

BOOST

CHILD & YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE

BECAUSE EVERY
CHILD
DESERVES TO
BE SAFE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Our Vision -
a world where
children are
protected,
valued, and
can thrive.

We work to prevent child abuse and violence through awareness and education. Under one roof, we collaborate with police, child protection, medical, and mental health agencies to provide an individualized and child-friendly response for every child who has experienced abuse.

Commitment

We are fierce about protecting children.

Collaboration

We work better as a team.

Child-Centered

We work with children, youth and families through a trauma-informed lens.

Respect

We acknowledge and challenge systemic oppression and value the differences each individual brings.

Quality

We provide high quality service and are committed to continued improvement.

Letter from Kayla Yama, President & CEO

Reflecting on my first year as CEO of Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (Boost CYAC), I do so with a deep sense of gratitude, humility, and pride. This past year marked a period of meaningful stability and integration across our services, laying the groundwork for the future while staying deeply connected to our mission of supporting and advocating for children, youth, and their families.

2024 was a year of thoughtful consolidation and alignment. Our multidisciplinary team worked tirelessly to deliver trauma-informed, accessible, and child-centred wraparound supports. Through improved coordination and shared purpose, we enhanced the effectiveness of our services and deepened our collective impact. The changes we have made will benefit young people for generations to come.

One of the year's highlights was our National CAC/CYAC Meeting — a gathering that united CYACs across Canada. This event fostered vital knowledge exchange and underscored our role as a national leader in the field. We are proud of the momentum this initiative created and look forward to continuing to build bridges that drive innovation and equity in child advocacy work.

This year, we welcomed passionate new members to our team — individuals who bring fresh energy, expertise, and a shared commitment to

our mission. At the same time, we bid farewell to cherished colleagues whose contributions have left a lasting legacy. We honour the retirement of Iggy, our beloved National Service Dog, whose calming presence and intuitive support touched the lives of hundreds of children. Iggy's work reminds us of the power of connection, safety, and trust in the healing journey.

To our dedicated staff, thank you for showing up daily with compassion, skill, and courage. Your work changes lives. To our Board of Directors, your leadership, vision, and strategic guidance have been instrumental in navigating this year of growth and transition. And to our community of collaborators, donors, academic and service partners, your ongoing support allows us to do this critical work. Thank you for standing with us.

As we look ahead, I am energized by what's to come. Together, we will continue to create safe spaces, amplify young voices, and build a

world where every child is heard, protected, and empowered.

With heartfelt thanks,



Kayla Yama
President & CEO
Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre



Dear Boost CYAC Community,

As Chair of the Board at Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all those who make our work possible.

To our incredible donors—thank you. Your generosity is the foundation on which we build our mission. Every gift, every act of support, and every expression of trust in our work directly fuels the services and advocacy that help children, youth, and their families find safety, healing, and hope. You are not just supporters—you are champions of a better future for young people in our community.

We are also profoundly grateful for the continued partnership and support of the public sector at all three levels of government. To the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Toronto: thank you for standing with us. Your commitment to child and youth advocacy, and to collaborative, trauma-informed care, strengthens the safety net for some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

Finally, to the many stakeholders we work alongside—including law enforcement, child protection services, healthcare providers, legal professionals, academic partners, and community agencies—thank you for your unwavering dedication. Together, we form a multidisciplinary network that puts children first, ensuring that no child navigates their healing journey alone.

Boost CYAC's ability to respond with compassion and impact is rooted in the strength of our partnerships. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you for walking this path with us. Your belief in our mission inspires our continued work to create a world where every child is heard, protected, and empowered.

With appreciation,



Regan P. Watts
Chair of the Board



Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre

The Boost CYAC team includes professionals from law enforcement, child protection, health services, justice, and mental health services, and works collaboratively under one roof to help children, youth and families move forward after interpersonal abuse.

As a multi-disciplinary team, Boost CYAC supports complex cases of child maltreatment utilizing all resources available to provide a coordinated response. We engage multiple systems to provide education, training, and capacity building to prevent and respond to child abuse in Toronto.

CYAC Partner Stats

915
TPS Occurrences

821
Charges

470
Investigations conducted by CAST

213
Arrests

1,548
Interviews

291
Investigations conducted by CCAS

108
Medical exams conducted by SCAN

Our Partners



Victim/Witness
Assistance Program

Child & Youth Advocacy Program

The Child & Youth Advocacy Program (CYAP) is a voluntary service offered to all families involved with Boost CYAC for a child abuse or human trafficking investigation. Child & Youth Advocates provide immediate and ongoing support, education, advocacy and referrals services to children, youth and their families.

During investigations, Advocates will greet the family and familiarize them with the centre; introduce the Investigative Team; remain available to family members to provide emotional support and to answer questions and/or concerns; and provide information on next steps and services available to the family through the CYAC and the community.

Program Highlights

2024 was a year of tremendous growth of CYAP. Following the implementation in 2023 of new program initiatives such as extended hours of advocacy support and single caregiver sessions, CYAP in 2024 saw an 83% increase in the number of clients served from the previous year. This increase was made possible through program innovations, strengthened CYAC partners relationships and the hard work and dedication shown by Child and Youth Advocates.

The Child and Youth Advocate continuously strive to provide a safer space to children, youth and their families at the CYAC with the goal of lessening the impact of trauma while supporting healing, especially during the investigative process.

202

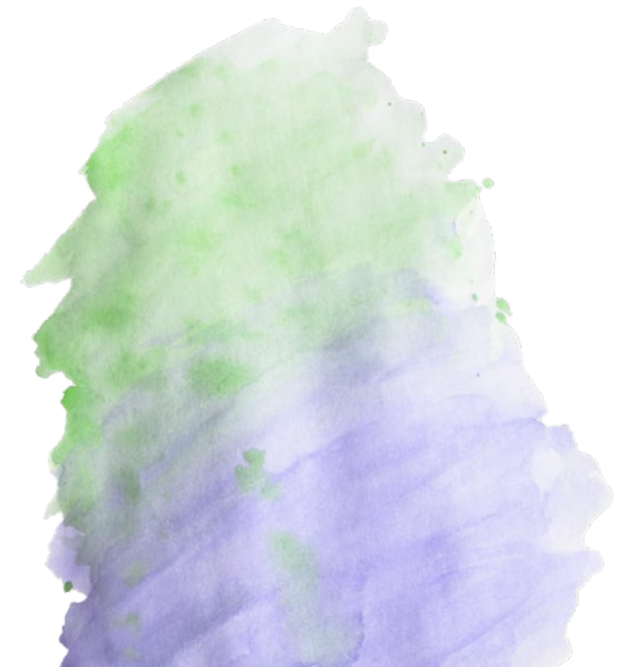
Clients supported during investigations

75

Caregiver's who received Single Session Support

"I don't think I would have gotten as much information as I did, without Ashley's help. The child really warmed up to [them] and Ashley set the stage for me to do the interview making my job a lot easier".

~ Toronto Police Service CYAC Officer



Child Victim Witness Support Program

The Child Victim Witness Support Program (CVWSP) believes that every child and youth has the right to be thoroughly prepared for their role as witness in court. By teaching children and youth their job as witnesses and educating them about the criminal justice system, we lessen their anxiety about attending court.

In 2024, the CVWSP supported witnesses attending court in Toronto, Barrie, Peterborough, Midland, Orillia, Bradford, Collingwood, Lindsay and Cobourg.

The role of the CVWSP Advocate is multi-faceted. In addition to providing trauma informed, developmentally appropriate court preparation for child and youth witnesses, the CVWSP Advocate

is part of a multi-disciplinary team with justice partners that work closely to ensure that child and youth witnesses' rights are advocated for. One of the rights afforded to young victims and witnesses is testimonial aids. Testimonial aids are in place to protect young victims and witnesses and improve their courtroom experience. For example:

- Child and youth witnesses can testify outside of the courtroom. As such, the CVWSP not only advocates but also provides the space for children and youth to testify in a safe, familiar space and without the fear of seeing the accused in person. As a result, the number of remote/virtual testimonies at Boost CYAC offices continues to increase year after year.
- Child and youth witnesses can have a support person with them while they testify. The CVWSP Advocate, as the support person, works as a buffer of the impact the demands of a criminal case proceedings can have on young person's well-being including mental health.

"...Ewan did such an amazing job with a challenging case and an 8-year-old victim who was very emotional. He was patient when he had to juggle many tasks, between supporting the victim and the family and communicating with me when the judge questioned what the victim was doing when she continually asked for breaks. I look forward to working with Ewan again."

~ Justice Partner

305

Clients prepared for court

285

Crown Attorney meetings attended

280

Clients accompanied/supported at court

69

Clients support through remote testimony

Trauma Therapy Program

Boost CYAC's team of Child & Family Therapists offers trauma assessment and treatment services to some of the most vulnerable children and families in the city, following a traumatic event. In 2024, our Trauma Therapy Program deepened its impact on children, youth, and families while centering equity, innovation, and trauma-informed care.

Program Highlights

Team Growth & Leadership: We welcomed three new clinicians and introduced a Team Lead role.

Mentorship in Practice: Our team supervised Master of Social Work (MSW) students, contributing to the training and development of future trauma-informed therapists and building capacity within our programs.

Milestone Celebration: We proudly celebrated a 10-year anniversary of one of our dedicated

therapists—honouring a decade of transformative work with children and youth.

Training & Clinical Excellence:

- Engaged in AF-CBT (Alternatives for Families: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy)
- Participated in a provincial DBT training initiative, enhancing our approach to emotional regulation and crisis support

Equity in Action: We continued racial trauma consultation with Charmaine Lane, advancing our commitment to culturally responsive, equitable care for all clients.

This year was a testament to our therapy team's strength, skill, and dedication—and to the transformation possible through trauma-informed therapeutic support.

132

Clients accessed CYAC Clinical Intake Service

56

Clients engaged in brief mental health services at Boost CYAC

78

Clients engaged in trauma assessment and therapy

Anti-Human Trafficking Support

In 2024, Boost CYAC's Anti-Human Trafficking (AHT) service continued to centre caregivers, often parents, as critical partners of children and youth impacted by commercial sex trafficking. We welcomed new clinicians to our Caregiver Support team, offering trauma-informed individual support that fosters safety, resilience, and

practical tools for parents seeking to support their children who are at risk or have experienced sex trafficking. Our team worked closely with Child Protection Services and the Lotus Health Clinic, reinforcing a coordinated care approach that addresses families' complex needs.

44

Youth and caregivers support by AHT Therapists

Prevention Education Program

The Prevention Education Program (PEP) consists of four pillars that include Training, Prevention Education, Research & Knowledge Mobilization, and Community Crisis Response programs for children, youth and adults.

The Prevention Education pillar creates, develops and facilitates classroom-based programming; the *PEP Talk* programs for children and youth include resources and support for educators. Our Training pillar provides education, information, and public awareness on child safety for youth-serving organizations, professionals who work with children, caregivers, and the broader community. The Research and Knowledge Mobilization pillar facilitates and participates in research, as well as creates and disseminates evidence-based prevention education through knowledge products such as white papers, literature reviews, infographics and curriculum. Finally, our Community Crisis Response program supports youth-serving organizations in crisis, particularly involving an investigation of a staff person, by providing consultation and intervention services to help reestablish safety within the organization.

Program Highlights

Boost CYAC partnered with Dr. Ramona Alaggia and the ThRive Child and Youth Trauma Incubator Lab at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social

Work at the University of Toronto. The lab aims to make a difference for children and youth exposed to trauma. Bringing together researchers, practitioners, community partners and students, this research incubator will work to improve the lives of mistreated children and youth and inform provincial policies and practices. Boost CYAC is proud to be the inaugural partner of the ThRive Lab.

In December 2024, Bill 123 (Erin's Law), received Royal Assent. This Bill amends the Education Act in Ontario with respect to child sexual abuse prevention and reporting and requires every school board to engage students in child sexual abuse prevention. Each board is also required to make information available to school staff as well as parents and caregivers. Boost CYAC has been working closely with our school board partners to create resources for those target populations, as well as delivering our *PEP Talk* programs in schools.

We also provided a Community Impact Statement for a high-profile homicide case involving a man who murdered his wife in the presence of their children. As we highlighted in our statement, which the judge utilized in the ruling, *"Intimate Partner Violence is a growing epidemic and there is a community of children and youth who silently witness IPV daily, who do not have the words, the safety or the support to express themselves freely and get the help they need... As a community, we all share responsibility for protecting our most vulnerable members, particularly children and youth. We ask that the court consider the profound and long-term effects of witnessing this type of violence as it makes its determination, with a focus on justice that prioritizes the young person's safety, stability, and future well-being"*. The judge sentenced the man to life in prison.

726

Students engaged in PEP Talk

62

Workshops delivered

2561

Professionals trained

12

Community Crisis Response sessions

114

Professionals supported through
Community Crisis Response

74

Students supported through Community Crisis Response

BARK Program - Accredited Facility Dogs

In 2024, Boost CYAC had four Accredited Facility Dogs in the BARK Program: Aria, Grumman, Iggy, and Jersey. All our dogs are graduates of National Service Dogs (NSD), Canine Assisted Intervention Program. Each dog lives with a primary handler and comes to Boost CYAC daily to work. Our dogs are specially trained to support children and youth throughout a child abuse investigation, including the forensic interview, during counselling and court preparation sessions, and while attending court proceedings. They provide comfort and support during what can be stressful and difficult experiences for children and youth.

In 2024, we said farewell to one of our first facility dogs, Iggy, who joined Boost in 2017. Iggy provided exceptional support and comfort to thousands of children and youth who had to testify in court in Toronto. Families who met Iggy repeatedly shared with us that their child would not have been able to testify without his calming and gentle presence. Boost CYAC staff, partners, and past clients celebrated Iggy with a retirement party in June 2024 which was featured in the [Toronto Star](#).

In November, we welcomed a new facility dog, Grumman, who began providing court support to children & youth through our Peterborough office. Grumman has been learning alongside our veteran Peterborough Region court support dog, Jersey, and has already supported several children & youth navigate the criminal justice system.

112

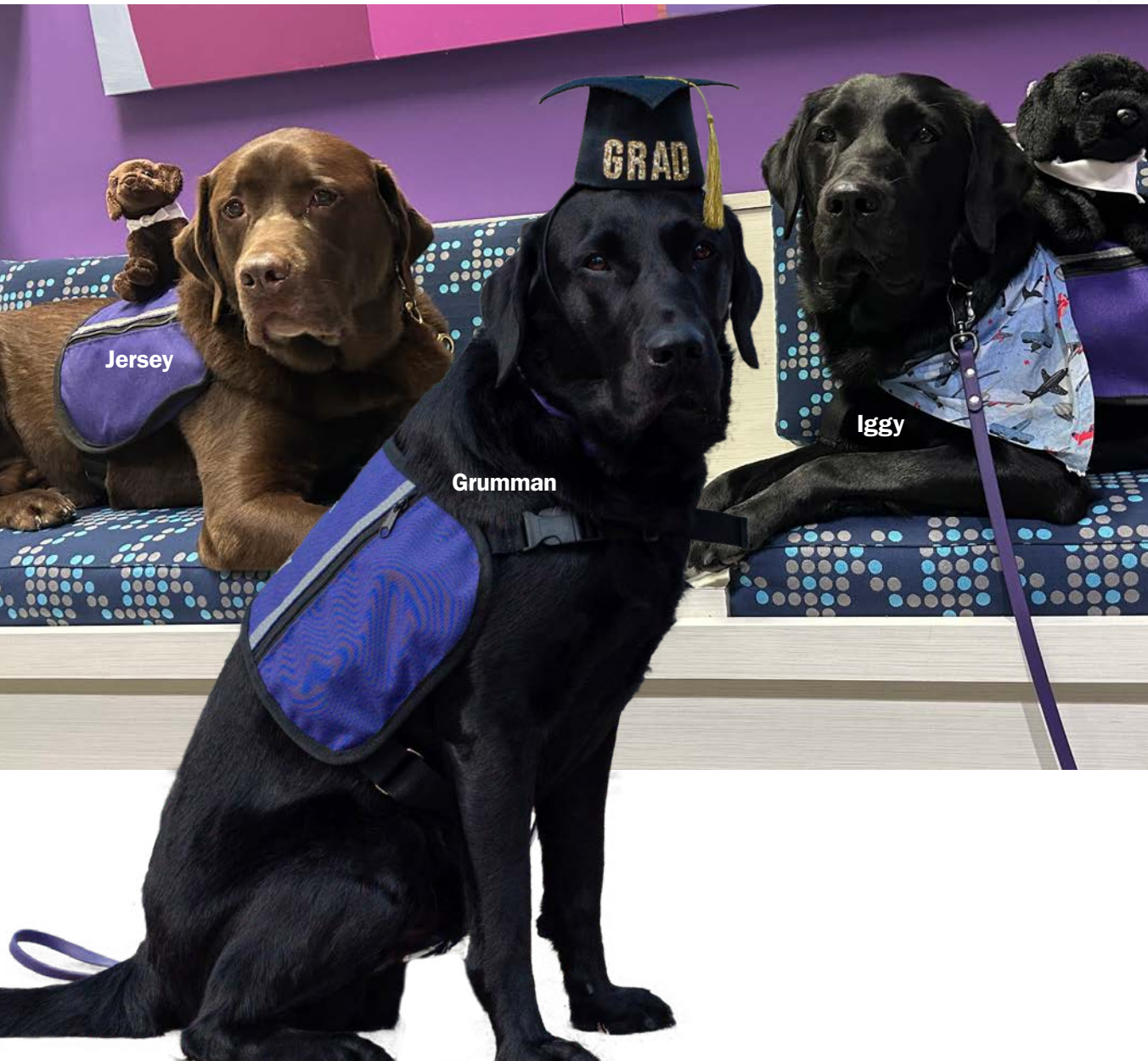
Clients supported

422

Sessions attended

819 hours

Time spent with clients



National CYAC Initiatives

With funding from the Department of Justice Canada, each year, Boost CYAC facilitates national initiatives that support the over 50 centres in development and/or operating across Canada.

National CAC/CYAC Meeting

The 2024 National CAC/CYAC Meeting was held February 28 and 29 in Ottawa Ontario. We were excited to offer another hybrid meeting, welcoming guests both in-person and virtually to our two-day gathering.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, James Maloney opened the meeting and Elder Fred McGregor offered a territorial welcome. The two-day

meeting included sessions on the development of the Canadian Association of CAC/CYACs, a national child abuse prevention/awareness campaign, CAC/CYAC engagement with schools and school boards, data collection at the national, territorial/provincial and local levels, and medical services within a CAC/CYAC.

92

People attended in-person

76

People registered for virtual sessions

CAC/CYAC Webinar Series

In 2024, Boost CYAC facilitated five CAC/CYAC related webinars, with a total of 256 participants. These webinars covered the following topics:

- Protecting Children from being Weaponized in the Context of High-Conflict Family Court Disputes – Part Two
- Anti-Racism & Community Centric Approach to Building Child & Youth Advocacy Centres
- Talking for Change: Perpetration Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse
- Incorporating cultural safety during investigations of child abuse – Part One
- Incorporating cultural safety during investigations of child abuse – Part Two



Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging (EDIB) Annual Summary

Boost CYAC is committed to providing a trauma-informed environment where everyone, especially the smallest among us, is valued and respected. We are dedicated to fostering an environment of equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging; striving to create a culture that embraces differences, fosters cultural safety, and works towards reducing systemic and ongoing barriers for clients, communities and staff.

Throughout 2024, Boost CYAC continued to integrate Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB) into every aspect of our organization. With the guidance of racial trauma consultant, Charmaine Lane and our EDIB Committee and with engagement of staff across all programs and departments, we continue to make advances in staff learning, inclusive policy development, and team-wide engagement.

Key Highlights

- Cultural Safety and Racial Trauma training facilitated for all staff
- Over 70 consultation sessions across teams to support reflection and anti-oppressive practice
- Finalized and published Boost CYAC's EDIB commitment statement
- Created an agency-wide Diversity Calendar to recognize diverse days of significance for staff and clients
- Introduced EDIB-informed performance evaluation metrics and practices
- Participated in the HOPE Strategy to pilot race-based data collection
- Engaged in ongoing planning and consultation for recognition of Truth and Reconciliation, Pride Month and Black History Month.

Boost CYAC remains committed to creating a culture of safety, inclusion, and accountability for staff, children, youth, families, and partners.



The Butterfly Ball® celebrates 25 years raising a record of 1.15M+ to help kids and teens who have experienced abuse.

On Thursday, May 23, 2024, Boost CYAC marked the 25th anniversary of our signature fundraising gala, The Butterfly Ball®, exceeding fundraising records. The sold-out event at the Four Seasons Hotel was co-chaired by Claire MacNamara and Trish Del Sorbo brought together 400 guests for an inspiring evening of philanthropy.

The gala featured the Inaugural Chair's Award to honour the contribution and dedication of individuals or organizations to Boost CYAC. The award was introduced by Board Chair, Regan Watts, who announced the 2024 honourees, Jonathan and Georgia Aune. Watts also announced that the award would thereafter be renamed on behalf of the inaugural recipients and long-standing patrons as a tribute to their unwavering support.

Sangita Patel returned as the host of Toronto's preeminent gala while Crown Counsel Patricia Garcia delivered the keynote speech focusing on the organization's court support & accompaniment program. The red carpet was sponsored by Max Mara who created a stunning photo backdrop, with striking ballroom design and décor by Marta Urbanowicz, Artam Design. Royal De Versailles donated two stunning pieces of jewelry while the exciting live auction featured six items, including Dinner with the Chief of Police, raising more than \$100,000.



JUMP FOR BOOST

Jump for Boost raises \$140,000 during a fun-filled morning for the whole family!

On September 22 at Sky Zone Leaside, Boost CYAC held its second annual Jump for Boost fundraising event bringing together 450 supporters and their families. New presenting sponsor, Farm Boy Inc brought out their mascot Lulu the Cow for pictures, activities and tasty treats. While Magen Boys DJ and Dancing were back again this year for non-stop excitement. The guests also purchased and patched their own baseball hats to raise money for Boost CYAC.

This year's event also included new sponsors including Lexus in the Park, The Tourney and Harlo Group. While the Aune Foundation continued its support as the event's Founding sponsor.



Dare to Dip! Polar Bear Dip raises \$120,000 for Boost CYAC.

On January 1, 2024, Boost CYAC held the annual Polar Bear Dip at Sunnyside Beach to raise vital funds for the programs and services to help kids and teens that come through our doors. With more than 400 brave Dippers coming out, and in partnership with Access Storage, the Presenting Sponsor, the Dip raised \$120,000.



Our Sincerest Thanks to Our Donors and Funders

Boost CYAC would not exist without the unwavering support we receive from our donors and funders. Thank you!

Government Funders

City of Toronto
Ministry of the Attorney General (Ontario)
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (Ontario)
Ministry of Health (Ontario)
Department of Justice Canada

\$100,000+

Aune Foundation
Saputo Foundation

\$50,000+

Bazil Developments
Shantelle & Yannick Bisson
Claire & Tyler MacNamara
TD Ready Commitment
La Fondation Emmanuelle Gattuso

\$25,000+

Jonathan & Georgia Aune
Carole Bagozzi
Thelma Bailey
Eva & Peter Cordy
The Culmone Family
Nick & Trish Del Sorbo
The Thor E. and Nicole Eaton Family Charitable Foundation
Farm Boy Company Inc.
Franny's Fund
Max Mara Inc
Scotia Wealth Management

\$10,000+

1st Choice Disposal
The Audra Group
Aqueduct Foundation - Jalynn H. Bennett Foundation
Bell Canada
BMO
Brookfield Partners Foundation
Vince Commisso & Jocelyn Hamilton

CPS Capital
DDM Group Inc
DealMaker
Deloitte
Max Desmarais
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Fitzrovia Residential Inc.
Forest Hill Orthodontics
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Pfaff
Procom
Steiman Smiles Orthodontics
Storage Vault Canada
Taurus Craco Machinery
The Tourney
Gene & Sasha Woodbridge
Vertiquial Studios

\$5,000+

Arteria AI
Babin Bessner Spry
Todd and Heather Barnes
Michael and Catherine Black Family Foundation
Michael & Stefanie Block
Borden Ladner Gervais
Robert Boron

Mario Boscarino & Leanne Domi
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Peter Cordy Charitable Foundation
Davies
Gord Davis
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Christopher Hervey
The Sheldon Inwentash & Lynn Factor Charitable Foundation
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Lerners
Danielle Martin & Joe Radice
Karen McCleave
OE Design LTD
Aaron Regent
Relay Ventures
Julie Robertson
SCP Resource Finance
Sofina Foundation
Sole Power
Paul Stein & Beth Weingarten
Sweat and Tonic
Jeff and Christie Thomas
Throop Family Foundation
Travel Only
Sybil Veenman
Kim Ward
Zancor Homes

\$1,000+

ARTPR
Bellotti Private Wealth
Blue Oak Building Corp
Brodhead Fund – Ottawa Community Foundation
Mark Bowden
David Brannon
Eric Brass
Rachel Brown
Connect Asset Management
Heather Cooke
Crescent Investment Partners
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In-Kind

Alexie Andlauer
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Jeffrey Douglas - Douglas Design Studio
FACE atelier
Ernst Hupel - 2H Interior Design
IneffableViews
Lisa Gozlan Inc.
Power Play Inc.

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If an error has been made, please accept our sincerest apologies. If you would like more information about how to make a gift to Boost CYAC or to update your name for the purpose of recognition, please contact us at 416-515-1100; info@boostforkids.org



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Jennifer Stanton
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Child & Family Therapist

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*Child & Youth Advocate –
Team Lead*

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Child Victim Witness Support

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Manager of Human Resources

Saral Axelson
Director of Fund Development

Maggie Blake
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Mobilization Lead*

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Trainer

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Child & Youth Advocate

Julia Casato
Trainer

Kristin Chambers
Trainer

Naila Chandoo
Child & Youth Advocate

Ewan Clarke
Child & Youth Advocate

Kelly Comeau
Grant Writing Consultant

Nora Constas
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(departed Feb 2024)*

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Child & Family Therapist

Ann Cortez
Clinical Intake Worker

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Child Victim Witness Support

Carmela Diano
Trainer

Sinead Dunphy
Child & Youth Advocate

Lynn Factor
Child Victim Witness Support

Tina Fridman
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Andrea Gibson
Remote Testimony Support

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*Student in Trauma Therapy
Program*

Angela Gontier
Child Victim Witness Support

Heather Gregory
*Therapist and Clinical
Consultant*

Marice Hart
Child & Family Therapist

Lindsay Jolie
Chief Operating Officer

Nkamany Kabamba
*Child & Youth Advocacy and
Child Victim Witness Support
Program Manager*

Charmaine Lane
Racial Trauma Consultant

Venjamin Law
*Student in Prevention
Education Program*

Sunni-Lynn Leonard
Child & Youth Advocate

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Psychometrist

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CYAC Clinical Intake Worker

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and Trainer*

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Elizabeth Rogers
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Gordana Sorial
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Sandra Stanwicki
Child Victim Witness Support

Yehudis Stokes
Trainer

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Child Victim Witness Support

Atiquah Syed
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*Manager of Equity, Diversity,
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Sherry Thomas
*Child Witness Advocate –
Program Lead*

Kaye Torrie
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Kaitlin Winslow
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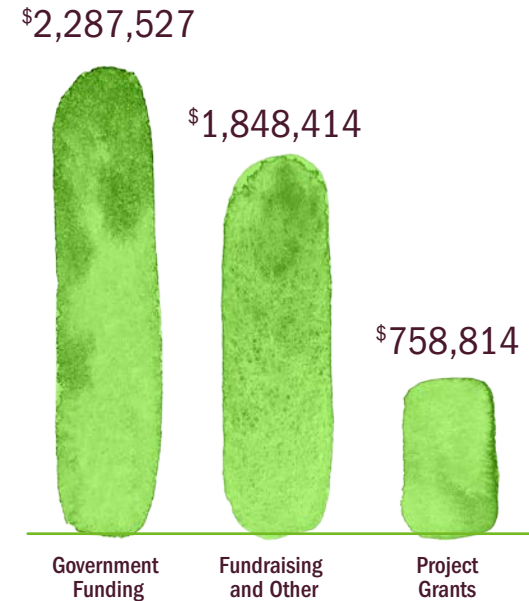


Finances

Statement of Operations For The Year Ended December 31, 2024

Revenue	2024	2023
Government Funding	\$2,287,527	\$2,442,070
Fundraising and Other	\$1,848,414	\$1,470,418
Project Grants	\$758,814	\$902,755
Total Revenue	\$4,894,755	\$4,815,243

Expenses	2024	2023
Program Expenses		
Assessment-Directed Therapy Program	\$1,157,937	\$1,035,621
Central Child Victim-Witness Support Program	\$390,141	\$327,175
Toronto Child Victim-Witness Support Program	\$378,270	\$335,656
Prevention and Public Education Program	\$585,313	\$555,323
Responding to Children at Risk Program	\$1,448,914	\$1,382,257
Internet Child Exploitation Counselling Referral Program	\$29,996	\$273,094
	\$3,990,571	\$3,909,126
Administration and Development	\$955,121	\$677,562
Total Expenses	\$4,945,692	\$4,586,688
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses For The Year	\$(50,937)	\$228,555



Sources of Revenue



CHILD & YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE

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