

Kids Kottage Foundation

Annual Report 2024 - 2025



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.



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Our Mission

KKF is dedicated to keeping infants and children safe and families strong when they are in crisis.

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

Board Of Directors (2024-25)

**Lauren
Armstrong**
Board Chair

Associate Principal,
Navigator Limited

**Todd
Schirer**
Board Vice-Chair

Senior Financial Officer,
College of Registered
Nurses of Alberta

**Michael
Gunther**
Board Secretary

Deputy City Solicitor,
City of Edmonton

**Rae-Lee
Doll**
Board Treasurer

Partner,
RSM Canada

**Dan
Peskett**
Board Member

Partner,
Swainson Miki
Peskett LLP

**Rae
Thygesen**
Board Member

Communications Advisor,
LRT Expansion and Renewal,
City of Edmonton

**Rosanna
Saccomani**
Board Member

Provincial Court Judge,
Alberta Court of justice

**Dianne
McPhail**
Board Member

Human Resources Manager,
GroundTruth Exploration

**Ron
Hynes**
Board Member

Indigenous Relations
Manager, Mammoet

**Emma
Leegsma**
Board Member

Community Market Manager
royal Bank of Canada

**Olga
Pupneja**
Board Member

Climate Strategy,
Program Lead,
City of Edmonton

**Nicole
Wiebe**
Board Member

Lawyer &
Philanthropist



A Message From the Board Chair

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 fiscal year at Kids Kottage Foundation, I am filled with deep pride and gratitude. This year marked both challenge and progress—a time in which our commitment to protecting children and strengthening families remained unwavering.

A Year of Growth and Resilience

Throughout the year, Kids Kottage continued to serve as a safe haven for children in crisis. Our crisis nursery responded with urgency and compassion to families facing acute challenges such as homelessness, mental illness, and violence. By offering children a nurturing space and caregivers the support they need to rebuild, we helped families regain safety and stability.

We also expanded our support services—enhancing access to mental health care, culturally relevant resources, and parenting programs. This impact would not be possible without our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and partners whose efforts fuel our mission.

We were also pleased to welcome Ashley Brosda as our new Executive Director this past year. Ashley brings strategic leadership, deep community understanding, and a bold vision for the future of child and family wellbeing in our region.

Looking to the Future

In 2025, we proudly celebrate the 30th anniversary of Kids Kottage Foundation. This milestone offers us a powerful moment to reflect on the thousands of lives touched and to reaffirm our commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect through early intervention and wraparound care.

The Board of Directors has been actively focused on governance renewal, policy modernization, and strategic planning. We also initiated a long-term capital planning process to ensure our facility evolves to meet emerging needs.

With Gratitude

To our leadership team and staff, thank you for your tireless commitment. To my fellow board members, your dedication and insight continue to guide our mission forward. To our donors, funders, and community partners—your support gives us the ability to say “yes” to a child in crisis, and “yes” to a family in need of hope.

Together, as we celebrate three decades of service and look ahead, we remain focused on a clear vision: that every child deserves safety, and every family deserves the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,

Lauren Armstrong
Board Chair, Kids Kottage Foundation



A Word From the Executive Director

As I reflect on my first months serving as Executive Director of Kids Kottage Foundation—stepping into this role in November 2024—I'm inspired by the foundation that has been built over the years, and by the team dedicated to this work. It is an honour to now lead an organization whose history is defined by compassion, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to children and families in crisis. I am equally excited by the path ahead—one that calls for courage, innovation, and collective action as we work to expand our reach and deepen our impact.

The upcoming year will be defined by both transformation and strategic momentum. Together with our Board of Directors and leadership team, we have sharpened our focus around three critical priorities: sustainable expansion, operational and program excellence, and strong governance and oversight. These pillars are not just ambitions—they are our compass and will guide the decisions we make to provide greater impact for the community and the families we serve.

Sustainable Expansion

With an urgent and growing need for crisis nursery services in Edmonton and across Alberta, we are carefully planning how to expand our reach without compromising the safety, quality, or integrity of our care. Expansion decisions are grounded in both data and our deep understanding of the complex realities faced by families in crisis.

Operational and Program Excellence

We are focusing on investing in our people, our programs, and our infrastructure to ensure that every child who walks through our door experiences compassionate, trauma-informed care. Whether it's refining service delivery models, improving staff training, or enhancing data collection for better impact measurement, our goal is to provide the highest standards of care and accountability.

Strong Governance and Oversight

Good governance is foundational to everything we do. Over the past several months, we've strengthened our internal systems, renewed our commitment to transparency, and are working to deepen our collaboration with stakeholders to ensure that we remain a trusted and resilient organization for years to come.

To all of you who make this work possible—our donors, volunteers, advocates, and community champions—thank you. Your generosity fuels our mission, and your belief in our vision sustains our hope.

With heartfelt thanks,

Ashley Brosda
Executive Director, Kids Kottage Foundation



Fund Development

It has been another impactful year at Kids Kottage Foundation and we are filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering support of our donors, community members, board of directors, dedicated staff, tireless volunteers, and our invaluable partner organizations. Your generosity and belief in our mission have made it possible to provide critical support to children in crisis and build a safer, healthier future for Edmonton's families. Each contribution—whether time, talent, or treasure—has been instrumental in strengthening our programs and expanding our reach.

Some of the key highlights and milestones from the past year:

- Huge strides were made in updating Kids Kottage systems to increase efficiency and prepare for growth. External focus included a Kids Kottage rebrand, new website and platform, and marketing and social media plan including implementation of a monthly e-newsletter. Internally, a focus on connecting systems was realized with new donor, financial and tracking systems and linking internal and external together.
- A refresh of both the shelter and administration buildings including replacing 90% of the shelter furniture, opening up space in the team lead office, adding safety windows to child spaces, and reworking storage for increased capacity and functionality was made possible thanks to the incredible support of many donors, businesses and community partners. An open house was held in January to thank all partners.
- “Power of Love” RSM and Martin Kerr partnership resulted in a concert in August and 2 Thanksgiving concerts raising more than \$40k to provide crucial funding for ongoing operations and the shelter refresh project.
- Our 30th Radiothon in partnership with Shine FM was held on December 5th and raised \$41k net
- Edmonton Oilers annual holiday community visits included a special visit for our children in care from Darnell Nurse & Connor Brown.
- Hockey Helps the Homeless event raised \$320k net to Kids Kottage and 2 other recipient charities.
- Additional events including a casino fundraiser and the annual World Floorcoverings curling bonspiel were held to support the work of Kids Kottage.



Stories from the Kottage...

From Uncertainty to Stability – A Mother's Journey Toward Hope

A single mother reached out to Kids Kottage in an ongoing state of crisis. She had no permanent housing and had been sleeping in her car or temporarily staying with friends for over six months. Compounding these challenges were significant mental health struggles, including persistent thoughts of hopelessness. She was the primary caregiver to her young daughter with unique developmental needs who required attentive, consistent supervision and care.

The uncertainty of their living situation, combined with caregiving demands and health issues, left her feeling overwhelmed and exhausted. Kids Kottage was able to care for her child while supporting her with accessing basic needs such as food, guidance on housing applications, access to temporary emergency accommodations, and support navigating developmental services for her daughter.

"I was really scared and didn't know where to turn. Knowing my daughter was safe and happy at Kids Kottage helped me breathe.

She was cared for like family, and I could tell she felt loved.

Thank you for protecting her and giving her joy when everything felt so hard."

1/4

of the children who
stayed at the Kottage
this past year were
experiencing
homelessness

Stories from the Kottage...

Fleeing Violence – A Safe Place

A mom and her children were staying in a shelter after fleeing domestic violence. With her children safely cared for at Kids Kottage Foundation, she was able to focus on making their transition to a new home as smooth as possible. She packed their belongings, moved everything from the shelter, retrieved what was left at their previous home, and settled into their new space, all with peace of mind knowing her children were safe.

"My children just loved their sleepover at Kids Kottage, they've been talking about how much fun they had every day since they were there..."

...I am so grateful for making them feel safe. They had so much fun opening up all of the gifts they were sent home with too."

5 nights

was the average length
of stay

Appx 65%

of the children we care
for are Indigenous

When Illness Strikes – A Family Finds Relief

One family, including two parents and their 21-month-old child were overwhelmed by serious health issues. The mother had recently undergone surgery, and the father was critically ill, leaving him unable to manage household tasks or care for their toddler.

The family was also facing food insecurity and increasing stress, making it impossible for them to cope without support.

"We've had so many hard days, but Kids Kottage gave us space to breathe. Our child was so well cared for, and we knew she was safe and happy."

It helped us get through the worst times. We couldn't have done it without this support."

594

children were **admitted**
for care in 2024-25

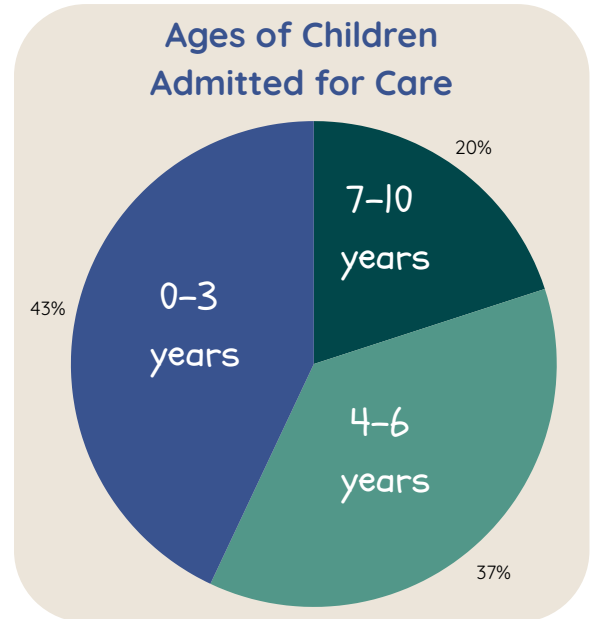
Stories from the Kottage...

A Father's Journey – Finding Strength Through Support

A single father, new to Canada and raising three children - one with additional developmental needs - was facing overwhelming challenges. Recently separated from a harmful relationship, he was struggling to meet his family's basic needs. There was little food at home, the children lacked clothing and school supplies, and their emotional and behavioral needs were becoming harder to manage.

"When I came here, I felt lost. I didn't know how to take care of everything on my own. But Kids Kottage gave me support, not just for my kids, but for me too. My children were happy, and I got help with food, clothes, and finding services.

It gave me strength to keep going."



A Young Mother's Path to Independence

At just 21 years old, a mom was raising three children under the age of four. She was newly separated from her partner and facing mental health concerns. She lacked food, essential items, and time to care for herself.

"I didn't have anyone to help me before. Kids Kottage made me feel like I wasn't alone. They looked after my kids so I could take care of myself for once. Now I'm getting help to learn new things and plan for my future. It means everything to me."

Every month – about 50 families

who call for help are not able to have their children cared for at the Kottage due to lack of available space

What Our Staff Say

"I just wanted to say how much I adore being part of the Kids Kottage family - it's like a warm hug on the tough days and a cheer squad on the good ones. I chose KKF because it radiates love, safety, and the kind of care every child deserves. I'm constantly inspired by the resilience of our kiddos and the magic our team creates together - it's hard not to keep coming back when your heart feels this full!"

- Shruthi

"I decided to work at Kids Kottage to make a difference in the lives of kids and to promote safe families. While working at Kids Kottage, I've been able to learn how to best care for children to help provide a safe and nurturing place for them when they need it most."

- Meghan



What Our Clients Say

"I really appreciated the compassion and understanding to help me feel supported."

"Thank you for having my children, loving and caring for them"

"...my child said 'Kids Kottage keeps me safe mom right?'"

"...words cannot express it enough how thankful I am with Kids Kottage"

"Without Kids Kottage there would have been no food or shelter for my kids"

"As a single mom with no family here in Canada, Kids Kottage has been a huge help to me and my daughter."

"More bed spaces would be beneficial please."
"More funding for more beds"

"Kids Kottage saved me and my child"



What our Volunteers Say

"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"



"Volunteering at kids Kottage has been a great experience for me. From my first day, I was welcomed with kindness and respect, which made me feel included right away. The team was always there to support and guide me, and I was amazing to see how much the children are cared for. As a newcomer to Canada, Kids Kottage feels more like a family to me than an organization. I'm really thankful to be part of such a kind and supportive place."

- Ira

"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



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.



Partner Organizations

- Aboriginal Head Start
- Addictions and Mental Health Crisis and Stabilization Team for Children and Youth (CAST)
- Alberta Works
- Access 24/7
- Adaptabilities
- 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
- Catholic Social Services
- Child Care Connect
- Child Health Behavior Clinic (Misericordia)
- Christmas Bureau
- CIVIDIA
- CMHA Edmonton
- 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
- Sisters Club
- Goodwill
- Health for 2
- HIV Edmonton
- Hockey Helps the Homeless
- Homeward Trust
- Hope Mission
- Indigenous Psychological Services
- Islamic Family and Social Services Association
- Inspired Minds
- Jasper Place Family Resource Centre
- John Howard Society
- Kara Centre
- Leduc Regional Housing Foundation
- Leisure Access Program
- McMan Youth, Family and Community Services Assoc.
- Metis Nation of Alberta/Metis Housing
- Millwoods United Church
- Momentum Counselling
- Money Mentors
- Montrose Medical Clinic
- Multicultural Health Brokers
- The Mustard Seed
- Native Counselling Services
- Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre
- Niginan Housing
- Pregnancy Pathways
- RAC Rapid Access Counselling
- Right at Home Housing
- Safe Families
- Saffron Centre
- SAGE Seniors Centre
- SAiF Society
- 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 Floor Coverings
- YMCA
- YWCA
- Zebra Centre



Statement of Operations

	2024-25	2023-24
REVENUES		
Province of Alberta	1,234,499	1,268,007
City of Edmonton	300,000	300,000
Fundraised Revenues	1,158,328	1,139,888
Other Revenues	107,167	131,580
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 2,799,994	\$ 2,839,475
EXPENSES		
Operations	2,389,424	2,299,390
Fundraising	289,213	261,811
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,678,637	\$ 2,561,201
Excess revenues over expenses	\$ 121,357	\$ 278,274



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