

Kids with Cancer Society

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2023



SUPPORTING FAMILIES
FOR 44 YEARS



Annual General Meeting
June 28, 2023



Good afternoon and welcome to the KWCS Annual General Meeting. This past year at our Society has been one of adaptation, clarity, and change.

In my opinion, we have adapted extremely well to the ever-changing environment that we are a part of here at the Society. The constant adjustments we face from the health care system, in fund development, in programs and of course, how to best look after our constituents, our kids, is all encompassing. It has been, or it seems to me, more relentless than ever.

The work of incoming Chair, Brad Armstrong and his team, including Brad Kotowich, provided clarity in many areas with our review and update of our entire KWCS operational model. In operations, interaction with all levels of leaders who can assist us, in our

responsibilities to and at the Society for us all including the FAC and of course, providing clarity going forward with our next group of leaders. These new leaders are charged with many responsibilities but simply put, because of you, children won't fight cancer alone. We are clear who we are responsible to and for. That has never been in doubt nor will it ever be in doubt.

The change that we have experienced these past few years has been exciting, invigorating and timely. I'm so very pleased with the broad base of skill set that we have here on this Board and am excited with the two new members we will be adding this afternoon. Clearly, all in this room have a deep belief in the Society, to do what is best for those we are responsible for, our kids. In reality, nothing else matters and as a parent of a survivor, that's all that mattered to Gloria and I. Do your best.

Chelsea, you have delivered exactly what we believed you could when you were interviewed last September and on behalf of all of us here today, a job well done. Keep up the good work and remember, Rome was not built in a day. Please pass on to your team our most sincere appreciation for their efforts, at all levels, this past year. Congratulations once again.

The American philosopher William James said, *"Man can alter his life by altering his thinking."* Changing your thoughts can change your life and the lives around you. I agree with this sentiment and clearly, we alter our thinking, or we perish.

Finally, it has been my great honour to be a part of this Board these past few years and I would like to extend my appreciation to Karen Webb along with Dr Paul Grundy who will be departing this board today as well. Karen and Paul, a great service you have provided to our Society and we are sure that we can count on you going forward.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Lovsin".

Mike Lovsin
Kids with Cancer Society
Chair of the Board

message

2022 Board of Directors

Mike Lovsin

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD, PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

J.P. Janssens LLB

SECRETARY

Kavan Hyde CPA

TREASURER

Brad Armstrong

Chelsea Draeger Hughes

NON-VOTING MEMBER (STAFF)

Dr Paul Grundy

Karen Klak

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

Gayle Krupa RN

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

Casey McKenzie MBA

Aleksa Mrdjenovich MBA

James Richardson MBA, CMC

Don Riep

Terry Stychin

Karen Webb

Dr Beverly Wilson

2022 Family Advisory Council

Gayle Krupa

CHAIRPERSON AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Karen Klak

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Michelle Baker Goswami

Emily Bazin

Sheila Ethier

Lynn Johnston

Rebecca Leitdke

Gloria Lovsin

Nichon Miller

Elaine Pederson

Maira Quintanilha

Ashley Roberie

Shane Roberie

Erica Thomas

who we are

The Kids with Cancer Society provides unique, vital programs and services free of charge to children diagnosed with cancer and their families, residing in Northern Alberta and the NWT.

Many families describe the Kids with Cancer Society as a lifeline when their lives have been turned upside down by a cancer diagnosis. We serve families from the time of diagnosis, through treatment, survivorship and beyond. Our programs and services address their unique and complex needs ranging from family support programs and activities, peer support, counselling services, financial support and educational support. We also fund ground breaking pediatric cancer research and provide support to the pediatric oncology unit at the Stollery Children's Hospital.



2022 Impact Highlights

\$2,313,698

Invested in programs, services and research and support

\$500,000

Invested in financial support provided to families for daily living, medical expenses, and more

\$440,000

Invested in pediatric cancer research and clinical trials

7000
Times

KWCS services were accessed by families

346
Nights

of accommodation were provided at Papa Ken's House

1100+
Students

attended a Cancer in the Classroom Presentations

1500+
Times

KWCS Counselling services were accessed

1000
Services

were accessed from counselling to advocacy and assistive technology through BrainWorks

2082
Hours

of volunteering



Bennett's Story

My name is Bennett, but everyone calls me Benny. I was diagnosed with a brain tumour in June of 2019. My mom says it's called a Pilocystic Astrocytoma, but I just call it my circle.

Since then, I have had 5 brain surgeries, 108 doses of chemotherapy and I've done a lot of smaller jobs. My body tried to grow up too quickly because my circle pushes on the part of my brain that controls my hormones (whatever those are) so I now have to have a leg poke every month to keep me young until I'm ready to grow up.

My circle is in a very tricky spot and I have seizures because of it, if they tried to take it out I might not be able to see. I'll probably always have my circle and I'll have to start chemo again soon to keep it from getting too big.

I've made so many friends at the Kids with Cancer House and I make more every time we go. I have somewhere to go play between my appointments that is away from the hospital.

We live over an hour away and spend many hours driving. We stay at Papa Ken's House a lot in the Susan Wylie-Hagstrom's Room, and it's become our home away from home.

I've had fun at the Christmas parties and Horsepower for Hope! Dr. Adrienne helps teach my mom and I different ways to calm my body and my mind in the BrainWorks program. I go through a lot as a little kid and 2 sometimes my worries get really big.



"We live in Red Deer so we spend a lot of time at Papa Ken's House. We stay there almost everytime we come up. We also work with the BrainWorks Program to help Benny through his anxiety. She also helps me through my anxiety with his scans, tests, and all his hard jobs".

– Bennett's Mom



2022 Generosity Highlights

Kids with Cancer Society Signature Events and Campaigns RAISED OVER \$1,600,000



- \$560,000** Horse Power for Hope
- \$338,000** Beaded Journey Gala
- \$285,000** Family Fundo
- \$187,000** Tour of Hope
- \$128,000** Golf Classic
- \$116,000** Share the Joy Campaign
- \$60,000** Revving Up for Kids



Kids with Cancer Society child and supporter, **Cecily Eklund**, received the **Outstanding Philanthropist Award** at National Philanthropy Day Awards in Edmonton. Go Auto and the Horsepower for Hope Committee, were also nominees.

“

“KWCS has been a tremendous support since Luca was first diagnosed. From hospital supplies, parking passes etc. and now in-person events that has helped us form lifelong friendships with other cancer families. Not only have they supported Luca on his journey, but they have been a safety net for his brothers and for my husband and me. We don’t know how we would get through these dark days without them.”

– Luca’s Mom

“The Kids with Cancer Society has provided Kaylin with many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities that have created wonderful memories. Kaylin had the amazing opportunity to meet the Oilers and learn from the talented News Reporters from Global TV. Even without these two unique experiences, she has had so much fun joining in the teen events and making new friends.”

– Kaylin’s Family

“Everything the Society does is amazing! Starting with the financial support. For me, losing my income and not being able to work for the whole first year, having their support was incredibly helpful. That first Christmas was so stressful and difficult, but they basically gave us the chance to have one for the kids—they were so happy.”

– Jacob’s Mom

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Thank You

The Kids with Cancer Society is completely fueled by philanthropy. The generosity of our donors, volunteers, businesses, foundations, participants, families, and friends allows us to give our children and their families exactly what they need throughout their cancer journeys.

The kindness of strangers is a powerful act, and our families experience this kindness every day. Our goal is to ease the

burden of their journeys and help each child, their siblings, and parents thrive in spite of cancer.

Our community never ceases to amaze us and we are honored and fortunate that YOU chose to make a difference in the lives of families in their time of need.

We are always stronger together.



Go Auto believes in community, uplifting those in need and creating positive change. Through their generosity to the Kids with Cancer Society, our kids and families have stability and hope as they navigate their cancer journeys.

Childhood cancer is relentless. Families face uncertainty, fear and a sense of isolation. We are able to provide the specific and desperately needed programs and services for the child and entire family because Go Auto made a commitment which allows us to help alleviate the cognitive, financial, social, and emotional hurdles they experience. Families live with a new normal, but because of Go Auto, families are able to thrive in spite of cancer. We consider Go Auto to be family, and we are forever grateful.

Go Auto's commitment to donate \$3 Million to the Kids with Cancer Society has had transformational impact on the Kids with Cancer Society. In addition, in 2022 along with Connor McDavid, Go Auto generously donated a new Mini van for use to enhance our programs and support delivery to our families.



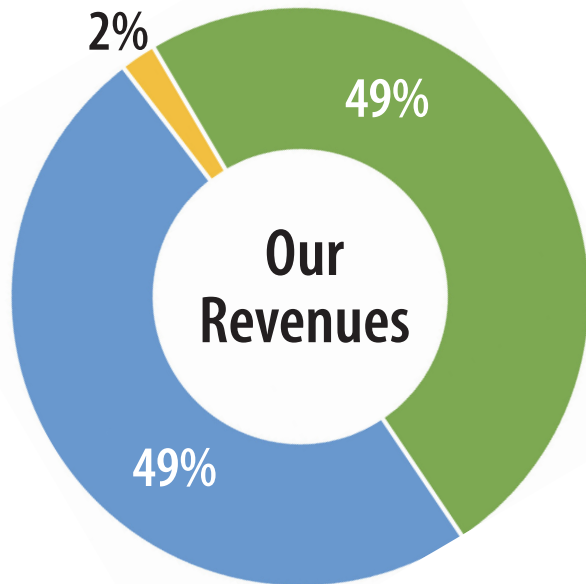
After 18 years of leading the Kids with Cancer Society with passion, commitment, and vision, Executive Director and oncology parent, Val Figliuzzi, retired in October of 2022.



Val led the organization in the creation of over 50 programs and services, a new short term accommodations facility, and increasing the investment to local pediatric oncology research—because she has always believed there must be a better tomorrow for these children. Under her leadership, no child had to fight their cancer alone.

We wish Val an incredible retirement and we thank her for all she has done for the Kids with Cancer Society and the many families she has impacted.

Financial Statements



◀ Thanks to our donors and supporters, we generated \$3,287,267 in revenue through

- Donations
- Interest and other income
- Fundraising Events

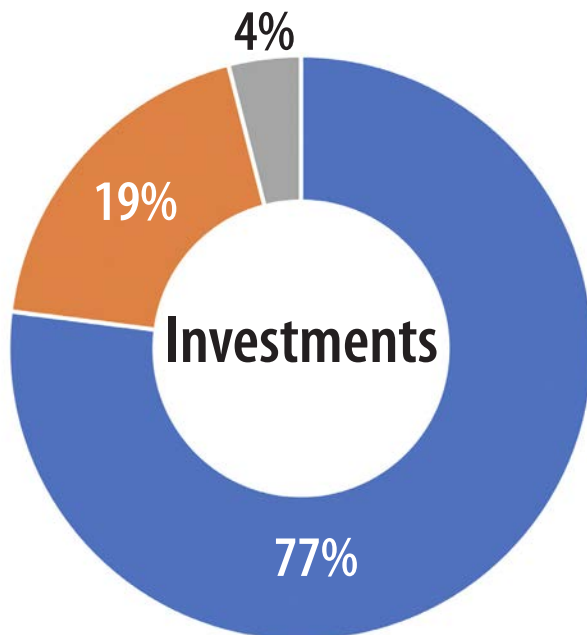
We thoughtfully invested our revenues ▶

- Fundraising
- Administration
- On our mission



◀ Thanks to our supporters, we invested \$2,313,698 in our mission

- Pediatric Oncology Research
- Papa Ken's House
- Support Programs



THE MANY FACES OF CHILDHOOD CANCER



Thank You

**Your support ensures no child
has to face cancer alone**

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kidswithcancer.ca
Charitable Registration No. 88640-1397RR0001

