

KIDS KOTTAGE FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



Kids Kottage Foundation would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territories of the Indigenous people of the Treaty 6 region and the Metis Settlements and Metis 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.



OUR MISSION

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.

OUR VISION

Safe Children, Strong Families

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A WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

I am pleased to share the Annual Report of Kids Kottage Foundation for 2022/23. It has been an exciting and successful year for us as we continue to work towards our mission of protecting and supporting infants and children in crisis.

I am pleased to report that with the generous support of our donors, partners, and volunteers, we have significantly impacted the lives of vulnerable children and their families. Our programs, which include 24/7 Crisis Line, Crisis Nursery, and Follow-up support, have served hundreds of families in the Edmonton region.

During the past year, we have successfully raised funds through various initiatives, including our breakfast fundraiser, annual Radiothon and other third-party community events.

Furthermore, we have made significant progress towards our strategic goals, including improving our organizational sustainability and capacity, enhancing our volunteer engagement, and increasing awareness of our programs and services in the community.

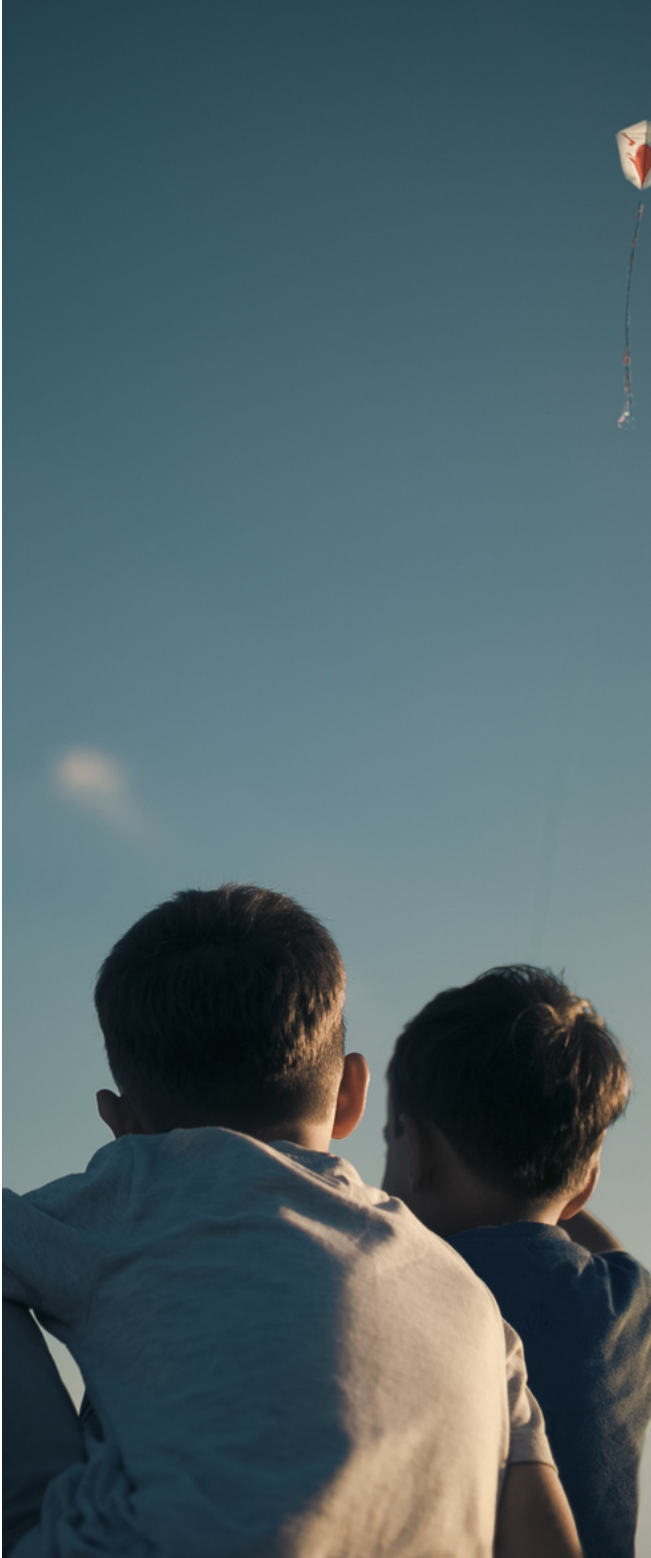
None of this would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our team members, volunteers, and board members. I want to thank them for their hard work and tireless efforts supporting our mission.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate our commitment to protecting and supporting vulnerable children and their families in our community. We are proud of our accomplishments and remain steadfast in our commitment to create a brighter future for those in need.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working together in the coming year.



RAJESH RAMAKRISHNAN
BOARD CHAIRPERSON



A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of Kids Kottage Foundation, I am delighted to share our Annual Report for 2022/23. It is with immense gratitude that we thank our community, donors, and volunteers for their support. We proudly report that Kids Kottage Foundation continued providing vital services to our community's vulnerable infants, children, and families throughout the year.

Our dedicated team and volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure we could meet the growing demand for our services, and we are grateful for their hard work and commitment. We want to extend a special thank you to the Government of Alberta and the City of Edmonton for their ongoing support. Their contributions have enabled us to continue our mission of providing safe and nurturing care to vulnerable children in our community. Their continued support is invaluable and allows us to make a significant difference in the lives of those who need it the most.

In light of the current circumstances, characterized by various concerns such as affordability, wildfires, the Ukrainian war, rising inflation, homelessness, poverty, an economic crisis, political changes, and personal experiences of toxic stress and crisis within one's own family, the question arises: Where do we go from here? Amidst these challenging times, solace lies in the power of hope. Hope becomes a crucial psychological construct, offering optimism for a brighter tomorrow. Through hope, we yearn for improved economic conditions, aspire to build a resilient future and envision a childhood filled with joy and promise. The psychology of hope emphasizes the essential role of a compassionate and dedicated team in caring for vulnerable infants and children, ensuring their well-being and facilitating their path towards a positive future.

With the power of hope and the unwavering support of our community, we will continue to impact the lives of vulnerable infants, children and families. We look forward to the journey ahead, knowing that we can create a better tomorrow for all with hope as our compass. Thank you once again for your incredible support and belief in our mission.

J. Janine Fraser

JANINE FRASER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





FUND DEVELOPMENT

Kids Kottage Foundation has had an exciting year in fund development. Following a difficult few years through COVID-19 and its effects on our Foundation, we have been able to continue in our fund development program as we look towards financial sustainability and stability.

Our fundraising efforts encompassed various activities and events to engage our supporters and spread awareness about our crucial work. We organized successful fundraising events, such as the annual Radiothon, where our dedicated donors and partners came together to contribute toward the well-being of vulnerable infants and children. In addition, we launched online campaigns and social media drives, leveraging the power of digital platforms to reach a wider audience and inspire individuals to make a difference.

Volunteers were welcomed back in 2022/23, and a complete volunteer program was established. An increased focus on communications allowed Kids Kottage Foundation to ensure those in need know how to access services.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to sustaining our fundraising efforts and forging new partnerships to expand our reach and impact even more lives. With your continued support, we can provide a safe haven for children in need and empower them to overcome adversity, one step at a time.

Here are a few significant highlights from the past year:

Kids Kottage Breakfast: On October 6, 2022, Kids Kottage was pleased to host a return of the Breakfast event. Held at the Westin Hotel in downtown Edmonton, the Breakfast was well attended by over 100 special guests and raised funds and awareness of Kids Kottage in the community.

Radiothon: Kids Kottage Foundation Annual Radiothon 2022 marked the 29th year of this signature fundraising event. Over \$130,000 was raised during the Radiothon hosted on Shine FM.

Numerous donor organizations and individuals showed up to answer phones, issue matching gift challenges, and help raise funds for infants, children and families in crisis.

Third-Party Events: Kids Kottage Foundation partnered with enthusiastic individuals and organizations throughout the year to host various third-party events. These events were not only successful in raising funds but also created a sense of excitement and joy within our community.

From charity walks to Golf Tournaments and a very successful Curling Bonspiel fundraiser, each event brought together people of all ages, showcasing our supporters' incredible spirit and fun-loving nature. We are grateful for the unwavering enthusiasm displayed by our event hosts and attendees, making these events truly memorable and enjoyable experiences for everyone involved.

73
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS



1442
TOTAL HOURS



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Kids Kottage Foundation operates a Crisis Nursery for infants and children. In 2022/23, we received 1916 crisis calls from caregivers and parents.

Crisis Nursery, a 12-bed crisis prevention and intervention shelter, provides temporary emergency care for infants and children from newborn to 10 years without any fee charged to families for our services. When parents, caregivers or guardians are in crisis, we are committed to providing a safe shelter to their little ones and strengthening families by connecting them to community resources and setting goals that promote resilience and self-sufficiency.

Kids Kottage Follow-Up Support program is an integral part of our service. It provides continuity of care to caregivers as a human bridge connecting them with various community resources as needed depending on their unique crises as each family comes to our Crisis Nursery with their circumstances.

For caregivers, referrals are made for housing, food security programs, parenting classes, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence prevention, employment assistance, clothing, medical care, etc.

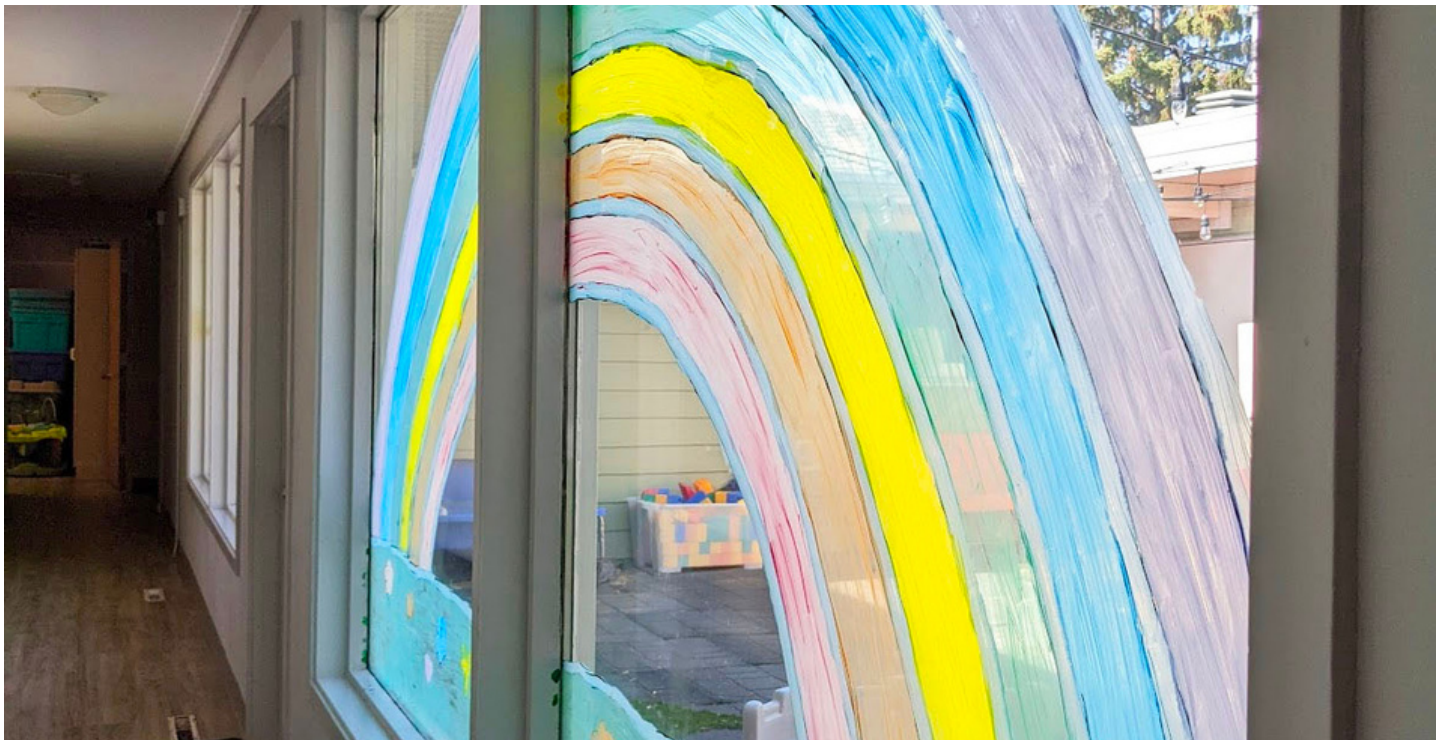
During the past year, 1462 children from newborn to 10 years were supported via Crisis Line while 575 were admitted to our Crisis Nursery.

575

CHILDREN WERE
KEPT SAFE

74%

INCREASE IN
CRISIS CALLS



ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACES)

Children experiencing toxic stress over prolonged periods, including trauma exposure, household challenges, and parental mental health issues, experience Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). These experiences may present themselves as stressors such as exposure to family violence, childhood abuse (physical, emotional, sexual), poverty, homelessness, and/or exposed to addiction. These experiences have lasting impacts on a child and may impede the healthy development of a child's brain structure and functioning, social-emotional regulation, and attachment.

Research has shown that this has typically been true for already marginalized people. This year, parent surveys indicate that most families have experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experience; and those experiencing poverty and homelessness have higher Adverse Childhood Experience scores. These concerns are critical to why Kids Kottage Foundation exists and works to meet its mandate of keeping children safe.

With this knowledge and the fact that these experiences without support can turn into a cycle of intergenerational trauma, Kids Kottage Foundation uses a trauma-informed, child-centered approach to work collaboratively alongside caregivers and families to reach their fullest potential and encourage families to discover their intrinsic resilience equipping families to be able to find long-lasting solutions for their crises and offering follow-up support to prevent crises from escalating and recurring.

Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and Looksee Screening

Crisis Nursery team work closely with caregivers for development screenings of children. Screening children is an effective way to assess developmental age. The trained team uses Looksee and ASQ-3, and ASQ: SE-2 tools to address concerns in various developmental areas and celebrates children's milestones in crisis. This allows for quick intervention and support for caregivers and children.

100%

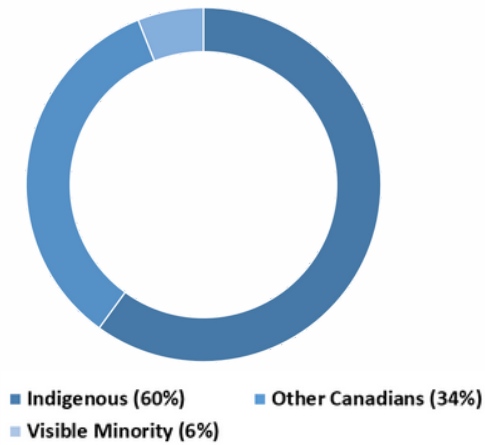
families who came to Crisis Nursery have experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experience as indicated in caregivers survey.

1916

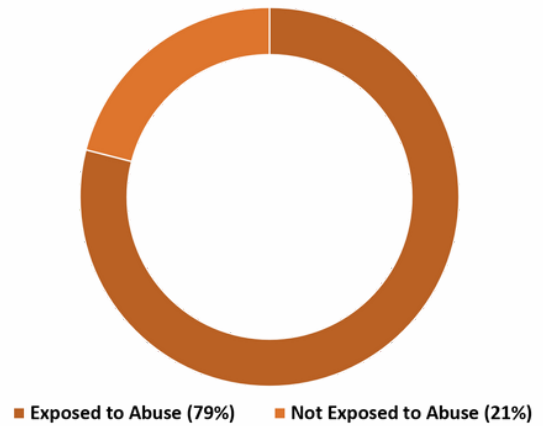
Crisis calls were received from parents and caregivers.

IN KIDS KOTTAGE

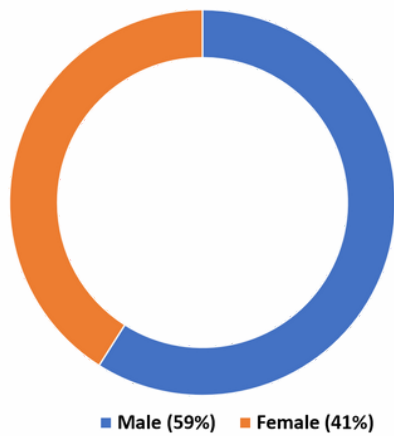
Caregivers Self-identified as:



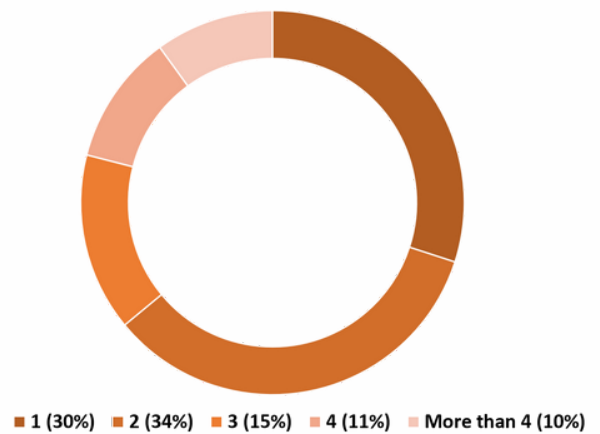
History of the Child:



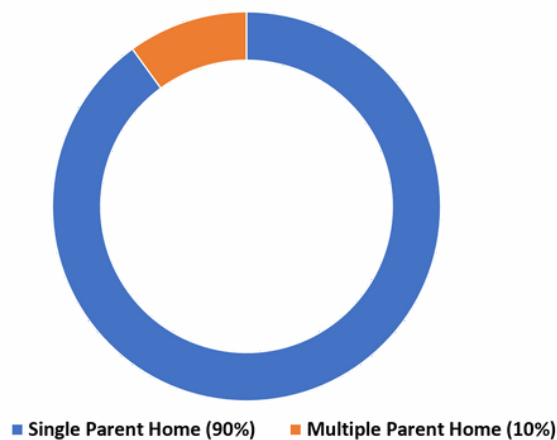
Gender of the Child:



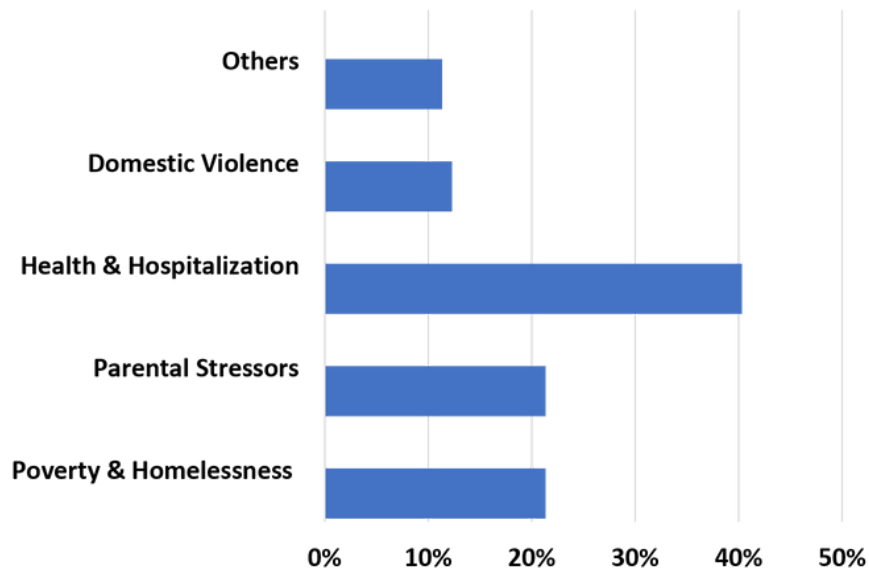
Number of Children per Household:



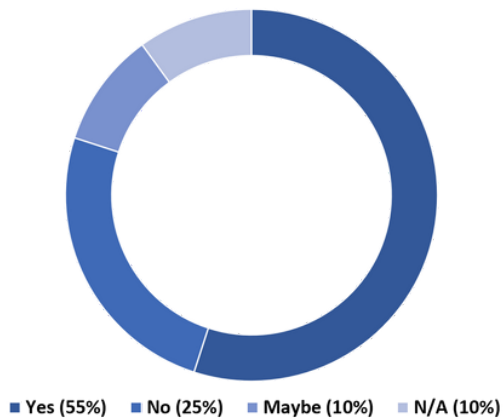
Family Structure of Caregivers:



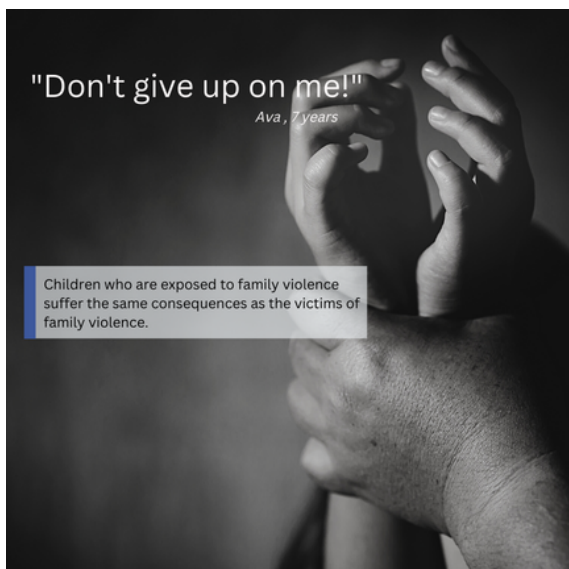
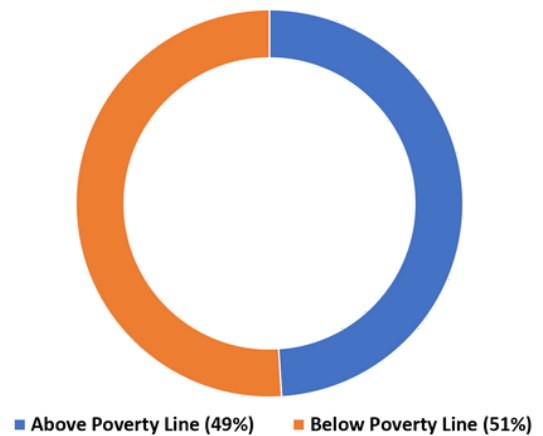
Reasons for Child Admissions:



Have we able to support you enough to cope up with the crisis situation involving the child?



Economic Status of Household:



HIGHLIGHTS



SUCCESS STORIES

Kids Kottage provided crucial support to a single dad who needed back surgery but had no one to care for his child during the procedure. Dad would have had to cancel his surgery with no other options available. The Crisis Nursery admitted the child and allowed Dad to undergo surgery. After the surgery, the child was admitted again so Dad could rest his back properly.

A single mom from Yellowknife needed surgery in Edmonton but had no family or support here. She called our crisis line and was able to admit her 9-month-old baby to the Crisis Nursery. Mom had a successful surgery and was grateful to Kids Kottage for caring for her baby during this difficult time.

A single mother with three children under the age of 10, two with health concerns, lacked positive support in the community. This family had previously accessed the Crisis Nursery services during similar crises. Through the Follow-Up program, the Crisis Nursery offered the mother two monthly respite spaces to recharge and prevent further crises. This allowed the mother to focus on connecting with resources, including Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) services, and she is now awaiting her contract to be finalized. Our organization empowers families to find their solutions and reach their goals.



Children Share Their Thoughts



I liked Uno

I don't like the babies crying

I had a good stay

Food taste yummy!

I got 2 stuffies

I'm not coming here tomorrow but I would come here again

I missed mommy

I like it here!

I liked all the toys except for the doll house

We played all day

I like the people who work here

I wish I could stay here forever

The spaghetti was really really good!

We played good games

My bed was comfortable

I had to take points off because there were a lot of babies



Caregivers Testimonials



“There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in.

- Desmond Tutu



Volunteer Testimonials

“

The mission and vision of Kids Kottage's early intervention service drew me to volunteer. I'm passionate about supporting kids in crisis and taking responsibility for their future. I appreciate the aspect of caring for infants and children for up to 72 hours. The staff's kindness and support in all childcare programs make me feel like part of Kids Kottage family. Kids Kottage Foundation is an exceptional place for infants in crisis prevention, with friendly staff treating children like family, fulfilling their needs, and treating them well.

- Filmon Gebrekidan

What interested me in Kids Kottage Foundation was the opportunity to work with children. After reading all the information on the website, I knew it would be a perfect fit for me. As someone who didn't have the perfect childhood, I was drawn to the organization's mission to provide shelter for children in need. The experience has been amazing, and I have grown to love every child that walks through the door. The staff is welcoming, and the environment is loving and fun. It brings me happiness to spend time with these children and positively influence their lives. Kids Kottage Foundation is the only organization of its kind in Edmonton, and I believe more parents should know about the amazing services they provide to families. Whether for work experience hours or just for fun, volunteering at Kids Kottage Foundation is one of the most rewarding experiences, and I highly recommend it to anyone.

- Elizabeth Ramjohn



Team - Testimonials

“As a Kids Kottage Foundation team member, I've found it incredibly fulfilling to work with families. In my current role, I've been inspired by the resilience and strength demonstrated by our families, and it's been a privilege to support them as they navigate their challenges. Through collaborative efforts, we identify gaps in accessing services, build on existing skills, and connect families with external resources. As I equip families with resources, they empower themselves to find their path forward.

- Follow-up Worker

I love working at Kids Kottage, and this is my dream job. I am happy with my job as an Intake Worker as we can support children and their families in crisis. What I love about my job is that we can provide children with a safe and nurturing environment while their parents or caregivers work on mitigating or resolving their crises. I love the people I work with. We have a good work culture and a good working environment. My co-workers and supervisors are all kind, compassionate, supportive, and considerate. We value teamwork, supporting one another, and building trusting relationships.

- Intake Worker

I have been with Kids Kottage for over 13 years and have worked my way up to my current role as Team Lead. Working with children brings me great joy and satisfaction, as I can help them navigate their big emotions and provide a caring presence in their lives. I also enjoy advocating for them and creating fun experiences. It's rewarding to know that the work I do is important in supporting these little ones.

- Team Lead

As a long-time employee of the Kids Kottage Foundation, I have experienced many changes happening at the Crisis Nursery. The staff work together to ensure the children are cared for physically and emotionally. This means lots of fun times doing crafts or playing outside. It also means wiping tears and/or dealing with meltdowns. But most of all, it means plenty of hugs and cuddle times, meeting children at their levels, which makes the heart happy.

- Childcare Team

As the Intake Worker at Kids Kottage, I value building relationships with our clients and being their first point of contact. Providing resources and support to caregivers who trust us with their children's safety is fulfilling. I feel privileged to be part of an organization that offers a secure environment, allowing caregivers to focus on their goals without worrying about their children's well-being.

- Intake Worker

I enjoy the challenge of meeting and exceeding each child's daily needs. There's always something new to look forward to, and I genuinely enjoy coming to work each day.

- Childcare Team



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Throughout 2022-2023, Kids Kottage Foundation remained committed to creating secure environments for children and building resilient families within our community. We express our sincere gratitude to the City of Edmonton for its funding support, allowing us to maintain our essential services for vulnerable children and families in our community.

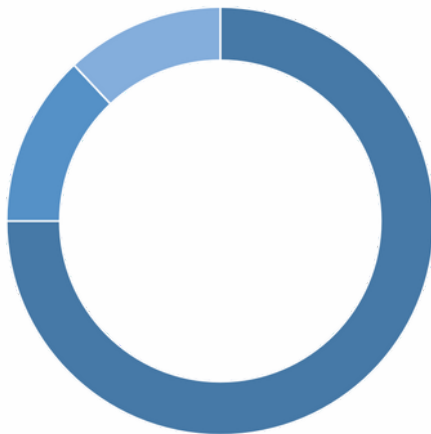
We also saw increased community donations, which helped us expand our programs and services. However, despite these efforts, we faced operational losses this year due to rising costs and the ongoing impact of the pandemic. Looking ahead, we remain hopeful and committed to creating safe environments for children and building resilient families.

We are actively seeking additional funding and corporate partners to help us achieve our goals and provide critical support to those who need it the most.

We thank all our supporters for their ongoing dedication to our cause and look forward to a brighter future for the children and families we serve. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families in our community.

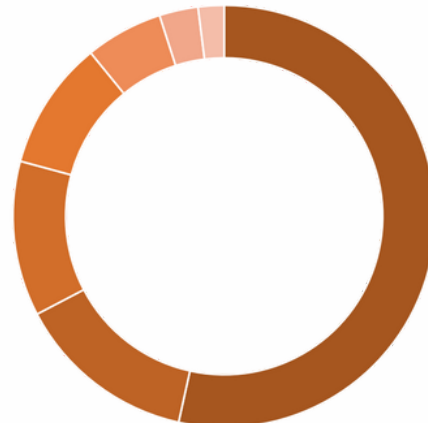
FINANCIALS

EXPENDITURES:



- Program Expenses (75%)
- Fundraising Expenses (12.5%)
- Administrative Costs (12.5%)

REVENUE:



- Provincial Funding (54%)
- Municipal Funding (14%)
- Donor Support (12%)
- Corporate Funding (10%)
- Foundation Funding (6%)
- Third Party Events (3%)
- Investments (2%)

CORPORATE PARTNERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our corporate partners for your incredible kindness and unwavering support over the past year. Your partnership has been instrumental in our mission to provide safe space to vulnerable infants and children. Your generosity has made a significant difference in the lives of those who needed it the most, and we are deeply grateful for your contributions.

As we embark on a new year, we are excited to continue our collaboration and build upon the progress we have made together. Your continued commitment and dedication inspires us. The challenges we face may be significant, but we are confident we can overcome them together. Our partnership brings financial support, expertise, resources, and networks that are invaluable in helping us expand our reach and effectiveness. We are optimistic as we look forward to the year ahead.

With your continued kindness and support, we are confident that we can transform the lives of even more children, helping them grow, thrive, and reach their full potential.



PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

- Aboriginal Head Start
- Alberta Works
- Access 24/7
- Adaptabilities
- AHVNA (Alberta Home Visitation Network Association)
- Autism Edmonton
- Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
- Bissell Centre
- Boys and Girls Club / Big Brothers and Big Sisters Club
- Boyle Street Services
- CASA Mental Health
- Children Youth and Families Addiction Mental Health Mobile Response Team and Intake
- Christmas Bureau
- Consolidated Credit
- Credit Counselling Society
- Donate a-ride Program
- E4C Early Learning Children's Programs
- Edmonton Food Bank
- The Family Centre
- Family Solutions Group
- Glow Edmonton
- Goodwill
- HIV Edmonton
- Hockey Helps the Homeless
- Homeward Trust
- Islamic Family and Social Services Association
- Inspired Minds
- Jasper Place Family Resource Centre
- John Howard Society
- Kara Centre
- Leisure Access Program
- Melcor YMCA Housing
- Money Mentors
- Montrose Medical Clinic
- Multicultural Health Brokers
- Mustard Seed
- Native Counselling Services
- Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre
- RAC Rapid Access Counselling
- Right at Home Housing
- SAGE Seniors Centre
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul Edmonton
- Sports Central
- Terra Centre
- Today Family Violence Centre
- WECAN Food Basket Society
- World Floor Coverings
- YMCA
- Health for 2
- Boyle Street Community Services



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.



**Thank you for
your support!**

If you would like to support us, you can visit our website or donate online at:

www.kidskottage.org

Charity Registration Number: 132071135RR0001

Follow us on our socials!



@kidskottageyeg