



Chisholm 

2024
annual report

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chisholm acknowledges that we are on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq, Wəlastəkwiyyik (Maliseet) and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik (Maliseet) title. We are all Treaty people.

We also acknowledge that the people of African descent have been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years. We honour and offer gratitude to those ancestors of African descent who came before us to this land.



CHISHOLM SERVICES

LETTER FROM THE SERVICES BOARD CHAIR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2004, with the foresight of engaging community in the service, our founders, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, passed the oversight of Chisholm Services for Children to a community-based Board of Directors. This year we celebrate our 20th anniversary, marked by many lives changed through our work and accomplishments.

Over this past year, we managed an increase in occupancy, length of stay, and stable placements within our Child and Youth Caring Program. We also managed an increase in children participating in our LINKS Literacy Program. Overall, these increases led to growth in expenses that outpaced our operating revenue. The level of care children need and deserve remains our primary focus, while we continue to evaluate mitigation strategies to manage growth in costs of living and overall program expenses.

In building team capacity, professional development opportunities focused on expanding the team's awareness of the diversity in those we serve. We also secured the consultative services of Dr. Paul Baker, who is supporting the team with introducing the PersonBrain Model, all with the view of providing an enhanced responsive service for the children with Chisholm.

In collaboration with the Department of Community Services we continue to work to best meet the placement needs of children today, as well as looking to the future. Our vision focuses on smaller care programs, within a community that offers opportunities for our children to flourish with therapeutic recreation spaces and outdoor learning opportunities.

As we celebrate the many accomplishments of the past year, we would like to acknowledge our team of Child & Youth Care Workers and management who help support our children every day, helping to build a brighter future for each child. We would also like to welcome Tirsia Finlay as our LINKS Program Manager. She has been instrumental in finding a new path forward to help reduce expenditures within the program as well as increase the reach of the literacy program to help more children.

Finally, Chisholm could not provide our service for children without the dedicated leadership and direction of the Board of Directors and other community partners. As we reflect on the community support over the past 20 years and set our sights on those to come, it truly takes a community to help raise the children in our care.

Handwritten signature of Trevor J. MacDonald in black ink.

Trevor J. MacDonald
Board Chair

Handwritten signature of Wade Johnston in black ink.

Wade Johnston
Executive Director



OUR MISSION

Chisholm Services for Children provides care for children who have complex needs by providing a safe environment while fostering a sense of personal value, self-worth and the development of life skills.



OUR VISION

Chisholm Services for Children is a leader in Nova Scotia in providing safe, community-based care for children 12 years of age and younger. Our therapeutic residential and non-residential programs successfully support children to transition into their community.



OUR VALUES

The Chisholm Way is rooted in the legacy of the founders, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, and in our collective commitment to embody these values in all that we do. These values guide us through our relationships with our employees, stakeholders, and the broader community. We are accountable to ourselves, each other, and the wider community to embody these values.



COMPASSION
HOPE
BELONGING
COLLABORATION
RESPECT

2024 YEAR AT A GLANCE

CHILD AND YOUTH CARE PROGRAM

2,108
DAYS OF CARE 

Each and every day is an opportunity to learn and grow.

 2
ADMISSIONS

Receiving children from across the province for their future.

1 
DISCHARGES

Connecting children with a safe, nurturing home or new support.


 5.9
AVERAGE GRADE

Children at Chisholm have experienced success thanks to our community schools.

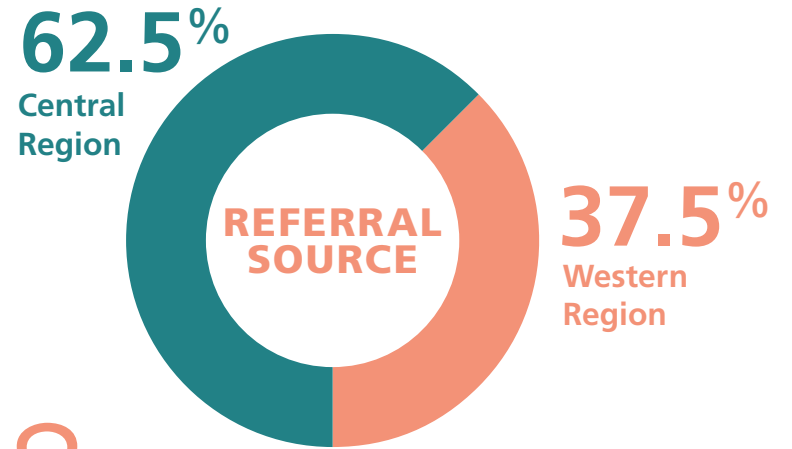
 8


CHILDREN SERVED IN CHILD & YOUTH CARE PROGRAM

Guiding children to grow and thrive in their community.


410 
AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS)

Trending longer this year, this is time to heal, learn to trust, and build skills for their future



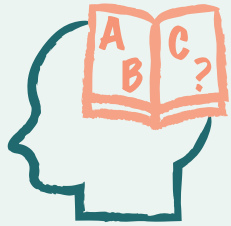
 11.5
AVERAGE AGE

Trending older based on the children we have supported this year.

 96%
AVERAGE OCCUPANCY

Occupancy is higher this year to meet the placement needs of children from across Nova Scotia

LINKS LITERACY PROGRAM



158

LINKS REGISTERED STUDENTS

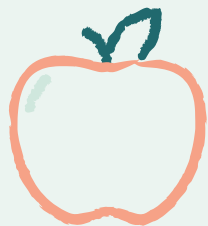
2800+ hours of literacy instruction at schools across the HRM.



9.8

AVERAGE AGE

Children 6 – 12 years of age receiving literacy support.



3.7

AVERAGE GRADE

Contributing to successful educational outcomes for children.

ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

860+

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS

Building team capacity to be better at what we do for the children we serve.

725+

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Passionate volunteer Board members, and fundraising event volunteers enhance the care provided by Chisholm.



2,818

TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN SERVED SINCE 1972

A legacy of supporting children, youth, and young women in Nova Scotia.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



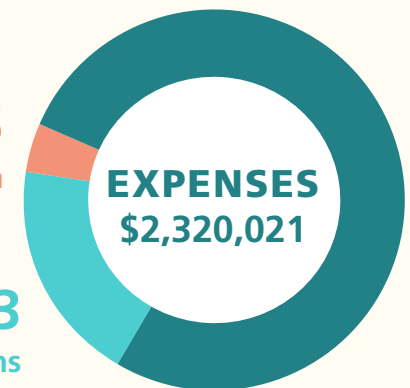
\$2,072,929
Province of Nova Scotia Partnership



\$1,786,353
Salaries & Benefits

\$95,985
LINKS Program

\$437,683
Operations



2024 HIGHLIGHTS



CHISHOLM'S CHILD AND YOUTH CARING PROGRAM

sets its sights on early intervention, prevention and permanency planning. Chisholm helps resilient children build upon their social and life skills with a vision of preparing them to transition home, to

kinship care, to foster care or to adoption. This past year was a year of minimal transition, with several children having regular contact with caregivers throughout the year. With the support of our team, community schools, recreation services and mental health providers, our children developed skills to be successful as they navigated their way through day-to-day life events.

With the goal of enhancing the services and supports provided for the children living with Chisholm, our team participated in professional development over the past year including: Indigenous Treaty Partners, Autism Nova Scotia, The Youth Project, and Tony Smith providing insights on the Restorative Inquiry and growing up in care as a person of colour. Additionally, Chisholm developed a partnership this year with Dr. Paul Baker who provided training in the PersonBrain Model, a neurotransactional approach to supporting children and youth.

This year we also recognize the support provided by Mary Ledger (Fine Arts Specialist – Citadel Family of Schools) who, in partnership with Halifax Regional Centre for Education, provided an Art Program for the children. The Art program offered opportunities for our children to express their creativity, strengthening relationships with each other and team members.

“During my time under the care of Chisholm, I was fortunate enough to be enveloped in an environment that nurtured and supported almost every facet of my being. They didn’t just provide the basics; they cultivated a space where my passions could flourish, and my potential could be realized.”

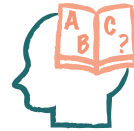
- Former Youth

“I am realizing that I will have to parent very differently than how I was.”

- Adoptive Caregivers



This year Chisholm focused on developing the **TRAUMA INFORMED CARE GROUP** curriculum and revisited how best to deliver the program to parents who have been approved and waiting to welcome an adoptive child into their lives. Building on Chisholm’s Practice Framework, the Trauma Informed Care Group curriculum was developed with the integration of the Annie E. Casey Foundation ARC Reflections Training Program. The ARC (Attachment, Regulation and Competency) is a framework for working with children and teens who have experienced trauma. With the newly developed curriculum, a cohort of 22 caregivers are enrolled in the group in partnership with Adoption Services, Department of Community Services, with a commencing date in April 2024. It is anticipated that the revised curriculum will help caregivers find a path forward in strengthening relationships with children and building stronger families as they prepare to adopt a child.



THE LINKS LITERACY PROGRAM is designed for elementary students who are reading below grade level or lacking confidence in their literacy skills. This year, LINKS supported children from across the HRM with grant

funding provided for students at Harbour View Elementary School, Rockingstone Heights School, Saint Joseph’s - Alexander McKay Elementary School, Sycamore Lane Elementary School. This year we developed a new service delivery model to help alleviate staffing pressures, drawing on community volunteers and one-on-one literacy instruction for students. This model was successful and will be rolled out at Inglis Street Elementary School and John MacNeil Elementary School in the Spring of 2024 with a view of further expansion in September.

LINKS helped 158 students from across HRM build confidence and develop the necessary skills to become fluent and confident readers. Enrollment increased by 12% from the previous year, and remained steadfast in supporting students as they increased their phonemic awareness and understanding of basic phonetic rules, increased their sight word knowledge, developed additional strategies to help decode words, moved up at least one reading level, and developed meaningful relationships while building their self-confidence in their literacy skills. Through generous grant funding this year, we provided literacy instruction to 89% of enrolled students at no cost to their caregivers. This removes potential barriers for so many.

“My daughter came into the program with a learning disability in reading and writing or otherwise known as dyslexia. My daughter’s ability to read and write has improved immensely. She now has confidence in the classroom.”

- Caregiver

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Trevor J. MacDonald (Chair)

Kelly Currie (Vice Chair)

Elizabeth Macdonald (Treasurer)

Alison Casey (Secretary)

Deborah Bauld

Darlene Bolivar

Becky Campbell

Ann Jennex-Roberts

Lisa Peck

Wade Johnston (Ex Officio)



EMPLOYEES & STUDENTS

ADMINISTRATION:

Wade Johnston
Executive Director

Geoff Hurst
Director Business Development

Arun Jose
Bookkeeper / Payroll

Tirsa Finlay
Manager LINKS Literacy - Fall 2023 to Present

Emily Walker
Manager LINKS Literacy - Spring 2023 to Fall 2023

Sean Clarke
Manager of Clinical Services

Mike Shea
Supervisor / Program Coordinator - Term

Melissa Wilson
Supervisor / Program Coordinator - Term

Leanne Higgins
Supervisor - Term

Alyse Comeau
Supervisor - Term

Ariel Landry
Maintenance

Shawna Burgess
Office Administrator

CHILD & YOUTH CARE WORKERS:

Asia Bannister
Sarah Bookman

Natalia Byard
Gemma Coley
Rachel Eisenhauer

Tiauna Francis
Veronica Green

Mikida Green-Andrea
Bridget Higgins

Nicole Hirschfeld
Anniesa Huggarth
Laura Hutt
Madoka Imamura
Jashan Kaur

Kyle Lantz
Kaitlyn Leslie
Rylee Levy
Donavon Manthorne-Borden
Kahlyn McIntyre
Peyton Mckeaveney
Danielle McLaughlan-Payne

Brittany Minnis
Skye Nickerson
Ashley O'Brien
Paulina Ochoa
Santiago Ortegon-Gonzalez
Jason Pinsent
Sheena Purdy

Sonja Shahinasi
Jacob Smith
Amy Vinnedge
Noah Widmeyer

LINKS LITERARY INSTRUCTORS:

Tanya Aujla
Jade Avery
Joy Baillie
Amelia Betts

Brittany Fitzgerald
Angela Hall
Julianna Kun
Peter Myatt

Rosaline Patton
Cole Pfeifenroth
Ma Ruiza San Lorenzo

Leah Simonot
Jennifer Swan
Blessing Tangban
Mikayla Thompson

Emily Walker
Cristin Wentzell
Judy Zinck

CHISHOLM STUDENT INTERNS:

Kaothar Bello
Shanie Clarke
Rylan Cooper
Abigail Dickson
Victo Kagona

Jashan Kaur
Rylee Levy
Jacqueline Murphy
Tyleasha Park
Laural Pepin

Sheila Sacayle
Jacob Smith
Ava Thainugool

LINKS STUDENT INTERNS:

Brittany Fitzgerald

FRIENDS OF CHISHOLM'S CHILDREN

INDIVIDUALS

David Almon	Simone Cottreau	Amanda Hatt	Heather Labucki	Jim Megann	Merv Russell
John Apfeld	Norma Craib	Ben Hawkins	Perry Lambourne	Florence Milley	Alanna Scott
Susan Arbing	Hon. Steve Craig	Larry Hayes	Carly Lawrence	Susan Mullin	Mary Skinner
Kara Barrett	Kristina Creamer	Kayla Henry	Maya Layton	Brendan Nobes	Jacob Smith
Debbie Bauld	Jackie Crouse	Jeff Hiltz	Andrea LeBlanc	Erik Nowak	Sandy Snide
Susan Best	Jennifer Crowley	Kelly Holiff	Christy Linders	Eric O'Brien	Christa Soutcott
Wendy Birrell	Kelly Currie	Judy Hollett	Travis Lindsay	Virginia O'Connell	Paul Stackaruk
Ellie Black	Phil Currie	Paul Hollingsworth	Christopher Lydon	Dan O'Halloran	Turk Stage
Calvin Blades	Rose Davis	Heidi Holloway	Elizabeth Macdonald	Mary-Jane O'Halloran	Deva Station
Darlene Bolivar	Rob Dearman	Erin Hopkins	Beth MacGillivray	Olivia O'Shea	Barb Stegemann
Kevin Bourke	Amanda Debison	Gary Hurst	Fred MacGillivray	Maria Panopalis	Paula Stoddart
Clarence Boutilier	Bill Doane	Geoff Hurst	JoAnne MacGillivray	Dwight Parker	Dr. Robert Strang
Justine Bowman	Sarah Edmonds	Jonathan Hurst	Neville MacKay	Lisa Peck	Cynthia Taylor
J Edward Boyce	George Edwards	Ryan Inglis	Laura MacLellan	Anne Peralta	Erika Thomas
Michelle Brown	Paula Eskenazi	Mary Isnor	Peter MacLellan	Juanita Peters	Neil Thompson
Paul Browne	John Falkenham	Daryl James	Steve MacLeod	Paul Pierre	David Tonen
Peter Browne Jr.	Alison Ferguson	Kathleen Jay	Andrew MacMaster	Dr. David Pilon	Beth Udby
Shawna Burgess	Carolyn Ganeles	Ann Jennex-Roberts	Mary Jo Mahody	Julie Power	Gabriel Uggenti
Mary Butler	Lisa Gardner	Brandon Jennings	Jenna Mann	Power Family	Cameron VanBuskirk
Becky Campbell	Bob Gibson	Anjali Jensen	Aiden Marriott	Stacey Pyke	Angela Vaninettidupe
Alison Casey	Erin Gillespie	Hon. Brad Johns	Nicole Marryatt	Jacob Rafuse	Mike Velemirovich
Barbara Casey	Colin Gillis	Brenda Johnston	Wendy Martin	Jindra Rajwans	Yogesh Vemula
Nick Chan	Jane Gillis Ring	Dave & Joan Johnston	Tanya Matthews	Ann Raper	Ogwuma Vzoma
Lauren Chaulk	Lana Grant	Wade Johnston	Kate Mattocks	Meghan Richard	Barbara Wade
Dennis Chenault	Carol Grantham	Fern Jordan	Rick McCulloch	David Ring	Keith Weagle
Mary Chilibeck	Jane Grantmyre	Julie Keizer	Scott McGaw	Alison Ripley	Jeremy Webb
Darrell Cochrane	Gregory Guy	Katie Kelly	Helen McGee	J. William Ritchie	Patricia Woodbury
Oritsemisan Coker	Tareq Hadhad	Monica Kennedy	Kathleen McManus	Kim Roberge	Samantha Young
Dru Corey	Shelly Hancock Hurst	Stuart Kirby	Steve McMullin	Lisa Roger	
Valerie Corkum	Gary Harris	Lyndon Klein	Jeff McNeil	Michael Rushe	
Father Albert Cosgrove	Peter Harrison	Shauna Krasuski	Janelle McNulty	Laura Russell	

ORGANIZATIONS

4511010 NOVA SCOTIA LIMITED	Harvest Wine Beer Spirits
5 Fishermen	harveyArchitecture Limited
5 Social Halifax	Hawthorne Recruitment Inc.
Accomplice Content Supply Co, Inc.	Homebridge Youth Society
Alex MacAulay Photography Inc.	IG Wealth Management
All State Insurance Company	IMP Group International Inc.
Ambassatours	Leaman Towers Residents
Amber MacInnis Insurance & Financial Services Inc.	Lindsay Construction Limited
Aptitude Digital	MacFarlands Events
Aqueduct Foundation	Medavie Blue Cross
Atlantic Elver Fisheries Inc.	MICCO Companies
Atlantic University Sport	MOVE 100-1
Bell Media	Municipal Group of Companies
Belmont Health & Wealth	My Mother's Bloomers
Benevity Fund	Neptune Theatre
BMO Financial Group	Numus Financial Inc.
Canadian Progress Club Halifax Citadel	O.E. Smith Estate
Check Point Software	Oakfield Golf and Country Club
Children's Aid Foundation of Nova Scotia	Outfront
CIBC	Pirates of Halifax
CN Halifax Community Board	Premiere Entertainment Group
CTV Atlantic	Race Roster - Smart Payables
Cyclesmith	RBC Charitable Giving Program
Deeneh Foundation	RBC Dominion Securities
DORA Construction Ltd.	RBC Foundation
Edmonds	rcs Construction
Encore	Ritchfam Holdings Limited
Flemming Charitable Foundation	Rudy's Catering Service
Francis J. Robinson Estate	Shoppers Drug Mart Kurt Ryan
Fred and Edith Greene Foundation	SilverBirch Hotels & Resort
Globe Life American Income Division	Sisters of the Good Shepherd – New York / Toronto Province
Grafton Connor Group	The 7 Virtues Beauty
Grant Thornton	The Printing House (TPH)
Halifax Youth Foundation	Virgin Radio
	Vox Agency
	Westjet

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Atlantic School of Theology
Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre
Canadian CORE Group
Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Captain William Spry Community Centre
Children's Aid Foundation of Nova Scotia
Chris Cochrane (The Youth Project)
Debbie Carver (Autism Nova Scotia)
Gorsebrook Junior High School
Halifax Central Junior High School
Halifax Public Libraries
Halifax Regional Centre for Education
Halifax Regional Municipality
Halifax Regional Police
Harbour View Elementary School
Health Association Nova Scotia
Indigenous Treaty Partners
Inglis Street Elementary School
IWK Health Sciences Centre
John MacNeil Elementary School

Kids Help Phone
Kids Up Front Atlantic
Lindsay Construction Limited
Mary Ledger (Fine Arts Specialist, HRCE)
Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team (MHMCT)
Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services
MSVU Department of Child and Youth Studies
Nova Scotia Community College - Ivany Campus (Child and Youth Care Studies)
Nova Scotia Community College - Truro (Child and Youth Care Studies)
Nova Scotia Department of Community Services (Child and Family Wellbeing)
Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)
Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Nova Scotia Federation of Foster Families
Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union (NSGEU)
Nova Scotia Health Authority

Nova Scotia Office of the Ombudsman
Paul Baker (The PersonBrain Model)
Pinwheel Communication & Design
Power House Youth Centre
Provincial After-Hours Response Team (PART)
Rockingstone Elementary School
Saint Joseph's - Alexander McKay Elementary School
Saint Mary's Elementary School
Searching for Santa Mission Flight (Air Canada)
SchoolsPlus
Scouts Canada
Sir Charles Tupper Elementary School
Suma Holdings Inc.
Sycamore Lane Elementary School
Tony Smith (Co-Chair Restorative Inquiry into the NSHCC)
Workers' Compensation Board of Nova Scotia
WORKSPACE Bayers Lake



CHISHOLM FOUNDATION

Chisholm Foundation for Children was established in 2010 with the sole purpose of enhancing the programs and services provided by Chisholm Services for Children. Focusing its attention on raising community awareness, leading fundraising initiatives, and managing assets and investments, the Foundation is governed by a community-based Board of Directors that strives to assist Chisholm in providing exceptional services for children to realize a brighter future.

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR

Chisholm Foundation for Children continues to play an important role in the service delivery of Chisholm, across the Child and Youth Caring Program, the LINKS Literacy Program and the Trauma Informed Care Group. With the generous support of our community, donors and partners, we continued to enhance the program delivery, while we planned for the future.

This past year, the Foundation prioritized the development of our relocation strategy. With the guidance of our Program Relocation Committee, we selected a site in a nurturing and scenic community where we believe our children will feel safe, valued, and loved. Community outreach and engagement is already underway. We have also worked with project consultants and architects to design two new four-bedroom homes, with an aim to be move-in ready before the children start the new school year in September 2025.

With an ambitious timeline, the program relocation will require significant investment and a sound financial

strategy. The Foundation continues to partner with the Department of Community Services, the Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and HRM. Our Investment Committee has also been working diligently to balance the highest rates of return possible, with the ongoing requirements for relocation planning.

In the year ahead, we will continue our outreach and focus on raising awareness among philanthropists and our community, engaging those who share our vision to support children's brighter futures through our relocation campaign.

With the launch of our newly refreshed website and brand refresh, we are now better positioned to share more about Chisholm as we continue to increase our engagement with the community. One such example of this work was hosting our signature event, Blind Date with a Star. With the support of Geoff Hurst, Director Business Development, this, and other events helped contribute to raising community awareness and important funds to support Chisholm's mission.

I would also like to share my gratitude for the important role the Foundation Board members hold in providing insight and leadership in our work. The volunteer board members and the team at Chisholm, work collaboratively with the common vision of supporting children in need from the community. The year ahead will see this continue with our two boards working collaboratively to define a strategic plan that will lead Chisholm through the program relocation and transformation driven by a vision that all children deserve brighter futures.

We look forward to keeping the community informed of our progress in the year ahead.

With heartfelt thanks,



Amanda Hatt
Foundation Board Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amanda Hatt
(Chair)

John Falkenham
(Vice Chair)

Peter Browne
(Treasurer)

Wade Johnston
(Secretary)

Anjali Jensen

Trevor J. MacDonald

JoAnne MacGillivray

Scott McGaw

David Ring



FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS



RAISING AWARENESS

Providing opportunities for the community to “help children be children”. The Foundation led several successful events and fundraising initiatives to help support Chisholm. With our signature event, Blind Date with a Star, along with other events such as Back to School Auction, Blue Nose Charity Challenge, Giving Tuesday and the Holiday Fundraiser / Toy Drive, Chisholm continues to set its sights on raising the community’s awareness of the important service they provide children, as well as raising funds to support services today, and into tomorrow. Successful third-party events such as the Canadian Progress Club Halifax Citadel Charity Golf Classic Tournament and Premiere Entertainment Group’s Home for the Holidays, also assisted Chisholm with raising funds to support program enhancements, including a new van to help our children access many recreation programs in HRM. Additionally, we are pleased to have launched our much-anticipated website that will help keep the community aware of the important activities of Chisholm and upcoming events.



INVESTING IN TOMORROW

The Foundation continues to be strategic in investing in tomorrow with its sights set on building new homes where children can live and thrive. With focused investment policies and donor support, the vision of contributing to a brighter future today is closer to fruition.



CELEBRATING SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Recognizing the importance of cultural rituals and traditions, the Foundation continues to support children’s experiences over the holiday season and throughout the year. With generous community support, the children in the Child and Youth Caring Program continue to be well cared for and comforted during special occasions year-round.



BUILDING TEAM CAPACITY

Building team capacity and providing opportunities to strengthen the team’s cohesion, helps to contribute to stronger therapeutic relationships with the children. The generosity of the community helps the team to be better at what they do best, caring for and supporting children.

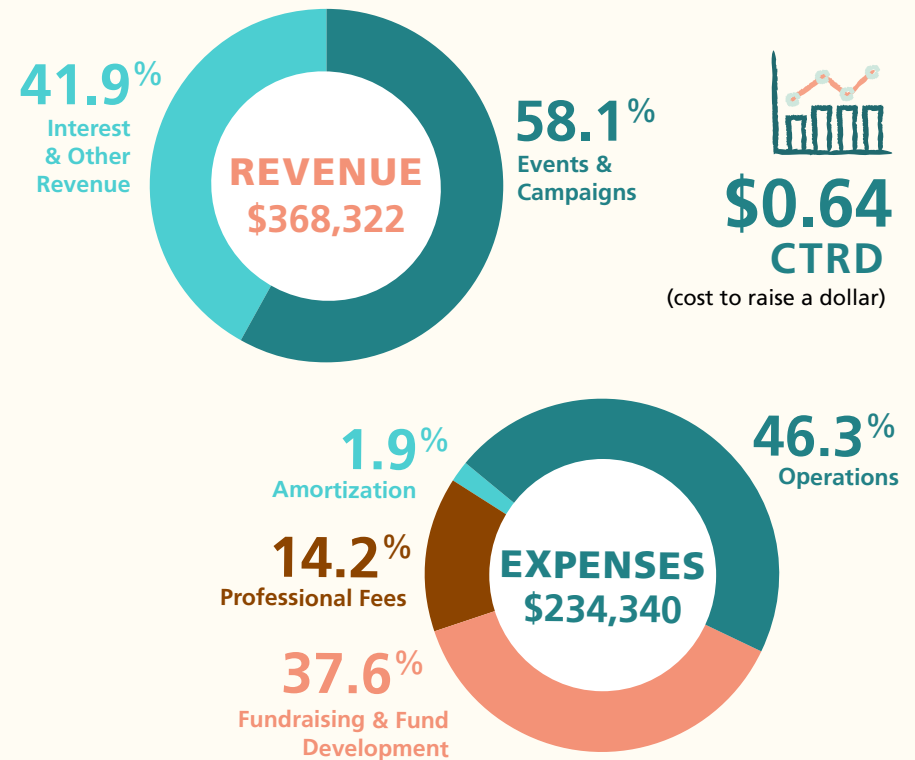
CHISHOLM’S VISION FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



At Chisholm, we are driven by a belief that all children deserve brighter futures. We support children who face adversity in life by helping them discover their own potential. Working diligently with harvey Architecture Ltd., Chisholm is designing two four-bedroom homes for children that will surround them with all they need to feel safe, valued and loved in a community where therapeutic recreation and outdoor learning spaces are just outside their door.



FOUNDATION FINANCIAL SUMMARY





 [chisholm4children](https://www.facebook.com/chisholm4children)

 [chisholm4c](https://twitter.com/chisholm4c)

 [chisholm4children](https://www.instagram.com/chisholm4children)

CHISHOLM SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

5724 South Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 1S4



[chisholm4children.ca](https://www.chisholm4children.ca)

Tel: 902.423.9871

Fax: 902.422.3725