

2022

annual report



Letter from the **Board Chair** and the **Executive Director**

Dear Friends,

Connections, community, and relationships have been our overarching themes as Chisholm navigated the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the past year, our team responded with resiliency in caring for the children we serve as COVID-19 found its way into the homes of our team members and the programs we deliver. As public health directions shift, we once again are reconnecting with our community, enhancing our service and deepening the therapeutic relationships with those we care for through Chisholm.

In January 2022, Chisholm recognized a milestone of 50 years of community-based Child and Youth Care service in Halifax. With our Founder's vision of connecting those cared for with the community they lived in, the program transitioned from a larger group care service, originally established in 1890, to a community-based program in 1972. Since then, Chisholm has provided a safe home to 646 children and adolescents from the same homes our Founders established in the early 1970's. Today, our community is changing as are the needs of those we serve. As we continue to focus our services on children aged six to twelve, we recognize that our purpose has outgrown our home. In partnership with Chisholm Foundation for Children and the Department of Community Services, Chisholm continues to chart a path forward to relocate our services to a new home that is responsive in meeting the needs of the children living in our Child and Youth Caring Program today, and for those who will need community-based support in the future.

This year, Chisholm navigated the transition of our Director of Clinical Services, Tamsyn Brennan. The role of the Clinician is instrumental in the service delivery and support to the team in the Child and Youth Caring Program as well as in the Chisholm Trauma Informed Care Group. Anja Spears joined our team in the Clinician's capacity in October and has been a welcome member of the team, advocating for the rights of the children in the program and their placement needs.

Over the past year, the LINKS Literacy Program continued to adapt to new ways of learning. Blended services were once again delivered through our on-site locations when it was safe to do so, as well as through our LINKS Distance Program. This year saw the transition of our LINKS Program Manager, Becks Levick, after eight years of dedicated service. As we continue to grow our LINKS Program and reach further into the community to provide literacy support for children, we look forward to the many strengths the new Program Manager will bring to the service.

In closing, we would like to extend our gratitude to the community that strengthens our services with special mention of the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, and more specifically the eight schools Chisholm has worked with in supporting the educational needs of the children in the Child and Youth Caring Program and the LINKS Program. This year Chisholm recognizes these schools as the recipients of Chisholm's Community Heart Award. We would also like to thank the Department of Community Services for their ongoing support and confidence in Chisholm to meet the needs of the children who live in our Child and Youth Caring Program. Thank you to the Board of Directors for their guidance, and to the Chisholm and LINKS Literacy teams who hold the important role of supporting the children we serve day-to-day. As we set our sights on the coming year, we look to continue to strengthen our service, relationships, and the community connections we rely on to provide the care our children not only need but deserve.

Respectfully,



Trevor MacDonald
Board Chair



Wade Johnston, MSW, RSW
Executive Director

Friends of Chisholm's Children

INDIVIDUALS: Gregory Aikins, Teresa Albuquerque, Laurie Alexander, John Apfeld, Vanessa Bagnall, Marina Baker, Kara Barrett, Joanne Bath, Genevieve Batiot, Wendy Birrell, Calvin Blades, Sheila Blair-Reid, Kevin and Pamela Bourke, Clarence Boutilier, Suzanne Bowers, Jane Boyd Landry, Dianne Bragg, Krissy Brewer, Peter Browne, Angela Buckles, Shawna Burgess, Terri Burgess, Dennis Campbell, Rebecca Campbell, Debbie Carver, Alison Casey, Douglas Cashin, Nick Chan, Darrell Cochrane, Michel & Trudy Comeau, Stephen Corbett, Simone Cottreau, Kristina Creamer, Jennifer Crowley, Colette Curran, Kelly Currie, Mike Currie, Rob Dearman, Bill Doane, Chris Donahoe, Norsat Eblaghi, Josh Edmonds, Sarah Edmonds, George & Charlene Edwards, John Falkenham, Deborah Forsyth, Carolyn Ganeles, Lisa Gardner, Chris Garner, Geraldine Gay, Alex Gillis, Colin & Jane Gillis, J.P. Girard, Natasha Gollop, Elaine Gordon Cragg, Jane Grantmyre, Greg Guy, Shelly Hancock Hurst, Amanda Hatt, Ben Hawkins, Larry Hayes, Evan Hickey, Shari Lynn Hiltz, Trudy Hiltz, Judy Hollett, Geoff Hurst, Ryan Inglis, Mary Isnor, Lisa Jackson, Daryl James, Gabrielle Jeannette, Brandon Jennings, Richard Jennings, Anjali Jensen, Brenda Johnston, Monica Johnston, Wade Johnston, Fern Jordan, William Jordan, Rick Kelly, Heather Kilby, Judy Kiley, Allan King, Maggie Knox, Perry Lambourne, Rebecca Larlee, Carly Lawrence, Kelly Reynolds Lawrence, Maya Layton, Joanne Leclerc, Elizabeth MacDonald, Jeff MacDonald, Mark MacDonald, Mickey MacDonald, Sheila MacDonald, Trevor J. MacDonald, Fred MacGillivray, JoAnne MacGillivray, Dakota Maclean, Laura MacLellan, Peter MacLellan, Julie Maillet, Andrew Marriott, Kyle and Nicole Marryatt, Tanya Matthews, Elizabeth McCormick, Rick McCulloch, Helen McGee, Tiffany McLeod, Jeff McNeil, Janelle McNulty, Heather Mead, Catherine Melvin, Florence Milley, Patricia Myatt, Trisha Noel, Heather Nowlan, Eric O'Brien, Virginia O'Connell, Daniel & Mary Jane O'Halloran, Lisa Peck, David Pilon, Nancy Porter, Bettyann & Rob Power, Julie Power, Stacey Pyke, Karen Raynard, David Ring, Peter Ripley, J. William Ritchie, Maria Rizkallah, Tara Robinson, Nathan Rowarth, Dennis Rumsby, Michael Rushe, Mervyn Russell, Wanda Scott, Mary Skinner, Ethan Smith, Jayne Smith, Sandy Snide, Gracie Southwell, Adrienne Stapells, Paula & Alan Stoddart, Jessica Strauss, Cynthia Taylor, Deborah Thibault, Erika Thomas, Neil Thompson, Susan Tirone, Verity Turpin, Heidi Vere Holloway, Ray Warner, Keith Weagle, Judy Williams, Patricia Woodbury, and Samantha Young.

ORGANIZATIONS: Accomplice Content Supply Co, Inc., Alumitech Architectural Glass & Metal Ltd., Aptitude Digital, Atlantic Elver Fishery Inc., Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre, Belmont Health and Wealth, Bryant Realty Atlantic, Canadian Progress Club, Halifax Citadel, Chickenburger / Chicken Little Café, Children's Aid Foundation of Nova Scotia, Clearwater Seafood, Domus Realty Ltd., Estate of W. Michael S. Covert, Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia, Francis J. Robinson Estate, Grafton Connor Goup, Halifax Chrysler Dodge, Halifax Recreation, Halifax Regional Police, Halifax Youth Foundation, Harvest Wines, Hoffman La Roche Ltd., IBM Canada Employees' Charitable Fund, IG Wealth Management, Kent & White Insurance, Maritime Beauty Supply Co Ltd., ME Family Therapy and Resource Centre, MICCO Companies, Mill Cove Entertainment Centre and Brew Pub, Move 100.1, O.E. Smith Estate, PayPal Giving Fund Canada, Premiere Entertainment Group, Race Roster - Smart Payables, Royal Bank of Canada - Spring Garden, Rudy's Catering, Saint Marys Elementary School, Sisters of the Good Shepherd - Toronto, Summa Holdings Inc, Tara's Afterschool Program, TELUS Communications Inc., TELUS Friendly Future Foundation, The Hartman Matthews Family Trust, United Way of Greater Toronto, Virgin Radio Halifax, Walmart Canada Corp, and WORKSPACE Atlantic Bayers Lake.

2022 Fiscal Highlights Year at a Glance



Days of Care	1,978
Admissions	5
Average Age	10
Average Grade	4.5
Average Length of Stay (days)	367
Discharges	5
Children Served in Child & Youth Caring Program	9
LINKS Registered Students	206
Total Number of Youth and Children Served Since 1972	2,510

CHISHOLM A-OK PROGRAM – ACTS OF KINDNESS

The Chisholm Acts of Kindness Program is a project of Chisholm's Mission and Values Committee. In 2017, this committee recognized that children referred to our residential program routinely scored low in age-appropriate social skills, based on the use of the Adaptive Behavioural Assessment System (3rd Edition). Competency in this area is a predictive factor in short term success when projecting a child's development with the goal of transitioning into a family environment, and long-term success in academic functioning and workforce engagement. Through monthly activities, our children explore the topics of The Chisholm Way values of Hope, Respect, Compassion, Collaboration and Belonging.

Though we have still had periods in the last year where we were limited in our community engagement activities, our children were celebrated for a number of Acts of Kindness. This year, the children at Chisholm Centre put together care packages for community members who were in need. This is always an activity that resonates deeply with our children, and they continue to be actively engaged in giving back. This past Halloween, children donated treats and pies to a local shelter, as well as picked out and delivered pumpkins to Northwood Retirement Living. Children also purchased treats, toys, and food for an animal shelter throughout the year. At Christmastime, one of our children had the opportunity to go out with a team member and purchase and deliver gifts to two families who were in need during the holiday season. Through all of these acts of kindness, we saw our children demonstrate tremendous generosity, compassion, and an active eagerness to help others in their local community.

CHISHOLM CENTRE – CHILDREN'S TRANSITIONS

Through the 2021-2022 year, Chisholm welcomed five children into the Child and Youth Care Program. We also saw five children transition from our Child and Youth Caring program. Of those discharged, one child went to a Place of Safety, two children required a higher level of group care, and two children transitioned to foster care. Of the children who transitioned from the program this past year, the shortest stay was 268 days, and the longest placement at Chisholm Centre was 652 days. While transitions are always difficult within our program, having grown so close to the children we care for, we are so proud of each child and their progress since walking through our doors – whether saying hello or saying goodbye.

CHISHOLM TEAM DEVELOPMENT / COMMUNITY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

With restrictions related to COVID-19, team development opportunities were predominantly online training with some in person sessions this past year. Our focus was on providing refresher training as per our Policies, along with other sessions focused on skill enhancement and improved service delivery. Training opportunities were offered in: Enhanced Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, Management of Harmful Behaviour, Administration of Medication, Fire Safety, Emergency First Aid / CPR, Diversity, Inclusion and Antiracism sessions facilitated by Robert Wright (Session 1: Origins of Modern Racism and its Living Legacy, Session 2: Introduction to Cultural Competence and Promoting Equity and Diversity in an Institution, and Session 3: Practicing with Cultural Competence), Black Lives Matter: Leadership & Cultural Impact Summit (NSGEU), Mindfulness (Rose of Sharon), Child and Adolescent Sexual Behaviour: What is Normal (Shelley Maguire-Morrison, ISAY IWK), and The Compassionate Leadership Program (TEND Academy).

Chisholm Service for Children also proudly led and facilitated community training sessions for the Kinship Foster Care Program this year as a leader in Trauma-Informed Care.

2022 Fiscal Highlights

LINKS CHILDREN'S LITERACY PROGRAM "LEARN TO READ, AND READ TO LEARN"

This is the ninth year the LINKS Program has been with Chisholm Services for Children. Over the past year, the LINKS program continued to respond to the impact of COVID-19 and provided a blended model of service delivery, offering both in-person and distance literacy instruction for children between six and twelve years of age who are reading below grade level and/or diagnosed with a learning difference. With the blended model over the past few years, we have seen some advantages of the virtual one-on-one sessions but have also noted that children miss out on some of the learning opportunities that occur through small groups with the in-person sessions.

Of the 206 students this past year, 84.5% were subsidized through grants secured by Chisholm through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Halifax Youth Foundation, as well as through SchoolsPlus engagement with other community funders such as the Children's Aid Foundation of Nova Scotia, HRCE sponsorship, Spryfield Lions Club and military funding. The remaining students paid directly for the program. During the school year, the LINKS Program was offered to students from Harbourview Elementary School (Dartmouth), Saint Joseph's Alexander McKay Elementary (Halifax), Rockingstone Heights School (Spryfield) and Sycamore Lane Elementary (Lower Sackville). Over the summer, on-site programs were offered at Westmount Elementary School (Halifax) and Harbourview Elementary School (Dartmouth), helping 41 students from across the HRM prevent summer learning loss and enhancing literacy skills to prepare for back to school.



We are grateful for the continued support of our Chisholm community, including organizations such as the HRCE, SchoolsPlus, the Halifax Youth Foundation, the Children's Aid Foundation of Nova Scotia, and grant funding through the HRM – who together ensure that LINKS is able to provide affordable literacy instruction to students from some of our most vulnerable communities. Thank you for believing in the importance of children's literacy!

CHISHOLM TRAUMA INFORMED CARE GROUP

In partnership with NS Department of Community Services Adoption Services, Chisholm Services for Children wrapped up its seventh cohort of the Trauma Informed Care Group (formally known as the Volunteer Adoption Program) and began the eighth. Providing education surrounding trauma-informed caregiving for parents who have either been approved to adopt or have recently adopted, the Trauma Informed Care Group content focuses on evidence-based practices in caring for children who have experienced complex trauma and/or attachment disruption. In response to the pandemic, this group met virtually, coming together once a month to review material, welcome guest speakers with lived experience, and build supportive connections among the group. The past year saw a total of 15 families (24 participants) in the first cohort, and 17 families (28 participants) in the second; some continuing to join from previous cohorts, as well as several new members.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

In building on Chisholm's Strategic and Operational Plan, Chisholm's activities in the coming year will include:

- Focusing our vision on future service delivery and securing an alternative location to best meet the needs for children requiring placement in our Child and Youth Caring Program
- Redesigning Chisholm Services for Children's website with a vision of delivering a user-friendly experience that better informs the viewer of the range of services offered by Chisholm and the impact the community can have for children in supporting our programs
- Assessing the LINKS program, with a view of providing a sustainable service delivery model of both on-site and distance programs
- Supporting the initiatives of the Inclusion, Diversity and Anti-Racism committee in building cultural competency within all aspects of Chisholm's service delivery model
- Exploring the opportunity to enhance the scope of the Child and Youth Caring Program with a Transition Support Program
- Strengthening our community partnerships to better align mental health services and supports as part of our therapeutic programming

Community Collaborations

Blue Nose Marathon, Canadian Centre for Child Protection, Canadian CORE Group, Captain William Spry Community Centre, Gorsebrook Junior High School, Halifax Public Libraries, Halifax Regional Centre for Education, Halifax Regional Municipality, Harbour View Elementary School, Inglis Street Elementary School, IWK Health Sciences Centre, Kids Help Phone, Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services, Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU), 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, Youth & Family Division), Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), Nova Scotia Federation of Foster Families, Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union (NSGEU), Nova Scotia Office of the Ombudsman, Pinwheel Communication & Design, Rockingstone Elementary School, Saint Joseph's - Alexander McKay Elementary School, SchoolsPlus, Sir Charles Tupper Elementary School, Sycamore Lane Elementary School, Worker's Compensation Board of Nova Scotia, and WORKSPACE (Bayers Lake and Bedford locations).

Board of Directors

Trevor MacDonald (Chair), Kelly Currie (Vice Chair), Elizabeth MacDonald (Treasurer), David Pilon (Secretary), Rebecca Campbell, Alison Casey, Sheila MacDonald, Deborah Thibault, Verity Turpin and Wade Johnston (*ex officio*).

Employees and Students

ADMINISTRATION: Wade Johnston (Executive Director), Geoff Hurst (Director Business Development), Becks Levick (Former Manager LINKS Program), Arun Jose (Bookkeeper / Payroll), Shawna Burgess (Office Administrator), Ariel Landry (Maintenance), Tamsyn Brennan (Former Director Clinical Services), Anja Spears (Present Director Clinical Services), Sean Clarke (Program Coordinator), Mike Shea (Supervisor), Melissa Wilson (Supervisor), and Leanne Higgins (Supervisor).

CHILD & YOUTH CARE PRACTITIONERS: Amy Baltzer, Sarah Bookman, Natalia Byard, Samantha Clark, Gemma Coley, Alyse Comeau, Christina Crane, Emily Crosby, Ahsley Dye, Rachel Eisenhauer, Tiauna Francis, Glen (Mike) Frizzell, Veronica Green, Mikida Andrea, Meghan Hall, Arielle Hiar, Hayley Hilchey, Laura Hutt, Kristan Jack, Tyson James, Jenna Juntermanns, Kyle Lantz, Isaac LeBlanc, Kaitlyn Leslie, Nicole Long, Alexa MacDonald, Logan MacKinnon, Kahlyn McIntyre, Brittany Minnis, Emily Murphy, Kasey Newell, Teruko (Koh) Niita, Ashley O'Brien, Courtney Peters, Tyson Poirer, Sheena Purdy, Kate Robart, Marie Robicheau, Kayla Slawter, Ian Surette, and Noah Widmeyer.

LINKS LITERARY INSTRUCTORS: Sage Beatson, Christy-Lee Bojarski, Lucy Burns, Claire Chadwick, Wendy Cordoba, Jenny Crouse, Chantel Cullen, Meltem Etiz, Clare Fitzpatrick, Lavinia Ford, Katie Gordon, Jazmine Hoffman, Meghan Jamieson, Victoria Keddy, Kiha Kim, Lola Leving, Brooke MacDonald, Katherine MacDonald, Moira MacDonald, Kate Power, Grace Ross, Breana Rubin, Ruth Shelton, Leah Simonot, Emily Walker, Kayley Watman, Rachel Watts, Lauren Willis, Jessica Wood, and Judy Zinck.

STUDENTS: (Chisholm) Ariel Beals, Dejan Brennan, Natalia Byard, Samantha Clarke, Anniesa Huggarth, Nicole Long, Donavon Manthorne-Borden, Kayla Slawter, Amy Vinnedge, and Cassidy Wagner; (LINKS) Chantel Cullen, Sarah Perry, and Ruth Shelton.

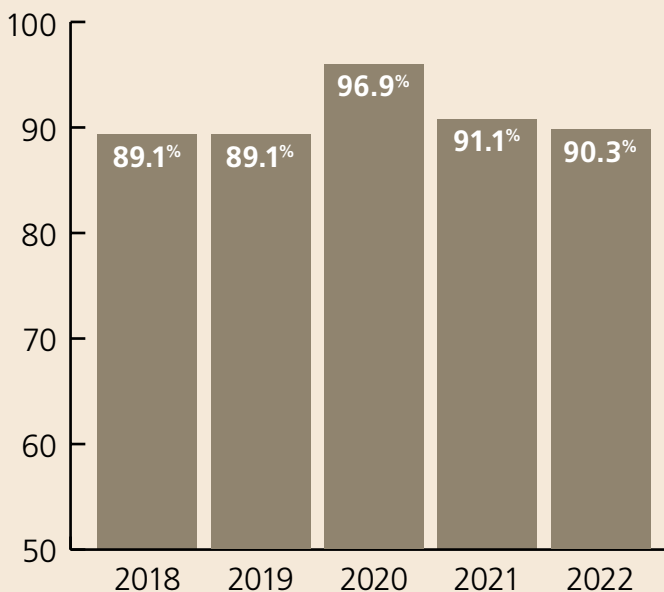
“Guiding children to a brighter future is not only our passion, its our privilege.”



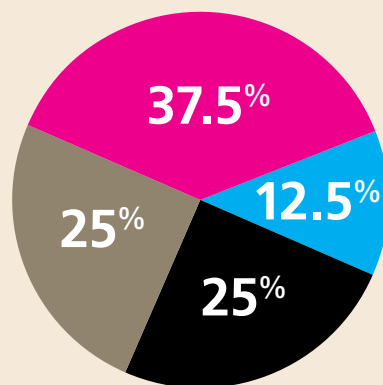
Financial Summary

REVENUE	2022	2021
Province of Nova Scotia	\$1,968,293	\$1,895,134
LINKS Revenue	\$88,363	\$77,864
Other	\$64,978	\$104,814
	\$2,121,634	\$2,077,812
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,642,032	\$1,622,473
Administration	\$105,256	\$89,579
Operations	\$242,498	\$178,940
LINKS Program	\$102,888	\$86,829
	\$2,092,674	\$1,977,821
Excess (Deficit)	\$28,960	\$99,991
Net Assets (Beginning of the Year)	\$221,621	\$121,630
Revenue over Expenses	\$28,960	\$99,991
Net Assets (End of the Year)	\$250,581	\$221,621

Average Occupancy



Referral Source



- Western Region 37.5%
- Northern Region... 25%
- Mi'kmaw F&CS 25%
- Central Region 12.5%

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***

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 development of life skills. To accomplish this mission, 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

We are compassionate towards each child's life journey, acknowledging that they are in need of care, consistency, and nurturing. We exemplify compassion by our commitment to creating a safe community with the children and families we serve. Compassion is evident when we are present, understanding, and responsive to each other. Compassion allows us to use forgiveness as an opportunity to strengthen ourselves and each other.

HOPE

We believe that children are not defined by what has happened to them, and that change is possible. Through our commitment to emotional, physical, cultural, spiritual and social safety, children and adults alike support and assist one another. We strive to be better at who we are, which becomes possible when we encourage, support, and believe in one another.

RESPECT

We believe in the intrinsic value and individual worth of each person. Respect is non-judgemental of the journey that has led children and families to our services. In all that we do, we are committed to the dignity of oneself, the respect and safety for each other and the environment. We respect that the future is yet to be written.

BELONGING

We believe that every child and family has the basic right to belong and have a sense of place and acceptance. Belonging requires each of us to remain vigilant to the safety and wellbeing of everyone. Belonging is rooted in the individual worth of each person and must reflect a spirit of sanctuary that is the foundation for physical, emotional and spiritual healing and personal growth.

COLLABORATION

We recognize collaboration is the cornerstone of the care provided to our children. Children's healthy growth requires collaboration with them, their family, teachers, care providers and broader community. We model justice, fairness and healthy relationships through mutual collaboration, striving to achieve a collective impact.



Chisholm Services for Children

5724 South Street

Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 1S4

Tel: 902.423.9871

Fax: 902.422.3725

chisholm4children.ca

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