

KIDS KOTTAGE FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2025 - 2026



Between a child and crisis,
there's Kids Kottage.



At Kids Kottage Foundation, we choose to be champions for children caught up in circumstances they did not create.

We provide more than just a bed; we provide a sanctuary where a child's voice is the most important one in the room.

Our Purpose

To provide stability, shelter, and care to infants and children in times of crisis.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (AT MARCH 31, 2026)

Lauren Armstrong

Board Chair

VP of Corporate
Affairs,
Beacon AI Centers

Todd Schirer

Board Vice-Chair

Senior Financial Officer
& Executive Director,
CRNA

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Board Secretary

Deputy City Solicitor,
City of Edmonton

Rae-Lee Doll

Board Treasurer

Partner,
RSM Canada

Jenna Johannesen

Board Member

Co-Owner & Head of
Marketing,
Park Lighting &
Furniture; Cartwright
Lighting & Furniture

Rae Thygesen

Board Member

Communications Advisor,
City of Edmonton

Rosanna Saccomani

Legacy Board
Member

Provincial Court Judge,
Alberta Court of Justice

Dianne McPhail

Board Member

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Manager,
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Ron Hynes

Board Member

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Olga Pupneja

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Climate Strategy
Program Lead,
City of Edmonton

Candice Robertson- Shattler

Board Member

Founder & President
Homefire Consulting Ltd.

Natalie Pon

Board Member

Senior Manager,
Assurance; EY LLP

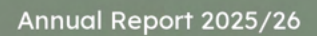


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Growth, connection, and community guide everything we do at Kids Kottage Foundation. As we look to the future and expand our capacity to care for families, we acknowledge that our work takes place within Treaty 6 Territory and the Métis Homelands. We recognize amiskwaciwâskahikan (ᐱᓄᓴᑦᐸᓂᓴᑦ / Edmonton) as a historic gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples. We extend our deep respect to the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis ancestors and citizens, including those within the Otipemisiwak Métis Government's North Saskatchewan River Territory, whose presence continues to enrich our community. We are thankful to live and work on this land, and we pledge to build our future with an open heart and a collaborative spirit.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Looking Forward with Purpose



This past year marked an important moment in the evolution of Kids Kottage Foundation.

As a Board, we focused on strengthening the foundations that allow the organization to care for children not only today, but well into the future. By renewing our bylaws, clarifying roles, and reinforcing strong governance practices, we worked to ensure Kids Kottage remains stable, trusted, and prepared for what lies ahead. While much of this work happens quietly, it is critical to protecting the mission and the children who rely on it.

Across Edmonton, the need for crisis care continues to grow. As we plan for the future, the Board has affirmed an unwavering commitment to provide trauma-informed, family-centred care where children can feel safe, comforted, and at home during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Growth, for us, is about extending that safety to more children while remaining true to our values.

The 2026-27 Strategic Plan gives shape to this direction. Grounded in sustainable growth and strong governance, it guides decisions so that the organization grows thoughtfully and responsibly, without ever compromising the quality of care children receive.

We know this vision can only be achieved through shared commitment. We are grateful to walk alongside dedicated staff, community partners, Indigenous partners, volunteers, and supporters who believe in the importance of protecting children in crisis. As a Board, we are committed to stewarding this organization with care and integrity, honouring the trust placed in us, and enabling Kids Kottage to be a place of safety and hope for any community member who needs it.

To our donors and supporters, thank you. Your generosity and belief in this work make it possible for Kids Kottage to remain a steady, compassionate presence for children and families when they need it most.

Lauren Armstrong
Board Chair, Kids Kottage Foundation



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This year was defined by preparation, progress, and possibility.

Across Kids Kottage, our team focused on strengthening the systems and practices needed to support both our current work and our future growth. From modernizing operations and financial systems to enhancing staff training and program foundations, we were intentional about building an organization ready to meet rising need without losing sight of the children at the heart of our mission.

Thanks to the dedication of our staff and supporters, we made meaningful gains. We've strengthened oversight and financial resilience, increased overall revenue, and successfully met accreditation standards. We also invested in our people by redesigning roles, improving onboarding and professional development, and reinforcing a values-driven practice framework across the organization.

At the same time, we looked ahead.

A new Strategic Plan provides a clear roadmap for the next phase of Kids Kottage's evolution. It affirms a future where safety and crisis care are available to more children while preserving the home-like, trauma-informed environment that makes Kids Kottage unique.

The 2026–27 Operations Plan translates our strategy into action. In the year ahead, our focus will be on strengthening funding stability, implementing scalable and secure technology, deepening program excellence, and expanding meaningful partnerships, particularly with government and Indigenous communities. These efforts are not standalone initiatives; they are interconnected efforts designed so that Kids Kottage remains resilient, responsive, and accountable as we grow.

Growth brings complexity, but it also brings opportunity to improve how we serve children, to contribute leadership within the child and family services system, and better meet the need for children experiencing crisis.

I am extremely grateful to our staff for their professionalism and care, to our Board for their leadership and trust, and to our donors and partners who make this work possible. Every improvement we make behind the scenes strengthens what matters most: safe nights, reliable care, and better outcomes for children and families.

The work ahead is important, and we are ready.

Ashley Brosda
Executive Director, Kids Kottage Foundation



REAL LIVES. REAL IMPACT.

A Haven after Crisis

A single mother called the crisis line after a fire forced her family out of their home. With three children in her care, minimal outside support, and no immediate place for them to safely stay, she needed help urgently while she worked to find temporary shelter and determine their next steps.

Kids Kottage was able to provide her children with a safe, comforting place to stay during this frightening and uncertain time. While her children were safe and cared for at the Kottage, the mother was able to secure a place for them to stay and begin stabilizing their situation after the sudden loss of their home.

766

child admissions for
shelter care in the
past year



Support in

1,291

crisis calls this
year



A Support in Chaos

A father of three reached out to Kids Kottage when he and his children were required to leave the hotel where they had been temporarily living. With no permanent address, no immediate housing options, and limited support to help care for his children, he was unsure where to turn next. Each of his children also had unique developmental needs, adding another layer of stress to an already overwhelming situation.

Kids Kottage was able to provide his children with a safe, consistent place to stay while he focused on finding stable housing for their family. With the time and support provided during his children's stay, he was later able to secure housing for himself and his children, helping move their family toward greater stability.



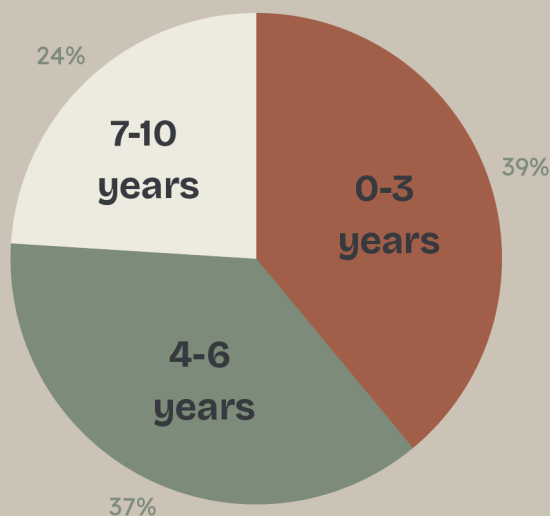
REAL LIVES. REAL IMPACT.

A Sanctuary in a Storm

A mother reached out to Kids Kottage after experiencing family violence in the home. During the incident, her infant was also put at risk, leaving the mother deeply concerned for her child's immediate safety. With access to her home compromised and the situation still unfolding, she knew she needed a safe place for her baby while she worked out a plan to protect her family.

Kids Kottage was able to provide safe, nurturing care for her infant while she focused on securing legal protection and making her home safe again. With additional time and support, she was able to take the necessary steps to stabilize her situation and return to a safer environment with her child.

**AGES OF CHILDREN
ADMITTED FOR CARE 2025/26**



A Partner in Difficulty

A mother called Kids Kottage while working hard to maintain her sobriety during an especially difficult time. Although she had not relapsed, she was experiencing strong cravings and recognized that she needed support before the situation escalated. At the same time, she and her partner had recently separated following ongoing conflict in the home.

With limited money and only the food left in her fridge, she was feeling overwhelmed and worried about how to keep her children safe and cared for. By reaching out to Kids Kottage, she was able to ensure her children had a safe, nurturing place to stay while she took time to stabilize, access support, and focus on the next steps for her family.

A Place of Refuge for Her Baby

A mother reached out to Kids Kottage after she and her baby unexpectedly lost their temporary place to stay with a relative. With no money for a hotel or other short-term accommodations, she had nowhere safe for her baby to sleep and needed immediate support.

Kids Kottage was able to admit her baby right away, providing safe, nurturing care while the mother focused on finding stable shelter. During her child's stay, she was able to secure safe housing for both of them, creating a more stable path forward for her family.



408

families supported
through follow-up



REAL LIVES. REAL IMPACT.

A Safe Stay That Opened the Door to Stability

For more than a year, a mother and her children had been without stable housing, never knowing how long they could stay somewhere or where they would sleep next. The uncertainty had become overwhelming for her and her children, and she shared that the ongoing stress was taking a significant toll on her mental health.

When she called Kids Kottage for support, her little ones were welcomed for 10 nights of safe and nurturing care. During that time, they had a consistent place to rest, eat, play, and be cared for, while their mother focused on finding a safer path forward. By the end of their stay, their mother had secured a safe and more permanent place for her and her children, helping bring much-needed stability to their family after a long period of uncertainty.

Provided
approx.

3,830

safe sleeps at
the Kottage
this year



Top 5 Reasons Families Called our Crisis Line

When families reached out for help, the most common reasons were:

1. Sustained Crisis and Mental Health Vulnerability
2. Housing Instability and Unsafe Shelter
3. Parent Physical Illness
4. Severe Economic Hardship
5. Hospitalization

Providing Care When Support Was Out of Reach

A single mother of two reached out to Kids Kottage during a time when the person she normally relied on for help had been in the hospital for several weeks. Without outside support, she was left trying to manage childcare responsibilities while navigating a family court process involving a parenting order and custody arrangements.

Feeling increasingly overwhelmed, she knew she needed a safe place for her children while she focused on the steps in front of her. Kids Kottage was able to provide her children with safe, nurturing care, giving them stability and protection while their mother attended court, accessed support, and worked toward a more stable path forward for her family.



PROGRAM UPDATES

Strengthening Care Through Specialized Support

To further enhance the quality of care provided at Kids Kottage, we have partnered with Growing Changes, a multi-disciplinary team of early-intervention therapists with specialized areas of focus. Through this partnership, an Occupational Therapist and Behavioural Specialist have been working alongside our childcare team to provide guidance, coaching, and practical strategies to better support the unique developmental needs of the children we serve.

98%

of caregivers surveyed said their child received safe and appropriate care during their stay

97%

of caregivers surveyed said Kids Kottage helped them work toward their goals

Enhancing our Practice Through a Shared, Values-Based Framework

Our practice framework was co-created by the people who work directly with families and children at Kids Kottage. In May 2025, staff gathered to share their experiences and hopes for how we care for children. From those conversations we crafted a living document that captures our collective commitment to providing safe, consistent, person-centered support. These are the core tenants of our practice framework that help us make decisions and act as a compass in our day-to-day work:

- We provide care that is trauma-informed and child-centered
- We honour the cultural identities, needs, and traditions of children and families
- We work together as one collaborative team
- We communicate clearly and act with consistency
- We reflect, grow, and learn continuously
- We celebrate the strengths of children and families

Food and Nutrition

- 24/7 Quality: Maintained our commitment to nutritious food and serving three meals and three snacks daily to every child.
- From-Scratch Focus: Enhanced our menu planning and preparation to emphasize fresh, wholesome ingredients over frozen or convenience foods.
- Volunteer Support: Engaged more volunteer groups to assist with baking and meal prep, ensuring high-quality, nutritious food is available outside the full-time cook's standard hours.

"Cooking at the Kottage is about more than following a menu. I often adjust meals throughout the day to suit different ages, eating habits, and comfort foods while still focusing on nutrition.

One of the best parts of my job is watching the children come into the dining room excited and hungry. When they enjoy their meal and then ask for seconds, it makes all the hard work worthwhile."

- Ana Maria (Cook)



OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Community Care in Action

Volunteers remained an essential part of Kids Kottage's work this past year, contributing 1,962 hours of service to help create a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for the children and families we serve. With 41 active volunteers and an average of nine new volunteer applications each month, community support remained strong throughout the year, with volunteer interest reaching its highest point between May and September.

From assisting with daily operations and preparing meals to supporting special projects and helping maintain our facilities, volunteers generously shared their time, skills, and care in ways that strengthened our day-to-day capacity and helped ensure children received the support they needed.



"It was nice to feel that my help actually mattered."

"The Kids Kottage staff did an excellent job of making us feel welcome and a part of the team!"

Strengthening the Kottage, Together

Group volunteers made a particularly meaningful impact this year. Through meal preparation and baking projects, volunteers helped create and stock nutritious meals that could be frozen and served when needed, ensuring children always had access to quality food. Volunteer groups also supported deep-cleaning and maintenance projects, helping enhance the comfort, safety, and warmth of the Kottage for both children and staff.

Beyond the practical support they provided, volunteers helped deepen Kids Kottage's connection to the broader community. Their compassion and generosity not only enhances our ability to serve families in crisis, but also creates a caring environment where children and caregivers could feel supported during some of their most challenging moments.



HEAR FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS



"I'm so thankful that I chose to volunteer at Kids Kottage, and am enjoying my time with the children, as well as helping in any other ways I can. I am thankful to the staff for their dedication and care each and every day."

"Being able to explore different volunteer roles in the Kottage helped me understand and appreciate all the behind the scenes stuff that our staff members do to ensure a safe and healthy environment for the children."



"Our team had an excellent time volunteering! We really enjoy working with Kids Kottage and look forward to doing so again in the future."



"I really enjoyed the people and the atmosphere. Everyone was kind and supportive, and I felt comfortable and appreciated."



FUND DEVELOPMENT

At Kids Kottage Foundation, sustainable growth is not possible without community support. As we reflect on this year's fund development efforts, we are filled with immense gratitude for the donors, partners, volunteers, board members, and staff who continue to stand alongside and support our mission. Every contribution this year has strengthened our work today while supporting the important planning and preparation needed to serve even more children and families in the years ahead.

Building the Foundation for Growth

This year, our Fund Development team focused on building and strengthening our internal systems to support long-term growth. A major area of progress was the adoption and configuration of a new donor database, aiming to improve communication practices, enhance the utility of donor records, and create a stronger foundation for recognizing and engaging our supporters in more meaningful ways.

As part of this process, significant behind-the-scenes work was done to clean up historical data and report on key fundraising indicators relating to monthly giving, major gifts, first-time donors, and donor retention. By improving how we collect and compare data going forward, Kids Kottage is better positioned to understand fundraising trends, measure progress, and make informed decisions as we grow.

In addition to strengthening our systems, we invested in the people, tools, and communications needed to grow our reach. This included adding another team member to Fund Development, increasing our focus on digital marketing, and refining our public-facing brand identity. Numerous updates were made to our logo, colour palette, website, vision, and core messaging. These changes help ensure the way we speak and share about Kids Kottage remains consistent across all communication platforms, and reflects both who we are today and where we are headed as an organization.



A Year of Community Impact

Our fundraising efforts were supported by an incredible year of community action and generosity.

In September, we celebrated our 30th Anniversary Gala, raising an incredible \$210K in just one evening and marking a meaningful milestone in our organization's history. Additionally, Giving Tuesday was another inspiring success this year, raising \$32K in a single day.

Throughout the year, employee and corporate giving also played an influential role in our fundraising efforts. We were grateful for the support of initiatives such as RSM's Power of Love, ATCO EPIC, Ledcor Cares, and Urban Barn's Blanket the Country. We were especially grateful to once again be selected as a recipient for the Rogers Birdies for Kids program presented by Altalink, helping extend the impact of community giving in support of the children and families we serve.

Community-led fundraising continued to show the power of people coming together in support of the little ones we care for. Students and staff at J. Percy Page High School rallied around our mission through their Bike-a-Thon, ultimately breaking the school's fundraising record and raising an astounding \$91K on our behalf. Alongside the fourth annual World Floorcoverings Charity Bonspiel, Hockey Helps the Homeless, Edmonton Gives, numerous other 3rd-party fundraisers, and the generosity of local church, service, and community groups, these thoughtful efforts ensured the Kottage can remain ready for children and families in crisis.

Together, these milestones reflect both the generosity of our community and the important steps Kids Kottage is taking to build a more sustainable future. As we move towards expanding our services, we remain committed to strengthening the relationships, systems, and strategies that support this work.





FAIRYTALE HIGH TEA

This year, Kids Kottage Foundation was proud to host its inaugural Fairytale High Tea, a new signature fundraising event that brought together families, community partners, and supporters for a truly magical day in support of children in crisis.

Presented by longstanding partner Mammoet, the event celebrated the art of storytelling and the importance of passing down the spirit of philanthropy. Combining a traditional high tea experience with live entertainment, family-friendly activations, a silent auction, and mission-focused storytelling, the Fairytale High Tea created a unique and memorable way for guests of all ages to connect with the work of Kids Kottage.



The response was overwhelmingly positive, with tickets selling out more than two weeks before the event and 378 total guests attending! Guests enjoyed special entertainment from Grindstone Theatre Society and a captivating hoop dance performance by world champion Dallas Arcand.



The day was further enhanced by the generosity of X Photobooth, who donated their photobooth services free of charge, as well as the many volunteers and community partners who helped create a joyful and seamless experience. Volunteers from RBC, Edmonton CausePlayers, Kids Kottage, and PaintChicklit provided invaluable support throughout the event and helped ensure a memorable day for all who attended.

Through ticket sales, sponsorships, raffle prizes, silent auction bidding, and day-of donations, the Fairytale High Tea generated \$65K in revenue and raised more than \$16K in support of Kids Kottage. For a first-year event, this was a meaningful achievement and a promising foundation for future growth.



A MESSAGE TO OUR CORPORATE & GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partner organizations for a year of incredible kindness and unwavering support. Partnerships like these are instrumental in our mission to provide safety and care 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.

Over this past year, we are thrilled to collaborate and build new partnerships which has enhanced our capacity and fundraising efforts. The challenges we face may be significant, but we are confident we can overcome them together. Our corporate partners brings financial support, expertise, resources, and networks that are invaluable in helping us expand our reach.

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.

OUR PARTNERS:



Allard Foundation Ltd.	iA Group Financier
Allwest Furnishings Ltd.	Inter Pipeline Ltd.
Altaland Foundation	Jackie Pennock Family Foundation
ATCO EPIC	Landmark Homes
Attesa Homes Inc.	Leading Edge Physiotherapy
Beagrie Family Foundation	Ledcor Industries Inc.
Brookfield Residential	Mammoet
Calgary Shaw Charity Classic Foundation	OEM Remanufacturing
Cameron Development Corporation	Pembina Pipeline Corp.
Canadian Royal Purple Society	Qualico Communities
CN Rail	Raymond James Canada Foundation
Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF)	RBC
Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation (EOCF)	RSM US Foundation
Edmonton Realtors Charitable Foundation	Scona Electric Inc.
Eldon & Anne Foote Fund	Scotia Wealth Management
Frank J Flaman Foundation	TELUS Friendly Future Foundation
Hockey Helps the Homeless	Tony and Daniela Franceschini Family Fund
HRD Homes	Urban Barn
Humanis Advisory Group	World Floorcoverings



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR





FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Statement of Operations:

	2025-26	2024-25
REVENUES		
Province of Alberta	1,296,238	1,234,499
City of Edmonton	300,000	300,000
Donations & Events	1,384,310	907,868
Casino & Gaming	109,106	38,616
Grants	85,256	122,772
Other	159,619	174,367
TOTAL REVENUES	3,334,529	2,778,122
EXPENSES		
Operations	2,423,088	2,336,371
Fundraising & Events	414,295	289,213
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,837,383	2,625,584
Other (Amortization)	- 33,089	- 31,181
Excess revenues over expenses:	464,057	121,357



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Statement of Financial Position:

	2025-26	2024-25
ASSETS		
Current	2,264,964	1,969,458
Long-term Investments	191,357	191,566
Tangible Capital Assets	207,371	202,131
TOTAL ASSETS	2,663,692	2,363,155
LIABILITIES		
Current	167,754	307,594
Deferred Capital Contributions	116,886	140,568
TOTAL LIABILITIES	284,640	448,162
NET ASSETS		
Invested in Tangible Capital Assets	90,485	61,562
Unrestricted Fund	888,567	1,453,431
Internally Restricted Fund	1,400,000	400,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS	2,379,052	1,914,993
TOTAL	2,663,692	2,363,155





THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US

We do this work together as a community because it truly takes a village to raise a child.

Every gift, every hour volunteered, and every voice raised in support of our mission helps Kids Kottage to remain a home away from home for Edmonton's most vulnerable little ones.

This mission belongs to all of us, and together, we can help more children feel safe, cared for, and never alone.

Become a donor, volunteer, or advocate today.

www.kidskottage.org

A Temporary Home. Lasting Impact.



www.kidskottage.org

Charity Registration Number: 132071135RR0001