

Our 2025 Story
From Diagnosis to Strength
Real Support. Real Families. Real Impact.

Impact Report 2025



Who We Are

Helping Families Handle Cancer is a Calgary-based nonprofit dedicated to easing the financial burden faced by families navigating a childhood cancer diagnosis. Founded in 2008 by Carie Stock, the organization was born from lived experience and a deep understanding of how overwhelming both the emotional and financial realities of cancer treatment can be.

When a child is diagnosed, families are often forced to step away from work and daily life, to be at the hospital which places immediate strain on their finances. We exist to alleviate that pressure. Through a trusted network of pediatric oncology social workers, we identify families in urgent need and provide timely financial support to help cover essential expenses, like medical expenses not covered by health care, or extended benefits, groceries, fuel, and household bills.

Our purpose is simple but powerful: to reduce financial stress so families can focus on what matters most: The care and well-being of their child. We believe that parents should be able to remain at their child's side without the added weight of financial hardship.

Serving families across three partner locations:

- The Alberta Children's Hospital (Calgary)
- The Rotary Flames House (Calgary)
- Jim Pattison Children's Hospital (Saskatchewan)

We are committed to delivering compassionate, practical support that makes a real difference in the day-to-day lives of those facing cancer. When families are supported, they are better able to face the journey ahead - together.



What We Do

Helping Families Handle Cancer delivers targeted financial support that creates immediate, measurable impact for families facing childhood cancer. In 2025, we received 784 support requests delivering \$282,276 in direct assistance through our three programs at the Alberta Children's Hospital, The Rotary Flames House, and Jim Pattison Children's Hospital (in Saskatoon). Through strong partnerships with pediatric oncology social workers, we ensure support reaches families with the greatest need quickly and efficiently, often within 24–48 hours. Additionally, we provided \$21,989 in support through our bereavement boxes and or scholarship program. In total, Helping Families Handle Cancer supported families with funds totaling \$304,264.

Donor contributions are directed toward essential expenses such as medical expenses, groceries, transportation, and household costs which are critical needs, that can quickly become overwhelming during treatment. This eases the day-to-day financial strain families face. Our model is intentionally simple and cost-effective, ensuring that the majority of funds go directly to families maximizing the impact of every contribution. The result is immediate, tangible relief: fewer financial barriers, more stability at home, and the ability for caregivers to remain focused on their child's care when it matters most.



A little shelter from the storm





Letter from Carie

Hello, this year has been a powerful reminder of why Helping Families exists. Every day, we continue to meet families balancing the unimaginable; hospital stays, treatment schedules, financial strain, and the emotional toll of watching their child fight cancer. Behind every referral is a family simply trying to hold their life together, while focusing on what matters most, their child.

Through the generosity of our community, you enabled us to step in during some of those hardest moments. Whether it was helping cover essential bills, providing grocery and fuel support, creating opportunities for families to spend meaningful time together outside of the hospital, or simply reminding parents that they are not alone... your support made it possible.

These moments, big and small, represent relief, dignity, connection, and hope during an incredibly isolating time. Giving families a little more breathing room is something that is difficult to fully put into words, because "thank you" never feels like enough.

Helping Families remains a grassroots organization at heart, and every act of support, whether through sponsorships, donations, volunteer hours, or sharing our story, helps strengthen this charity.

Togetherness is at the core of everything we strive to create, as we walk alongside families through some of the most difficult days of their lives.

On behalf of the families we serve and our entire organization, thank you for standing with us this year. Together, we are helping families feel supported, seen, and cared for.

Carie Stock





Year in Review



\$2 Million Milestone

In 2025, Helping Families Handle Cancer reached a significant milestone - surpassing \$2 million in Care Program funding provided directly to families. Since our founding in 2008, our impact has grown steadily, with particularly strong momentum in recent years, as the need has increased and community support has expanded. This growth reflects both the rising demand for timely financial assistance, and the generosity of donors who make it possible for us to reach more families when they need it most.



1st Annual Golden Evening

Our inaugural Golden Evening was a memorable new addition to our fundraising events, and an immediate success. The event sold out completely, bringing together a full room of supporters for an elegant evening featuring curated wine pairings with desserts, exceptional entertainment, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. It was a beautiful night shared with long-time friends and many who quickly became friends, all united in support of families facing childhood cancer.

3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament marked a major milestone, becoming our most successful tournament to date. For the first time, we sold out all available golfer spots, reflecting the incredible growth in community support and engagement. We were proud to have Gibson Energy as our presenting sponsor, whose leadership and partnership helped make the event possible. The overwhelming generosity of sponsors and participants contributed to a standout year!



Donor Highlights

Each year, our donors come together in extraordinary ways to support our mission. Through generous financial contributions, dedicated volunteerism, and meaningful in-kind donations, they help bring our work to life and expand our reach to more families in need. In 2025, this collective effort made it our most successful year to date, demonstrating the power of a community united by compassion and a shared commitment to supporting families facing childhood cancer.

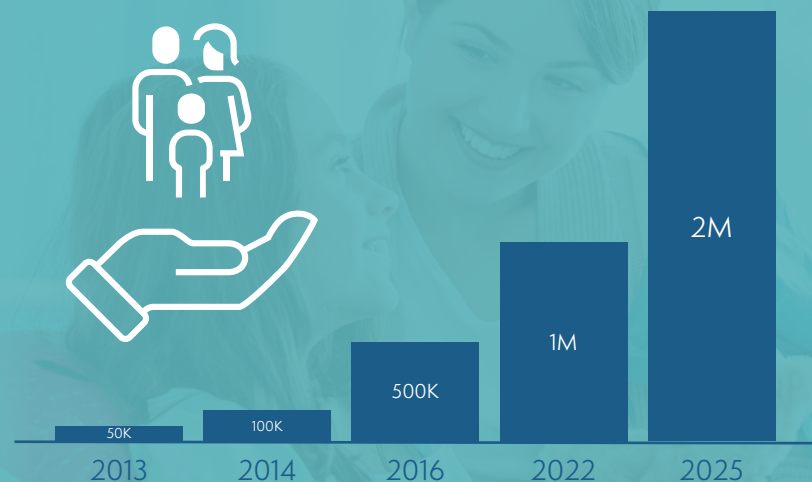




\$85,000

In Scholarships Awarded

Since launching our scholarship program in 2022, Helping Families Handle Cancer has awarded \$85,000 in scholarships to support parents and siblings impacted by childhood cancer. This includes 10 parent scholarships and 7 sibling scholarship, directly helping recipients pursue their education and move forward with confidence beyond their cancer journey.



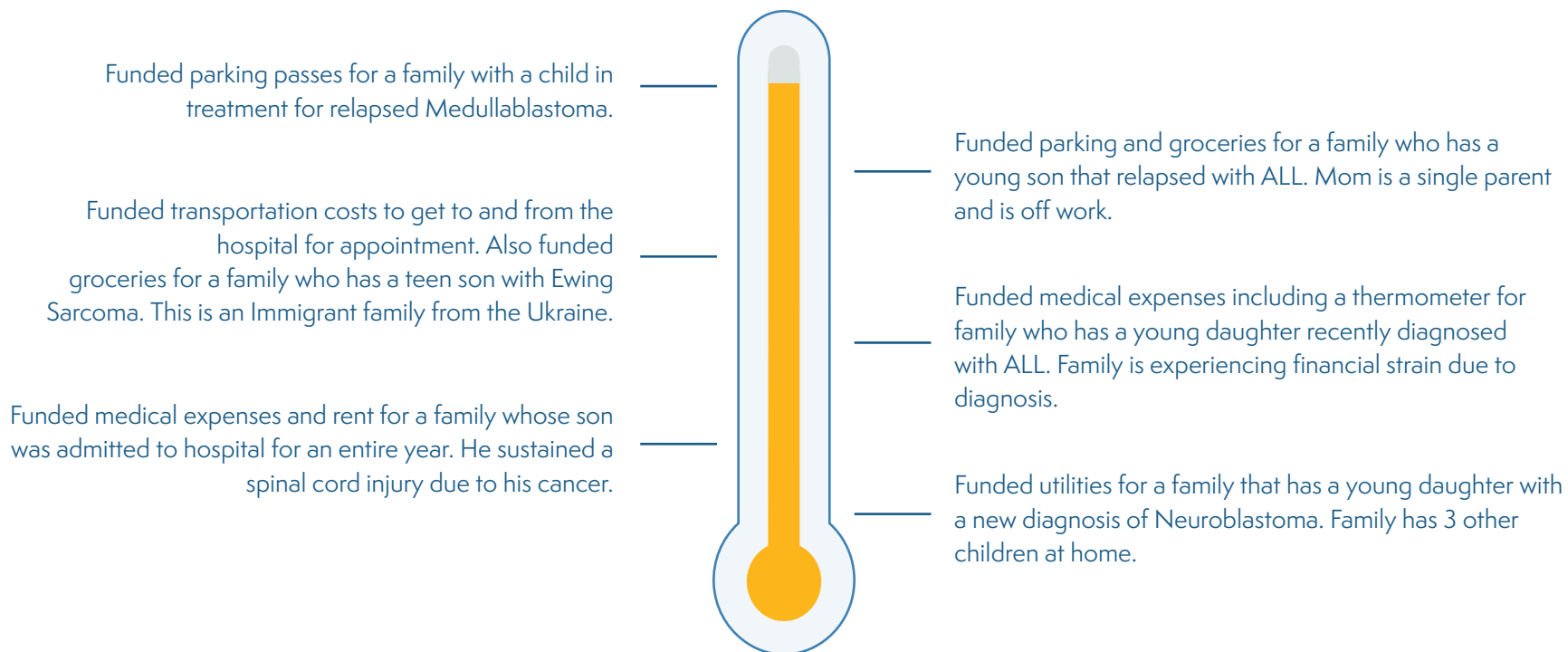
Program funding has grown steadily, reflecting the expanding reach and impact of our work. We surpassed \$50,000 in 2013 and \$100,000 in 2014, reaching \$500,000 by 2016. Since then, momentum has accelerated, exceeding \$1 million in 2022 and \$2 million in 2025. These funds have supported critical initiatives, such as care programs, bereavement support, scholarships, and research.

View our 2025 Financial Report by visiting: www.helpingfamilies.ca/2025-financial-report



Your Dollars at Work

Take a closer look at just a few of the many ways we support families every single day.



A simple thermometer can be lifesaving for a child with cancer, as infections can become serious very quickly during treatment. Every family must have a thermometer before leaving the hospital, that's why we keep thermometers stocked and ready to go, with hospital social workers ensuring families have this essential tool the moment they need it most.



As we reflect back on 2025, we are deeply grateful to everyone who makes this support possible. To our donors, volunteers, partners, and supporters, thank you for standing with families during some of their most difficult moments and for helping us be a shelter in the storm, when it is needed most.

Your generosity brings real, immediate relief to families facing childhood cancer, and your commitment is the foundation of everything we do. We look ahead to 2026 and beyond with great excitement and purpose, inspired by what we have achieved together and motivated by the growing needs that remain. With your continued support, we are confident we can reach even more families, strengthen our impact, and continue building a community where no family walks this journey alone.



 Together Through It All





www.helpingfamilies.ca