

All In for Families



A Message from the Board Chair and CEO



Thank you to our supporters and funders who helped us grow our staff by more than 50 per cent to expand our community-based programs and allow us to more broadly meet the needs of over 2,000 children, youth and parents who came to us for help this year.

Our gratitude also goes out to our dedicated staff, who have continued to serve families in need during the pandemic with such passion and creativity.

To continue meeting the needs of children, youth and families, our programs are focused on three core areas: Building Family Resilience, Nurturing Hope and Healing, and Connecting Community.

This year, COVID-19 put new strains on some families and accentuated issues already present in others. What's more, it highlighted the need we all have for connection and community support. From young people seeking help with mental health issues to parents signing up for virtual classes, more people than ever are reaching out to Closer to Home to ask for help.

In particular, we saw higher demand for our programs that serve homeless families.

Most of these families were successfully integrated into stable communities and homes.

Perhaps most significant was our purchase of the site of our future home. In the coming years, with continued support, we will be able to centralize our services at the corner of Bow Trail and 33rd Street SW. We see our new building becoming a safe gathering place for community and a hub for providing services for New Canadian and Indigenous families. It will be a pillar of progress in our mission to progressively recognize and adapt to the changing needs of Calgary's diverse population.

We are excited to share more with you about our future home—and how it will help Calgary's children, youth and families—later this year.



Karen Olivier

KAREN OLIVIER
CEO



T. Bronsch

TRISH BRONSCH
BOARD CHAIR

Award Winners

We couldn't do what we do without the support of our community, including this year's amazing award recipients.



Practitioners of the Year **Ian and Rufina Sleight**

Over the past decade, Rufina and Ian Sleight have seen more than 30 foster children come through their home. Their mission is to offer a place of stability and love for children going through a hard time.



Donor of the Year **Glamorgan Bakery**

Ever since Closer to Home began, Glamorgan Bakery has been offering donations of their baked goods to distribute to families in need. The Nauta family says it is a simple way to express their desire to be part of a connected and generous community.

Read our award winners' stories at:
closerhome.com/awards2020

432

DONORS
SUPPORTED
CLOSER TO HOME
THIS YEAR



67

VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED
1,385 HOURS
OF THEIR TIME

Building Family Resilience

At Closer to Home, we meet the needs of all families, no matter their make-up, background, or life situation.

By connecting families with the knowledge and support they need to gain resilience in the face of life's challenges, they become stronger together, offering hope and stability to children as they grow.

Key Areas of Need Identified

- **Lack of Resources**
(84% in Family Matters, 43% in Healthy Families)
- **Mental Health Issues**
(74% in Group Care, 48% in Family Matters, 41% in Healthy Families)
- **Trauma**
(86% in Group Care, 43% in Healthy Families, 31% in Family Matters)



Our Impact

- **Improved Parenting Skills:** 100% of parents in our early intervention/prevention programs improved their parenting strategies and knowledge of child development, helping them raise healthier, happier kids.
- **More Resilient Families:** 100% of parents in our early intervention/prevention programs said they now have more skills to better handle daily challenges.
- **Safer Children:** Safety and well-being improved for 100% of children and youth in foster care.
- **Families Staying Together:** In our Family Matters program, where families are at high risk of breaking apart, 92% of families stayed together.

Nurturing Hope and Healing

Our Indigenous services aim to foster feelings of self-efficacy and empowerment that allow families to find peace, healing and resilience.

By nurturing children, youth and families in family-centred, strength-based programs, we instill hope and help families find a sense of belonging.

Our Impact

- **Increased Sense of Belonging:** 93% of participants felt an increased sense of belonging within the Indigenous community.
- **Increased Sense of Empowerment:** 93% of participants felt an increased sense of empowerment and ability to address issues as they arise in their lives.



“

Being a part of this group has brought me back to hearing and listening from my spirit again... It has fostered connections that were broken. It has created wholeness and unity in our family... This group has been one of healing, hope, and new growth.

Teaching Circle participant

4

IS THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF TRAUMATIC EVENTS THAT CHILDREN EXPERIENCE BEFORE COMING INTO OUR FOSTER CARE PROGRAM.

WE EXPANDED OUR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS BY

67%

INTRODUCING OUR ELDERS AND KNOWLEDGE KEEPER

KERRIE MOORE
(Mooksinaki)
Cree Elder

FRANK TURNING ROBE
(Aapioh'kiitopi, Grey Horse Rider)
Blackfoot Elder

DARCY TURNING ROBE
(Naam'kohkomata, At Gun Point)
Blackfoot Knowledge Keeper

Connecting Community

We offer a welcoming place for everyone seeking community.

People find belonging by joining together in common interests and shared conversations, all while building connections with others who will support them beyond our doors.

Our Impact

- **Improved Social Connections:** 100% of youth in group care reported an increased number of friends, family members and others who provide emotional support and assistance.
- **Supportive Communities:** 95% of parents in our early intervention/prevention programs reported improvement in their knowledge of community resources.



11

**LANGUAGES ARE
SPOKEN BY OUR STAFF**

English, Cree, French, Nepali, Hindi, Arabic,
Dutch, Persian/Farsi, Vietnamese, Greek, Urdu

37%

**MORE PEOPLE FOUND
US ON SOCIAL MEDIA,
INCREASING COMMUNITY
AWARENESS OF OUR SERVICES**

Becoming the Dad a Little Girl Needs

The day Jeremy's daughter was born, his life was thrown onto a course he never could have expected. On that same day, his stepfather and personal hero passed away. Three days later, his partner made the first of what would be eight attempts on her own life.

"Being 41 and not having had a baby before, I was lost," he recalls.

It wasn't long after that Children's Services were called in to help. They put Jeremy in touch with Closer to Home. That's how he met Misty Swimmer, his support worker.

"Unfortunately, there's not a lot of help for single men trying to raise children," Jeremy says. "Having this program in my life and having someone with a gentle attitude has meant the world to me.

throw a ball, a skill he jokes is more often used on food at the dinner table. Now he proudly boasts of all the little girl's advanced abilities.

"We're at a curve of 36 months as far as her learning at 18 months old," he offers. "She can say over 250 words, she can count to 10, and she's putting sentences together."

Watching this little girl move around the room, Rylea could be any other busy toddler.

She systematically and enthusiastically collects all her belongings to show to Misty, chirping their

“

Closer to Home has made such a profound difference in not only my ability to parent but in her quality of life... Now, I know I can be the dad Rylea needs.

Every step of the way there's been so much encouragement and love. I don't think I would have known where I was having success and doing well without her input."

For example, Jeremy says he wouldn't have known how to help his daughter meet developmental milestones like learning how to

name upon delivery: cow, kitty cat (tika tika), elephant. Jeremy says he puts every ounce of his being into making sure she is raised properly, with love and guidance. It's those times when he gets a moment to himself that he really struggles.

"The hardest part for me is the alone time, the downtime and the overthinking," he says.

1 2 3 A b C D



“If I didn’t have Misty to say, ‘hey you’re doing a good job’, I would overthink myself to pieces.”

Jeremy is on long term disability as a result of the PTSD he suffered from his partner’s suicide attempts. Unable to work, it can sometimes be hard to make ends meet and give Rylea some of the special joys of childhood. Last year, Misty put Jeremy in touch with a program to help make Rylea’s first Christmas memorable (perhaps more for Jeremy). As well as all the focused efforts on Rylea’s happiness, Closer to Home connected Jeremy with a psychologist who’s been counselling him on his own healing journey.

“Men are programmed from birth to be strong and to keep quiet about things,” he says. “You just can’t

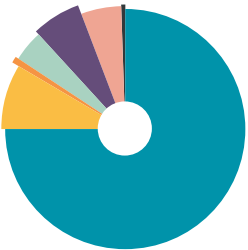
do it. There’s no way I could have gotten through this without reaching out for help.”

Now, Jeremy and his little girl have a daily routine that starts with their morning “coffee and baba” and progresses onto countless books, walks around the neighbourhood and meals together, where food may or may not fly across the room. It’s a life Jeremy once didn’t know was possible for him as a single father of such a small child.

“Closer to Home has made such a profound difference in not only my ability to parent but in her quality of life,” he says. “Without this program, I don’t know if I would be as good of a father. Now, I know I can be the dad Rylea needs... that’s the world right there.”

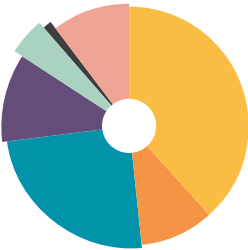
Statement of Operations

Fiscal year ended March 31, 2020



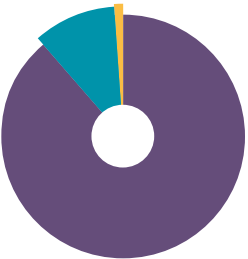
Funding Sources

Ministry of Children's Services: Calgary Region	\$4,450,380	75.2%
City of Calgary: Family and Community Support Services	\$510,988	8.6%
Delegated First Nations Authority	\$31,659	0.5%
Calgary Homeless Foundation	\$223,621	3.8%
Other Grants and Revenue	\$389,945	6.6%
Donations and Fundraising	\$296,611	5.0%
Investment Income	\$15,501	0.3%
TOTAL	\$5,918,705	100%



Funding Uses

Community Group Homes	\$2,224,177	38.4%
Foster Care Services	\$581,209	10.0%
In Home Family Supports	\$654,509	11.3%
Early Intervention Services	\$1,416,787	24.5%
Grants and Other	\$266,673	4.6%
Fundraising	\$61,360	1.1%
Administration	\$584,443	10.1%
TOTAL	\$5,789,158	100%
NET INCOME	\$129,548	



Functional Expenses

Program Delivery Costs	\$5,143,355	88.8%
Administration	\$584,443	10.1%
Fundraising	\$61,360	1.1%
TOTAL	\$5,789,158	100%

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100%
BOARD GIVING



Thank You

Thank you to all those who helped compile this year's Report to Community.

Accredited by:



Generously supported by our primary funders:



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