

2019/2020

# ANNUAL REPORT





**RICHARD KINCH**

Chair, Board of Directors

While we faced new challenges and uncertainties over the past year, we faced them together.

We remain committed to building a stronger and more resilient agency.

Like many organizations that were forced to adapt to life during the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to work in innovative ways to support children and families.

The needs of children, youth, and families do not pause in a pandemic. Instead, they may change or increase. We continued to fulfill our responsibilities to keep working for those who needed us.

Over the past year, our community partnerships shaped our growth and progress to deliver hope-filled services and adaptable solutions to children and their families. In working with treatment providers such as 360°kids and Cedar Centre, our impact widened and new initiatives flourished through mutual collaboration.



**NANCY FRENCH**

Chief Executive Officer

We continue to honour and acknowledge each child and family's unique circumstances, strengths, and resiliency. We know children and families are stronger when services are inclusive, integrated, holistic, and wrap around them with compassion and understanding.

With the ongoing support of our staff, foster parents, kinship families, volunteers, community partners, board of directors, and donors, we are grateful for the milestones we reached and the obstacles we overcame. Thank you all for your ongoing commitment and hard work.

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment and hard work.



**Richard Kinch**

Chair, Board of Directors



**Nancy French**

Chief Executive Officer

## Board of Directors

As of March 31, 2020



**Jennifer Shelton**



**John Rogers**

Treasurer



**Justin Rangooni**

Secretary



**Richard Kinch**

Chair



**Susan Bird**



**Tahir Shafiq**

Vice Chair



**Thai Truong**



**Tim Flemming**



**Uzo Anucha**



**Zahid Salman**



**Zella Phillips**

# COVID-19:

## Braving the Unknown

We acknowledge the added emotional, social, and financial stresses that many children and their families faced due to COVID-19. We adapted as an organization to support the changing needs and increased urgency felt by children, youth, and their families in York Region.

In response to COVID-19, we implemented our *Essential Services Response Plan* to protect the safety and well-being of children and families, our staff, and the broader community.

This included providing services through virtual means, except for situations where in-person contact was necessary to mitigate harm to a child. Our response plan aligned with the Provincial Child Welfare Contingency Plan, intended to be a flexible approach to adjust to evolving developments and responses by the Ontario government and Public Health.

As an essential service provider, we continue to provide support to children and their families. We remain committed to working with parents, caregivers, and community organizations to ensure children feel safe, loved, and resilient in their communities through COVID-19 and beyond.

# EQUITY AND INCLUSION

## Inclusion Charter for York Region

As part of our commitment to equity and inclusion, YRCAS signed the Inclusion Charter for York Region, a regional commitment to create an inclusive environment with equality for all who work, live, and play in York Region. Together with other organizations, we share the vision of a welcoming and inclusive community where everyone can participate freely in society and live with respect, dignity, and freedom from discrimination. The Inclusion Charter for York Region reflects an evolving approach in support of federal and provincial legislation that promotes human rights and accessibility.

We are proud to affirm our commitment to inclusion, whereby all people feel they belong and have access to the same opportunities.

# EQUITY AND INCLUSION

## Our Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation

We acknowledge the sacred land on which we operate, which has been the site of human activity for over 15,000 years. York Region is in the territory of Chippewas of Georgina Island, Huron-Wendat, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit. This territory is the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the resources around the great lakes. This land is still the home of many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work here. We acknowledge and honour our ongoing relationships with the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child and Family Services.



## Responding to Anti-Black Racism

2020 brought about broader societal acknowledgment of systemic racism, specifically anti-Black racism. At YRCAS, we know it is critical that we fully recognize the deep-rooted trauma and pain being felt within the Black communities we support, including the Black families, caregivers, and children we work with, and by Black staff. We acknowledge and recognize that systemic anti-Black racism exists in many institutions and systems here in our community, province, and country. This includes Child Welfare.

YRCAS acknowledges the over-representation of Black children and youth in care of Children's Aid Societies. We are committed to working with the sector and our community partners to eliminate disproportionality and disparity for Black families, children, and youth. We know this change requires engaging in difficult conversations, learning, and work. As we step forward in action, we vow to remain committed to listening to the voices of Black children, youth, and families about their frustrations, fears, and the impact racism has in their lives.

In support of a better future for all, we will ensure our work continues to align with the *OACAS One Vision, One Voice: Changing the Ontario Child Welfare System to Better Serve African Canadians*, which we will do with steadfast dedication and determination. This priority and commitment is rooted in collaboration, action, and impact — for our organization, staff, and community.

# YRCAS + 360° KIDS

## York Region Youth Homelessness Stabilization Project

Like YRCAS, 360°kids believes every child deserves a safe home.

Our agencies both work from a preventative approach, focused on family integration and life-long support to ensure children and youth are supported through childhood and into adulthood.

Together, YRCAS and 360°kids are working with other agencies with a focus on youth well-being to address local youth homelessness. Through a collective impact approach, we are developing a youth homelessness prevention and stabilization strategy that is inclusive and driven by the voices and experiences of those it intends to serve.

“Homelessness isn’t something one organization can address or find solutions for alone. This is a community-wide effort. Each sector in our region has its own expertise and strengths, so we all need to partner together to help youth succeed.”

— Maaha Farrukh, Project Coordinator  
Youth Strategy, 360°kids



# YRCAS + CEDAR CENTRE

## Project Hope: York Region's first Child and Youth Advocacy Centre

Imagine a place where all children and youth who have experienced trauma feel welcome and safe. A place where protection, justice, and mental health services are available under one roof, with multi-disciplined teams ensuring processes do not cause further harm. A place where everyone is dedicated to ensuring the right resources are in place to help children, youth, and families begin to heal.

This is the vision of Cedar Centre, York Region Children's Aid Society, York Regional Police, Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiyag Child and Family Services, and Jewish Family and Child Service.

We heard from community stakeholders who work with children and youth who have experienced abuse. We agree we can do better. We can improve how we work together so every child, youth, and their family receives the best child-focused investigation, treatment, support services, and advocacy under one roof.

Over the next few years, we will work in partnership towards the development of York Region's first Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC), collaborating with other organizations in York Region to create a place that minimizes further trauma to a child, feels safe, and respects the diversity that makes our region unique.



“We have a deep commitment to the health and welfare of children. Our agencies remain committed to working together for an even stronger, diverse, wrap-around approach to family support. Because it takes all of us – a village – to help raise a child. Through partnerships, we are there to be that village.”

— Alison Peck, Executive Director, Cedar Centre



# YRCAS + SMILEZONE

Neighbours Adam Graves and Scott Bachley wanted to help kids smile by investing in places where kids received help during challenging times. In learning that hospitals, treatment centers, and child welfare organizations dedicate their funding to programming and equipment, Adam and Scott decided to focus on bright, creative, child-friendly design to create spaces that were calm and nurturing for kids.

Together, they founded Smilezone in 2013, which has supported over 220,000 children with hope-filled construction and artistry.

Through the Smilezone application process, YRCAS applied and was accepted for a major makeover! The Smilezone team fully transformed five YRCAS family gathering rooms and a main waiting area in just one weekend!

The goal was to make each space more comfortable for families, with sofas, love seats, change tables, warm lighting, and a dining area. Each room gives the essence of a home-like apartment, designed to provide a welcoming space for families to spend time together and grow their relationships.

Smilezone created custom designs for the rooms that included I-spy murals, sensory items, tactile tables, child-friendly furniture, interactive technology, and much more.



“YRCAS was excellent to work with. Everyone was unbelievable. It was truly a great partnership!”

— Scott Bachley,  
Co-Founder, Smilezone

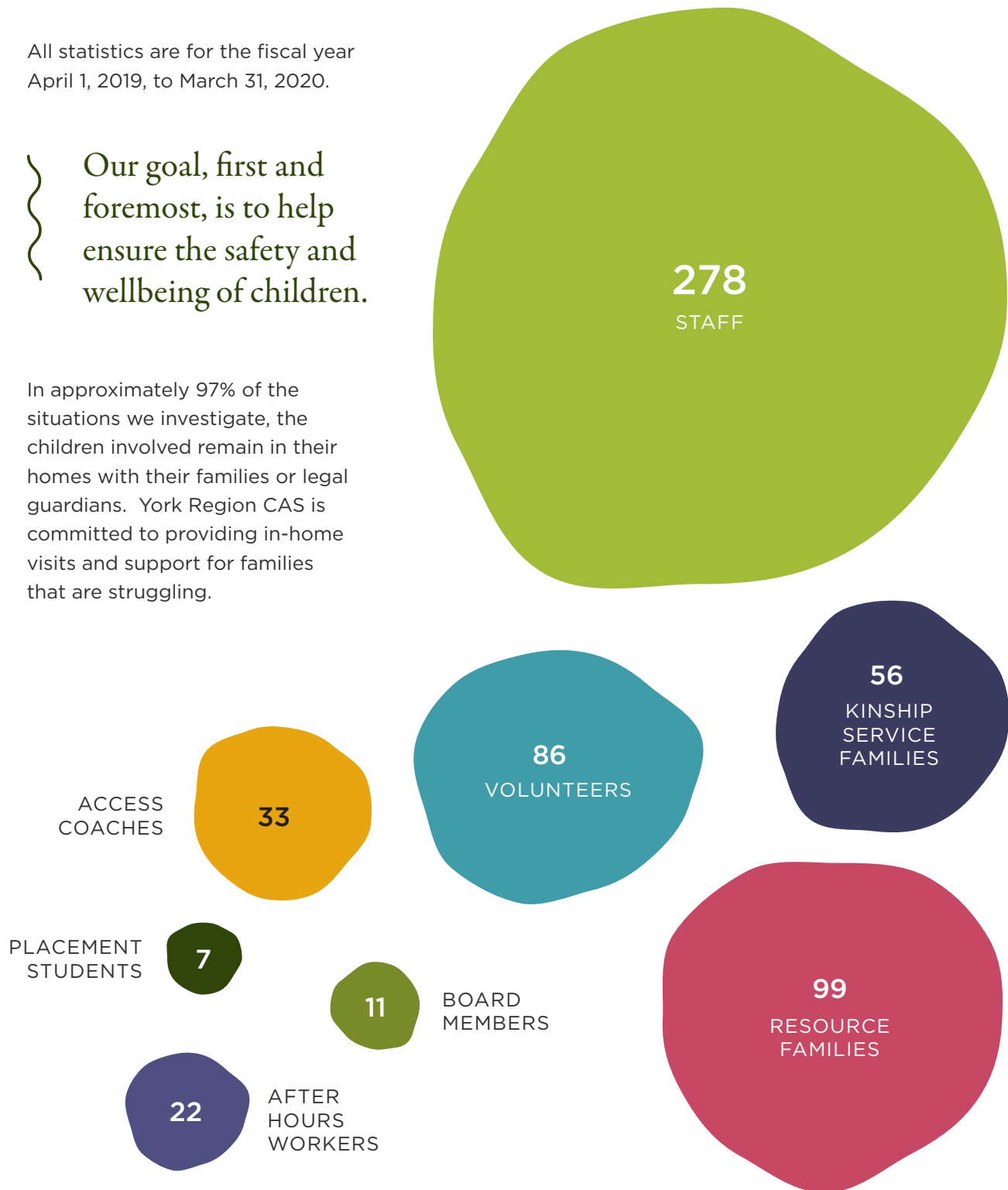


# SERVICE STATISTICS

All statistics are for the fiscal year  
April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020.

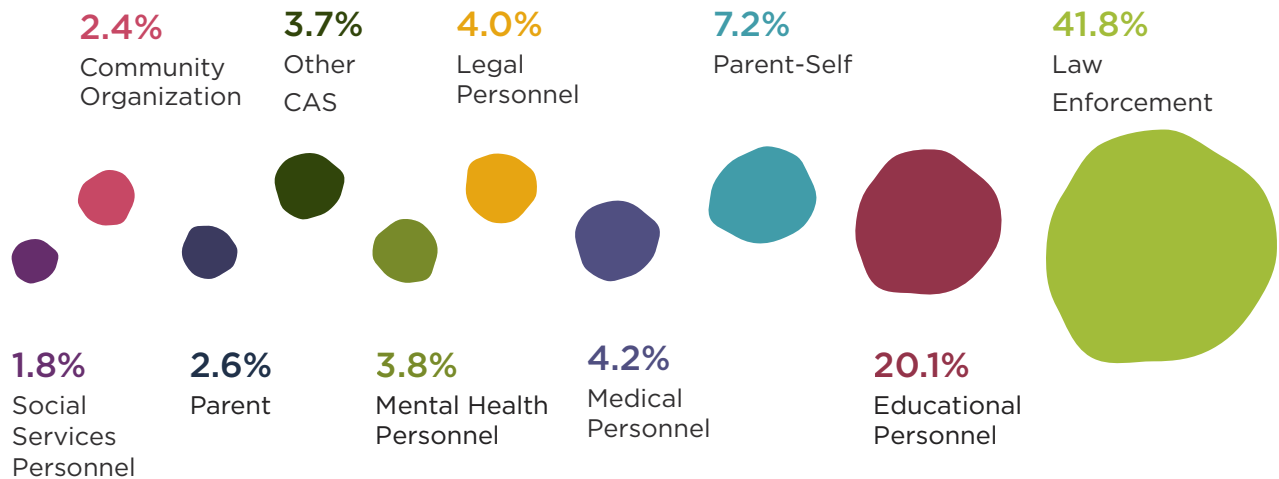
Our goal, first and  
foremost, is to help  
ensure the safety and  
wellbeing of children.

In approximately 97% of the  
situations we investigate, the  
children involved remain in their  
homes with their families or legal  
guardians. York Region CAS is  
committed to providing in-home  
visits and support for families  
that are struggling.

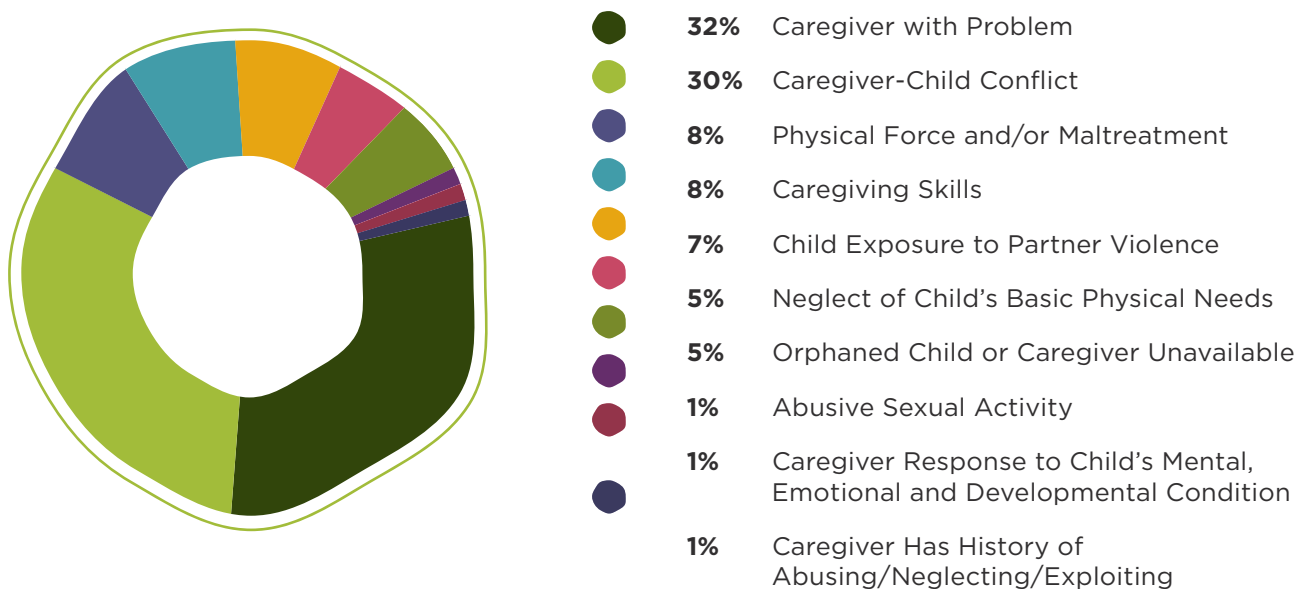


# SERVICE STATISTICS

How families are referred to our agency:



Reasons children come into care of our agency:



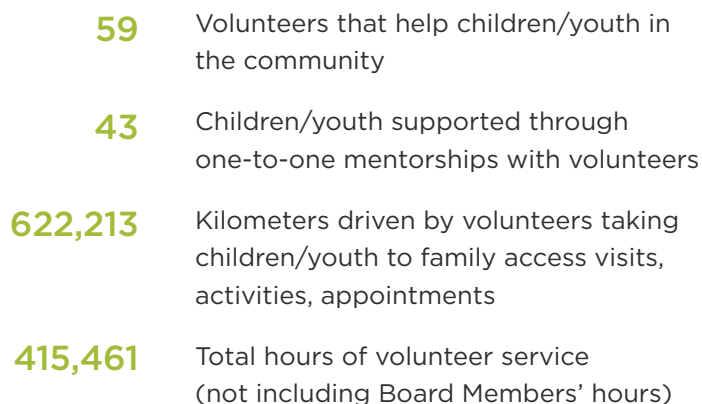
## Providing Care for Children and Youth



### AGENCY RESOURCE FAMILIES IN YORK REGION:



## Volunteer Support

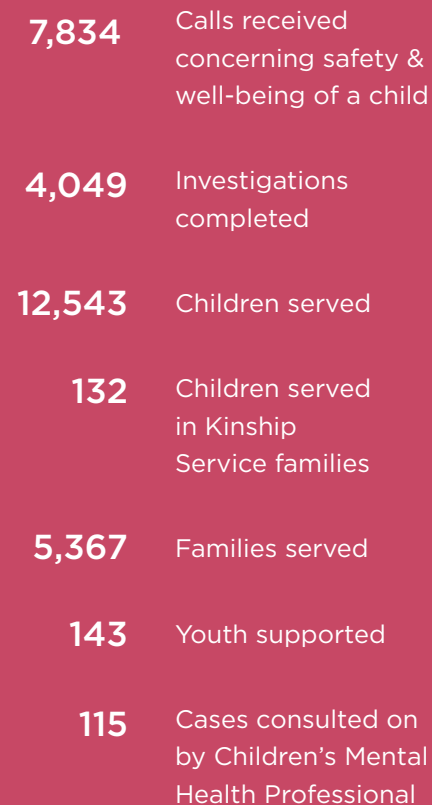


### 7 PROGRAMS THAT USE VOLUNTEERS:

- Big Buddy Mentor Program
- Tutor Program
- Administration
- Special Events & Projects
- Homework Club
- Family Visit Support Program
- Drive Program

TO HELP MENTOR A CHILD OR YOUTH THROUGH OUR AGENCY, PLEASE VISIT [www.yorkcas.org/volunteeropportunity.asp](http://www.yorkcas.org/volunteeropportunity.asp) OR EMAIL [volunteering@yorkcas.org](mailto:volunteering@yorkcas.org).

## Supporting Children, Youth, and Families



## Partnering with Our Community



# AGENCY FINANCIALS

For the fiscal year April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020.

## Expenses:

Salaries & Wages	\$24,646,245
Benefits	\$7,292,760
Travel	\$923,795
Training & Recruitment	\$26,720
Building Occupancy	\$1,115,466
Professional Services — Non Client	\$352,315
Boarding Rate Payments	\$10,277,261
Professional Services — Client	\$744,254
Client Personal Needs	\$1,083,036
Financial Assistance	\$108,583
Medical & Related	\$370,292
Promotion & Publicity	\$69,116
Office Administration	\$278,764
Miscellaneous	\$136,441
Mortgage Interest	\$121,364
Information and Technology	\$439,402
Net Amortization of Capital Assets	\$191,642

**Total Expenditures** **\$48,177,456**

Excess of (expenses over revenues)/  
revenue over expenses <sup>2</sup> \$1,966,889

## Revenue:

Provincial Grant<sup>1</sup>  
\$48,680,824

Income & Recoveries  
\$1,463,521

**TOTAL  
REVENUES**  
**\$50,144,345**

<sup>1</sup> As part of the agency funding from the Ministry, an amount of \$757,737 is due from the Ministry and is recognized as revenue in the year.

<sup>2</sup> The positive year-end position will reduce the shortfall from prior years to approximately \$1.4M.





With the community's help, the York Region Children's Fund provides childhood enrichment, educational support, and compassionate aid to help children and youth in the care of York Region Children's Aid Society.

### Board of Directors

As of March 31, 2020

Susan Bird  
Interim Chair

Richard Kinch

Chair, Board of Directors of York  
Region Children's Aid Society

Nancy French  
CEO, York Region  
Children's Aid Society

TO FIND OUT MORE AND BE  
A PART OF THE COMMUNITY  
THAT GENEROUSLY DONATES:  
[yorkregionchildrensfund.org](http://yorkregionchildrensfund.org)

Charitable Registration Number:  
8314 0634 RR0001

Information included is for the fiscal  
year April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020.

We are grateful for the generous donations of  
post-secondary bursaries for youth in care:

- Newmarket Lions Club \$1,500 bursary
- Davis Orthodontics staff \$810 bursary
- Canadian Federation of University Women  
Aurora-Newmarket chapter \$1,250 bursary
- Mark Shillum \$1,000 bursary
- Canadian Federation of University Women  
Markham-Unionville chapter \$1,000 bursary

In addition, the Canadian Federation of University  
Women Aurora-Newmarket chapter also generously  
provided monetary awards to youth passing to  
the next grade in high school during the annual  
"Stay in School Awards."

A special thank you to The Corporation of the  
**City of Richmond Hill, Mayor's Office** who donated  
\$32,500 from the annual Mayor's Golf Tournament.  
Donations were also made by:

- CIBC Children's Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Mainella, RBC Wealth Management
- RBC Foundation

A special thank you to the **employees and  
friends of General Motors Canada, CGI Inc. and  
Aviva Canada** for the generous in-kind (gift card)  
donations totaling \$12,630.

Thank you to **Mary Niczowski** who donated 100  
\$25 gift cards for the Youth Event Holiday Party.

Thank you to **RC Design** for donating their time  
and expertise to our website.



**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR  
DONORS AND A SPECIAL  
THANK YOU TO THOSE  
WHO GAVE \$2,000+**

All Languages Ltd.

CP24 CHUM Christmas Wish

Patrick Priestner, Lexus on the Park

### SPECIAL THANKS

To employees of York Region Children's Aid  
who generously donated \$12,935 through  
payroll deductions!

TOTAL  
DONATIONS:  
**\$87,062**

# CONTACT & SERVICE LOCATIONS

PHONE

**905.895.2318**

TOLL FREE

**1.800.718.3850**

WEB

**[www.yorkcas.org](http://www.yorkcas.org)**



ADOPTION

[adoption@yorkcas.org](mailto:adoption@yorkcas.org)

DONATE

[www.yorkregionchildrensfund.org](http://www.yorkregionchildrensfund.org)

EMPLOYMENT

[human.resources@yorkcas.org](mailto:human.resources@yorkcas.org)

FOSTER CARE

[fostering@yorkcas.org](mailto:fostering@yorkcas.org)

[www.fosteringatyork.com](http://www.fosteringatyork.com)

PRESENTATIONS

[speakers.bureau@yorkcas.org](mailto:speakers.bureau@yorkcas.org)

VOLUNTEER

[volunteering@yorkcas.org](mailto:volunteering@yorkcas.org)



**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!**

[@YorkRegionCAS](https://twitter.com/YorkRegionCAS)



## **Newmarket Office**

16915 Leslie Street  
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 9A1



## **Richmond Hill Office**

120 East Beaver Creek Road, Suite 301  
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 4V1



## **Vaughan Office**

3901 Highway 7 West, Suite 202  
Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 8L5



York Region Children's Aid Society is a member of  
the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies.



Report design by RC Design  
Photography by Rick Chard