



Annual  
Impact  
*Report*



Helping Families  
Handle Cancer



A little shelter  
from the storm



## A word from our Founder and Executive Director

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. Without any warning our lives were turned upside down. The years following my treatment brought stress and also huge financial hardship. My mission is to ensure families have an easier experience than mine did. I am grateful to each of our donors and supporters who help to ensure that mission is accomplished.

2023 was an amazing year for Helping Families Handle Cancer. We supported over 350 families through our Care Program, surpassing all our previous years. I am inspired by each of our supporters who make room in their hearts and their finances, because of them every family referred to our program through the social workers at the Alberta Children's Hospital, The Rotary Flames House, and Jim Pattison Children's Hospital receives the support they need.

I look forward to continued growth and care in 2024.

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.

1900

Since our inception we have supported over 1900 families. In 2023 we supported over 350 families

\$1.2 Million

Our Care Program has given out over \$1.2 million dollars in support to childhood cancer families!

3 facilities

We serve families across Alberta and Saskatchewan and are active in: Alberta Children's Hospital (Calgary), Jim Pattison Children's Hospital (Saskatoon), and Rotary Flames House Hospice (Calgary)



## 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.



# Everyone deserves to feel safe

I was diagnosed with leukemia just after my 4th birthday and underwent treatment for 3.5 years. You would think that I wouldn't remember much, but I remember a lot. Being trapped in the hospital was mentally and physically challenging. It was very traumatizing and hard for me. But I remember playing bingo with my family; I even WON! Looking at all the fishes in their tanks and waking up to a fresh mountain view breakfast from the cafeteria every Wednesday afternoon was awesome! Another special memory I have is watching superhero Lego movies with my mom. We would lay in bed all curled up together, eating popcorn, and would watch so many Lego movies I think it drove my mom crazy!

The nurses and doctors were always there to make me smile; I could never repay them. If I was crying my heart out, screaming and wondering when it was over, my parents and nurses were always there to hold my hand. Even with all that support inside the hospital, I still had a ton outside. My friends and family would write me notes and were always there for me. I have had tons of support during my time in the hospital, and I hope all the other kids like me do as well. Helping Families Handle Cancer helped make those good memories happen because they supported my parents with money so that my mom could stop working and be there for me to watch movies together and comfort me in the hospital.

Shared by Foster



Foster and his Mom Candice



# The year in review



## 2023 was our most impactful year to date!

Guided with the intention of making an impact on childhood cancer families in a way that matters we are building connection and community through our Care Program.

In 2023 we filled over 760 requests for support from hospital social workers at the Alberta Children's Hospital, The Rotary Flames House, and Jim Pattinson Children's Hospital. This is the largest number of requests we have ever received.

We provided families with \$230,000 in support towards household expenses such as rent and utilities, medication and medical costs not covered by healthcare, hospital parking passes, and other necessities of life.

Beyond that we were thrilled to host approximately 300 individuals across our three family movie events. For many of our families in treatment a movie might be something that they would have difficulty affording. It is always such a joy to see our families come together and experience some time of normalcy together.

Providing financial support is so much more than just paying a bill. It is giving a family time together with one less thing to worry about.

## Two big things we are proud of from 2023!

### First Annual Golf Tournament

Our First Annual Golf Tournament was a HUGE success! With 96 golfers in attendance and numerous volunteers we raised \$75,000 at our inaugural event which hosted at the prestigious Heritage Pointe Golf Club

### Sibling Bursary Recipients

In 2023 we expanded our bursary program to include 3 sibling scholarships. This is a first of its kind scholarship in Canada, supporting the siblings of children who have been or are currently in treatment for cancer.



If you see a child battle cancer it will change your life forever

# Care Program

## Our Commitment



ASSISTING WITH THE PAYMENT OF HOUSEHOLD BILLS LIKE RENT AND UTILITIES



MANAGING TRANSPORTATION COSTS THROUGH THE PAYMENT OF PARKING PASSES, TAXI VOUCHERS, AND FUEL CARDS



COVERING MEDICAL EXPENSES SUCH AS CENTRAL LINE SUPPLIES, MEDICATION COSTS, AMBULANCE BILLS, AND THERMOMETERS



ENSURING THE FAMILY HAS ACCESS TO MEALS IN HOSPITAL THROUGH MEAL VOUCHERS AND GROCERY GIFT CARDS



HELPING WITH EXTENUATING FAMILY NEEDS SUCH AS CHILDCARE COSTS AND OUT OF TOWN ACCOMMODATIONS



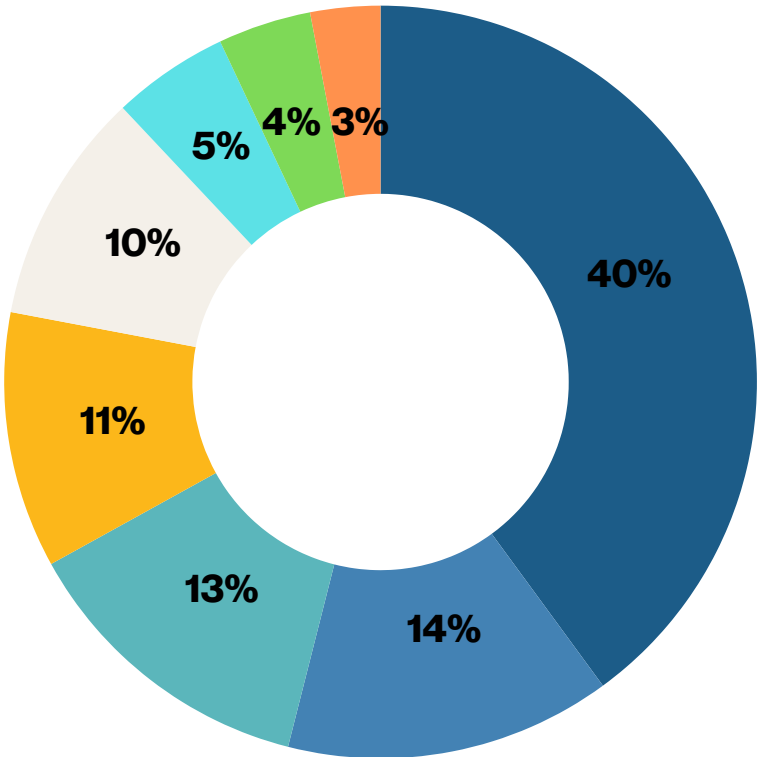
# Overview of Funding Care Program

## 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.

## Care Program Funding Summary



- Housing
- Parking
- Travel & Accommodations
- Medication & Medical
- Meals & Groceries
- Household & Utilities
- Miscellaneous
- Funeral



2023  
SOCIAL WORKER BUDGET **\$230,000.00**

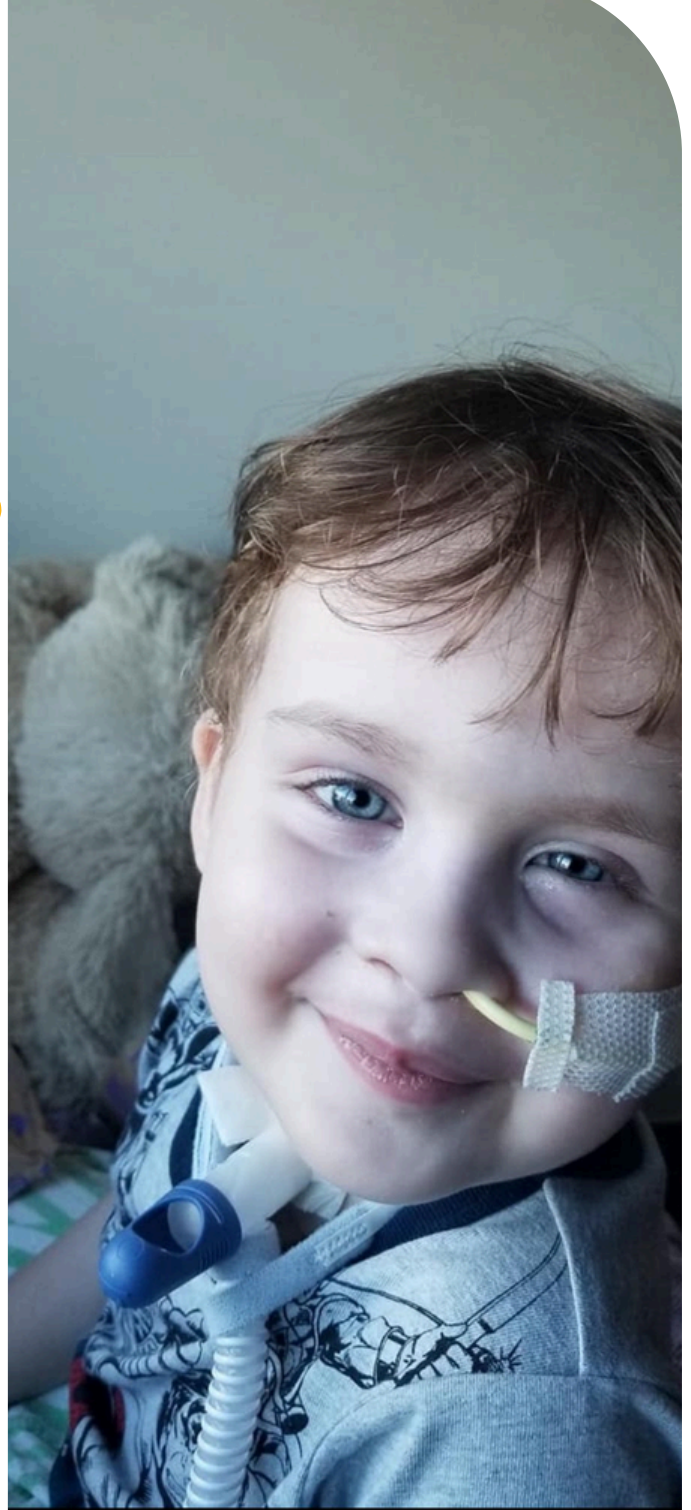
Alberta Children's Hospital \$180,000

Rotary Flames House \$25,000.00

Jim Pattison Children's Hospital \$25,000.00

It only takes a moment to impact the life of a childhood cancer family

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



## Donor Funding Summary

\$69,357

Corporate &  
Personal Donations

\$227,415

Events

\$163,120

Grants

[YOU CAN VIEW OUR ANNUAL 2023 REPORT HERE](#)





# Your dollars in *action*



**Sometimes all a family has left is memories. Your dollars ensure every moment matters**

Remembering Eden. She was only 19 months old when she was diagnosed with stage 4 Neuroblastoma. Her tumor was large, compressing her spinal cord and causing paralysis. Eden's oncologist described her case as one of the most advanced they had seen, with a very poor prognosis.

Thanks to organizations like Helping Families, we navigated frontline treatment. Unfortunately, she relapsed, and after 722 days of fighting, she passed away at 3.5 years old.

Enduring such a lengthy treatment took a toll mentally and financially. We're immensely grateful for the support Helping Families provided during those two years of treatment and afterward. Thank you for brightening and easing the difficult journey for our families and oncology kids.



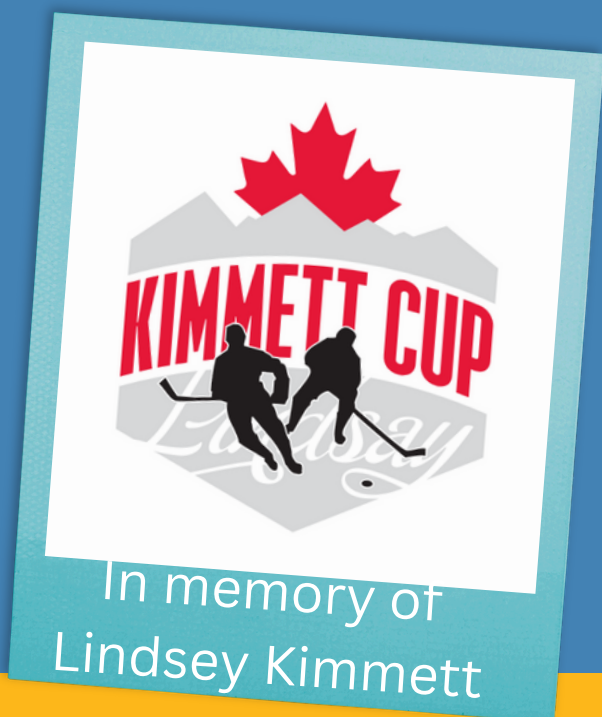
[Donate to our Palliative and Bereavement Care Program here](#)

# We'd like to thank all our donors for their generous *support*



*When a child is battling cancer we find tangible ways for you to support their family*

This year we had two memorial projects cross over the \$100,000 mark in support of Helping Families Handle Cancer. We are grateful that the Kimmett and Roy families choose to honour the legacies of Lindsey and Evelyn with projects that support childhood cancer families.



[READ ABOUT THESE AND MORE EVENTS HERE!](#)



# Helping Families Handle Cancer

Contact Us:

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Website: [helpingfamilies.ca](http://helpingfamilies.ca)

