



1700  
FAMILIES HELPED



HELPING  
FAMILIES  
HANDLE  
CANCER

2022  
IMPACT REPORT



# Helping Families Handle Cancer

A LITTLE SHELTER FROM THE STORM

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**WHEN A CHILD IS BATTLING CANCER  
WE FIND TANGIBLE WAYS FOR YOU TO HELP THEIR FAMILY**



Our son Kallan had been generally unwell for a couple of weeks in June 2021. Then he got strange bruises and bumps on his shins. I took him to the Alberta Children's Hospital emergency room late on June 29th and by the morning we were told he had leukemia and treatment would be aggressive. He would be admitted to the hospital immediately to start treatment. Overnight our lives were turned upside down. We had to let work know, make arrangements for my other daughter, and try to figure out how we would survive not working and taking care of our cancer kid.

We were so grateful when the Social Worker gave us a parking pass. It took at least a portion of the stress away not having to worry about how to pay for the high parking fees. Over the next 4 months, we received subsequent passes as Kallan went through treatment, spending 125 days in the hospital between June 30th and the end of November. Now he is almost one-year post-transplant and doing really well.

-Janelle, Oncology Mom

# CARE PROGRAM

IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT FOR YOU TO  
CHANGE THE STORY OF A CANCER FAMILY



## Intake Process

Families never expect to need our Care Program, but we're here for them so they can be there for your child.

1. After a child is diagnosed with cancer, a social worker is assigned to the family by the hospital.
2. The social worker meets with the family to assess their needs.
3. The social worker sends an application to our team on the family's behalf.
4. We contact the family and deliver support within 24-48 hours.

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS WE WORK WITH HAVE MADE IT STANDARD PRACTICE FOR EVERY FAMILY TO HAVE AN ASSIGNED SOCIAL WORKER

HELPING FAMILIES HANDLE CANCER SERVES FAMILIES ACROSS  
ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN AND IS ACTIVE IN:

ALBERTA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (CALGARY)  
JIM PATTISON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (SASKATOON)  
ROTARY FLAMES HOUSE HOSPICE (CALGARY)

# A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER

## CARIE STOCK

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cancer families are scared, uncertain, angry, putting on a brave face, grabbing onto hope, and trying to do everything they can to put one foot in front of the other. It's difficult to balance and merge your old life with this new hospital life.

When I'm connecting to cancer families who have been referred to us, I am instantly transported back to life at the hospital and my own journey as a childhood cancer patient. On a moment's notice, our lives were turned upside down. The years following brought not only stress but also huge financial hardship.

I can't rewrite the past, I can't make it better for my Mom, but what I can do is take what I learned from my own experience and use that knowledge to make it easier for cancer families whose lives are unfolding in this daunting chapter. We can't change the outcome, but we can impact the journey and help make it a little bit lighter.



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# PURPOSE



Our purpose is to alleviate financial stress for families in a redemptive manner that allows them to focus on the medical care and well being of their family during a childhood cancer diagnosis.



# OUR HISTORY

Carie was deeply moved by her mother's experience navigating her childhood cancer diagnosis. This led Carie to start a foundation that could make a difference for families with a child undergoing treatment.

Carie turned a life experience that most people would want to forget into her life's work. She grew up knowing that her purpose was to help others. No family should have to experience unmanageable financial burdens during a health crisis. Carie has been involved in many cancer-related activities - fundraising for research, shaving her head at 18, participating on the board of directors for a cancer charity for three years, attending worldwide conferences, and serving as a camp counsellor for cancer survivors and their siblings. The media have covered Carie's story and life experiences since she was two years old.



## MEET THE VELTING'S

Helping Families has been one of the greatest gifts to our family. They have helped alleviate the many inherent financial burdens that exist within the pediatric cancer community, by helping families pay for erroneous bills that accrue during treatment. They help feed families through grocery store gift cards, and help reduce hospital costs by providing families with paid parking passes and fuel cards. Helping Families are not only a source of financial security, but an organization founded and operated by a number of truly incredible advocates to the pediatric cancer community. To say we are grateful for Helping Families would be an understatement. They have been a lifeline throughout my son's recurrent cancer treatments. Thank you for all that you do and continue to do for our family.

- Ashley, Oncology Mom



## TOP 3 AREAS OF SUPPORT:

23%  
Parking  
Passes



22%  
Medical

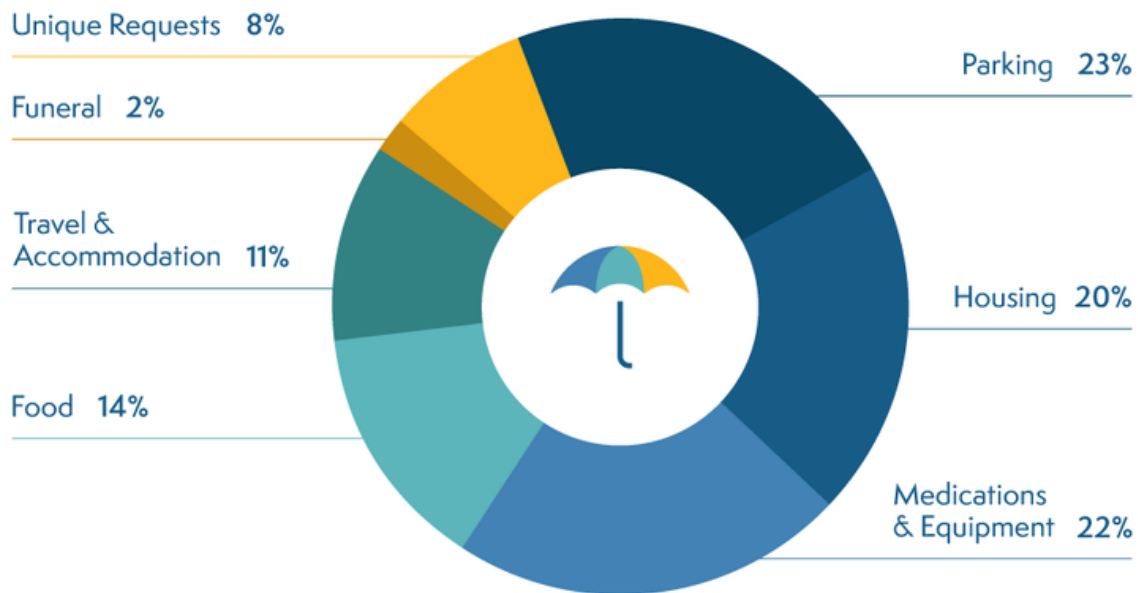


20%  
Housing



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# FINANCIALS



## Cancer Families Don't Have To Go It Alone

We work alongside pediatric oncology social workers to ensure the most in-need families receive financial support. Many families face reduced work hours or loss of employment just to be at their child's bedside. Our donors help with their bills: day to day, month to month, right in the middle of their struggle. Your donations go to local families, and the money goes to work immediately – most families receive assistance within 24-48 hours.

How we fund our operations:

- Grants
- Fundraising events
- Individual giving
- Corporate donations
- Monthly Miracle Makers



Become a part of our [Monthly Miracle Maker](#) program. This helps our charity budget our Care Program spending for the year.

[YOU CAN VIEW OUR 2022 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT HERE](#)

# COLLABORATIONS



We are very honoured to have been chosen by many current and past Care Program families as well as other individuals and businesses as the recipient of various fundraising projects



Bereavement Box Partners and local family foundations who have chosen to honour the memory of their child within our organization



Local businesses who have supported our charity through various in-house initiatives such as raffles, volunteering at events, and company giving



It is extra special to us when our cancer families support us. This year we are highlighting Nicolas and Rowan's Bottledrive and Team Evelyn's Honouring Evelyn parking pass fundraiser





# MILESTONES

## SPECIAL PROJECTS THAT CAME TO FRUITION IN 2022

### ● BEREAVEMENT BOXES

Not every child diagnosed with cancer survives. Bereavement boxes are given to our Care Program families in the months after they have experienced this unimaginable loss. These boxes have specially curated items in them to support a grieving heart. They serve as a reminder to the families that they are not alone in their grief. We remember their child's life, and we remember them in their most challenging days.

### ● SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

We were excited to offer our FIRST EVER parent bursary for three successful applicants. The three bursaries' were valued at \$5,000 each. The parent bursary is directed towards parents of children (age of 18 or younger) who have been or are currently diagnosed with a form of childhood cancer at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

### ● EXPANSION TO SASKATCHEWAN

Our first expansion occurred in 2022 when we were able to bring our Care Program to the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatchewan. We are now working directly with the Social Workers in that facility to bring the same support we give to our local families at the Alberta Children's Hospital.



# 2022 Bursary Recipients



We are so thrilled to announce our first-ever Helen Stock Legacy Bursary Recipients! Congratulations Ryan Brown, Marggie Marks and Celine Grasdall! Although we initially planned to give out two bursaries, an anonymous donor generously sponsored a third bursary to help us support one more deserving oncology parent. We send them our deepest thanks! Our Helen Stock Legacy Bursary awarded \$5,000 to each of these Oncology parents to help them in their post-secondary studies. Childhood cancer does not just affect your family in the moment, it changes your entire life in so many ways. Financially, it can put a strain on a family for many years during and after treatment as they work their way out of the financial hole. Parents give up everything for their child. Many go into huge amounts of debt. This bursary is a way for Helping Families Handle Cancer to help them achieve their goals and can allow them to put their themselves and their family in a better financial position moving forward. Congratulations Ryan, Marggie and Celine. You are so very deserving.



# GOALS FOR 2023

## ● SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Helping Families Handle Cancer is excited to announce the expansion of our scholarship program. We are now offering a sibling bursary for two successful applicants. This bursary will be offered alongside our two parent bursaries. Each bursary is distributed once and is valued at \$5,000/each. Our new sibling bursary is directed towards siblings of children (age 18 or younger) who have been or are currently diagnosed with a form of childhood cancer at the Alberta Children's Hospital. We are proud to be the first and only organization to offer a bursary for oncology parents and siblings in Canada!

## ● INCREASED SUPPORT TO CARE PROGRAM FAMILIES

2023 will see our largest increase in family support our charity has ever seen. We have increased the budget for the Social Workers at all three facilities our Care Program supports. This means increased support at the Alberta Children's Hospital, Rotary Flames House, and The Jim Pattison Children's Hospital.

## ● 1ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

We plan on hosting our first ever golf tournament at Heritage Pointe Golf and Country Club in June of 2023! Stay tuned to hear about the success of this day!

## ● CHARITY REBRAND

The cat is a little out of the bag on this one but 2023 will mean an entire rebrand to our website and logo. A change you can see throughout this report.

