

2024

ANNUAL IMPACT



Helping Families
Handle Cancer

REPORT



When a child is
battling cancer
we find tangible ways
for you to help their
family.



Helping Families Handle Cancer

A Little Shelter from the Storm

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How we help

Our financial assistance helps to cover costs, such as: rent, gas, groceries, utility bills, hospital parking, broviac supplies, medical expenses, and ambulance bills.

Our foundation interacts directly with the service providers (such as utility companies or landlords), to ensure that the bills are paid on time. This provides some relief to parents, freeing up time so they can focus on their child beating cancer.

How are donations distributed?

We work closely with Social Workers at the Alberta Children's Hospital. They identify cancer families who align with the support that our Care Program offers, and reach out to us on their behalf. We work with them to determine each family's specific needs, then whenever possible, pay bills directly on the family's behalf - eliminating one more stress.

"Helping Families Handle Cancer, thank you for supporting the families of the children being treated here. The parents are very grateful for your generosity, which has allowed them to focus on their child's needs and not be stressed about paying this month's rent. You make such a difference for families. I hope you know the impact you make."

- Oncology Social Worker
Alberta Children's Hospital



Dominic Rooney, cancer warrior

OVER
\$1.8 M
DISTRIBUTED TO FAMILIES

MORE THAN
2,500
FAMILIES HELPED

IN 2024 WE HELPED
546
FAMILIES



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THE YEAR IN REVIEW



In 2024, Helping Families Handle Cancer continued to stand beside families during some of their most challenging moments. We are especially proud to remain a low-barrier point of access to support, ensuring that families can receive help quickly, compassionately, and without unnecessary obstacles during an already overwhelming time.

As the only charity in Calgary providing this level of direct support to childhood cancer families, our role is both unique and deeply impactful. Through the direct payment of essential household bills and other medical expenses, we not only ease immediate financial strain but also help relieve the emotional burden that so often accompanies a cancer diagnosis. By reducing stress and uncertainty, we allow families to focus on what matters most **caring for their child and each other** while reinforcing our commitment to dignity, stability, and hope.

Summer Highlight

We were excited to host families for two special screenings of the Taylor Swift Eras Tour movie. The events were filled with bracelet trading, dancing, laughter, and meaningful connection, offering families a joyful break from daily challenges and a chance to simply have fun together.

Winter Highlight

Thanks to the outstanding support of our community, this year's online auction was our most successful yet, helping us expand our impact for families facing cancer.

Autumn Highlight

We proudly hosted our first Dessert Gala which was an intimate gathering featuring desserts, drinks, and powerful storytelling. The evening brought our community together to celebrate and honour the strength and resilience of the families we serve.

Spring Highlight

This year, our golf tournament continued to grow in both participation and impact, remaining a fun and engaging event for all who attended.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2024 GOLF TOURNAMENT





Isabella was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) a few days after she turned four.

FINANCES

2024 SOCIAL WORKER BUDGET

\$240,000.00

Alberta Children's Hospital \$190,000

Rotary Flames House \$20,000.

Jim Pattison Children's Hospital \$30,000

Additional Program Funding

Bereavement Boxes \$5,500

Scholarships \$20,000

DONOR FUNDING SUMMARY

\$85,021

Corporate and
Personal Donations



\$286,649

Events

\$270,903

Grants

[You can view our full financial report here](#)

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

Zoe was 17-years-old when she was diagnosed with stage 4 Rhabdomyosarcoma. She was dealing with hip pain and we thought it was a sports injury. She is in the thick of chemotherapy right now and doing well. Life is very different but we are grateful for every day and enjoying the moments of light with her.

Receiving a diagnosis of stage 4 cancer for your daughter is unimaginable and devastating. We are fortunate to have so many family, friends, and strangers supporting us.

When we were at the point of talking about discharge from the hospital for Zoe we were discovering all the things we needed to bring her home. I remember feeling really overwhelmed one afternoon and I was making a list through tears. Our Social Worker popped into the room and handed me a digital thermometer. She said this is for you guys to take home and it's gifted from Helping Families Handle Cancer. It may not sound like a big thing, but in that moment, it felt huge, a weight was lifted.

It was one less thing I needed to get, one less thought, and big feeling of support.

Zoe loves field lacrosse and has dreams of playing at a college level. She was back on the field this past Sunday with her team and even shot on net more than a few times.



WE'D LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made our work possible this year. It is because of our generous donors, dedicated volunteers, supportive board, and committed social workers at the hospital that we are able to do the work we do. Your time, compassion, leadership, and belief in our mission allow us to continue showing up for families when they need us most. Together, your collective support strengthens our impact and helps us build a more caring and connected community.



Penn was diagnosed with brain tumour at four years old

WE LOVE OUR

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers help us provide hope and support to childhood cancer families

They epitomize kindness & commitment to Helping Families Handle Cancer

We are looking for new volunteers to join us for our annual golf tournament.

Please reach out to Sharlene to express interest:

sharlene@helpingfamilies.ca





Thank you for
helping us be

A little shelter
from the storm