



2013-14

ANNUAL REPORT

REACH FOR THE STARS –
YOU HAVE THE ABILITY

www.childrensabilityfund.ca





MESSAGE FROM THE **CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Most worthwhile achievements are the result of
many little things done in a single direction*

- Nido Quebin

Our mission continues to be to provide funding (for equipment) to enhance the independence of people with disabilities. The Board and staff of the **Children's Ability Fund** works hard on the little things that culminate in our ability to fulfill our mission.

It has been a challenging year! Each year we budget a quarter of a million dollars on client care – our goal to assist 100 individuals in need. This year, in the 1st quarter alone, we received and approved almost \$146,000 of client requests – representing almost 60 % of our budget. We had to quickly reprioritize and as a result put our group funding and programs on hold.

Change brings opportunity . . . and in our case the opportunity to refocus on individual needs – especially mobility equipment. Wheelchairs, walkers, strollers and lifts of all kinds provide the basic ability (and freedom) to be more active, at home, at school, at work and at play. . . . As Megan had to say: *Thank you for my new wheelchair. I use it at my school so I can drive around and see if I can find kids that I know. Thank-you for giving me my freedom.*

As one of a very few organizations that provide assistance for funding vehicle modifications we were delighted to assist many families this year with vehicle

lifts to full modifications. Leanne's parents pen . . . *Leanne asks to go somewhere all of the time . . . To us it's like she's discovering the world on her own for the first time. We hope you know how much you have helped change our lives for the better.*

We continue to provide (limited) funds to the Bikes for Tykes programs believing that the little thing ability for a child to ride a bike is a huge achievement. From a parent . . . *An amazing organization that made it possible for my son to ride a specialized bike. Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you!*

Our focus has always been children—it is the **Children's Ability Fund**—and we will continue to provide the necessary equipment for children in need, BUT when we have the funds, we are pleased to assist others in needs – including all ages and all disabilities.

We cannot continue to do what we do without the help and support of our many generous donors, sponsors and partners. Thank you to each and every one of you for your confidence in what we do!

Yours in community service,

LINNIE TSE
CHAIR

CAROL RUSS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Megan needs a power wheelchair for mobility. Because she cannot shift her own weight, she needed a tilt on her chair for positioning, postural assistance, pressure and pain relief and to reduce the progression of scoliosis. The **Children's Ability Fund** was able to provide over \$6,000 for the tilt system.

"Thank you for paying for my power wheelchair. I LOVE IT!!!! I use it in the hallways at my... school so I can drive around and see if I can find kids that I know! So far I'm getting pretty good at that! I can now go by myself everywhere! I am looking forward to going to the lake this summer so I can drive around and visit my friends! I am so happy..... Thank you for giving me my FREEDOM!!!!"

Love, Megan



CLIENT CARE

OUR VISION ...

equal participation in our society
of all persons with disabilities

OUR MISSION ...

to provide funding (for equipment)
to enhance the independence
of people with disabilities –
throughout northern Alberta

OUR FOCUS ...

is on children however we will
consider applications for funding
requests from adults when funds
permit

CHANGE:

THE FIRST STEP
TOWARDS CHANGE
IS **AWARENESS**. THE
SECOND STEP IS
ACCEPTANCE.

CLIENT CARE

INDIVIDUALS

Equipment

Mobility

Communication

Technology

Special Programs

Bikes for Tykes

Bursary

Keyboards for Kids

Vehicle Adaptations

GROUPS

Equipment

Special Programs

Camping Under the Star (2008)

A New Leash on Life (2002)

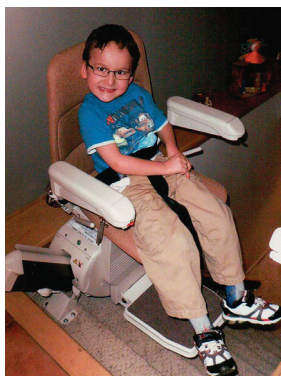
Lone Star Program (2001)

Snoezelen Rooms (1998)

Sledges in School (1996)

Barrier Free Playgrounds (1995)

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Michael has bilateral spastic cerebral palsy. Michael loves to be with others and will tell story, after story, after story.

Michael has been working very hard at being as independent as possible. The basement has become the gathering place for Michael and his sisters as this is where there are plenty of toys and games to play with as well as the computer to work on. Although he can scoot downstairs by himself, he is unable to get back upstairs on his own. His parents were carrying him but, as he continues to grow and gain weight, this would become more of a challenge.

The Children's Ability Fund was pleased to provide funding for the purchase of a stair lift. Now Michael is up and down the stairs regularly and is enjoying his independence!

CLIENT CARE

INDIVIDUALS

More than 80% of the equipment we provided this year was to individuals for equipment related to mobility and the ability to be more active in the community . . . at home, at school, at work and at play.

Specialized equipment includes such items as:

Mobility Devices – Wheelchairs, walkers, overhead lifts, porch lifts, vehicle lifts, ramps, lift chairs, hospital beds, tilt systems, standing frames, car seats, leg braces

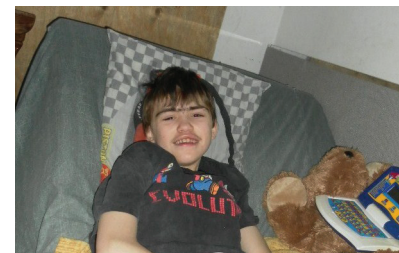
Communication Devices – TTY's, environmental controls, signaling devices, voice synthesizers, FM systems

Other Technology / Program Fees

INDIVIDUAL - Requests	Edmonton		Northern Alberta		Total	
Mobility Aids / Devices	20	\$58,035	21	\$59,196	41	\$117,231
Communication / Signaling Devices	3	6,322	0	0	3	6,322
Other Technology / Program Fees	3	781	3	561	6	1,342
INDIVIDUAL - Special Programs						
Vehicle Adaptations	3	15,000	5	43,715	8	58,715
Bikes for Tykes	1	3,050	1	1,000	2	4,050
You Can Ride Too	1	2,500	0	0	1	2,500
TOTAL	31		30		61	\$ 190,347

This year we were delighted to approve 61 individual requests.

Benjamin has a rare and severe syndrome that is most commonly known as SMS (Smith Magenis Syndrome). He has difficulties breathing when laying flat. Sleep is essential for a person's health and well being so the **Children's Ability Fund** was pleased to have provided the funding of \$1990 to purchase a special bed for Ben. The day after the bed was delivered we received a note from his mom saying:



"My son is so happy he has hardly gotten out of it since we assembled it." And a current update "He sleeps a lot better since he got his hospital bed... and so do we...usually to bed by 9 pm and does not wake up till 6 or 7 am....he used to wake between 3 & 5 daily. Your generosity is greatly appreciated."

Sweet dreams, Benjamin!

INDIVIDUALS

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

• BIKES FOR TYKES PROGRAM

The **Bikes for Tykes** program was introduced to provide funding for the adaptation of a bicycle for the individual needs of a child with a disability. Bikes provide an independent mode of transportation that helps build self-esteem and gives a sense of freedom. Special adaptations to a bicycle can help a child with disabilities “*delight in being a child*”.

“Amazing organization that made it possible for my son to ride a specialized bike. His legs and core have improved dramatically and he really enjoys riding it. Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

• BIKES - PARTNERSHIP

You Can Ride TOO is a partnership between the pediatric physiotherapists and occupational therapists and the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society. Part of their vision is to assist children with special needs.

One of their programs – **Adapted bicycle loan program** – is an opportunity for families to “borrow an adapted bike” over the summer months.

We were very pleased to assist the Edmonton Bicycle Community with the new You Can Ride TOO program, providing a grant of \$2,500. This grant is used to modify and customize a number of bikes for children with disabilities.

• BURSARY

The **Children’s Ability Fund** Bursary was established in 1998 to ensure a source of funds for a student with a disability entering the first year of a post-secondary program. Special thanks to the Kuder Trust Fund for their annual support of this program.

This year we were please to present the bursary to **Kianna Labine**.

Kianna has an immune disease called Systemic lupus erthmatosus which causes arthritis and severe fatigue. Going to school some days was a challenge for Kianna when it was nearly impossible for her to walk. Overcoming the need to miss class, Kianna managed to achieve honours marks by being dedicated to her studies and showing great maturity in the face of adversity.

Kianna has led many volunteer activities. She has been a mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters, and has volunteered her time at the Bissel Centre, Hope Mission, Norwood Seniors Centre, the Festival of Trees and at such



Kianna Labine

fundraising events as Movember.

“I have found a new meaning in life which doesn’t focus on what I cannot do but instead focuses on how I can help others and hopefully inspire them to not let anything stand in their way of their goals. Goals which can include finishing university with a Master’s Degree in Psychology such as mine or short terms goals to read the alphabet. No matter the dream it should be made possible.”

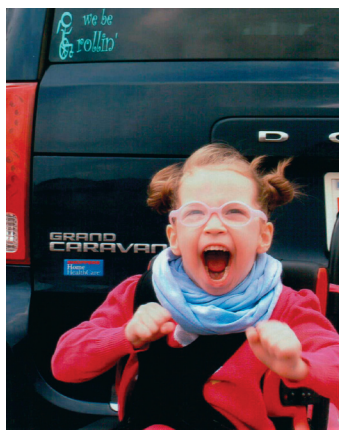


CHILDREN'S ABILITY FUND

VEHICLE ADAPTATION PROGRAM

Accessible, affordable transportation for families of children with disabilities continues to be an ongoing challenge. Established in 2008, the **Children's Ability Fund** vehicle adaptation program offers a grant of up to 10,000 towards the cost of accessible equipment for a vehicle or a complete vehicle modification.

8 families benefited through the Vehicle Adaptation program this year totaling \$58,715.



Jacey is a 5 year old who has a diagnosis of Spastic Quadriplegic cerebral palsy.

The van conversion addresses the long term back care needs of the family with respect to lifting and transferring Jacey and her wheelchair. This conversion provides accessibility to the community and affords Jacey the same opportunity (family vacations and have play dates with friends) as other children who do not require a wheelchair to meet their mobility needs.

When asked how has this improved their day-to-day living, Jacey's mom said "So Much!!! It makes the lifting of Jacey and equipment minimal. Amazing!!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!"



Ashley and I wanted to send a quick email to Thank the Children's Ability Fund again for helping us get a modified van to transport Ashley and her wheelchair around. We were so thankful to receive the funding and it has made such a positive change in our lives to be able to take Ashley out into the community and enjoy the same things and places all kids enjoy. Thank you so much!!!

Carla & Ashley





Brooklynn's Mom writes ...

Brooklynn can still walk with assistance and I am working hard to keep her skills active. Before the new vehicle, I had to lift her in and out of the back seat of our car. With the new van and transfer chair it has become so simple. We are now able to be more active in the community and are able to transport all of the equipment she needs. Her independence means the world to me.

Thank-you for your support.



From Leanne's parents...

We are writing today to say THANK YOU!!!!!! We have received our new van for Leanne and we are loving it! We have gone to so many places that we have been avoiding because we could not get her chair there - now we don't have to :) We are able to load up in less the 5 min and know that all of our children are safe, secure and comfortable in our travels. It's like 1000 pounds have been lifted from our shoulders. Leanne will no longer be left behind on school field trips because they can't get a bus or the taxi doesn't show they can now call me and I can happily drive her to and from. Leanne tells everyone about her new van and she asks to go somewhere all the time now. To us it's like she's discovering the world on her own for the first time! We hope you can know how much you have helped to change our lives for the better!

We are so grateful and thankful for all the help we received.
Once again - Thank you!

THANK YOU

Each and every year we receive personal donations from a plethora of people that believe in what we do. We couldn't continue to do what we do without you.

Thank you to each and every one of you!

ENDOWMENT FUND

Our Endowment Fund provides funding to assist with the administration and overhead cost of the **Children's Ability Fund** ensuring that all donations received are used to purchase equipment to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Every year a percentage of all new bequests are added to our Endowment Fund for continued growth and continuity. This year we are grateful to have received funds from the Estates of:

- Estate of Mrs. Bessie Babyn
- Estate of Mrs. Ruth Lily Hagar
- Estate of Mrs. Dorothy Ragan
- Estate of Mr. George Windsor
- Estate of Mr. J Hughes
- And disbursements from the Ralph Buttner, Kuder and Hughes Trust Funds

IN MEMORY OF

Several people made a donation in honor of a loved one. At a time when they were remembering someone very dear to them, they also thought of others and extended their hand in support of those in need. This year we received donations in memory of:

- Shirley Walker
- Gillian Rennie
- John Koyko
- Lisa Perner
- Margaret Yates

Thanks to the decision to honour a life well lived, the **Children's Ability Fund**, inturn will be there to help others live better too.

SHINING STARS



Children's Ability Fund Shining Stars help make things a little brighter for someone with a disability. They encourage friends, customers, students and colleagues to help give the gift of mobility and independence! Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and support!

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Vegreville Parade | • Silent River Kung Fu – | • Frontier Plumbing and |
| • Pennies from Heaven | Pandamonium | Heating – Customer |
| • Silent River Benevolent | • Synapse | Appreciation Day |
| Foundation – Chinese | • Fathers Day Demolition | |
| New Year Celebration | Derby – Vegreville | |



Vegreville parade

SPECIAL EVENTS

• BDC CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT - SEPTEMBER 2013

The 14th Annual BDC Charity Golf Tournament was a resounding success, raising \$23,780 for the **Children's Ability Fund**.

A full slate of golfers enjoyed the blue skies, sunshine and warm weather as the golf goddess granted our wish for a perfect day at the Belvedere Golf and Country Club. From a scrumptious breakfast to a delicious steak dinner, the day was filled with great golf, laughter and friendly competition as the golfers tried their hand at various games and activities throughout the course.

Many of the golfers enjoyed the opportunity to sit in a sledge (from our Sledges in School program) and attempt to score into a bucket. It proved to be more of a challenge than expected for most.



The BDC golf committee (all BDC staff) organizes the entire event from start to finish with the help of their customers, clients and a host of volunteers. Special

thanks to our committee contacts: Mina Mohammed (Area Office Manager) and Nives Mujcin (Client Relationship Officer). What a team!

Each year the Business Development Bank of Canada chooses a different charity to be the charity of choice for the event. The **Children's Ability Fund** is delighted to have been this year's choice and will take great pleasure in ensuring

that all proceeds from the event will be used to provide equipment to enhance the independence of people with disabilities. BDC is truly one of our shining stars.



• GO AUTO 16TH ANNUAL BOWL FOR CHILDREN - MAY, 2014

On Wed May 14th, at Ed's Rec Room in West Edmonton Mall, 27 lanes full of enthusiastic participants and local celebrities helped raise more than \$42,000 to support the **Children's Ability Fund**.

The ongoing support of our sponsors, celebrity team captains, and the participants who go above and beyond to raise pledges for the charity make it all happen.

Children's Ability Fund truly appreciates and wants to thank all our supporters and our sponsors: GO AUTO as the title sponsor and long time partners Ben Moss Jewellers and Double Diamond Electronics. West Edmonton Mall and Ed's Rec room continue to be valued partners donating the venue and organizing the food donation from Eberheart Foods.

Big thanks to the lane sponsors: Allard Developments, Aspen Home Healthcare, Chandos Construction, Fibertel Communications, GO Kentwood Ford, KRP (Kingston Ross and Pasnak) LLP, Labatt Breweries, Melton Foundation,

PCL, Reid Built Homes and Shoppers Home Health Care.

We would also like to thank the support of all the local celebrities that showed off their bowling skills and headed up our teams AND a very big thank-you to all of the bowlers who raised pledges and help make the night a success! **So much fun for such a great cause!**



VOLUNTEER

RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION

• OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A very big thank-you to our volunteer Board of Directors. We are very fortunate to have a great group of people representing the **Children's Ability Fund**. They come from all walks of life and bring a myriad of experience and knowledge that they are happy to share. Of the 425 total volunteer hours committed to the charity last year, almost 40% were contributed by the Board of Directors in their role as a Board member and/or assisting at fundraising events like the Casino, Bowl for Children and other community occasions.

Special thanks to the Client Care Committee (all allied professionals in their field) who devoted several hours to assist us with developing a new application process to ensure we are using our resources to the best of our ability and that the process is fair to all who apply for funding assistance.

We bid a sad farewell to long time Board member and Past Chairman Jim Banks who will be leaving us after 10 years and countless hours of service. He has represented the **Children's Ability Fund** in numerous capacities as a Board Member and as the Board Chair. Jim is a very compassionate man, an excellent communicator with strong management skills and has been an asset to our organization. In 2011 Jim was awarded the Gerry Herman Volunteer of the Year Award for his commitment and service to the charity. Since then he has continued in the same tradition by volunteering numerous hours to the



Board and fundraising events. Jim has been instrumental in helping us establish the long term plan for the charity as well as recruiting several others to the Board. **Thank you Jim, for all you have done – we will miss you!**

Jim Banks

• COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

We would also like to recognise our community volunteers who have so generously donated their time and energy to help us reach our goals. Special thanks to the Telus Ambassadors who are always willing to lend a hand.

Over the past year the following individuals reach some milestones in volunteer commitment:

- **Bronze star** – Mary Sutherland, Physllis Sodan, Dwight Hunter and Judy Dumont
- **Silver star** – Deb Deitz, Laura and Ray Loiselle
- **Gold star** – Brian Alguire, Mona McKinnon and Michelle Roy

We couldn't do it without you!

2012/2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linnie Tse, MEdes, *Chair*
Brian Alguire, CMA, *Treasurer*
David Dorward CMA,CA
Wayne Evenson
Neera Garga
Ken Gulevich
Boyd Leader
Jack Lund*
Robroy (Bob) McGregor
Mary Sutherland
Jim Banks, *Past Chair*

*deceased

2012/2013 STAFF

Carol Russ, CMA, BMgt
Executive Director
Marilyn Melnychuk
Client Care Coordinator
Joanne Rediron
Office Manager

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NOT PAID –
NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE WORTHLESS,
BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE PRICELESS!**

FINANCIAL



Children's Ability Fund Statement of Financial Position As of June 30

	2014	2013
ASSETS		
Current Assets	\$ 42,638	\$ 175,883
Investments	3,761,235	3,495,981
	<u>3,803,873</u>	<u>3,672,405</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	15,936	108,598
EQUITY		
Beckett Trust	2,202,235	2,202,235
Endowment Fund	1,160,750	1,160,750
Bursary Fund	82,900	78,880
General Fund	342,052	121,942
	<u>3,803,873</u>	<u>3,672,405</u>

Clifford & Mabel Becket Trust Fund

In 2000, the **Children's Ability Fund** received endowment proceeds from the Becket Trust. This has been placed in an internally restricted fund for future use.

Endowment Fund

In 1987, the Board of Directors established the Endowment Fund to ensure that resources would be in place to meet the growing demand to provide the necessary funding for people with disabilities.

Children's Ability Fund

Statement of Operations For the Year Ended June 30

	2014	2013
REVENUE		
Investments	196,652	168,830
Estates & Legacies	144,689	168,152
Fundraising Projects & Gaming	114,320	47,784
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	111,216	-314
Donations & Grants	56,341	61,803
	<u>623,227</u>	<u>446,255</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Administration	152,158	163,919
Programs & Public Awareness	31,421	43,616
Fundraising Projects	22,672	20,425
	<u>206,251</u>	<u>227,960</u>
DONATIONS Client Care		
Individual Client Requests	131,631	170,976
Vehicle Modifications	58,715	75,940
Children's Ability Fund Bursary	2,500	0
Groups & Group Programs	0	55,683
	<u>192,846</u>	<u>302,599</u>
Surplus/Deficit	<u>\$ 224,130</u>	<u>\$ -84,304</u>

Audited Financial Statements have been prepared by independent external auditors Kingston Ross Pasnak and are available for review.



**Children's
Ability Fund**
of the Northern
Alberta Crippled
Children's Foundation

TEACHING KIDS ABOUT GIVING

Thoughtful, caring parents make children happy and create lasting, meaningful memories. They also cultivate ethical, kind, and thoughtful behaviors in their children. Teaching kids to give back is one of the best things a parent can do for their community and their child. Giving gives children a sense of self-esteem and pride. It makes them realize that their actions matter. Giving can be very simple - donating a single toy, or purchasing one small gift for another child. It does not have to be big or expensive to be meaningful to your child or to others!!! Every penny counts and every person (no matter what age) can help make a difference in this world.

BEVAN'S (AGE 7) BIRTHDAY GIFT

From Bevan's Mom:

*Simply put, Bevan really does not need one more toy. As we were planning his celebration, I spoke to him about less fortunate people in our community and asked if he would consider having his friends make a donation to an organization rather than bring him a gift. He thought this was a pretty good idea and from there we had a discussion about who he would like donations to go to. I gave him the option of helping adults, children or animals and he chose children. From there we went through a list of local non-profit organizations, including yours, and the **Children's Ability Fund** was the group that sparked his interest.*

*Bevan's Grandad has a sensory motor neuropathy, and over the past 7 years Bevan has watched him move from walking with a cane, to walking with crutches to now using a scooter or wheelchair. I believe that this is the reason that Bevan wanted donations to go to the **Children's Ability Fund**. The idea that a child who needed help with mobility but may not have access to that help just seemed unbelievable to him.*

I do hope that donations from Bevan's birthday celebration were able to benefit a child or family in need.

We are so grateful to Bevan's mother for guiding him to be a thoughtful little boy with a big heart. He will most likely become a very compassionate man who we will all be proud to know.