

Kids Kottage Foundation



Annual Report 2023-2024



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

Dear Friends,

This past year at Kids Kottage has been one of strength, growth, and care. We've helped more families through tough times, thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors, community partners and the support of people like you. Your belief in our work keeps us moving forward.

At its core, Kids Kottage is about providing hope—a safe haven in moments of crisis, and a pathway toward healing and stability. Every child who comes through our doors is met with compassion, care, and the assurance that they are not alone.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to express our deepest appreciation for your continued belief in our mission. Together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate community—one child at a time.

With gratitude,

Sheldon Cardinal

Chairperson, Board of Directors
Kids Kottage Foundation





A Word From the Interim Executive Directors

To Our Kids Kottage Family,

This year has been a time of meaningful change and continued dedication at Kids Kottage Foundation. As Interim Co-Executive Directors, we have been honoured to support the important work happening every day to protect children and strengthen families in crisis.

In 2023–24, we’ve seen firsthand the difference Kids Kottage makes—how a safe space, a listening ear, and a caring team can change the course of a child’s life. We’ve also seen how deeply our community cares. Your support, encouragement, and belief in our mission continue to inspire us.

We are incredibly proud of our team—the staff, volunteers, and partners—who show up with compassion and determination, no matter the challenge. And we’re proud of every family that has walked through our doors with courage and hope.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to growing stronger, reaching further, and doing everything we can to help children thrive.

With heartfelt thanks,

Lori Reiter & Pam Miller

Interim Co-Executive Directors
Kids Kottage Foundation





Program Highlights

- A **wage grid** was established to ensure fair and equitable compensation across all staff roles.
- **Job descriptions** and performance appraisal processes were updated to better reflect current responsibilities and support staff development.
- A new **client database system** was developed and launched to securely collect and store client data, while also reducing staff processing time.
- **Administrative duties** were reviewed and redistributed among staff to improve workflow and increase efficiency.
- In addition to many corporate partners and individual donors and supports, KKF welcomed **Minister Searle Turton**, who toured the facility and met with senior management and board representatives.
- **Bed usage** at the Crisis Nursery remained consistently high throughout the year.
- The Crisis Nursery experienced a **high turn-away rate** due to growing demand and limited capacity.
- The **Follow-Up Program** continued to evolve, placing increased focus on home visitations to better support families after their stay.
- The **administration office** received a refresh, including new paint, minor renovations, and reorganization to enhance the space for both staff and visitors.

At Kids Kottage...

12 

We have 12 overnight shelter beds, 365 days a year

481 

Admitted 481 children with majority staying 72 hours or longer

2000 

Answered over 2000 calls to our crisis line

81% 

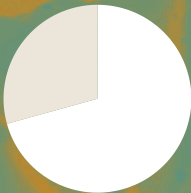
81% of caregivers are living below the poverty line

23% 

23% of caregivers are living in homelessness

83% 

83% of caregivers who use Kids Kottage services are single caregivers



Had to turn away 70.72% of calls for admission we received due to lack of space/funding

75% 

75% of children in our care have been exposed to violence or abuse



Provided support for caregivers with strategies & resources



...and gave out countless hugs and smiles

What would have happened if we were not here to admit your children?

April 2023

"I would ask someone to come stay over."

"Get assistance with worker"

"stressful life"

"My borderline was kicking in and not good to be alone with."

May 2023

"I wouldn't finish chores at home"

"Burntout"

"lose them to children services"

"my stress level would of been to much"

"Probably Child Services took my kids"

"I wouldnt have anywhere to stay with her for the night"

June 2023

"They'd stay with me"

"melt down"

"I might have committed suicide"

"More exhaustion"

"we would of had no where to stay"

"My parenting would have continued to suffer"

"Been stressful to both of us"

July 2023

"Im not sure I would still have them"

"I don't know what I would do"

"More exhaustion"

"Grandma could take them"

August 2023

"Left in a bad position"

"Continue to talked with workers"

"I would be more stressed out"

"Continue to be stressed"

"Pushed through"

"Did my best, keep busy."

"Contact friends/family"

"Be under a lot of stress"

"Unsafe situation, traumatized by the break ins"

"More stressed"

September 2023

"I would've had to just bring them with me out of the city"

"Not sure"

"My house would be kind of a mess"

"taking my Kids"

"Disaster"

"lose my mind"

"I wouldnt have got much packing done"

"Stress and more bites"

"I would've figured it out somehow."

"I would be overwhelmed"

October 2023

"Just took him with me"

"stress"

"I wouldnt have been able to finish tasks"

"I would've reached burnout and had short patience"

"We would have to find a shelter maybe"

"I would have had a different time preparing for inspections"

"I would have had to open a file."

"I would of asked for family or friend to help"

November 2023

"I would be very depressed & stressed"

"Apprehension"

"I would struggle"

"they would have seen a stressful situation"

"I would've just figured it out"

"Hard to find a place"

"get too stressed"

"I would have had a mental Breakdown"

December 2023

"it would of been stressful"

"I'd have a Breakdown"

"I would be more stressed out"

"Nothing"

"Not sure"

"I would have had trouble getting stuff done"

"I would be at home with them waiting for room"

"unable to have successful surgery"

"No idea"

January 2024

"they would not have a safe place to stay"

"Harder to find housing"

"Overwhelmed, stressed"

"More stressed"

"Divorce"

"I really dont know"

February 2024

"I would still have a Warrant"

"More stress"

"Exhaustion"

"a lot of yelling"

"I would have kept reaching out to people."

"missed appointment"

"Would have overworked my self till I had no energy"

"They stay with me"

"My stress has become overwhelming while I feel disappointed that agencys didnt help me as they should have or could have, it allowed me to get done much needed calls, paperwork"

March 2024

"Tired. Stress. No resolution"

"Possbile Apprehension"

"Would not be able to care for properly"

"probably mental breakdown"

"I wouldnt have been able to have my procedure"

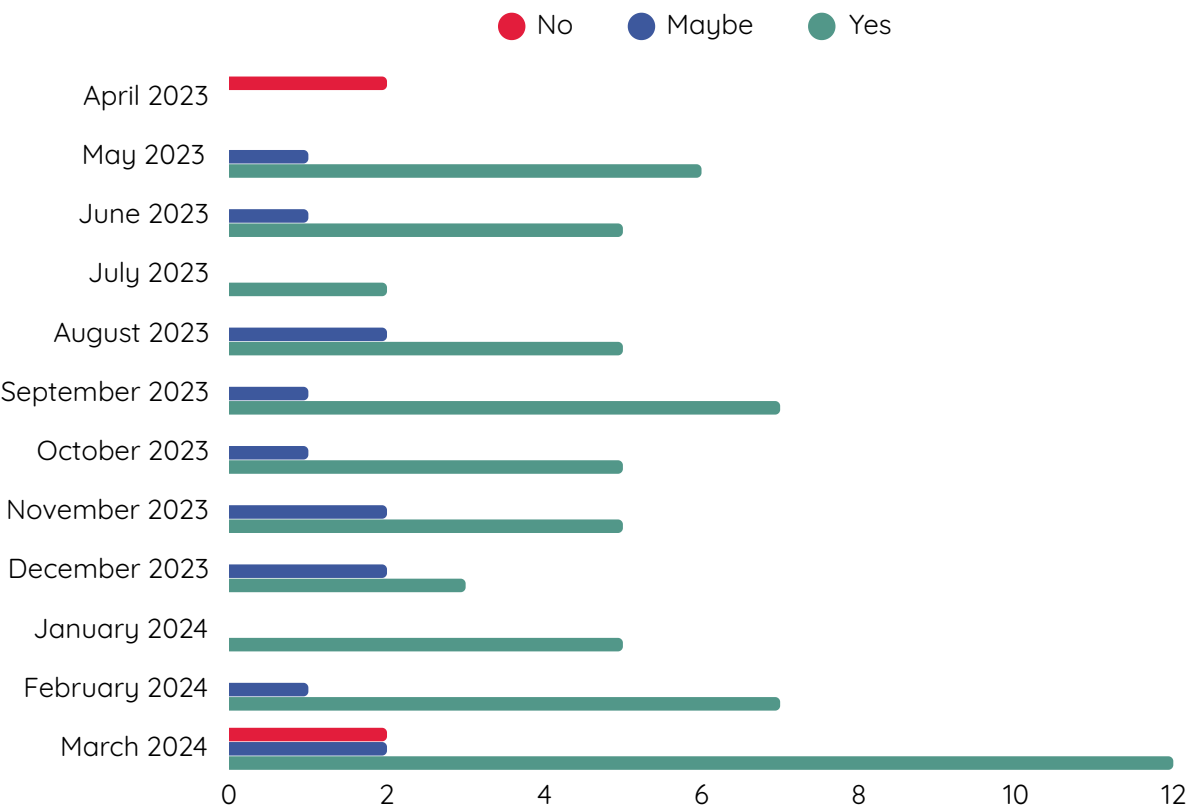
"Overflow of my stresses on to kids"

"We wouldnt have eaten properly this week"

"I felt on the verge of mental breakdown"

"stress, anxiety, lack of care to self & child"

Have we prevented your children from foster care, or have we assisted you from needing the services of Children’s Services?



Volunteer Testimonials

“As a child care volunteer for 2 years, I have gained many life learning experiences and memories to last me a lifetime! During my time as a volunteer, I learned what it means to have patience, get messy, get on your hands and knees to play, read stories, rub backs, wipe away tears, laugh, give hugs, and to give lots of love and care”

“Being only 16 when I started volunteering, I was able to learn many things about life and myself as a person and how I wanted to be, from interaction with the children, staff workers, and other volunteers. Now at 19, I look back while volunteering at Kids Kottage and think about the many good times that I had and was able to experience and how I was able to enjoy those precious moments. Every moment at Kids Kottage is truly a time to be cherished.”

Highlights





Fund Development

Kids Kottage Foundation has experienced an exciting year in fundraising, advancing towards financial stability and long-term sustainability. Our efforts spanned a range of activities and events aimed at engaging supporters and raising awareness about our critical mission and important work we do within Edmonton and area.

We orchestrated successful fundraising events, uniting committed donors and partners to support vulnerable infants, children, and their families. Among these events were the highly successful Kids Kottage gala and our annual Radiothon. This year marked our inaugural participation as a charitable recipient in Hockey Helps the Homeless, a national pro-am hockey tournament fundraiser.

Kids Kottage was also the grateful recipient this past year of the biennial casino fundraiser and support from the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation through the "Holiday Homestand" 50/50 raffle. Notably, the visit from Edmonton Oilers players Leon Draisatl and Darnell Nurse, along with their partners, added a special touch to the occasion.

Additionally, third party events such as our World Floorcoverings Curling Bonspiel and Inspired Minds Fun Run were triumphs, thanks to the enthusiastic support of our hosts and attendees, making these experiences memorable for all involved.

Internally, we've been dedicated to enhancing our systems, including our website, client relationship management programs, and payment processing systems, to ensure a more efficient and rewarding experience for stakeholders such as donors, corporate partners, and volunteers. Our focus also extends to securing grants to support the operations of our Crisis Line, Crisis Shelter, and Follow-Up programs, as well as funding for necessary updates to our shelter facilities.

Looking ahead, we've developed a comprehensive five-year strategic plan for our fund development program, emphasizing growth and the stabilization of funding to further our mission of aiding vulnerable children and families in crisis.

We are immensely thankful for the generosity displayed and support received.

What Does It Cost To Run Kids Kottage?

\$2.5 Million

It costs close to \$2,500,000 for one year to run Kids Kottage

55%



Approximately 55% of Kids Kottage budget is dependent on community donors

\$70



100 diaper changes costs approximately \$70

\$540



Formula for one month costs \$540

\$1,500



Food and preparation for one week costs \$1,500

We rely on the generosity of the community for donations of:

Staffing

Our largest cost to ensure safe care for children 24 hr/day 365 days/year

Facility Costs

Building renovations, certain maintenance costs, cleaning

Personal Items

We need over 1200 outfits for children each year

Food & Kitchen

Food costs, baby formula, kitchen operations & cook

Room & Linens

Beds, linens & cribs

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
- Addiction and Mental Health Crisis and Stabilization Team for Children and Youth (CAST)
- AHVNA (Alberta Home Visitation Network Association)
- Autism Edmonton
- Ben Calf Robe Society
- Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
- Bissell Centre
- Boyle Street Community Services
- Canadian Volunteers United in Action (CANAVUA)
- CASA Mental Health
- Child Care Connect
- Child Health Behavior Clinic (Misericordia)
- Christmas Bureau
- CIVIDA
- Consolidated Credit
- Counselling for All
- Credit Counselling Society
- Deep Sea Psychology
- E4C Early Learning Children's Programs
- Edmonton Food Bank
- Edmonton Transit Services
- Elves Special Needs Society
- The Family Centre
- Family Solutions Group
- FIND Edmonton
- Firefly Counselling
- Glow Edmonton
- Goodwill
- Health for Two
- HIV Edmonton
- Hockey Helps the Homeless
- Homeward Trust
- Hope Mission
- Indigenous Psychological Services
- Inspired Minds
- Islamic Family and Social Services Association
- Jasper Place Family Resource Centre
- John Howard Society
- Kara Centre
- Leduc Regional Housing Foundation
- Leisure Access Program
- Metis Nation of Alberta/Metis Housing
- Millwoods United Church
- Money Mentors
- Montrose Medical Clinic
- Momentum Counselling
- Multicultural Health Brokers
- Mustard Seed
- Native Counselling Services
- NiGiNan Housing
- Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre
- Rapid Access Counselling (RAC)
- Right at Home Housing
- Saffron Centre
- SAGE Seniors Centre
- Safe Families
- SAiF Society
- Second Harvest
- Selections Career Support Services
- Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE)
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul Edmonton
- Sports Central
- Terra Centre
- Today Family Violence Centre
- Uncles and Aunts at Large
- WECAN Food Basket Society
- World Floorcoverings
- YMCA
- Zebra Centre

Thank You For Your Support!



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.

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