



centre FOR
autism
services
ALBERTA

Impact

REPORT

2024 - 2025





The Centre for Autism Services Alberta

Is dedicated to providing comprehensive, innovative support for Autistic individuals across their lifespan. Our purpose is to empower Autistic people, neurodivergent people, families and communities to **thrive**.

To achieve this, we provide neurodiversity-affirming supports and services that reflect what is most meaningful to Autistic and neurodivergent individuals. We celebrate diversity and honour intersectionality in all its forms, fostering psychological, physical, and emotional well-being. Strong partnerships are central to our work, and we remain committed to continuous learning and improvement — ensuring our services consistently reflect best practices and the values of the communities we support.

This report outlines our journey throughout 2024-2025 fiscal year towards realizing this vision.

The Centre for Autism Services Alberta (CFASA) acknowledges that we operate our services across Treaty 6, 7 and 8 territories and the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta. We are privileged and honoured to support Autistic individuals and their families, caregivers, and/or guardians. We respect the diverse histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, and we are grateful to gather on these traditional lands.



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A NOTE FROM OUR *Board Chair*

This past year has been one of tremendous growth and connection for CFASA. Our programs now reach further than ever before — touching communities across Alberta and ensuring that more individuals have access to the neurodiversity-affirming supports they deserve. We have deepened our commitment to recognizing and celebrating the strengths of Autistic people, empowering them to build skills, connect with others, and achieve their personal goals.

This year also marked several exciting milestones: the success of our very first Bright Night Gala brought our community together in powerful ways, and the hiring of our new CEO, Jonathan Robb, who has ushered in a new era of leadership and collaboration.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who plays a part in this journey — our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners.

Your belief in our mission drives everything we do.

Dani Perl,
Board Chair





A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

I am absolutely honoured to serve the Centre for Autism Services Alberta in my first year as CEO of this remarkable organization and team. I want to extend heartfelt thanks to my predecessor, whose leadership and stewardship laid the foundation for the work we continue to build upon today.

As we move forward, we are guided by a renewed sense of purpose; one that celebrates neurodiversity, deepens inclusion, and strengthens our collective impact. Our work is about possibility: empowering individuals, supporting families, and creating communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Underpinning everything is our Philosophical Framework, which places person-directed care, centring lived and living experience, and community transformation at its core. This isn't simply a statement of intent; it shapes how we listen, how we lead, and how we grow.

Since my arrival in January, I've watched our team, Board of Directors, and broader community step up with exceptional commitment. To every colleague, family member, funder, and advocate who stands with us, thank you. Together, we're building a future where neurodiversity is valued, and opportunity knows no boundaries. I am deeply proud to be serving this organization and trust you'll find the outcomes in this report as inspiring as I have in my inaugural year! Here's to an incredible journey ahead, filled with growth, learning, and difference making.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Robb, CEO





*Doing more to make
an impact.*

In partnership with caring
supporters like you, CFASA
impacted **3,223** lives across
Alberta.



Highlights

2024 - 2025

New Leadership

- Welcomed a new Chief Executive Officer, Jonathan Robb.
- Diversified Board members to increase geographical and neurodivergent representation.

Bright Night for Autism

- Hosted our inaugural Bright Night for Autism Gala, where over 250 supporters helped raise over \$180,000 for our programs.

Increased Services for Adults

- Developed the Supported Independent Living (SIL) program.

New Spaces in Edmonton and Calgary

- Acquired Centre 104 in Edmonton to expand adult services and secured a new Calgary location to enhance our Specialized Pre-K and Kindergarten program.

Further Strides in Neurodiversity Affirming Supports

- Launched a Neurodiversity Growth Plan to support ongoing reflection and learning across the organization.
- Introduced two new policies to strengthen our commitment to neurodiversity-affirming, respectful, and rights-based services.



Our Core Identity



Purpose

To empower Autistic people, neurodivergent people, families, and communities to thrive.



Mission

To provide comprehensive and innovative supports and services to Autistic people across the lifespan.



Vision

Autistic and/or neurodivergent individuals across Alberta and beyond lead engaged, fulfilling lives with equitable opportunities for participation.



Values

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Partnership

Continuous Improvement

Neurodiversity Affirming Services

Safety



Professional and Educational Services

In Professional and Educational Services, we adopt a holistic approach that recognizes and nurtures each individual's **unique strengths, needs, and aspirations**, starting in childhood. Our goal is to remove barriers and enhance overall well-being.

In 2024/2025, we expanded our services, reaching more families and continuing our commitment to supporting every Autistic individual.

366 families supported across Edmonton and Calgary -
an increase of **6%** over last year.

In-home Services:

Specialized Services

(ages 2-17) | **165** families served

Behavioural/Developmental Supports

(ages 2-17) | **102** families served

School Program:

Early Childhood Services

(ages 2-5) | **86** students

Therapeutic Groups:

PEERS for Teens (ages 13-17), and START Program

(ages 2-8) | **13** families served





Meet Jeimee!

Specialized Services and Early Childhood Services have played a vital role in supporting Jeimee's development and our family's growth. Through Specialized Services, I've learned how to support my child's communication, sensory, and behavioural needs, and have gained practical strategies for managing daily routines and transitions.

I've come to appreciate the importance of neurodiversity-affirming approaches that focus on strengths, and I've learned how to collaborate effectively with therapists and educators. What I've enjoyed most is working with a compassionate and knowledgeable multidisciplinary team, witnessing Jeimee's progress in areas such as speech, motor skills, and emotional regulation, and feeling empowered as a parent through consistent guidance and support.

Through our participation in Early Childhood Services, I've gained a deeper understanding of the value of structured, play-based learning in early childhood development. I've learned how inclusive education can foster both confidence and independence, and I've come to appreciate the importance of early intervention and individualized support. What I've enjoyed most is watching Jeimee thrive in a nurturing classroom environment, seeing her build meaningful friendships and engage positively with her peers, and observing her natural curiosity and joy in learning.

Jeimee has shown significant developmental growth across multiple areas. Her communication skills have improved, with increased expressiveness through both verbal language and gestures. She demonstrates greater confidence in social environments, engaging more comfortably with known peers and adults. Her motor coordination and self-help abilities have also advanced, allowing her to perform daily tasks with increased independence. Additionally, Jeimee has developed stronger emotional resilience and improved self-regulation, enabling her to navigate challenges more effectively.

CFASA has been a cornerstone in our journey. Through both Specialized Services and Early Childhood Services, my child has grown in ways that continue to inspire me. I'm deeply grateful for the support, expertise, and care we've received, and I hope our story encourages others to explore these valuable resources.

-Joan, CFASA Parent



Family Services

CFASA offers a wide range of resources and workshops designed to support families in ways that are meaningful to them. Our **inclusive Family Nights** and **informative parent workshops** provide welcoming spaces for connection, learning, and shared experiences.

We help families build confidence and develop the tools they need to navigate their communities while making lasting friendships along the way. When families need time to rest and recharge, our **respite services** are there to provide the support they deserve.

342 families supported -

totaling **1,230** individual family members engaged in family activities or programming.

Respite | 214 spots filled from **39** families.

Family Nights | **303** families and **991** individuals attended **8** family night events.

- Corn Maze
- Family Zoo Night
- Halloween Practice Event
- Candy Cane Lane
- Holiday Photos
- Paint Along Parent Mixer
- Fall Festival
- Zoo Lights

Parent Workshops | **3** workshops attended by **25** family members.





Family Spotlight

We love to attend family nights and events along with our child because she enjoys being in the company of familiar friends.

The venues are always kid-friendly, which makes her feel valued and comfortable. She constantly looks forward to these occasions with great excitement and continuously talks about them for months afterwards. Thank you for organizing these wonderful events.

-Manmeet, CFASA Parent



Community Programs

At CFASA we strive to enhance the overall well-being and quality of life of Autistic individuals. Through **leisure, sport, and art opportunities** that promote positive experiences, skill growth, and a sense of belonging, we empower Autistic individuals and their families to live engaged and fulfilling lives.

402 total participants in all programs -
an increase of **3%** over last year.

Art Programs | 81 participants, ages 7 to 29, from **43** unique families attended **3** different art programs.

- Fun with Art
- Exploring Art
- Creative Expressions

Sport and Recreation | 80 participants from **57** unique families attended our Basketballers, Basketballers 2, Kickstart Soccer, and Active for Life programs.

Summer Programming | 241 participants ages 3 to 17 from **144** families attended **4** different summer programs.





Annual Art Show

This year's annual art show and sale, *Creative Expression*, presented by Booster Juice, in partnership with the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, was a major highlight, as **36** participants sold **53** artworks. An estimated **125** individuals came through the door purchasing **\$950** of art with proceeds going directly to the artists.

Participants also generously donated artworks to the Bright Night for Autism Art Walk and raised valuable funds for our art programs.



Our first **Bright Night for Autism Gala** brought the community together for an incredible evening of celebration, connection, and generosity. Held at the Edmonton Expo Centre, the sold-out event welcomed **256** guests and raised over **\$180,000** to support programs that empower Autistic individuals, their families, and neurodivergent communities across Alberta.

Bright Night 2025 surpassed fundraising goals and showcased the incredible impact of a community united in inclusion.

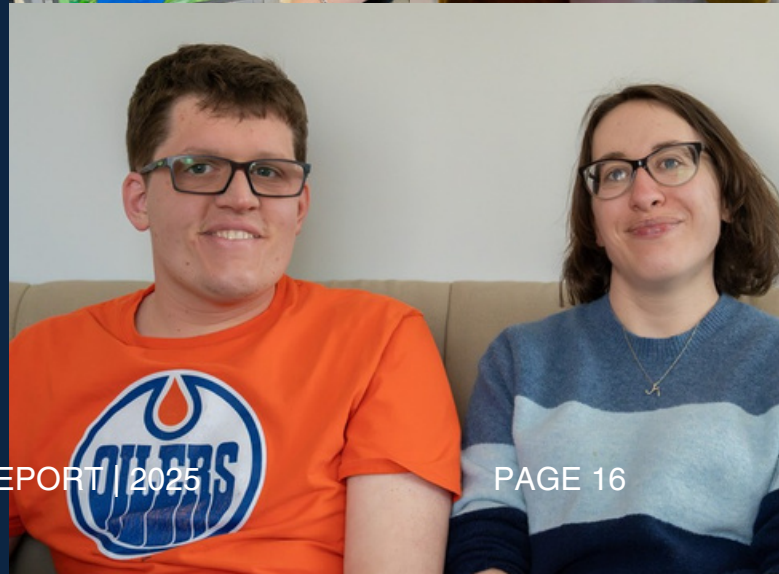


Your Impact

In Action

Because of you, Bright Night is making a lasting impact for our participants. Funds raised are helping adults transition into their new space at Centre 104, and expanding programs and opportunities for connection and growth.

Your generosity also supports enrichment programs like sport and recreation, summer programming, and art, giving Autistic individuals of all ages the chance to learn, connect, and grow. Every milestone reached and friendship made is possible because of your support in building a stronger, more inclusive community.





Thank You!

To Our Bright Night Sponsors





Teen & Adult Services

At CFASA, we work alongside Autistic adults, their families and the community to **collaboratively foster independence** and support the development of skills for life as they transition into adulthood and beyond.

187 teens and adults accessed programming -
an increase of **35%** over last year.

Quest for Independence | 27 participants

Supported Independent Living | 12 participants

Shop, Cook & Learn | 16 participants

Teen Social Night | 53 participants

Tween Social Night | 16 participants

Just for Teens | 16 participants

Young Adult Social Night | 35 participants

Virtual Social Night | 12 participants





Supported Independent Living

Supported Independent Living (SIL) offers one-to-one support for neurodivergent participants and provides Quest graduates a natural next step toward greater independence. Recognizing that independence looks different for everyone — whether learning life skills, finding work, managing money, or building community connections — participants work with a Community Rehabilitation Worker to set meaningful goals that reflect their personal vision for adulthood.



Meet Alma!

SIL support means me having support to meet my goals, and create goals in my life to better it and become more independent. My life has changed since starting SIL. And the support is awesome — having staff being with me so I can understand things like AISH forms, doing my income taxes, and supporting me in my life.

One thing I would tell people who want to start SIL is that the staff are very supportive, kind and helpful in my life, organizing what I want to accomplish during the day and for my future; like budgeting to pay my bills.

The staff are awesome!

-Alma, SIL Participant



EmploymentWorks



EmploymentWorks is a program funded through the Government of Canada, and managed by the Sinneave Family Foundation, that supports individuals with autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities in preparing for, getting, and keeping **meaningful employment** or **pursuing further education**.

Participants | 64 participants completed programming focused on employment readiness, active labour market participation, and employment retention.

Employment Partnerships | 2 new partnerships were formed bringing the total to 15.

35% of participants -

secured employment or returned to post secondary within 12 months of program end.

Government of Canada
Opportunities Fund
for Persons with Disabilities



Sinneave
FAMILY FOUNDATION



EmploymentWorks

Employment Partners





Community Impact

We are dedicated to building a community that **appreciates, accepts, and creates opportunities** for Autistic individuals. We are fortunate to have the support of volunteers, funders, donors, partners, allies, advocates, and self-advocates who join us in our mission. Together, we transform our communities by educating, advocating, and amplifying the voices of Autistic people.

Professional Development Workshops | CFASA engaged **1,045** educators, community leaders, and employers in **39** workshops throughout the year across western Canada. **2** of these workshops were delivered nationally through the AIDE Canada Project.

Workshop topics:

- Introduction to Autism and Neurodiversity
- Introduction to Behaviour Supports
- Promoting Participation
- Building Relationships
- Modifications and Accommodations
- Adapting the Classroom Environment

Neurodiversity Speakers Bureau Workshops |

The Bureau delivered **11** workshops to staff, students, educators, and professionals across Edmonton and Calgary.





Our Volunteers

A huge thank you to our **144** amazing volunteers who gave their time, talents and care to our programs, services and summer programs. Our volunteers delivered an incredible **4134 hours of service** on behalf of CFASA.

We continue our proud and longstanding partnerships with two post-secondary student associations from the University of Alberta and MacEwan University. These groups actively work to educate, raise acceptance, and build authentic connections for Autistic individuals on and off campus.

University of Alberta

The Centre for Autism Students Association



- Developed a proposal for a children's storybook featuring authentic, uplifting stories from volunteers about overcoming challenges, created in collaboration with the Autistic community to ensure genuine representation and promote awareness and inclusion.
- Hosted events including tote bag painting, a bake sale and social nights raising valuable funding for CFASA's programs.

MacEwan University

MacEwan Autism Acceptance Club



- Hosted four fundraiser events to raise money for CFASA including a social night.



Meet Carolyn!

When you meet Carolyn, one thing is immediately clear—she brings warmth, curiosity, and genuine care to everything she does. Since joining CFASA in 2024, Carolyn has become an integral part of our programs, volunteering in summer programming, Exploring Art, and Shop, Cook, and Learn. Whether helping teens find their confidence in the kitchen or encouraging creativity in art class, she has a natural ability to connect with participants and make them feel seen.

Carolyn recently graduated from the University of Alberta with a BSc in Psychology, specializing in cognition, neuroscience, and research. She now works as a Recreation Therapy Assistant in a continuing care setting supporting individuals living with mental health concerns, addiction, and brain injury. Her professional and volunteer experiences often inform each other, helping her grow her skills in empathy, patience, and adaptability.

Her connection to the autism and neurodivergent community runs deep. Many of her friends and family are neurodivergent, and through them, and her own discovery of her neurodivergence, she's developed a strong understanding of what community and support truly mean. "It's a constant learning curve," she says, "but we all work together to support and understand each other."

Art and cooking stand out as her favourite programs. She loves how these programs allow participants to explore their own interests, experiment, and build independence. "It's amazing to see how confidence builds over time," she says. "When people feel supported, they're more willing to try something new."

Carolyn is especially proud of moments when she's helped participants feel understood. She recalls working with a young artist who loved sharing the characters she created. Each week, Carolyn made time to ask questions and learn more about their stories. "It's really important to have someone take interest in what you care about, and I'm glad I can be that person."

For Carolyn, volunteering at CFASA is just as rewarding for her as it is for the people she supports. She appreciates how the CFASA's programs encourage autonomy and connection, giving participants the chance to experience activities in a way that works for them. "Those experiences really mean a lot," she says. "Everyone needs their own brand of recreation therapy."

Carolyn's commitment to inclusion, empathy, and growth shines through in every interaction. Her presence reminds us how much impact one person can have simply by showing up, listening, and helping others see the best in themselves.



Our Supporters

Thank you!

Community Partners





Our Supporters

Thank you!

Sponsors and Funders



Matthew Wong Foundation



Sinneave
FAMILY FOUNDATION



United Way
Alberta Capital Region





With Deepest Gratitude

Thank You to Our Donors

Every gift makes a difference. Whether big or small, monthly or one-time, named or anonymous, each act of generosity strengthens CFASA and fuels programs that empower Autistic individuals and their families to thrive. None of this would be possible without you. Your compassion, commitment, and belief in our mission remind us that this community is stronger together.

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With Deepest Gratitude

Thank You to Our Donors

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\$20,000+

- Altaland Foundation
- Knifewear Foundation
- Matthew Wong Foundation

***We also extend our gratitude to the many generous donors who choose to remain anonymous. Your contributions make a profound impact, and we are deeply thankful for your support.**





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Vice President: Duane Wysynski

Treasurer: Mike Hogan

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Volunteer. Donate. Advocate. Educate.

Thank you for reading our 2024/2025 Impact Report. This report showcases our achievements over the past year and reaffirms our commitment to considering the impact of every decision on our participants, their families, our staff, and the community. We are dedicated to continuous improvement, and we aim to achieve even more in the coming year, as our next impact report will demonstrate.

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