

Chisholm 



BRIGHTER FUTURES

A PLACE FOR HOPE AND HEALING

COMPASSION  HOPE  BELONGING  COLLABORATION  RESPECT

WHERE BRIGHTER FUTURES BEGIN

We help children be children.

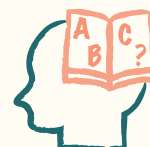
At home. In the community. In the classroom.



**CHILD &
YOUTH CARE
PROGRAM**



**TRAUMA-
INFORMED
CARE GROUP**



**LINKS
LITERACY
PROGRAM**

Chisholm Services for Children has a history dating back to 1890 when our founders, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, came to Nova Scotia to provide care and support for young women in need of a place to call home. Community-based homes were the focus of our founders, with a view of offering better outcomes for those in need.

Today, Chisholm continues as a non-profit organization, focusing on prevention, early intervention and aligning children with a loving and safe home. Operating from two homes in the South End of Halifax, Chisholm has expanded to offer literacy programming, as well as trauma-informed care group training and support.

Rooted in our history, our mission remains focused on caring deeply for those who need support. That's *the Chisholm Way*, a philosophy of community service that we know can change futures for the next 135 years and beyond.

More than **650 children** have been welcomed home to Chisholm in our current location since 1972, with our team focused on prevention, early intervention and helping children find a loving and safe future home. More than **2,300 children** have been supported by our literacy programming and more than **200 parents and caregivers** have been supported with trauma-informed care training.



A GROWING NEED, A NEED TO GROW

The South End of Halifax has provided a wonderful history of care for Chisholm. Embraced by community supports through our local schools, recreation spaces, businesses, and neighbours, the children who call Chisholm home have felt a sense of hope and belonging here.

As our surrounding community continues to change and grow, and our program needs continue to change and grow, we knew that relocating would enable the most potential to create an even greater impact for children in Nova Scotia.

The need to relocate also created an opportunity for Chisholm to find a location that would provide the community-based services needed (e.g., schools, recreation, mental health supports, medical care) and integrate the most up to date evidence-based practices into Chisholm's relocation plan.



The relocation plan includes building two new specialized homes to care for children. The plan will also establish a program hub to provide wrap around supports and provide therapeutic recreation spaces for children to grow and learn.

We have land in a nurturing community secured thanks to the generosity of the Department of Growth and Development. Chisholm acknowledges that we are on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship". The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik (Maliseet) title. We honour their enduring relationship with this land and express our gratitude for the opportunity to carry out our mission here.

**We need our community to partner with us,
to help bring the full relocation vision to life,
to deliver a brighter future for children to grow,
to play and to learn.**

ALL CHILDREN DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE CHILDREN

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHILD?

Perhaps you think about your childhood, or your own children. Playing in the snow or jumping in the leaves. A day at the beach or building with Lego, finger painting or playing hide and seek. **Our hope is that childhood is filled with innocence. Sadly, we know that is not the case for all children.**

According to the One Chance to Be a Child Report, the Department of Community Services reported 30 percent of referrals based on child-protection concerns between 2015 and 2019 were substantiated. This means that approximately **4,100 Nova Scotian children a year needed protection because of neglect and/or physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.**

“Experiences of chronic poverty and material deprivation also create toxic stress with effects on mental well-being in childhood through to adulthood.”¹ **The earlier you can intervene, to teach developmental and life skills, while instilling a sense of self-worth, the lower the odds that a child will face the unfortunate future that so many children in need come to realize.**

“*So, my story begins when I was around 8 years old living in a small farming community in Kings County. It was then I was left alone. They [Chisholm] welcomed me with wide open arms filled with love and support. I was given opportunities to explore my interests, trumpet, tennis, art and Neptune theatre acting lessons. I also tried aerobics. All these experiences have shaped me into who I am today.*”

-Former Youth.

The time children spend with Chisholm is a lifeline and a bridge to find a loving and safe future home.

We know that children thrive in a home and community that helps them feel cared for, safe, and valued.



¹ One Chance to Be a Child, Full Report, Page 66.

Chisholm has a long history of helping children who face adversity by providing a safe environment to heal, while fostering a sense of personal value and self-worth.

More than **650 children** have been welcomed home to Chisholm in our current location since 1972, with our team focused on prevention, early intervention and helping children find a loving and safe future home.

Our relocation plan will both **increase our capacity** to support additional children in our child and youth caring programs, and with a purpose-built design, ensure the children feel supported and cared for in this new therapeutic space.



We believe children deserve the opportunity to be children.

Our child and youth caring programming is designed to ensure they can.



ALL CHILDREN DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE UNDERSTOOD



WHAT DOES OUR BEHAVIOUR TELL US?

Imagine a child who has experienced neglect. **How might they behave when it comes to following routines?** Or when being left alone?

Imagine a child who was experienced violence. **How might they behave when adults are present?** Or if they were to feel threatened?

Imagine a child who has experienced food insecurity. **How might they behave around food?** What if they hid food? Or they stole food?

“ Chisholm’s Trauma-Informed Care Group gave me the strategies, tools and understanding of how to deal with a child who’s experienced complex trauma. This knowledge has allowed me to help my son navigate the big emotions...getting him “back to calm” in a compassionate way. ”

- Parent / Caregiver.

Behaviour through a trauma-informed lens can be the difference between a child finding their forever home, and an adoption breakdown.

These skills do not always come naturally, and that is normal. Learning new skills to know how best to provide a loving and nurturing home for a child who has faced adversity helps parents and caregivers create a brighter future for the whole family.

Chisholm has been providing trauma-informed care group training to support **more than 200 parents and caregivers** with navigating complex trauma needs of children.

With approximately 4,100 Nova Scotian children needing protection because of neglect and/or physical, emotional, or sexual abuse each year, **the time for a trauma-informed care lens is more important than ever.**²

Our relocation plan will ensure we can continue to deliver this critical training and **create new opportunities to expand the program** to more parents, families and caregivers in Nova Scotia.

² *One Chance to Be a Child*, Full Report, Page 66.



We believe all children deserve to be understood.

Our trauma-informed care group programming is designed to ensure they can be.



ALL CHILDREN DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DREAM ABOUT THEIR FUTURE

WHERE DOES YOUR IMAGINATION TAKE YOU?

Stories unlock imaginations, imaginations unlock dreams. For children, reading stories helps to create a world in which they can be anything, be anywhere, and be anyone. Literacy is a building block to unlock a child's imagination and future.

According to the One Chance to be a Child Report, one-quarter of grade primary children in the province are considered vulnerable in one or more domains of early development instruction, increasing the risk of the children experiencing difficulties at school or other settings compared to other children.³

³ *One Chance to Be a Child*, Full Report, Pages 28-31.

For many children, financial insecurity and learning differences create barriers that are difficult to overcome.

Building a child's confidence to learn to read and read to learn can hold the keys to unlocking hope for brighter future.



“ *LINKS has helped my son become more excited about reading. Reading at home used to cause arguments but now he actually wants to read to us. He's proud of himself.* ”

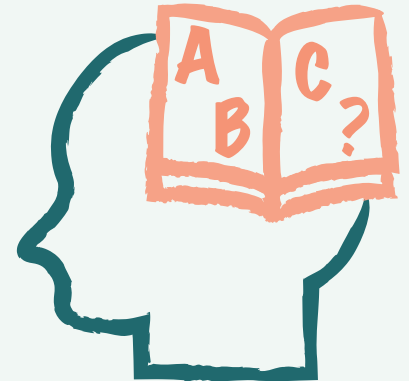
- Parent / Caregiver

Chisholm has been providing after-school literacy programming for children since 2013, helping more than 2,300 registered students, often at no cost to families. This is only possible because of the generosity of our community partners and donors.

Thirty percent of children in grade 3 do not meet expectations for reading based on assessments developed in Nova Scotia.⁴ Combined with data indicators of financial insecurity, such as 36.6% of parents reporting unaffordable housing, the growing needs of children in our community to have access to literacy programming at no cost, is a critical opportunity to intervene early.

Our relocation plan will ensure we can continue to deliver this critical literacy programming and create new opportunities to expand the program to more children in Nova Scotia.

⁴ *One Chance to Be a Child*, Full Report, Page 28.



We believe all children deserve the opportunity to dream about their future.

Our LINKS Literacy Program is designed to ensure they can.

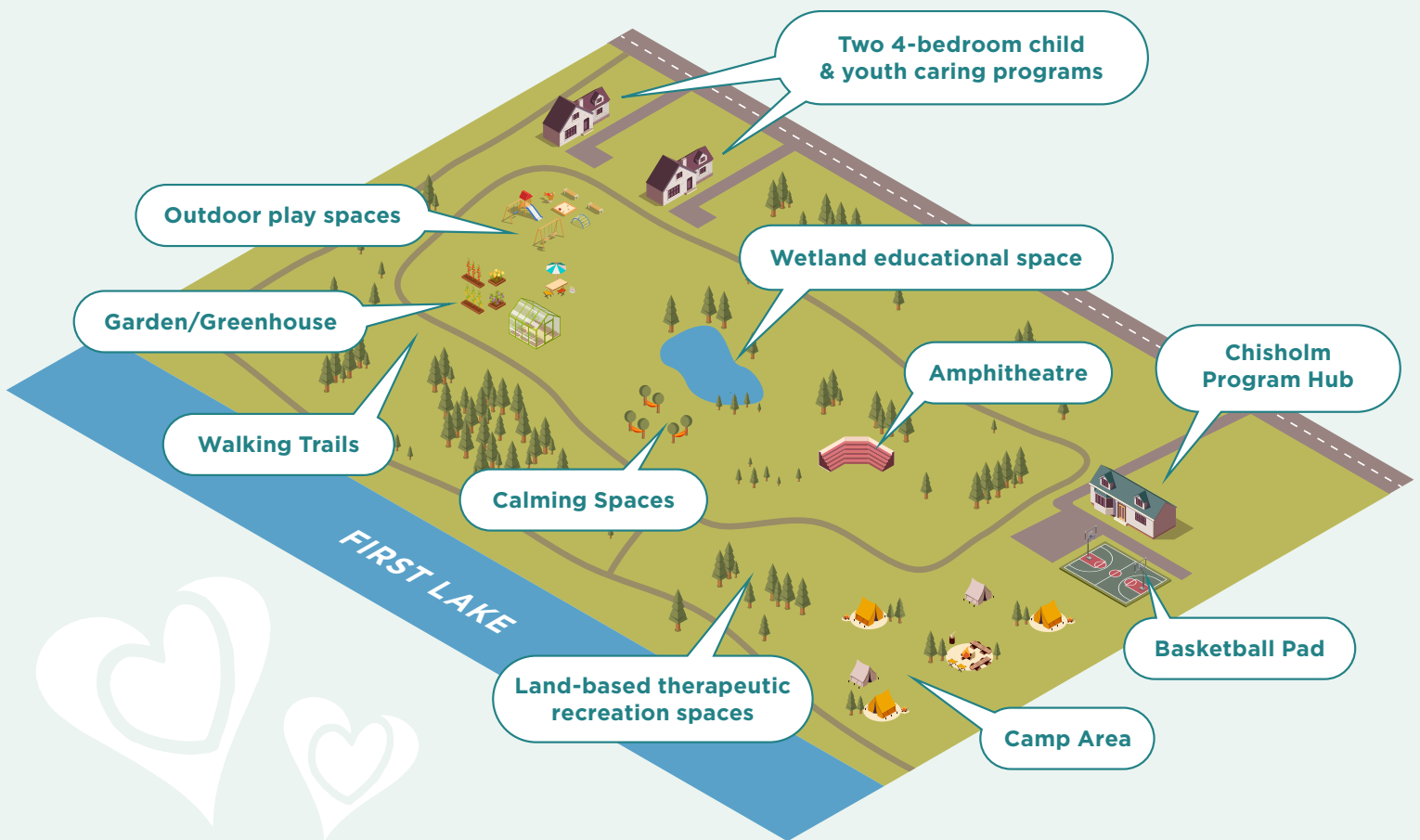


WHERE BRIGHTER FUTURES BECOME POSSIBLE



vimeo.com/1075432358

Our vision is to support children’s brighter futures by building two new specialized homes that will be responsive to their needs, with access to outdoor play areas and land-based therapeutic recreation spaces. The homes will be supported by a Chisholm Program Hub that will be a resource for the children in our care facilities, our after-school literacy program and trauma-informed care group training.



PHASE 1

Winter 2025 to Spring 2026

PHASE 2

Summer 2026 to Summer 2027

PHASE 3

Spring 2027 to Fall 2027

Building two new specialized four-bedroom homes

Building a Chisholm Program Hub

Enhancing therapeutic recreation spaces

INVEST IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN TODAY

PHASE 1

Two - Four Bedroom Specialized Homes

4,165 sq. ft. each

- Open Concept Common Areas
- Separate Bedrooms
- Sensory Room
- Therapeutic Spaces
- Galley Kitchen with Pantry
- Play Space
- Child Safety Features

PHASE 2

Chisholm Program Hub

3,669 sq. ft.

- Family Meeting Room
- Multi-purpose Activity Room
- Meeting Room Spaces
- 7 Offices
- Wrap Around Services
- Storage

PHASE 3

Outdoor Therapeutic Recreation Spaces

5.8 Acres of Land

- Walking Trails
- Garden/Greenhouse
- Wetland Educational Space
- Camp Area
- Basketball Pad
- Calming Spaces
- Amphitheatre

BRIGHTER FUTURES CAMPAIGN COSTS BREAKDOWN



With your support, this vision for brighter futures can become a reality.

There are many ways you can partner with us.

An investment in our brighter futures campaign is one shining example.

This may be a one-time donation, a pledged donation, or a gift of securities. Opportunities also include hosting an event or fundraiser to benefit Chisholm, or sponsoring Chisholm events.



One-Time Donation



Pledged Donation



Gift of Securities



Host a Fundraiser



Corporate Giving



Sponsor an Event

BECAUSE ALL CHILDREN DESERVE BRIGHTER FUTURES

From recreation and learning to therapeutic programming, to a comforting home, there are many ways to invest meaningfully to create a brighter future for children in need, right here in Nova Scotia.

If there are specific areas you have an interest in learning more about, we would be happy to provide more information to align your interests.

Our team would be delighted to meet with you to identify ways you can become meaningfully involved in children's brighter futures.



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

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

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

CHISHOLM SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Wade Johnston, *Executive Director*
wjohnston@chisholm4children.ca
902.422.3414

5724 South Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1S4



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

Tel: 902.423.9871

Fax: 902.422.3725

Charitable Business No:
83539 8405 RR0001