

# 2015

annual report



# Letter from the **Board Chairperson** and the **Executive Director**

Dear Friends,

We invite you to review our annual report to discover the activities that Chisholm Services for Children accomplished this past year delivering our residential program, LINKS program and community-based volunteer program.

Over the past five years Chisholm has been a leader in the community by integrating trauma informed care into its service. We continued to integrate this care model into the day-to-day service provided to our children at Chisholm. As our team continues to enhance their practice skills in this area, other community collaborators are also developing their service to reflect a trauma informed model of practice. Examples of such are seen within Nova Scotia Health and Wellness and through initiatives with Education and Early Childhood Development.

Over the past year, Chisholm has also expanded our community-based services with the development and implementation of our volunteer project. In partnership with the Department of Community Services, we delivered a twelve-month program for parents who are approved and waiting to adopt children. Additionally, Chisholm developed a new site for the LINKS literacy program at St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay Elementary School, which was offered for the full school year. We are also very proud to present this year Chisholm's Community Heart Award to Liz Ingram-Chambers. Over the past two and a half years, Liz and her team at *Le Bistro by Liz* have proven to be true community supporters of our children and organization. Every Wednesday, Liz provides a pot of soup and baguettes for the children at Chisholm. Liz has also been supportive through her contributions of children's clothing, Christmas decorations and hosting a table at her restaurant each year for our Blind Date with a Star event.

The Board and team have been active over the past year in identifying strategies to respond to fiscal shortfall challenges and a slight reduction in occupancy at Chisholm, while always keeping our focus on maintaining our standard of care for our children. These strategies have proven successful and resulted in Chisholm staying within the Department of Community Services approved budget.

In closing, we would like to take the opportunity to recognize the support and dedication of the team at Chisholm. Our team includes our employees, the Board of Directors, volunteers, as well as the community collaborators that strengthen our service. As the African proverb states, *'it takes a village to raise a child'*; at Chisholm we recognize the important role our team and community play in raising the children we support. Thank you.

Sincerely,



JoAnne MacGillivray, MA  
Board Chairperson



Wade Johnston, MSW, RSW  
Executive Director

# Friends of Chisholm's Children

**INDIVIDUALS:** Charlie A'Court, Bruce Armstrong, Jamie Baillie, Tammy Baker, Catherine Belanger, Paul Belhumeur, Bobbi Benson, Peter Benson, Karen Bezanson, Crystal Boudreau, Gisele Bourque, Dr. Jolene Brady, Mike Brien, Grace Brosha, Kevin Brown, John Brownell, Dave Bryson, Darlene Burbridge, Stewart and Cheryll Cameron, Douglas and Donna Campbell, John Campbelljohn, Ben Caplan, Dave Carroll, Justin Carvery, Nick Chan, Weiwei Chen, Pam Chisholm, Jonathan and Krista Cholak, Luis Clavel, Lisa Clements-Titcombe, Donna Coade, Paul Cook, Stephen Cooke, Elizabeth Corkum, Margo Coughlin, Christine Cragg, Norma Craib, Jennifer Crowley, Charles W. Cullen, Mike Currie, Christina Demyen, Brookes Diamond, Colin & Carol Dodds, Jessilyn Dodgson, Mary Doherty, Lynn Donahoe, Sheila Donahoe, JC Douglas, Brad Dryden, Mandy Duffy, Kim Dunn, John Dunsworth, Josh Edmonds, Sam Edmonds, Sarah Edmonds Grey, George Edwards, Karaline Edwards, Floyd Eisan, Bruce and Carla Elliot, Carol Ezekiel, Moya Farrell, Jacqueline Fitzmorris, Cindy & Peter Forbes, Mark Franche, Peter Freeman, Tracy Gallant, Brian and Jean Gibson, Ashley Gillis, Emily Gorman, Caroline Graham, Lana Grant, Brad Green, Norm Greencorn, Donna Gunn, Sonia Hage – Cameron, Andrew Haley, Blair Haley, Alyse Hand, Gary Harris, Amanda Hatt, Lawrence Hayes, Kim Hendrickson, Sharon Henley, David Hennessey, Carol Hill, Trudy Hiltz, Barbara Hodgson, Brenda Lee Hodgson, Carol Hollett-Glasgow, Julianne Hooper, Celine Hopkins, Kathy Howes, Jonathan Hurst, Gary Hurst, Ryan Inglis, Liz Ingram-Chambers, Jaclyn "Jax" Irwin, Daryl James, Richard Jennings, Anjali Jensen, Todd Johns, Darrell Johnston, Terry and Anne Kelly, Monica Kennedy, Nadine King, Bryony King, Marlene Kummer, Jeff Lackey, Amanda Lajo, Perry Lambourne, Aimee Landry, Darryl Langdon, Carol Langille, Chris Larsen, Lois Levine, Cyndi Locke, Rob Lockeau, Kenny Lord, Cyril Lunney, Chris Lydon, Leslie Mac Donald, Christa Mac Donald, Mark MacDonald, Darlene MacDonald-Mury, Shelby MacEachern, Fred & JoAnne acGillivrary, Neville MacKay, Mary Jo Mahody, Andrew Marriott, Christina Martin, Joan Massey, Gord McComb, Elizabeth McCormick, Eric McCulloch, Sophia McCurdy, Steve McMullin, Vernon Mingo, Bernadette Monk, Peter Moorhouse, Anna C. Morris, Greg Mosher, Darren Mosher, Gary Muise, Tom Murphy, Patricia Myatt, Amie Myatt, Peter Myatt, Lorelei Nicoll, Brandon O'Brien, Eric O'Brien, Virginia O'Connell, Daniel P. O'Halloran, Edith & Bruce O'Hearn, Giles Oland, Rebecca Oulton, Bruce and Judy Outhouse, Ryan Parsons, Samantha Power, John Randles, Marty Rizzo, Drew Robertson, Bill Robinson, Michael Rushe, Andrea Russell, Siobhan Ryan and family, Robert C. Shaw, Ian Sherwood, Denyse Sibley, Mary Skinner, Sandy Snide, Johnny Spencer, Marlene Stennett, Colin Stephenson, Yves Synnott, Elizabeth Tachie, Andrew Teehan, Jerrica Thibeau, Kathryn Tyrrell, Katlynn Vantassel, Don Walker, Velda Waye, Melanie Weaver, Diana Whalen, James Wile, Jim and Judy Williams, Patrick Williams, Pat Woodworth, David Young, Claire Yuille Fletcher, and those who wish to remain anonymous.

**ORGANIZATIONS:** 6th Hammonds Plains Guides, Aramark (Saint Mary's University), Atlantic Elver Fishery Inc., Auction House, Auction World, Bâton Rouge, Bedford United Church, Bicycle Thief, Blue Bird Events, Blue Olive Greek Taverna, Branchwater Investments Ltd, C100 FM Radio Station, Canvas Resto Lounge, Carlton Music Bar and Grill, CBCL Limited, CFB Wardroom, Chez Tess, Chives Canadian Bistro, CIBC Mellon, CJM Solutions, Clearwater, Cox and Palmer, CTV, Dartmouth Book Exchange, David Hennessey Bedford Promotions Fund, Delta Barrington - Tempo Food and Drink, Delta Halifax - Harbour City Bar and Grill, Edmonds, Edwards Family Charitable Foundation, Elements on Hollis, Euphrasia Walsh Corporation, First Canadian Insurance, Five Fish Grill, Five Fisherman, Flemming Charitable Foundation, Frischkorn Mediaco, Gio, Grafton Connor Group, Grafton Street Dinner Theatre, Grand and Toy, Grant Thornton, Halifax Association for Improving the Conditions of the Poor: The Halifax Assistance Fund, Halifax Club, Halifax-Cornwallis Progress Club Charitable Foundation, Halifax's Waverley Inn, Hamachi House, Hamachi Kita Sushi and Asian Flare, Hamachi Mura, Hamachi Steakhouse Bar & Grill, Hartman Matthews Family Trust, Harvest Wines, Honeywell Bldg Solutions, Inglis Street Elementary School, Investors Group Financial Services Inc., Jazz Aviation, JW Lindsay Enterprises Limited, Le Bistro by Liz, M5, McInnes Cooper, Metro News, Mount Saint Vincent University, Municipal Group of Companies, My Mother's Bloomers, Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame, Nova Tile and Marble, Numus Financial, Outfront Media, Play Learn Grow in Bedford, Port Wallis United Church, Premire Entertainment Group, Progress Club, RBC Dominion Securities, RBC Foundation, RBC Hollis St Branch, Redwood Grill, Resto Urban Dining, Saeger Bistro, Saint Joseph's Alexander McKay Elementary School, Salvation Army, Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon Charity Challenge, Scotiabank Spring Garden Branch, Seasons by Atlantica, Shoppers Drug Mart Curt Ryan Pharmacy Services Inc., Son Vida, Southdale North Woodside Elementary School, Stayners Wharf Pub and Grill, Stories - Haliburton Halifax Hotel, T.L.B Holdings Limited, TELUS, The Keg, TPH Halifax Branch, TPH® Charitable Office, Travel Is/Ray Warner, Westjet, World Financial Group, World Trade and Convention Centre, and those who wish to remain anonymous.

# 2015 Fiscal Highlights

## Year at a Glance

Days of Care	2,678
Admissions	4
Average Age	8.8
Average Grade	4.3
Average Length of Stay (days)	290
Discharges	4
Children Served in Residential Care	12
LINKS Registered Students	231
Total Number of Youth and Children Served Since 1972	1,012

### CHISHOLM TEAM DEVELOPMENT

The Chisholm team has continued to uphold training standards aligned with the Department of Community Services. Training opportunities were offered in Trauma Informed Care: Implications for CPI's Crisis Development Model, CPI Applied Physical Training; Provincial Child Abuse Protocol: Residential Child-Caring Facilities, Policy 49 – Management of Harmful Behaviour Policy, Administration of Medication, Best Practices in Case Recording, Fire Safety, Emergency First Aid / CPR, Food Handlers Education Course, Rights and Responsibilities, Confidentiality, Occupational Health and Safety; and other development opportunities: How do we Foster Resilience in Students who have Experienced Trauma, Trauma Informed Practice in Nova Scotia (Webinar Series), Steps for Safety (Workplace Violence Prevention), Community of Safe Practice, Becoming a HIGH FIVE® Trainer, Making Decoding Automatic, and the Pilgrimage to Angers (History and Mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd).

### EXTERNAL COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

In collaboration with the Department of Community Services Adoption Services, Chisholm has been able to deliver the Volunteer Adoption Program for parents who have been approved and are waiting for an adoption match. The program was delivered through group sessions that focused on various theoretical concepts of trauma informed care and practical examples of how to support children with trauma histories. The participants were able to volunteer their time in support of the children at Chisholm, participating in activities such as visits to the SPCA and participation in our LIFE: Space Program. This successful collaboration was recognized with the Minister's IDEAL Award by the Department of Community Services.

This past year we also collaborated with the IWK Trauma Informed Care and Treatment Advisory Group. Our clinicians, Stacy McRae and Daniel Abar, have been actively involved in the Advisory Group. Stacy presented on Trauma Informed Care integration at Chisholm. Daniel Abar presented Chisholm as a model of a trauma informed milieu as part of the Trauma Informed Practice in the Nova Scotia Webinar Series. This involvement has strengthened our collaboration with the IWK, leading to subsequent engagement with the IWK Compass Program (with the support of Dr. Erinn Hawkins and Dr. Normand Carrey), the IWK Day Treatment Program and the Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team.

### CHILDREN'S TRANSITIONS

Over the past year we have worked to ensure the children residing at Chisholm have the opportunity to build on relationships they have developed in the past, as well as foster new relationships with potential caregivers. We have facilitated opportunities for children to meet with their families on site or through home visits. Over the past year, we have seen children transition back to their biological family, return to their home community, experience placements with foster families, and even transition through adoption; all with the support in place to make these experiences as positive as possible for the children and their caregivers.



# 2015 **Fiscal Highlights**

## **LINKS LITERACY PROGRAM** *"LEARN TO READ, AND READ TO LEARN"*

The LINKS Children's Literacy Program provides after school literacy instruction to children in grades primary to six who are reading below grade level and may, or may not, have been diagnosed with a learning disability. In its second year with Chisholm, and through the help of donations, volunteer efforts, fundraising and the support of outside organizations, LINKS provides an affordable and accessible program for students. In addition to the growing support we have received from Schools Plus and the Halifax Region Children's Aid Foundation, LINKS has also received funding from the Halifax Assistance Fund to expand into a new location at St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay Elementary School (SJAM). After a successful pilot year at SJAM, LINKS now operates in four locations throughout the Halifax area: Southdale North Woodside Elementary in Dartmouth, Inglis Street Elementary in Halifax, Mount Saint Vincent University in Bedford, and St. Joseph's-Alexander MacKay Elementary School in Halifax North. The four terms spanning Spring to Winter saw a total of 231 registered students receive literacy support from our amazing team of staff and volunteers. The program had 49 students subsidized for full registration. With ongoing future planning we hope to reach out to an even greater number of students in need during the coming year.

## **HIGH FIVE® – PURSUING EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES**

At Chisholm we recognize the importance physical activity plays in healthy child development. The delivery of therapeutic activity through HIGH FIVE® activities occur daily and are based on the HIGH FIVE® curriculum, the only quality assurance program in Canada for children 12 and younger. HIGH FIVE® activities have become an integral part of Chisholm's programs and are integrated in programming such as hiking, swimming, lacrosse, geocaching, Chisholm's annual Amazing Race Day, pottery, and overnight camping at Brigadoon Village. Over the year, the team at Chisholm have delivered 692 HIGH FIVE® activities and 352 in-house activities. The children were able to experience two camping opportunities at Brigadoon this past year. The first experience included a one-day visit to Brigadoon where the children were able to engage in a wide range of activities. Then, during a one night camping program in August, the children were able to build upon the skills developed on their previous visit, participating in theater, swimming, hiking, arts and crafts and, of course, a camp fire with s'mores included. Chisholm also delivered the Life: Space Program facilitated by Andrew Middleton with Atlantic Youth Consulting. The program spanned 16 sessions from April to September. Fun, innovative games and activities were used to facilitate teachable moments, allowing for real time feedback on the interactions of the group. Andrew and the team were able to build upon many positive group experiences.

## **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

As we set our sights on the coming year, some of the focus areas of Chisholm will include:

- Continued response to the Department of Community Services placement needs for children 12 and younger from across Nova Scotia
- Revisiting Chisholm's Strategic Plan
- Development of a program logic model
- Policy and Procedures review and revisions
- Volunteer Adoption Program delivered in partnership with the Department of Community Services
- Evaluation and enhancement of the LINKS Literacy Program
- Construction of an outdoor play area for the children at Chisholm

## Community Collaborations

Atlantic Youth Consulting, AWARE Nova Scotia, Bedford United Church, Brigadoon Village, Canada Games Centre, Captain William Spry Community Centre, Discovery Centre, Dr. Kristen McLeod, Erinn Hawkins (IWK COMPASS Program), Halifax Public Library, Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Regional School Board, Halifax Volunteer Group, Hope for Wildlife, IWK Day Treatment, IWK Health Sciences Centre, KidSing Performance School, Le Bistro by Liz, m5, m5i, Mission Integration Office, MSVU Department of Child and Youth Studies, MSVU Department of Education, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, NSCC Truro, NSCC Waterfront, Office of the Ombudsman, Port Wallis United Church, Recreation Nova Scotia, S.P.C.A., Schools Plus Program, Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon, St. John Ambulance Pet Therapy Program, STOCK Transportation, and Therapeutic Paws of Canada.

## Board of Directors

JoAnne MacGillivray (Board Chair), Charlene McDonnell (Board Vice-Chair), Mary Jo Mahody (Secretary), Donna Gunn (Treasurer), Susan Adams, Sister Pauline Butler, Sheila MacDonald, Shelly Manzer-Currie, Gary Landry, Tammy Mercier, Patricia Myatt, Danny Nau, Andrew Teehan, Anatassia Theoharopoulos, and Wade Johnston (Ex Officio).

## Employees and Students

**ADMINISTRATION:** Wade Johnston (Executive Director), Stacy McRae (Director Clinical Services), Daniel Abar (Director Clinical Services, Term), Selina Pottle (Manager LINKS Program), Shawna Burgess (Office Administrator), Mc'Edward Jones (Bookkeeper/Payroll Clerk), Geoff Hurst (Director Business Development), Sean Clarke, Margo MacDonald, Suzy Edwards, (Supervisors), Renee Poitras and Heidi Vere Holloway, (Supervisors, Term).

**YOUTH CARE WORKERS:** Jessica Abbey, Ebony Bell-Welch, Mary Campbell, Genna Carey, Angela Comish, Erin Cotie, Kelly Currie, Sarah Ferguson, Jane Foley, Venita Fraser, Leanne Higgins, Laura Hutt, Sonya Juneja, Mitchell MacDonald, Breana MacEachern, Martin MacLean, Rachel Myles, Jillian Peters Rowsell, Garth Porter, Clifton Pratt, Morgan Purdy, Leanne Revels, Travis Sampson, Mike Shea, Jason Thomas, Rebekah van den Hoogen, Hayley Vienneau, Jamie Wadden, Leah Watson, Maggie Wilson, Melissa Wilson, and Alison Wright.

**LINKS LITERARY INSTRUCTORS:** Stacey Bond, Gail Bowen-Cyrus, Angela DiLeberatore, Michelle Doucette, Gillian Elder, Gillian Fougere, Kristine Gale, Trista Kirchner, Rebecca Levick, Brittany Long, Leah McEachern, Erica Myers, Judy Zinck, Sara MacDonald, and Katie Trefry.

**STUDENTS (YCW / LINKS):** Kelly Cahill, Kristina Dunford, Lindsay Fenherty, Sarah Ferguson, Christina Hickey, Tanya Hiltz, Jessica Kent, Marsha Manuel, Brittany Minnis, Kristina Retfalvi, Roy Roy, Jason Thomas, Rebekah van den Hoogen, Hayley Vienneau, Ryan Wilkie, and Vanessa Zmija.

“Guiding children to a brighter future is not only our passion, its our privilege.”



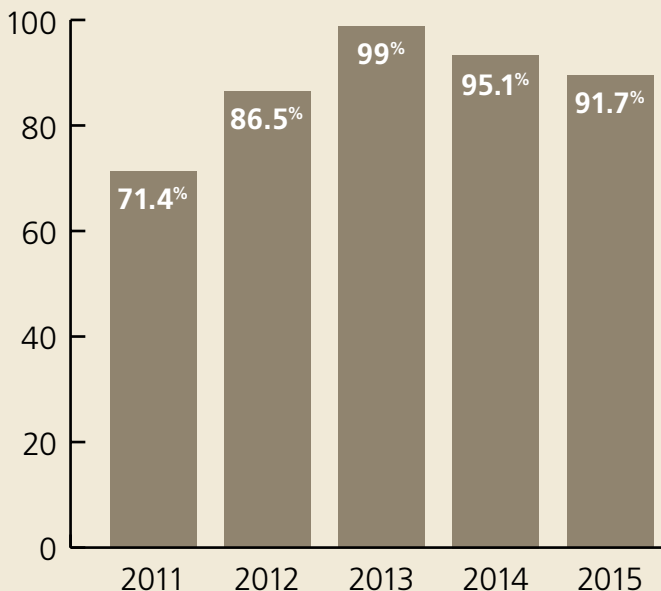
# Financial Summary

REVENUE	2015	2014
Province of Nova Scotia	\$1,590,824	\$1,501,236
Chisholm Foundation for Children	\$0	\$8,100
LINKS Revenue	\$80,448	\$47,355
Other	\$34,138	\$36,890
	<b>\$1,705,410</b>	<b>\$1,593,581</b>

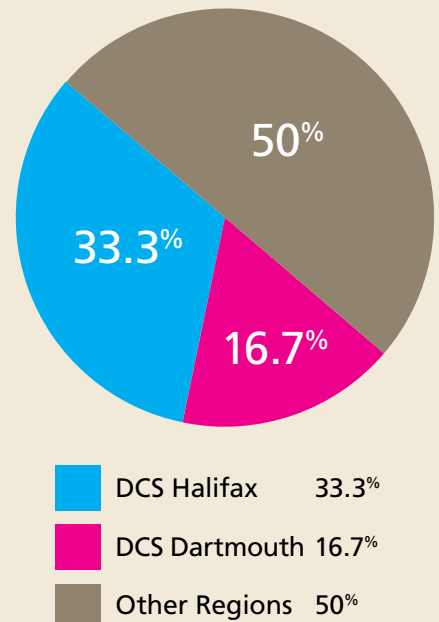
  

EXPENDITURES	2015	2014
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,370,639	\$1,349,878
Administration	\$64,630	\$82,962
Operations	\$149,146	\$162,217
LINKS Program	\$89,020	\$39,584
	<b>\$1,673,435</b>	<b>\$1,634,641</b>
Excess ( <i>Deficit</i> )	<b>\$31,975</b>	<b>(\$41,060)</b>

## Average Occupancy



## Referral Source



## Our **Vision**

Chisholm Services for Children supports every child in its care to find **hope** when their situation seems hopeless, find value in respecting others and be **respected** in return, feel dignified when their **dignity** is challenged, feel a sense of **belonging** and **safety** in their own community, and build the capacity to **trust** in themselves and others.

## Our **Mission**

Chisholm Services for Children is dedicated to guiding children who face complex trauma to a realization of self-worth. Chisholm strives to help children develop skills and capacities to function successfully in a community and family setting, and grow as healthy, stable individuals.



## Our **Objectives**

- To provide trauma-informed residential care and support to children who are in need of services as identified by the Department of Community Services under the *Children and Family Services Act of Nova Scotia*.
- To partner with other community-based services in the provision of a range of resources for children involved with Chisholm Services for Children.
- To provide education and advocacy within the community for the needs of children exposed to complex trauma involved with Chisholm Services for Children.




### **Chisholm Services for Children**


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