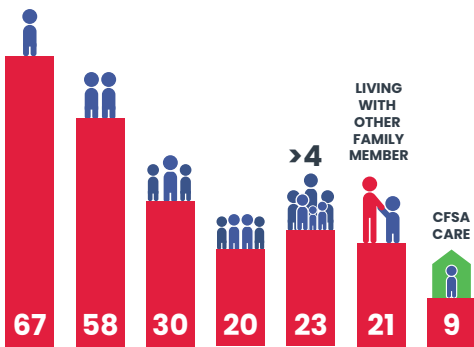
CHILDREN WERE KEPT SAFE

Thanks to our supporters this year!

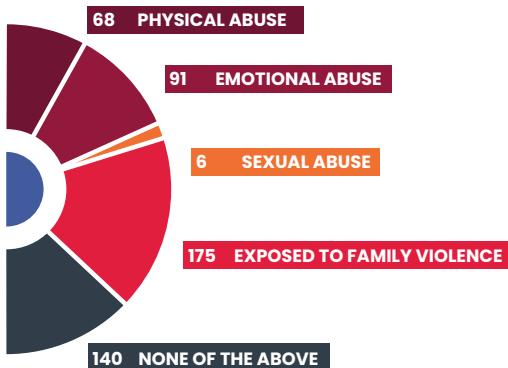
KOTTAGE CLIENTS IDENTIFY AS



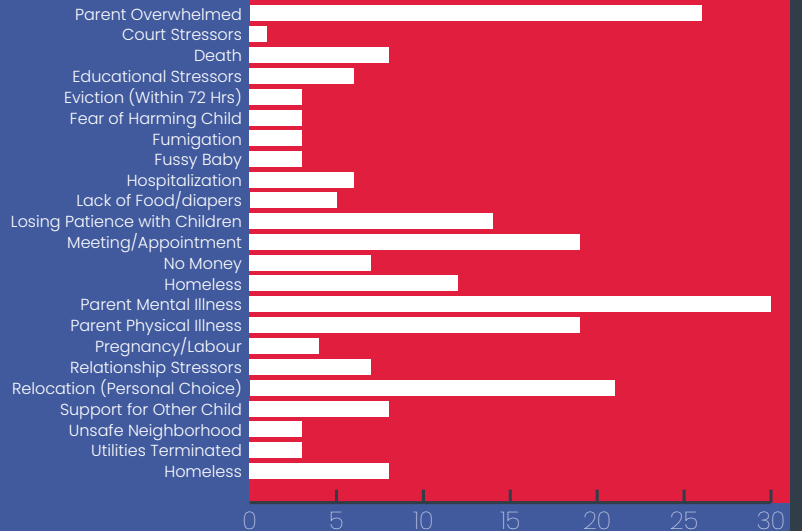
OF CHILDREN PER HOUSEHOLD



HISTORY OF A CHILD INCLUDES

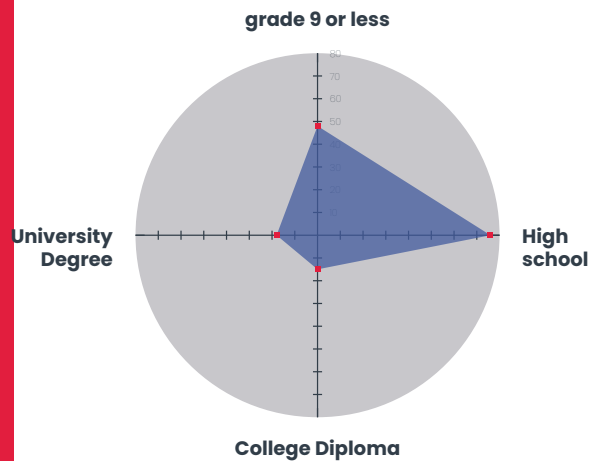


REASON FOR ADMISSION

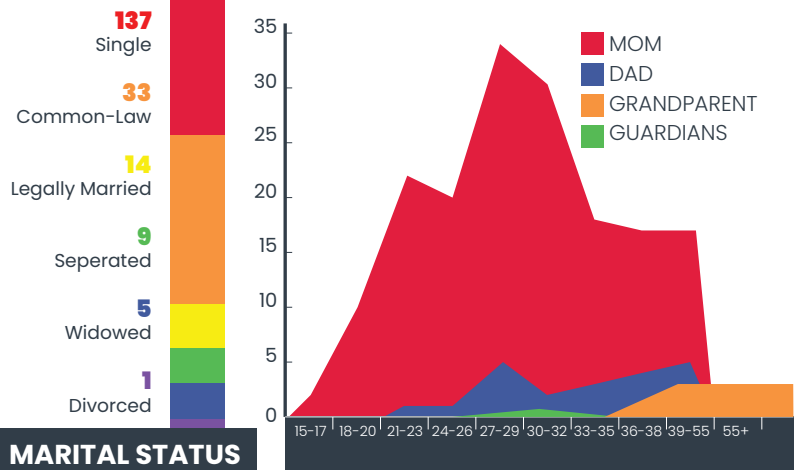


CLIENT STATS

EDUCATION (COMPLETED)



AGE OF PARENT, GRANDPARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN



MARITAL STATUS

COMMUNITY LEADER SUPPORT

Throughout the year, Kids Kottage received support from a number of recognizable leaders within our community, and even our province. We are grateful to live in a community where the leaders are so in tune and passionate about creating a stronger and more resilient future for our children.



NATIONAL CHILD DAY

National Child Day takes place each year on November 20th, and it is a very important day to us at Kids Kottage. It isn't just a day we commemorate one day of the year. It is what our organization bases all of our values on; it truly is why we exist. This year, we celebrated by commemorating our commitment to all children being treated with dignity and respect, ensuring they have a voice, they are protected from harm, provided with their basic needs, and that they are given the opportunity to thrive as citizens. And, we weren't the only ones celebrating. A number of city leaders and officials sent in videos explaining what National Child Day means to them. Hear what they have to say:

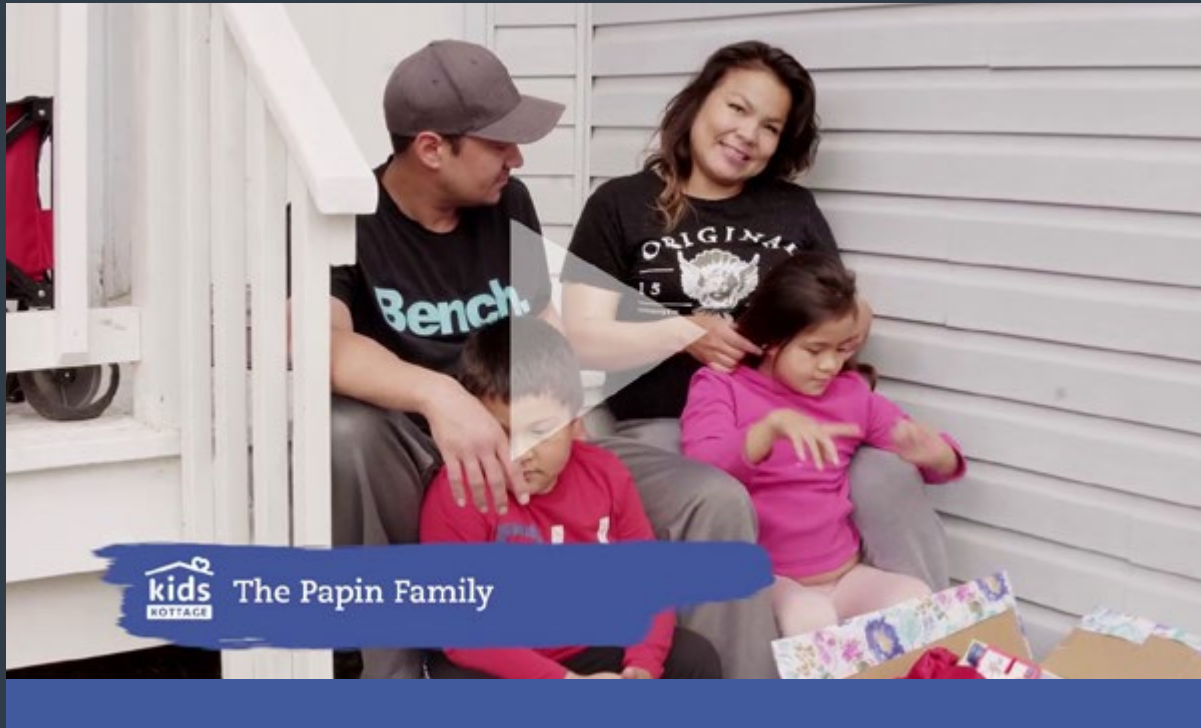


KOTTAGEVISION

We created a video series! There are so many organizations and individuals who dedicate their lives to building a brighter future for those in need. KottageVision was created to highlight those organizations and individuals, as well as serve as a medium to further our vision and mission of keeping infants and children safe, and families strong. Our hope is that people would find valuable information throughout each episode, and leave feeling empowered and equipped to make a difference. We have been honoured to have some very special guests, including Alberta's Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Salma Lakhani. Watch the interview below:



THESE STORIES; THESE INFANTS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, ARE THE REASON WE EXIST



WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT KIDS KOTTAGE?



“That they be nice to me and my brother”

WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE CHILDREN WHO STAYED WITH US LAST YEAR.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT KIDS KOTTAGE?

"Kids Kottage is the best!"

"The train, the other train, the elephant"

"It's fun, you can play with toys. You get to go to sleep"

"Its fun, they keep you safe, they have an Xbox, tape on the ground, feed you, have good bedtimes"

"The games"

"I like you"

"Because I always happy"

"I like Kids Kottage!"

"Having lots of toys"

"Everything"

"That people are kind and play with us"

"The staff is very super nice and provided us with the stuff we needed"

"I like the food, I love the staff here and I loved the crafts we did"

"I like this place cause a lot of toys here"



Board of

Directors

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Rajesh Ramakrishnan

Mysteeq

Vice Chair

Dan Peskett

Swainson Miki Peskett LLP

Secretary/Treasurer

Ken Jacques

COAC, Canada One Auto Group



Directors

Malkit Atwal

Field Law

Sheldon Cardinal

Indigenous Services

Rod Wales

Ledcor Contractors Ltd.

Troy Chalifoux

Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada

Christina Kaumeyer

RBC Wealth Management

Rosanna Saccomani

Provincial Court Judge

Michelle Plouffe

MacEwan University

Maryna Korchagina

Assistant Deputy Minister

Preventative Community Services

Ministry of Community and Social
Services

Government of Alberta

Mohammad Yahyaei-Moayyed

Entuitive Corporation

David St. Arnault

CHVBV Registered Psychologist

PARTNERSHIPS MADE

We often get asked the question,

“How do you fix the crisis in just 72 hours?”

And the simple answer is, we don't. That's because the journey with our families stretches far beyond 72 hours. After a family initially reaches out to our crisis line, our follow up workers work to connect families with resources that can further assist them on their journey to a stronger and more resilient future. While the Kids Kottage team cares for children to protect them from crisis situations, we also continue to walk alongside families to ensure they have the support they need to care for their children. We partner with a number of amazing organizations to make that possible, and we continue to follow up with families after they have used our services.

EARTH ANGELS AND PARTNERS



Our partners within the community:

- Today Centre
- Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW)
- Catholic Social Services 2nd Stage Shelter
- Catholic Social Services, Immigration and Settlement Services
- KARA Community Resources Centre
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for New Comers (North Side)
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for New Comers (South Side)
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for New Comers (West Side)
- Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre
- Alberta Health Services (North Side)
- Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
- Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton
- Pride Centre of Edmonton
- Family Futures Resource Network
- Amity House Dickinsfield
- Red Road Healing Society
- Oliver Centre
- Terra Centre
- Bissel Centre
- ABC Head Start Society
- E4C
- Edmonton John Howard Society
- The Canadian Native Friendship Centre
- Multicultural Health Brokers
- YMCA Welcome Village
- Employabilities
- Boyle Street Community Services
- Canadian International Immigrant & Refugee Support Association (CIIRSA)
- The Family Centre
- The Salvation Army
- West View Primary Care (Spruce Grove)
- YWCA Edmonton
- Caregiver Alberta
- Elves FSCD Saturday Respite program
- Edmonton Food Bank
- Action for Healthy Communities
- IFSSA (Islamic Family Social Service Association)
- Candora Society
- YMCA of Northern Alberta
- PCN (PRIMARY CARE NETWORK in Oliva and Abottsfeld)
- Adaptabilities
- ASSIST Community Services
- Native Counselling Services of Alberta
- CEASE (Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation) Edmonton
- Ben Calf Robe Society
- LIT (Lives in Transition)



ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION & MISSION

Kids Kottage Foundation is Edmonton and area's only crisis prevention and intervention shelter for infants and children.

When a family is under toxic levels of stress, whether it be from homelessness, the effects of poverty, mental or physical health barriers, abuse, or whatever the case – so are the children – they are the hidden victims.

Our mission is to ensure every infant and child is kept safe, and their families are provided with the resources they need to build a strong and resilient future. We operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year ensuring children's basic needs are met, and connecting their caregivers with the resources they need.

UNITED NATIONS RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

ALL CHILDREN HAVE INHERENT VALUE AS INDIVIDUALS AND ARE RECOGNIZED TO HAVE SPECIFIC RIGHTS, ESTABLISHED UNDER THE 1989 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. KIDS KOTTAGE FOUNDATION RESPECTS AND UPHOLDS THESE SPECIFIC AND INHERENT RIGHTS.



Want to keep up with what we're doing?

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