

Children's Aid Society
La Société d'aide à l'enfance
NIPISSING & PARRY SOUND

2023 | 2024

Annual Report



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Stepping into a New Chapter



This past year, the Board of Directors announced a significant change in the Society's leadership. After a remarkable career characterized by dedication and outstanding service, Gisèle Hébert, Executive Director announced her retirement after 39 years of service. Ms. Hébert's contributions to the Society have been immeasurable, and her visionary leadership will continue to set a solid foundation for our future growth. We are deeply thankful for her commitment and the positive impact she has made.

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Nancy Lafrance Rich as the Interim Executive Director. Ms. Lafrance brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of success within the sector. Her deep understanding of our mission and values ensures continuity and stability during this transition period. We are confident that Ms. Lafrance's leadership will guide the agency effectively as we navigate this next chapter.

The Board of Directors would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Ms. Hébert for her years of dedicated service and warmly welcome Ms. Lafrance Rich into her new role. Together, we look forward to a promising future.

Turning the Page

Embarking on a New Journey

In 2024, due to the cessation of ministry funding, Arbour House, ceased operations as a provincial trauma informed crisis and stabilization prototype residential facility for northern youth, ages 12-18. Despite this setback, the Children's Aid Society of the District of Nipissing and Parry Sound remains committed to exploring new opportunities for youth. We continue to engage with community partners and maintain an ongoing dialogue with the ministry to strategize potential initiatives for the future use of Arbour House. Our goal is to ensure that this valuable resource still benefit the community in meaningful ways, we are actively working to identify and implement innovative solutions.



Closing a Remarkable Chapter

As we bid farewell to our beloved office building on Church Street, we reflect on the countless memories and milestones achieved within its walls. This building has been a cornerstone of the organization for many years. While it's bittersweet to leave behind a place filled with so much history, we are filled with optimism and excitement for our new centralized James Street location. We look forward to creating new memories in an environment that will support our vision and goals. Here's to honoring our past and embracing the exciting journey ahead.




**WE'VE
 MOVED!**
 28 James Street



24 Church Street



Service Snapshot

2117 Calls for Service



 **Only 39% of these Reports Resulted in an Investigation**

11% of Reports Received Ongoing Protection Services



10% Resulted in the Removal of a Child

We strongly believe that children should be with their families, and priority is ensuring they have a safe and nurturing home environment to flourish in. To achieve this, we offer a range of services and programs and collaborate closely with various community partners who share our mission. If a child cannot be at home, we strive to place them with kinship families or familiar caregivers who can provide a secure environment. The protection and well-being of children is a collective effort, and with the support of our community partners and concerned citizens, we are making a positive impact in the lives of children.

63 Children & Youth are Residing in Kin Placements



Thriving Together

Nurturing Health & Wellness



Over the past year, our Wellness Committee has been exceptionally active in addressing the diverse wellness needs of our staff. Guided by the invaluable insights stemming from a comprehensive staff survey, the committee's efforts have been informed and targeted.

Throughout the year, the committee has implemented a variety of innovative strategies to promote wellness, ensuring that every initiative aligns with our commitment of enhancing the overall well-being of our staff.



Corporate Companion Day

We've launched Corporate Companion Days, enabling staff to share their workday with their furry friends.

In-House Registered Massage Therapist

We offer on-site access to massage therapy sessions for our staff, providing a rejuvenating experience and assisting in stress relief throughout the workday.

Walking Desks

Our walking treadmill desks are designed to enhance physical wellness. This innovative solution enables our employees to stay active throughout the day.

Monthly Workshops

Our Wellness Committee has organized a series of workshops focusing on various domains of wellness, including nutrition, mindfulness, stress management, and work-life balance.

Mindfulness Sessions

Recognizing the importance of mental well-being, we've implemented regular meditation sessions. These sessions offer staff opportunities to relax, reduce stress, and enhance focus and productivity.



Providing Upstream Services & Driving Positive Change

140 Elmwood continues to be a vibrant community space dedicated to providing comprehensive support and services for youth and families in our community. Our innovative upstream services are unparalleled, providing assistance precisely when, where, and how youth need it!

Over the past year, we have expanded our partnerships, witnessed a surge in usage, and are excited about the limitless possibilities ahead.

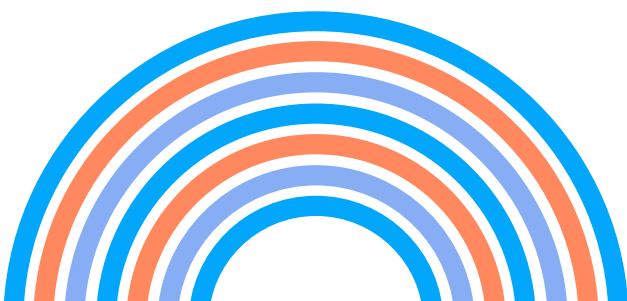
We are grateful for the generous donation of a van, which enables us to expand our youth program offerings to our rural surrounding communities.

- ↑ **15% Youth Attendance**
- ↑ **35% Community Partnerships**
- ↑ **400% Community Use**



ELMWOOD

Where Kids & Families Grow






Board of Directors





Officers & Directors

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 Thomas Stone, Director
 Cindy Males, Director
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