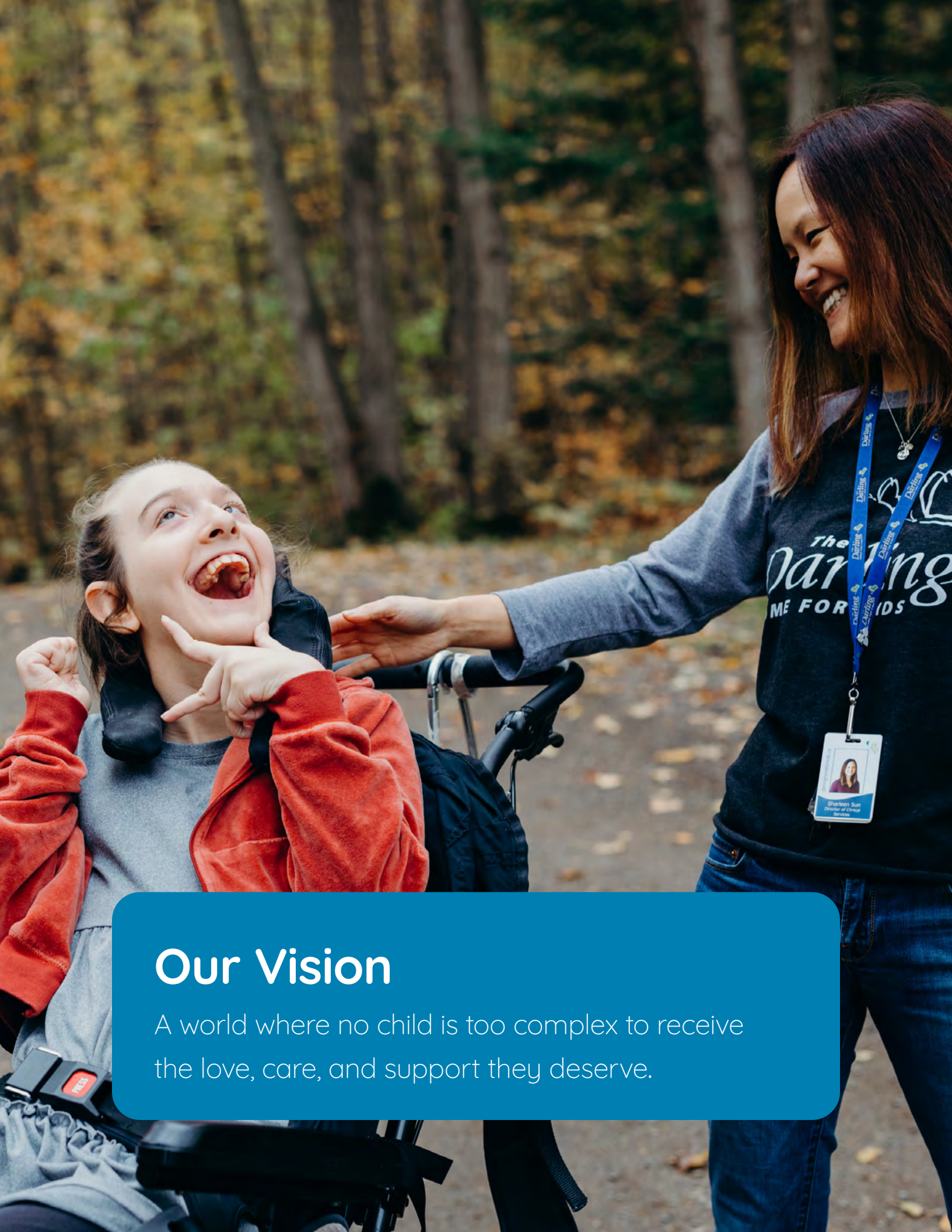




2023 - 2024 Annual Report



Our Vision

A world where no child is too complex to receive the love, care, and support they deserve.



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From Our Caring Guardians



As we reflect on the past year we're filled with immense gratitude. Your support changed the lives of medically complex children in profound ways, and it brings us joy to see our shared vision come to life.

It's been an extraordinary year, with \$1.8 million raised through our partnerships, events and other initiatives. Your generosity was vital in fulfilling our operational needs, supporting capital projects, and helping purchase essential equipment. This has been a banner year for us following the pandemic, and that's because of all of you.

There are two achievements this year that underscore our mission and vision. We launched a new website, as we know how important our online presence is for people engaging with us. From exhausted parents, new supporters, service partners or volunteers, we now have a site that reflects our warmth, shows our impact, and engages with our online community.

The other is a goal years in the making - the groundbreaking for our expansion. As we put our shovels in the ground, we felt the excitement of new possibilities and expanding our services. Our families desperately need our programs, and we are well on our way to transforming our Home so more children can experience the magic of The Darling Home for Kids.

To our dedicated donors, volunteers, and friends—thank you for being our partners in this journey. Together, we're creating a brighter future for medically complex children, and we are eternally grateful.

Michele Darling, Michael, Daniel, and Ryan Eagen



A Letter of Gratitude

Joy is the essence of childhood. It's found in the simplest moments—playtime with friends, snuggling your stuffed bear before bed, the rhythm of your favorite song, the vibrant colors of a new art project. At The Darling Home for Kids, we're committed to ensuring that every child can experience the full richness of these joys of childhood, despite the medical challenges they may face each day.

For families, this journey is overwhelming. We support these tired parents so they can take a much-needed break and by offering a sense of community and reassurance. In moments of grief, when time becomes a precious commodity, we help them create comforting memories with their child and to find a new way forward without them.

Our mission is to deliver compassionate care, and last year, we provided 43,000 hours of service to 38 children and their families. Each hour, interaction, and moment, brought joy and comfort, lighting up the lives of the children we serve in countless ways. Whether it was hosting concerts for Cristiano living his dream of being a rockstar, a zombie birthday party for Josh, helping Colton create works of art, or hearing Tallula sing to her favorite One Direction song—these are the moments that define our work. They are unique to each child and create memories that fill our Home with warmth and happiness.

Every donation is an act of kindness, contributing to these beautiful moments of childhood. You, our volunteers and supporters, are the source of joy and through the pages that follow, you will see firsthand the difference you've made.

Thank you for your unwavering support and for being a part of this incredible journey with our families.

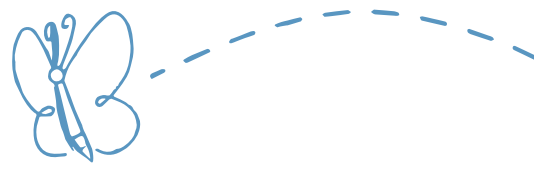
With deepest gratitude,



Kristin Horrell
CEO

Tom Cadman
Chairperson

The Difference You're Making



Our story might sound familiar to many new families eagerly awaiting a newborn, or maybe it's uniquely ours. Either way, this is us.

First came the words "I'm pregnant", followed by "twins run in the family". As the weeks passed, the initial shock turned into a whirlwind of emotions. The doctors wanted an extra ultrasound, the 3D kind. As we waited for additional results we were told we were having twin girls.

Moments later, the doctor entered with a psychologist. There is a problem with Twin B. Her brain hadn't developed probably. Agenesis of the Corpus Colosseum was the official diagnosis. The issue, as we learned, is there is a large bundle of more than 200 million nerve fibres that connect the two hemispheres of the brain didn't develop. We could expect a range of developmental delays, poor muscle tone and epilepsy.

To this day, both our girls, continue to be a handful in a variety of different ways. We get by, with a little help from our friends at The Darling Home.

The Darling Home for Kids has become so many things to our family. When Sonni is in Respite care, it allows our family to make up for missed opportunities that we wouldn't otherwise have. The Home is a trusted place that Sonni can visit, and my wife and I can have complete confidence and peace of mind that she will not only be cared for but also be the center of attention. Equally important, it's a fun place. Activities, nature walks, movie time, and the Snoezelen Therapy room make a wealth of positive experiences for Sonni, and the other kids.

The Darling Home for Kids also host numerous events that make it enjoyable for the entire family. Any time The Darling Home is involved with an aspect of our lives, something gets easier, or more fun, and most often both.

- Brad, Parent of Sonni



In the last year, with your support we provided 43,300 hours of service.

You helped us provide 62 themed days during Summer Respite, creating fun-filled memories for our children.

Since April 2023, we welcomed 10 new families into our programs.

We have an overall satisfaction rate of over 80%, based on family feedback and surveys.

Groundbreaking for Phase 3 Expansion

On a sunny day last May, we marked the groundbreaking of the Phase 3 Expansion at The Darling Home for Kids. This milestone is more than just adding physical space; it shows our stronger commitment to care and creating a haven for children with medical complexities and their families.

When our Home first opened, it was a modest facility accommodating just six children, expanding to 12 beds five years later. Over the years, we have witnessed an increasing demand that far exceeds our current capacity. The need for specialized care has surged, positioning us as a vital lifeline for families, often serving as their best option for residential care.

Our expanded facility will feature three additional bedrooms and two adjoining bathrooms. We will also add a larger medication room and dedicated spaces for counseling, meetings, and therapeutic activities.

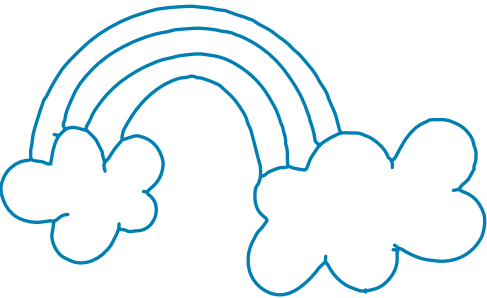
For families facing end-of-life care, we will provide a private kitchen and accommodations for families, enhancing our current amenities. This expansion will also introduce a new arts and crafts space, and a lounge for our children.

Our groundbreaking ceremony was more than just the turning of soil; it symbolized hope for more families to be able to experience the magic of The Darling Home for Kids.



This project is made possible by the incredible generosity of our donors, particularly Orlando Corporation, whose transformative contributions made this possible. We extend our gratitude to our architects, construction partners, and Board of Directors for their commitment to this vision.

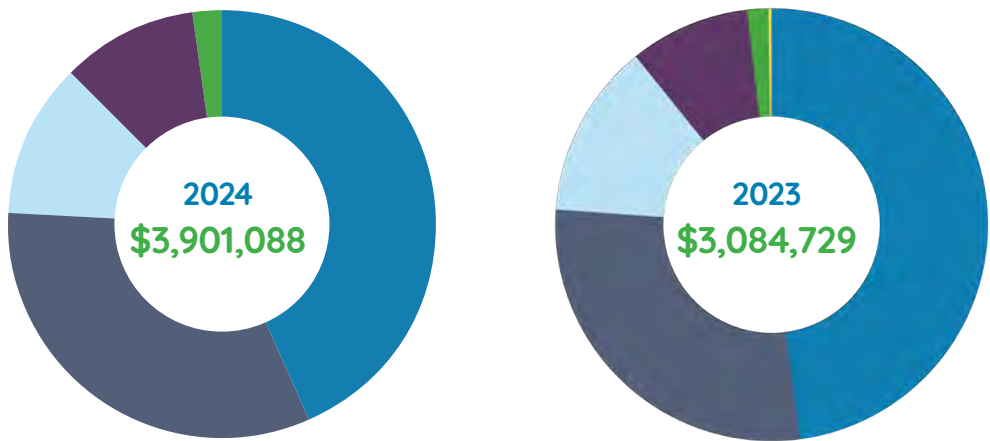
As we look to the future of The Darling Home for Kids, we envision a space where more children flourish, families find peace, and every health challenge is met with a compassionate community.





Statement of Operations

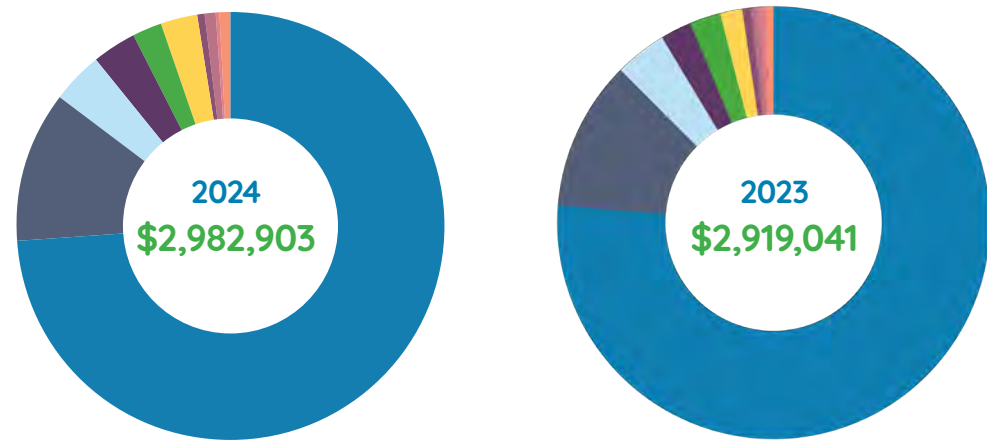
Revenue



Revenue	2024	2023
Provincial government funding	\$1,695,608	\$1,477,173
Donations	\$1,267,065	\$871,970
Fundraising	\$456,516	\$402,596
Interest and other	\$401,144	\$277,375
Designated revenue	\$80,755	\$48,319
Federal government subsidies	-	\$7,296
	\$3,901,088	\$3,084,729

Note: Interest earned from funds designated to The Embrace Campaign were placed into short term investments while awaiting construction commencement. With the cost of construction increasing by 35% from original projections, the surplus at year end (\$918,185), including interest earned, will be used to offset the construction deficit.

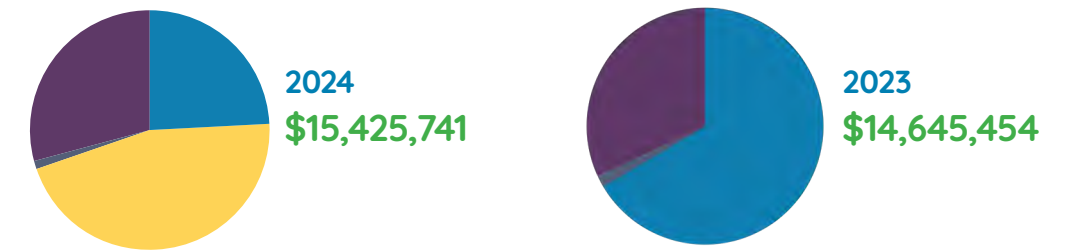
Expenses



Expenses	2024	2023
Salaries and related benefits	\$2,207,715	\$2,226,864
Home operations	\$339,627	\$327,528
Fundraising	\$118,290	\$113,248
Office and sundry	\$95,689	\$67,686
Insurance	\$67,646	\$67,640
Designated expenditures	\$80,755	\$48,319
Interest and bank charges	\$19,620	\$18,547
Professional fees	\$22,667	\$17,558
Taxes	\$13,613	\$16,960
Telephone	\$17,281	\$14,691
	\$2,982,903	\$2,919,041

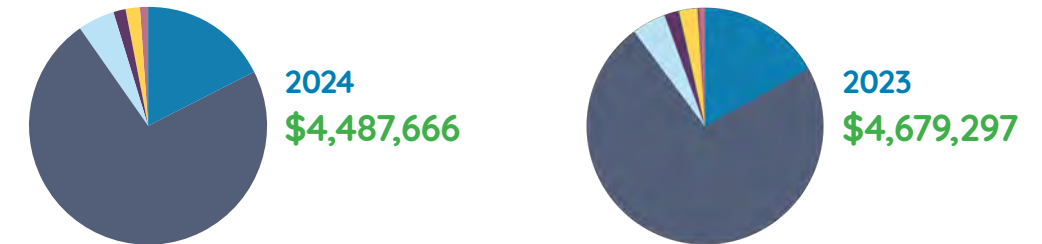
Statement of Financial Position

Assets



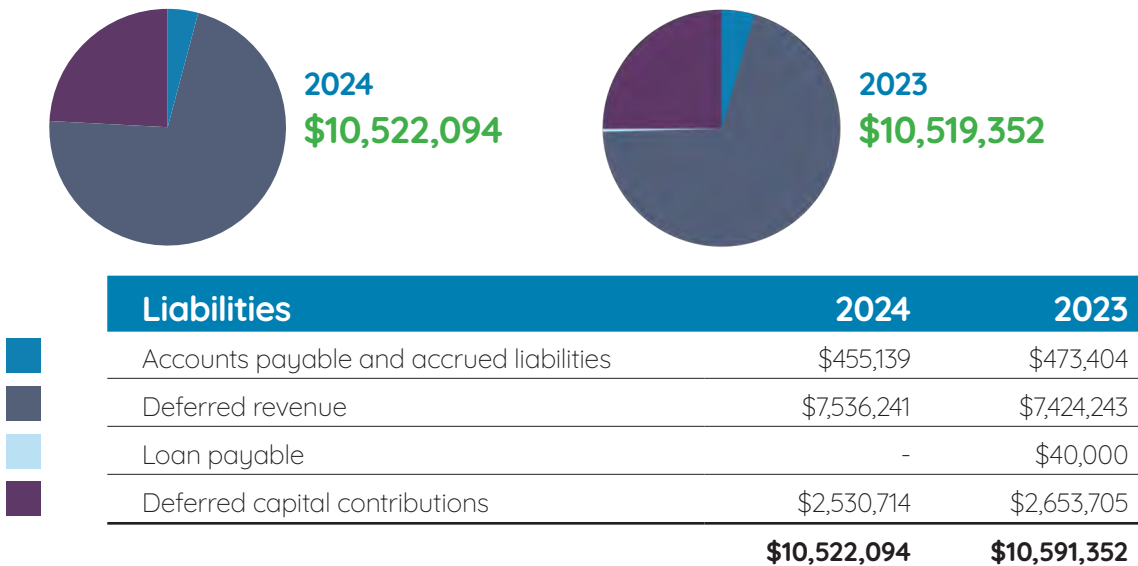
Assets	2024	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,740,317	\$9,737,603
Short Term Investment	\$7,043,350	-
Accounts receivable	\$149,078	\$223,102
Prepaid expenses	\$5,330	\$5,452
Capital Assets	\$4,487,666	\$4,679,297
	\$15,425,741	\$14,645,454

Capital Assets

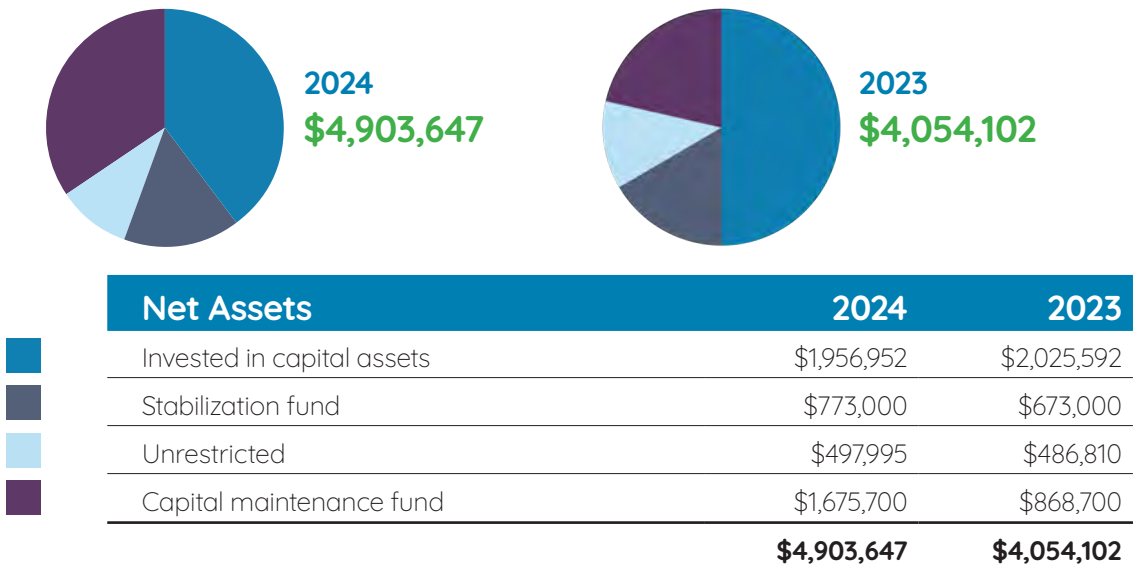


Expenses	2024	2023
Land	\$788,671	\$788,671
Building	\$3,260,748	\$3,413,612
Building phase 3	\$218,894	\$216,779
Medical equipment	\$74,986	\$91,779
Computer equipment	\$2,600	\$4,334
Outdoor playground	\$94,507	\$115,580
Vehicle	\$8,211	\$11,730
Website	\$39,049	\$36,812
	\$4,487,666	\$4,679,297

Liabilities



Net Assets



Our Programs

Last year, our Home embraced 38 children and their families through our programs, offering them a loving and safe space to thrive. Whether it was Tallula finding joy in visits from our pet therapy dogs or Tommy and Josh feeling at ease in their favorite Snoezelen room, we are committed to creating memorable moments that bring smiles to each child’s face.

Our Home provides a comfortable, accessible environment, that ensures we remain a constant source of support for our families.

Respite Program

When a family’s home was flooded, our Respite program meant that their son stayed at his favorite respite camp instead of a hotel or Airbnb, providing a comfortable and familiar space while his parents managed repairs.

In July another young boy lived his dream of performing a rock concert at our Home. Our team made it happen with VIP tickets, stage lights, costumes, and even DHK staff as backup singers—live-streaming the show for all to enjoy, making him famous!





Thanks to your generosity, 38 children have benefited from our programs over the past year

This year, our children received 5,800 hours of Respite care.

“My favourite part of DHK is how everyone in their own way finds different ways of honoring and celebrating our kiddos. In the happy moments it’s full blown parties, but in the quieter moments, during end of life, we still find ways to honor their lives and memories.”

- Altair Morgan-Richards, RPN



Hospice Palliative Program

A young girl in our palliative program was admitted for care and after a few days our staff noticed an infection from her previous hip surgery that was slowly spreading. Thanks to the swift actions of our dedicated nursing staff, the infection was caught early, and she received the care she needed at the hospital. Her family was grateful for the team’s attention and quick response, ensuring their daughter got the critical treatment she needed.

Our Hospice Palliative program provides a continuum of compassionate care from respite to end-of-life, and grief and bereavement services. Whether it’s providing space to families for a peaceful transition, or guidance and support through the end-of-life process, we are dedicated to delivering the highest quality care at every stage of a child’s journey.



Your contribution helped us provide 45 palliative respite stays this year, ranging from a single day to weeks.



“Donations to Darling Home for Kids provide incredible experiences for children whose medical conditions often keep them from enjoying normal childhood moments. It means the world to parents to know that while their children are in such a safe, caring environment, they can also engage in enriching activities that bring joy and happiness. These contributions truly make a difference in the lives of our children.”

-DHK Parent

This year, thanks to your generosity, our children received over 32,000 hours of Residential Care.



Residential Program

In our Residential program our children have days filled with opportunities for growth and development. They attended school, explored the community, and engaged in activities that nurtured their physical, social, and emotional well-being.

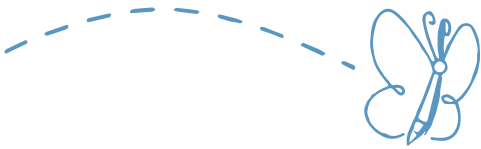
After spending 6 months in the hospital under intensive care, a sweet little girl came into our Home. She quickly had the opportunity to go on trail walks, read stories and participate in fun activities.

One of the children in our Residential program, who loves dinosaurs, celebrated his 9th birthday in true T-rex style at the Home. He also enjoyed a second celebration at his school, surrounded by his teachers and friends.

These moments bring so much joy to our children and really encapsulate the magic behind our doors.



Other Programs



Family Support Program

Last year, our DHK families came together for special moments throughout the seasons, celebrating spring and fall with Family Portrait Days, savoring summer with a BBQ party, and embracing the joy of winter at our Family Holiday Party.

These gatherings were more than just events—they were opportunities for families to create lasting memories and share their journeys. The connections made and the bonds formed helped remind everyone that they are part of a compassionate and uplifting community, no matter the season.

In Parents Connect sessions, led by our dedicated Social Worker, families shared experiences, found comfort in each other’s stories, and received valuable peer support.



With your generosity, 21 families found connection and comfort in our Family Support Program.

Your support helped us host 5 events for our families to connect with others in similar circumstances

More than 98 crisis counselling sessions helped struggling parents and caregivers.

Therapeutic Programs

Laughter fills the air while our children snuggle with furry friends - their gentle nuzzles and wagging tails create moments of pure delight during Pet Therapy.

In a Music Therapy session, the children fully immerse themselves by singing along and playing various instruments, adding their own special sound and beat.

During arts and crafts, everyone's inner Picasso emerges resulting in many masterpieces being created; some of which are hung proudly on their bedroom walls. In the summer, children splashed around in the inflatable pool, hung out on the patio, blew bubbles by the bouncy castle and played water games with our staff.

With our diverse therapeutic programs, each activity fosters self-expression, and moments of excitement.

Our children tuned into 275 hours of Music Therapy.

Our children enjoyed over 1,460 hours of sensory delight through Snoezelen Therapy.



Furry friends filled 255 sessions of Pet Therapy.



Cheers for our Volunteers

A Journey of Dedication and Joy at The Darling Home for Kids

Janna Ormond's journey began at a DHK BBQ fundraiser at her University co-op. That evening, she researched volunteer opportunities and found herself at The Darling Home for Kids. Before she knew it, she was volunteering at the Home every week for six years.



Through her dedication, she quickly advanced to training new volunteers, joining the Volunteer Engagement Advisory Committee, and actively participating in family events such as the Halloween trail walk and holiday parties. Janna also volunteers at our signature events, and she recently became a part of the Wheels planning committee.

In recognition of her incredible commitment, Janna was honoured with the Halton Volunteer Impact Award in 2022, a testament to her outstanding contributions and the profound impact she has made in our community.

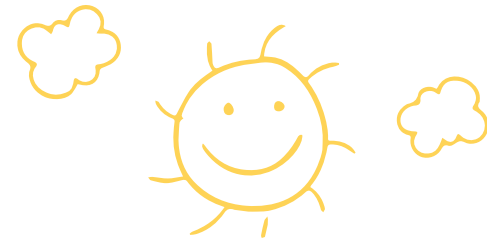
One of her most fond memories at our Home is a perfect example of the magic that happens here. With her help, during our Polar Express nights, the children, dressed in pajamas, embarked on a journey to find golden tickets around the home.

"There is nothing better than seeing the kids smile and just being able to let loose and have fun. The staff are amazing and welcoming, making you feel truly appreciated," Janna shares.

Her Friday evening shifts are filled with reading books, singing along to Disney songs, watching zoo cams, and creating crafts. Janna also enjoys planning accessible seasonal activities, such as dyeing Easter eggs and carving pumpkins, which bring fun to the children.

To anyone considering volunteering at our Home, Janna's advice is: "It can feel overwhelming when you first start, but DHK is such an amazing and supportive environment that you quickly feel like a member of the family. It is 100% worth it!"





From Corporate Supporter to Community Champion: John's Story

John Armstrong learned about The Darling Home for Kids when he was asked to serve as Dell's executive sponsor. He was inspired by Dell's culture which strongly supports the importance of giving back. "When I learned about the vital role DHK plays in providing respite, residential, and hospice services—and that I lived just down the road—I was hooked!"

After his first tour, John felt a deep connection and recognized the critical nature of the care provided. John believes that DHK is a lifeline for families, without it, they would struggle to find the essential care their children deserve. "The staff and volunteers work with a purpose centered around bringing joy to the children."

John witnessed the powerful impact of the community by cycling in our Wheels fundraiser. "At one event, it was incredibly inspiring to see the children cheering as we rode," he recalls. Listening to families share how DHK has positively changed their lives moved him.

John believes in the importance of community involvement. "It takes every single person to sustain an organization as significant as DHK," he emphasizes. Each donor and volunteer plays a vital role, and their contributions are essential.



For anyone considering involvement with DHK, John encourages them: "Do it! You won't regret it! It drives home the importance of our work and gives our team a deeper sense of purpose."

John's journey exemplifies the profound impact corporate volunteers can have, as his dedication and compassion continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children and families.



Smile Cookie Campaign: A Sweet Success

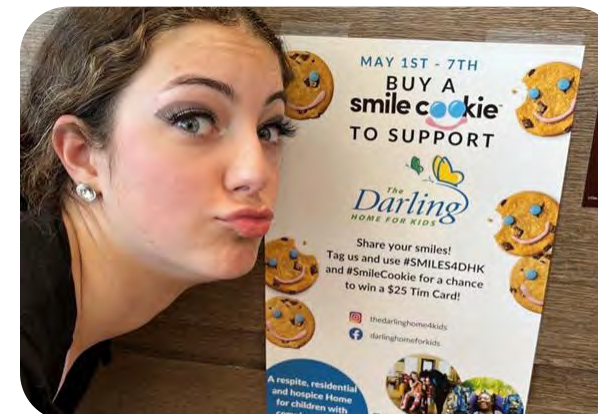
Thank you Tim Hortons! We were honoured to be selected as the charity of choice for the Smile Cookie Campaign. During the first week of May, we encouraged everyone to purchase a decorated smile cookie, as 100% of the proceeds supported The Darling Home for Kids. The response from our community was nothing short of amazing.

We are thrilled to announce that Tim Hortons restaurants in Milton and Hornby raised over \$74,000 during Smile Cookie Week! This generous outpouring of support reflects the compassion and commitment of our incredible community. Every cent from the sale of these cookies contributed directly to providing essential care for our children and families, making a real difference in their lives.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful volunteers and Tim Hortons staff who dedicated their time and talent to decorate thousands of cookies throughout the week. Their hard work and creativity truly brought the Smile Cookie campaign to life.

"I love how these locations are supporting The Darling Home for Kids - such a worthy cause." - Smile Cookie Campaign Participant.

We are filled with gratitude for everyone who participated and contributed. Together, we are creating a brighter future for the children and families at The Darling Home for Kids.





Our Donors

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals, foundations and corporations .whose cumulative contributions between April 1st 2023 - March 31st 2024 have reached or exceeded \$1,000.

We would also like to thank those donors who wish to remain anonymous, we are grateful to you. Every effort is made to ensure proper recognition of each donor unless anonymity is requested. Our apologies for any unintentional errors or omissions.

Our Guardians

Michele S. Darling and her family, Michael, Daniel and Ryan Eagen

\$100,000 to \$249,999

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\$50,000 to \$99,999

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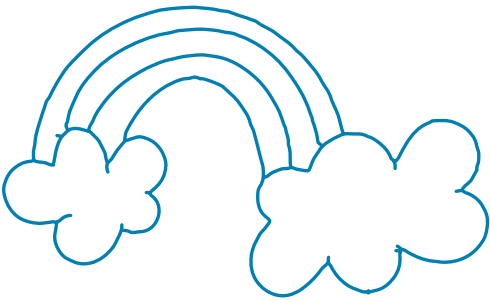
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“I like that the Darling Home is a ‘grass roots’ charity, and the funds go directly to supporting the Home. I can see for myself that everyone on the team, staff and volunteers, work really hard to make it successful. I also feel that the Darling Home fills a niche that is greatly needed but would otherwise likely be neglected. The quality of care and love that they give the kids and the parents is remarkable.”

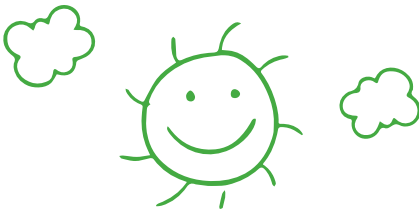
-DHK Donor



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Our signature events raised over \$457,000 to support our home.

Community Events

- 100 Women Who Care Burlington
100 Women Who Care Milton
Aameya Nanda – Artwork Sales
Aleks Muller – Birthday Celebration
Andrews Oakville Store Event
ARC: Sing for a Cause
Bishop P.F Reding Secondary School
Centre Stage Dance Studio
Claire & Rachel’s Half Marathon Fundraiser
Downtown Milton BIA – Car Show
ENVERTAdigital Invitational
Farm Girl Fitness – Friday Night Dancing
FirePower Training
Grace’s Lemonade Stand
Hallmark Milton
International Order of the Rainbow for Girls
Knights of Columbus – Poker Night
- Kylee Shaver – Slime Sales
LAJY Welding – Holiday Ornaments
Madelynn’s 2nd Annual Lemonade Stand & Bake Sale
Milton Mall March Break
Modo Yoga Milton
Monte Carlo Inns Charity Golf Tournament
Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church
Nith River Campground
P.J. Dermody Insurance Classic
RCMP Musical Ride
RONA Inc. Home Sweet Home Campaign – Milton & Burlington
Sacre-Cœur Elementary School Ornament Sales
Taylar Dorcas – 16th Birthday
Tim Hortons Smile Cookies
Two Charmed Jewelry



Changes to our Donor Wall

The following organizations and individuals are Major Donors who, through their giving, have been elevated on to our Major Donor Wall at The Darling Home for Kids

Ambassadors (\$250,000 - \$499,999)

David Bowker and Blythe Ward
K-G Spray Pak Inc.
Mackenzie Together Charitable Foundation

Founding Patrons (\$100,000 - \$249,999)

Bayshore Home Health
Susan Roth and The Henslow-Brown Foundation
TD Bank
Tim Horton's Advertising & Promotion Fund Canada Inc.

Leaders (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

Jennifer Aubertin and The Aubertin Group of RBC Dominion Securities
Aubrey & Marla Dan Foundation
Interac Corp
Keltech Ltd.
Bob and Maureen Lush
NAK Design Strategies Inc.
RBC Foundation
Red Studio Architects
Michelle and John Scott
Sofina Foundation
Tandia Financial Credit Union
TELUS Friendly Future Foundation
Glen and Alaina Tennison

Benefactors (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Alectra Inc.
Arctiq
Belden Canada
Anita and Kevin Boyce
Broccolini
Brookfield Residential
The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
Greg and Dianna Christie
Cogeco
E. Hofmann Plastics
Franklin Templeton
Steven Hart
The Hart Dattoo Wealth Management Group
Kristin Horrell and Greg Harding
Mary Horrell
Dr. Sheelagh M. Kemp
Maple Leaf Painting & Decorating
John and Fran McLaughlin
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Moens Pedersen and Sue Simone
Jim and Barb Perrone
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E. Jeanette and James Power
Pro Form Products Limited
Richardson Wealth Limited



SAS Institute (Canada) Inc.
SKYGRiD Construction Inc.
Troy T. Warren Holdings
Walker Wood Foundation

Builders (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

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Craig Bennett
Elaine and Glenn Blaylock
Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada)
Brampton Brick Limited
Bridgehouse Asset Managers
Canadian Progress Club - Brampton
Cheme Engineering Inc.
Karen M. Chow-Weaver
CIBC-Information Security
Paul Dermody
Facility Plus
Lila Fowler
GFS Ontario Inc.
Gordon and Ruth Gooder Charitable Foundation
Davee Gunn
Steven Horst
Ipex Management Inc.



“The Darling Home has been an integral part of Team Mitch for the last 8 years. Offering our family not only respite but something more valuable- peace of mind and belonging. They continue to offer a safe, inclusive space for complex children and their families. Wrapping kiddos and families in acceptance. Providing security and reminding us that we are never alone on this journey. A space and staff that not only understands our lives but celebrates the uniqueness of our kiddos. Providing care, love, community and a chance for caregivers to recharge our batteries so we can rise up and fight another day.”

- DHK Parent

Kathy Jaques
MNP LLP
Mosey & Mosey Benefit Plan Consultants
Jason Pelaccia
Stacy Peereboom
The Power Investment Team - CIBC Wood Gundy
Kevin and Marion Quinlan
ROCKWOOL
RONA Foundation
Rosehaven Management Limited
Sifton Family Foundation
Silvano Tardella
Tyler Investments Inc.
Walkers Medical Pharmacy
Williams Wilson Sherport Foundation
Maide Yazar

Touching Lives: A Family's Journey

Hi, I'm Rebecca, a single mother and a full-time caregiver to my 10-year-old son, Noor. My life revolves around him, and my time is spent meeting his needs.

I was feeling overwhelmed and needed respite care for Noor—somewhere that could handle his medical needs. Finding such a place isn't easy, I chose Darling Home primarily as it's nestled in a beautiful location with lots of outdoor space, which Noor absolutely loves. The relaxed environment and the diversity of kids at DHK make it a perfect fit for us.

Our experience with The Darling Home for Kids has been amazing. Noor loves going there so much that he can hardly wait when I tell him it's time to go. He thrives on the attention he receives from the staff, and it's clear he enjoys being the focus. He loves the variety of activities and spaces to explore, and he enjoys the freedom from my strict rules. It's truly his happy place.

One of my favorite memories is picking up Noor after his stay and seeing how happy he was. Sometimes, when I get a call from the nurse with a question, I can hear his giggles in the background, and it fills me with joy.

DHK has saved my sanity, knowing I can put Noor in their care and take a much-needed break. During that time, I don't have to worry about his medical needs because I know he's in good hands. It allows me to step back, recharge, and come back ready to take on the challenges.

When donating to The Darling Home for Kids, know that you're making a huge difference in people's lives. It's not just about helping the children—your impact extends to the entire family.

It's hard to imagine not having this support—it's been so beneficial for both my mental health and Noor's, especially since we're often isolated due to his complex needs. The connections, the care, the relief—it's all been wonderful. I can't speak highly enough about what DHK has done for us.

- Rebecca



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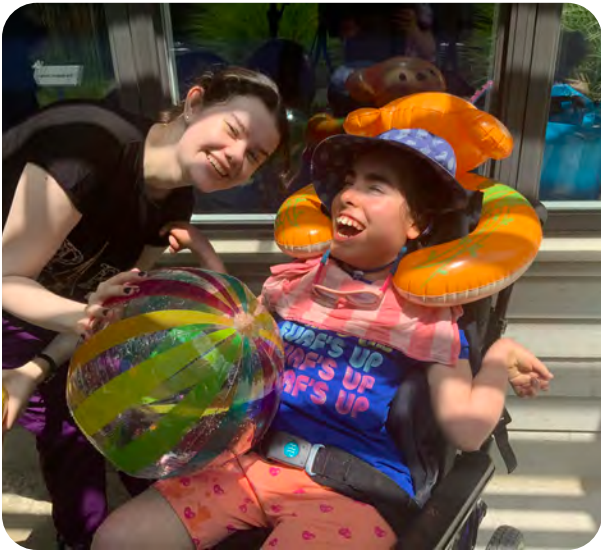
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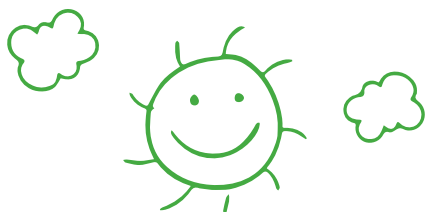
EX-OFFICIO

Dr. Sheelagh Kemp
Medical Director, The Darling Home for Kids Physician,
SickKids and Holland Bloorview



Thank you for choosing The Darling Home for Kids as the beneficiary
of your generosity and kindness.





The Cedarbrook Society


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