centre FOR
autism
services
ALBERTA

Impact

REPORT
2025-2026

The Centre for Autism Services Alberta

Is dedicated to providing comprehensive, innovative support for Autistic and neurodivergent 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 the 2025-2026 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 and neurodivergent 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 President*

This past year has been an exciting and meaningful chapter in the journey of CFASA. As an organization, we have continued to grow our reach, strengthen our services, and deepen our relationships with the people and communities we are privileged to serve.

What makes CFASA particularly special is that our impact extends well beyond the programs we deliver. It's reflected in the confidence of a participant, the connection of a family, the growth of an individual, and the communities that become more inclusive because of the work we do together.

At the heart of that impact are our employees. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to recognize and sincerely thank our staff for their dedication, compassion, professionalism and hard work. Their commitment to the people and families we serve is what brings CFASA's purpose to life every day.

I also want to recognize our volunteers, participants, families, donors, funders, partners and advocates. Your commitment makes our work possible and strengthens the impact we can have together.

As we look ahead, the Board remains confident in CFASA's ability to build on this momentum, embrace opportunity, and continue making a meaningful difference across Alberta.

Thank you for being part of the CFASA community.

Duane Wysynski
President

A NOTE FROM OUR *CEO*

Every year brings an opportunity to pause, reflect and ask an important question: Are we making the difference we aspire to make?

This past year, I have seen countless examples of the answer being a resounding yes. In our programs, our workplaces and our communities, CFASA employees, volunteers and partners continue to turn our purpose into action: supporting individuals and families, creating connection and opportunity, and helping build more inclusive communities.

I am particularly proud of how our organization continues to evolve. Our purpose, mission, vision and values give us a clear foundation, while our willingness to learn, innovate and challenge ourselves creates the momentum to move forward.
Our impact is ultimately measured not only by what we deliver, but by the lives we touch and the possibilities we help create.

To everyone who contributes to CFASA, thank you for your passion, your expertise, your trust and your belief in what we can accomplish together. I am so proud to serve this passionate team, our participants and families, and the broader community.

Our work matters, our community matters, and our future is full of possibility.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Robb
CEO

Doing more to make an impact.

In partnership with caring supporters like you, CFASA impacted **3,135** lives across Alberta.

Highlights
2025-2026

Diagnostic and Assessment Services

- Launched diagnostic services for children ages 2 to 8.

New Community Partnerships

- Built and strengthened community partnerships with organizations including the Edmonton Riverhawks, The Resplendent Cave, Sport Central, Special Olympics Alberta, Edmonton Police Service, and Edmonton Fire Rescue Services, creating more accessible and inclusive experiences for participants, families, and the broader community.

Increased Services for Adults

- Awarded the Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Service and Employment Service programs to increase our service offerings for Autistic and neurodivergent people as well as people with diverse disabilities.

Expanded ECS in Edmonton

- Opened up a third classroom in Edmonton to offer early childhood education to more families.

Our Core Identity

Purpose

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

Mission

To provide comprehensive and innovative supports and services across the lifespan.

Vision

People across Alberta and beyond lead engaged, fulfilling lives with equitable opportunities for participation.

Values

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
- **Partnership**
- **Continuous Improvement**
- **Neurodiversity Affirming Services**
- **Centring Lived and Living Experience**
- **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 2025-2026, we expanded our services, reaching more families and continuing our commitment to supporting every Autistic and neurodivergent individual.

413 families supported across Edmonton and Calgary -

an increase of **13%** over last year.

In-home Services:

Specialized Services
(ages 2-17) **| 185** families served

Behavioural/Developmental Supports
(ages 2-17) **| 106** families served

School Program:

Early Childhood Services
(ages 2-6) **| 106** students

Therapeutic Groups:

PEERS for Young Adults, and START Program |
16 families served

Meet Rishi!

Rishabh (Rishi) is slowly adapting to his new school this year. Since Rishi attended both the preschool and kindergarten programs at CFASA, we have seen tremendous growth in him. He is more engaging, curious, and improving in his activities of daily living.

We also really enjoyed the Halloween celebrations and family events like Zoo Night. Rishi was always very happy going to CFASA, and it has been a meaningful part of his journey.

-Ashwin, CFASA Parent

Services for Families

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 support.

288 families supported -

totaling **917** individual family members engaged in family activities or programming.

Respite | 213 spots filled from **41** families.

Family Nights | 222 families and **704** individuals attended **9** family night events.

- Corn Maze
- Family Zoo Night
- Halloween Fun Night
- Candy Cane Lane
- Spring Mini Photos
- (2) Parent Mixers
- Fall Festival
- Zoo Lights

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

Family Spotlight

We really enjoyed Family Night at the Zoo. It gives us time to enjoy the animals and activities. We hope to make the next event with CFASA!

-Amanda, CFASA Parent

Community Programs

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

This year, we were excited to expand our sport and recreation programming with two new offerings: **Multisport** and **Skating**, made possible through our continued partnership with the City of Edmonton and our new partnership with Sport Central. We also **doubled** our soccer and basketball programs, opening up more spots for families and bringing programming to new locations across Edmonton.

482 total participants in all programs -

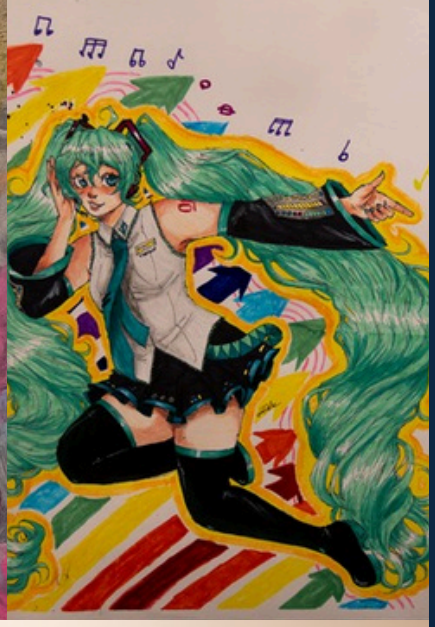
an increase of **20%** over last year.

Art Programs | 82 participants attended **3** different art programs.

- Fun with Art
- Exploring Art
- Creative Expressions

Sport and Recreation | 167 participants attended our Basketballers, Basketballers 2, Kickstart Soccer, Multisport, Skating, and Active for Life programs**.**

Summer Programming | 233 participants ages 3 to 17 attended **4** different summer programs**.**



Annual Art Show

This year's annual art show and sale, *Colourful Expressions*, in partnership with the Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, was a major highlight, as **45** artists sold **48** artworks.

An estimated **120** individuals came through the door purchasing **$735** of art with proceeds going directly to the artists.

Centre 104

Centre 104 has now been home to our Adult Services community for **one year** and serves as the main space for our expanding **Quest for Independence** program. It has become a welcoming and evolving hub where Autistic and neurodivergent adults come together to build skills, explore interests, grow their confidence, and make meaningful connections.

Designed to adapt to the changing needs of participants, the space features a large kitchen for hands-on meal preparation and independent living practice. Dedicated learning zones create opportunities for small groups to socialize while developing essential life skills, including budgeting, bus route planning, and home maintenance skills.

Through collaboration, learning, and shared experiences, Centre 104 continues to **foster skill development**, **personal growth**, and a **strong sense of belonging** for all who attend.

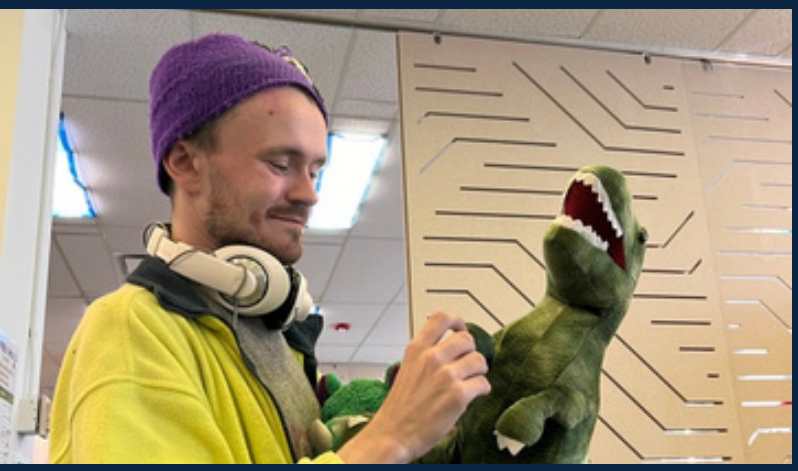
Centre 104

An Evolving Space

Building on the success of its first year, Centre 104 has expanded its impact by welcoming a growing range of community programs and events. Initiatives such as Shop, Cook & Learn, and Adult Social Nights, regularly utilize the space, creating additional opportunities for skill development, social connection, and community engagement.

Centre 104 has also hosted fundraising events and is increasingly being made available for rental by other community groups.

As part of our commitment to creating meaningful employment pathways, we are developing a social enterprise model that provides Quest participants with opportunities to help manage rentals, support event/rental setup and takedown, and gain valuable workplace and customer service experience.



QUEST

FOR INDEPENDENCE

Meet Abigail!

For Abigail, Centre 104 has become more than a new space for Quest. It's a place where she can see her friends, learn new skills, and feel part of a growing community. Before moving to Centre 104, Quest participants spent time in separate apartments. Now, everyone has their own space while sharing a larger community where they can easily see and spend time together.

"It's good to see all my friends and be in close proximity. It's really nice to be close to everyone and see them every day," Abigail says.

When Abigail first joined Quest, there were just eight participants, and she was the only woman. Today, there are 36, and she has a group of women to spend time with, which she loves.

She also loves the large kitchen, dedicated learning zones, easy bus access, and new sensory pods. For Abigail, Centre 104 has made it easier to learn, connect, and be part of a community she loves.

"Quest is family."

Programs for Teens and Adults

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

205 teens and adults accessed programming -

an increase of **9%** over last year.

Quest for Independence | 36 participants

Supported Independent Living | 15 participants

Shop, Cook & Learn | 18 participants

Teen Social Night | 61 participants

Tween Social Night | 17 participants

Just for Teens | 18 participants

Young Adult Social Night | 40 participants

Virtual Social Night | 3 participants

Edmonton Riverhawks

PARTNERSHIP

This year, CFASA partnered with the Edmonton Riverhawks to make the baseball experience more accessible and welcoming for everyone.

Before the season, our team provided autism and accessibility training for Riverhawks game-day staff, exploring practical ways to recognize when a fan may be feeling overwhelmed and respond with empathy, respect, and individualized support. We also collaborated on the development of new sensory kits, providing another practical tool to help make game days more comfortable and inclusive for fans and families.

We're grateful to the Riverhawks for their commitment to accessibility and for working with us to create a more welcoming game-day experience.

Scan the QR code to see what an accessible game day looks like!

Dungeons & Dragons

QUEST FOR A CAUSE

“Thank you for giving us a safe space to play.”

We heard this from several participants at our sold-out Dungeons & Dragons: Quest for a Cause event. Around the tables, adventurers shared laughs, solved challenges, built friendships, and made new connections.

At CFASA, creating welcoming spaces where people can connect, have fun, and be themselves is at the heart of what we do. This event was a powerful reminder of how meaningful those spaces can be.

Thank you to Kevin and the team at The Resplendent Cave, along with every player, volunteer, donor, and supporter. Together, you helped raise $2,147 for Centre 104 and programs that create connection and community for Autistic and neurodivergent adults.

EmploymentWorks

EmploymentWorks is an employment service funded through the Government of Canada and managed by the Sinneave Family Foundation that supports people who self-identify as Autistic, neurodivergent, or have a disability in **preparing for**, **getting**, and **keeping meaningful employment**.

Our model has changed as of April 1, 2026, providing more flexibility and individualized support. We have also redesigned our application and intake process, enabling us to support individuals who are traditionally underserved in economic inclusion.

Participants | 84 participants completed programming focused on employment readiness, active labour market participation, and employment retention.

Employment Partnerships | 4 new partnerships were formed, bringing the total to **19.**

45% of participants -

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

Government of Canada
Opportunities Fund
for Persons with Disabilities

Canada

Sinneave
FAMILY FOUNDATION

EmploymentWorks

Employment Partners

Edmonton meals on wheels
feeding body and soul

BLENDERZ
GARMENT RECYCLERS

JUST BITE ME
healthy meal prep

Habitat for Humanity Edmonton

Arcadia Brewing Co

find.

Waffle Bird
chicken • waffles • beer

We Rock The Spectrum KID'S GYM
For All Kids - Edmonton

more than a fad

WORLD OF JOY
Child Care Centre

SAFE HAVEN

THE MUSTARD SEED

1ST RND
BURGERS | BEER | SPORTS

era.ca
electronic.recycling.association

goodwill

KONA'S CARWASH

Fountain Tire

epl

Community Impact

We are dedicated to building a community that **appreciates, accepts,** and **creates opportunities** for Autistic and neurodivergent 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 and neurodivergent people.

Professional Development Workshops | CFASA engaged **1,034** educators, community leaders, and employers in **35** workshops throughout the year across western Canada. **1** of these workshops was 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 **7** workshops to staff, students, educators, and professionals across Edmonton and Calgary.

Our Volunteers

A huge thank you to our **172** amazing volunteers who gave their time, talents and care to our programs, services and summer programs. Our volunteers delivered an incredible **5,103 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 and neurodivergent individuals on and off campus.

University of Alberta

The Centre for Autism Students Association

MacEwan University

MacEwan Autism Acceptance Club

- Started the Neurodiverse Network, providing neurodivergent students with an opportunity to meet and connect regularly on campus where they made meaningful relationships and connections that extend beyond the group and its events.
- Hosted four bake sales and a bottle drive, as well as two social nights for volunteers and the team to strengthen the sense of community.
- Hosted an autism friendly arts and crafts night.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Ella!

For Ella, volunteering with CFASA has become something she looks forward to every week.

A fourth-year University of Alberta student studying Psychology and Sociology, Ella first became interested in volunteering with CFASA after learning about it through a friend. She also has a close family friend who is Autistic, and seeing their experiences with social exclusion encouraged Ella to become more involved in the autism community.

Through programs including Exploring Art, sports, and summer programs, Ella has discovered that the most meaningful part of volunteering is building relationships.

In Exploring Art, Ella formed a connection with a participant who would greet her excitedly each week and continue conversations from previous sessions.

One day, the participant painted a picture of the two of them and labelled it “best friends.”

Another memorable moment came during a sports program. After many attempts, one participant finally made his first basketball shot of the program. Ella remembers his face lighting up as everyone cheered and celebrated with him.

These moments have also changed the way Ella thinks about success. With her background as a swim instructor, she was used to focusing on outcomes and checking off skills. At CFASA, she learned to focus less on the destination and more on the journey.

“Learning to focus more on the journey instead of the destination is especially important in CFASA programs because a successful day looks different for each participant,” Ella says.

What Ella values most is the chance to spend time with participants, get to know their personalities and interests, and see them become more comfortable over time. She loves being able to be silly, have fun, and create positive memories together. She also appreciates the CFASA staff who make her feel supported, welcome her questions, and provide feedback that helps her grow as a volunteer.

Most importantly, volunteering has shown Ella the value of creating spaces where people can have fun, build connections, and be themselves.

“I always leave my volunteer shifts with a smile,” she says.

Our Supporters

Thank you!

Community Partners

Our Supporters

Thank you!

Sponsors and Funders

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 and neurodivergent 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.

Donate here!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Meet Don!

When Don Kwas and his family first connected with CFASA in 2002, his son, David, was four years old. Nearly 25 years later, David is still part of the CFASA community.

Throughout his life, David has participated in occupational and speech therapy, sports, social programs and other activities. As he has grown, CFASA has continued to be part of his life, with different programs and opportunities along the way.

“David has grown immensely through his connection with the CFASA. His continued growth has been made possible through the work of many dedicated staff and volunteers,” Don says.

For Don, seeing that impact firsthand is also what inspires him to give. A longtime monthly donor who has made additional gifts over the years, he has chosen to invest in an organization that has been part of his family’s life for decades.

“We have been able to keep moving the goalposts down the field and have never lost hope that David would keep meeting and exceeding any goals we’d set for his development,” he says.

David’s story is also a reflection of what donor support makes possible at CFASA: opportunities for Autistic individuals at different ages and stages of life, and the ability to continue growing alongside the people we serve.

“CFASA keeps pushing the envelope without ever forgetting that serving individuals and families is their primary purpose. I can’t imagine where our family would be without CFASA.”

Thank you, Don, for your longstanding generosity and for being part of CFASA’s story for nearly 25 years.

Board of Directors

President: Duane Wysynski

Past President: Dani Perl

Vice President: Stephanie Proseilo

Treasurer: Todd Walker

Secretary: Stephen Urquhart

Member at Large: Mike Hogan

Member at Large: Kelly Hammel

Member at Large: Kiki Chambers

Member at Large: Oliver Gommerud

Volunteer. Donate. Advocate. Educate.

Thank you for reading our 2025-2026 Impact Report. This report reflects what we've accomplished together over the past year and the people and communities behind that work. Every decision we make is guided by its impact on the individuals we support, their families, our staff, and our community. We're proud of what we've accomplished and are committed to continuing to listen, learn, and improve. We look forward to sharing what comes next.

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