



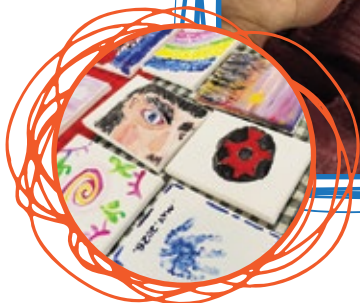
York Region
Children's Aid Society



BRIGHTER DAYS

A CELEBRATION OF COLOUR, CREATIVITY,
AND HOPE THROUGH THE EYES OF YOUTH

2025/2026 ANNUAL REPORT





Message From Tim Flemming, York Region CAS Board Chair

At the heart of everything we do as a Board is a shared commitment to the wellbeing of children, youth, and families in York Region.

We are passionate about the vital role our Agency plays in supporting the community, and we remain steadfast in our responsibility to advocate for, guide, and champion this important work.

Throughout 2025–2026, our staff, volunteers, and foster caregivers continued to deliver high-quality services to those we serve. We are incredibly grateful for their professionalism, compassion, and unwavering dedication to our mission. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend sincere thanks for their outstanding contributions and commitment.

This year marked several important accomplishments, including:

- Enhanced partnerships with community organizations.
- Sustained and responsive governance, and financial stability and oversight.
- Ongoing collaboration with our Youth Advisory Council.
- New York Region CAS Indigenous Case Conferencing Consultation Model.
- Foster Care Redesign initiatives.

Over the past year, the Board has engaged with staff and gathered valuable feedback to help shape an organizational improvement work plan. We are also reviewing our policies and by-laws to ensure our governance remains equitable, accessible, and transparent.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion, and truth and reconciliation continue to be central to our work. Looking forward to the next fiscal year, our Board recruitment efforts have focused on reflecting the diversity of the communities we serve. Welcoming new and incoming members with dynamic skill sets, perspectives, and lived experiences is essential to strong governance and informed and equitable decision-making. We look forward to welcoming this new Board and advancing our mission alongside members who represent the many communities across York Region.

The Board remains committed to working collaboratively with leadership, staff, and community partners in the year ahead. Together, our shared passion for supporting children, youth, and families continues to guide and inspire our work.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Tim Flemming
Board Chair
York Region CAS

*Board of
Directors
2025-2026*

Tim Flemming, Chair
Darius Sookram, Vice Chair
Jenany Rameswaran, Treasurer
Francesca Loffreda, Board Secretary
Christopher Mendez

Lauren Lé Blanc
Leticia Osei
Richard Kinch
Tahir Shafiq
Zeeshan Syed

Message From Sally Johnson, York Region CAS CEO

The 2025-2026 Annual Report for York Region CAS highlights the dedication and impact of our staff, caregivers, volunteers, and community partners in supporting children, youth, and families. I extend my sincere thanks to all involved for their commitment and tireless efforts.

With more than 20 years of senior leadership experience in the child welfare sector, I am honoured to step into this role in York Region. Over the past few months, I have had the privilege of listening and learning, gaining valuable insight into the needs of the individuals and families we serve, as well as those of our Agency's staff and broader community.

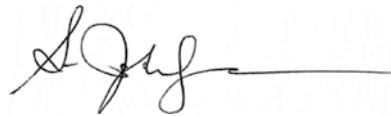
As we step into the new fiscal year, I'm pleased to be co-chairing a joint committee alongside the Union President. This committee will serve as a forum for open dialogue, shared problem solving and mutual accountability. By bringing leadership and union voices together, we are taking an important step toward building on our strengths, addressing areas for improvement and moving forward with collaboration and transparency. I am working closely with staff at all levels to develop a plan to address the recommendations from the Agree Inc. Workplace Assessment Report.

Across the province, communities are facing complex and evolving challenges, and organizations throughout York Region are working hard to address service gaps. Our focus is to build upon the strong, trusted relationships we have with our community partners and the families we serve, particularly those who are overrepresented in the child welfare system. We will continue to enhance equitable, accessible supports that promote the wellbeing of children, youth, and families across our region. On pages 10-11 of this report, we summarize the initiatives and programs from 2025-2026 that reflect York Region CAS' commitment to

equity and reconciliation; in service, partnerships, and our workplace. From frontline staff to executive leadership, equity is everyone's responsibility. We continue to push forward this priority into every aspect of our work.

The work we do would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers and foster parents. I'm thrilled to highlight some of these incredible individuals on pages 13-14. Please join me in celebrating their achievements and most importantly, their impact on the children, youth and families they so lovingly support.

The theme for this year's report "Brighter Days: A Celebration of Colour, Creativity, and Hope Through the Eyes of Youth" was created by York Region CAS's Youth Advisory Council, featured on page 20. We gratefully acknowledge the talented youth artists from across the region whose artwork is featured throughout this report.



Sally Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
York Region CAS



Joint Message From York Region CAS Board Chair and CEO



The 2025-2026 report reflects the initiatives, accomplishments and passion of our staff, volunteers, foster parents and community partners. We thank each of them for their dedication to the children, youth, and families we serve in York Region.

This coming year we look forward to continued collaboration, growth, transparency, and opportunity to ensure equitable service that supports our diverse community. ”

*- Sally Johnson, CEO and Tim Flemming,
Board Chair York Region CAS*



Our Mission

York Region CAS collaborates with communities to provide and advance equitable and accessible supports to ensure the wellbeing of the diverse children, youth and families of York Region.

Our Vision

Every child and youth has a healthy future in a caring family, in supportive communities.

Strategic Priorities

The 2023-2026 York Region CAS Strategic Plan was guided by the values of accountability, collaboration, compassion, equity, innovation, and proactive action.



Scan the
QR Code to
learn more!



This three-year plan articulated key priorities aimed at advancing the wellbeing of children, youth and families; promoting equitable service delivery and outcomes for all individuals served; and cultivating a diverse, inclusive, and respectful workplace culture.

1

Wellbeing of Children and Youth

See Pages
7-9, 10-12

- Strengthened partnerships with community service providers
- Prioritizing accessibility and reducing barriers to services
- Collaborative service agreements between service providers

2

Promoting Equitable Service Delivery and Outcomes

See Pages 7-9,
10-12, 15

- Affirming Indigenous inherent rights to self-governance
- Ongoing implementation of equity-based programs and workplan commitments
- 145+ Diversity, equity and inclusion consultations

3

Cultivating a Diverse, Inclusive and Respectful Workplace

See Pages
10-11, 15-16

- Recruitment and retention strategies that reflect and understand diverse communities
- Increasing staff capacity for data and evidence practice
- Ongoing staff training and development that prioritizes equity and accessibility

A Year in Photos

This vibrant collage reflects a year of bright days at York Region CAS, where colour, creativity, and hope came to life through the eyes of youth and across our community.

From lively spring outreach and inspiring summer youth engagement to heartfelt fall appreciation gatherings and joyful holiday drives, we proudly stood alongside our community at meaningful events that uplifted and connected children, youth, and families throughout York Region.

Guided by the energy and perspectives of young people, and supported by the passion of our staff, volunteers, foster parents, and partners, each moment became an opportunity to spark joy, celebrate diversity, and strengthen belonging. Through the generosity of our donors and the commitment of our community, we delivered vital resources, hosted enriching cultural and wellness experiences, and helped create safer, brighter spaces for all.

“

Together, we are painting a future full of promise—one event, one connection, one bright moment at a time.

”



Child, Youth, and Family Wellbeing

Intimate Partner and Family Violence (IPV) and Partnership with Yellow Brick House



The IPV team provides service to children, youth and families that is grounded in best practice principles from the Violence Against Women (VAW) Protocol and Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) Critical Connections Guide. Aligning service with best practice will ensure families experiencing intimate partner violence are receiving support that is grounded in evidenced based practice that creates safety and wellbeing for children and their families.

Program Objectives:

- Domestic Violence informed service used will all with survivors and children using best practice principles.
- Collaboration with VAW partners and police to support safety and wellbeing for survivors and children.
- Increased engagement with fathers using strength-based approaches to accountability.

The shared service agreement between Yellow Brick House and York Region CAS aims to provide timely, coordinated support to families involved in the child welfare system, particularly those experiencing domestic violence. Through this partnership, a Yellow Brick House worker was embedded with York Region CAS two days per week during the 2025–2026 fiscal period, offering both consultative support to staff and direct services to clients via phone, virtual, and in-person formats.

The program focused on addressing key social determinants of health, including housing, income, employment, education, food security, and access to health and community services. Core services included risk assessments, safety planning, crisis intervention, legal advocacy, and referrals to community-based supports.

Aligned with the York Region VAW Collaborative Response Protocol, the initiative emphasized collaboration, trauma-informed and client-centered practice, early intervention, and improved access to equitable and culturally appropriate services. It also supported knowledge transfer and capacity building between partner organizations.

Family Intervention Team

The York Region CAS Family Intervention Team (FIT) continues to deliver the Circle of Security Parenting (COSP) program with pride. Drawing on decades of research, this evidence-based intervention strengthens secure parent–child relationships and promotes healthy emotional development.

The program helps caregivers better understand and respond to their children's emotional needs. Participants focus on the following key learning objectives:

- Understanding their child's emotional world by recognizing and interpreting emotional needs.
- Supporting their child's ability to manage and regulate emotions effectively.

- Strengthening their child's self-esteem and sense of security.
- Honouring their natural instincts and commitment to building a secure and healthy relationship with their child.

In addition, FIT will launch the implementation of the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) and developmental service plans with families. This tool enables early identification of children's developmental progress and supports meaningful conversations between caregivers and service providers. York Region CAS is also establishing a collaborative partnership with the Early Infant Mental Health Promotion program at SickKids to further enhance the social and emotional wellbeing of infants and young children.



Child, Youth, and Family Wellbeing



Foster Care Redesign

Following a comprehensive review of our Agency's foster care model, we have introduced two key enhancements designed to strengthen caregiver capacity and support placement stability.

Effective April 1, 2025, a new Foster Care Training Incentive Program was introduced to recognize and support foster caregivers' ongoing commitment to professional development. This program provides structured incentives tied to the completion of targeted training, with a focus on trauma-informed care, complex needs, and evidence-based caregiving practices.

Alongside the training initiative, a new per diem structure was implemented on July 1, 2025, to more accurately reflect the level of care provided and the evolving needs of children and youth in foster placements. The revised per diem model aligns compensation with the expectations associated with providing foster care.

Together, these changes represent a key milestone in the foster care redesign, reinforcing the department's commitment to quality, family-based care, caregiver support, and improved outcomes for children and youth.

Connections and Kinship Teams

Connections Facilitators have worked diligently to support children, youth, and families to make connections by focusing on a child or youth's long-term relationships and support network. By centering the voice of the child and youth through Network and Youth-Led Meetings, this work has contributed to shorter out-of-home placements, confirmation of ancestry and paternity, strengthened family connections, and successful reunification. Over the past year, there have been several instances of children and youth being connected with extended family networks in other countries, highlighting that this work extends beyond geographic boundaries.

If an out-of-home care placement is required and people within the child's circle of support step up to provide care, the Kinship Team supports these caregivers to provide a safe, stable and nurturing environment. This past year, the Kinship Team worked with a diverse group of caregivers, including several arrangements where the kinship caregivers were not biologically related, but felt a deep sense of connection to the children. Kinship homes have ensured siblings can live together and that children and youth remain connected to their culture and community.



“...a new Foster Care Training Incentive Program was introduced to recognize and support foster caregivers' ongoing commitment to professional development.”

Child, Youth, and Family Wellbeing

Signs of Safety (SofS) Model

The implementation of Signs of Safety has continued throughout 2025-2026.

All protection teams are embedding Signs of Safety through structured templates that support consistent critical thinking and day-to-day application of the framework, alongside collaborative case reviews that strengthen the quality of interviews with children and youth.

SofS Learning Team

Throughout 2025-2026, the SofS Learning Team has continued to deliver a comprehensive range of learning and skill-development opportunities to strengthen practice.

These activities included two 2-day Foundations Training sessions for 39 participants, 5 Agency-wide learning sessions, and 23 team-level sessions focused on interviewing children and youth using My Three Houses, along with 6 targeted learning sessions on assessment mapping, harm analysis, and identifying existing strengths and safety. This work demonstrates the Agency's continued investment in building staff knowledge, skill, and confidence in the practice model.

Integrated Service Team (IST)

In year one of a two-year pilot, the IST supported two new staff through the authorization process while advancing the integration of Signs of Safety, grounded in an equity lens, into practice.

The team has embedded Signs of Safety across the full service continuum—from referral intake through ongoing service delivery. Core practices include engaging children, youth, and families through approaches such as My Three Houses; collaboratively completing assessment maps with parents and caregivers; strengthening support networks; and co-developing safety plans, including helping children and young people understand what has happened using the words and pictures explanation process.

The IST also builds organizational capacity by providing consultations, co-facilitating family and network meetings, and leading small-group learning opportunities. In addition, the team supports organizational alignment through contributions to systems, workflows, and the development of practice guides.

Bridge Coordination Partnership with Your Support Services Network (YSSN)

The Bridge Coordination Partnership between York Region CAS and YSSN has strengthened collaboration between child welfare and developmental services since its launch in April 2024. Through consultation, system navigation, and coordinated resource support, the partnership has enhanced staff capacity to respond to children, youth, and families with complex needs.



The initiative emphasizes early intervention and prevention, with nearly half of consultations occurring at intake, helping families access appropriate supports before challenges escalate into crises, placement disruptions, or potential relinquishment. Over the past year, 84 consultations supported families with diverse and intersecting needs, prioritizing integrated, child- and family-centred service planning. Resource meetings and tailored supports helped reduce caregiver stress, strengthen family stability, and improve access to community services. Targeted staff learning also built internal capacity in areas such as funding navigation, caregiver burnout, and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Looking ahead, the partnership will focus on developing practical tools, expanding training, and strengthening frontline practice to support coordinated, responsive service delivery.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Truth and Reconciliation (TR)

Advancing equity, strengthening community, improving outcomes.



Developed by
York Region CAS DEI

In 2025-2026, we strengthened our commitment to advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) by prioritizing fair access to services and equitable outcomes. Our work focused intentionally on supporting diverse, overrepresented, and marginalized youth and communities, while addressing systemic barriers, and promoting inclusive, culturally responsive services.

This commitment prioritizes equitable service delivery and the development of inclusive, culturally responsive programming for youth, while fostering environments where young people feel safe, supported, and empowered to thrive. The team continues to strengthen meaningful community partnerships to better serve youth and their families, while expanding its focus to address critical and interconnected issues, including: trauma, mental health, accessibility, disabilities, and diverse abilities. This work also recognizes and responds to the broader impacts of poverty, immigration, and the social determinants of health on the wellbeing of children, youth, and families.



Equitable Service Delivery

- 145+ DEI Consultations: ongoing participation in service consultations and conferences to integrate equity in admission, prevention, risk and safety assessments, discharges, and adoption.
- Developed Cultural and Identity Affirming Youth Programming – in collaboration with the Black Latency, Adolescent, Continued in Care Committee (BLACC), the 2SLGBTQ+ Portfolio Lead, and the Youth Support Team to facilitate and support youth 2SLGBTQ+ and Black culturally specific programming, holiday events, youth in care day.
- Ongoing child and youth in care **service file reviews** for Black and Indigenous children to address disproportionality and reduce the number of children and youth in care at York Region CAS.
- Ongoing implementation of the 11 Race Equity Practices for One Vision One Voice (OVVOV).
- Ongoing implementation of the York Region CAS Truth and Reconciliation: Calls to Action Workplan.
- Development of a New York Region CAS Indigenous Case Consultation Model in collaboration with Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services to expand supports for Indigenous children, youth, and families.
- Targeted recruitment of culturally aligned caregivers, including 2SLGBTQ+ and Muslim families.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Truth and Reconciliation

DEI/TR impact highlights.

Diverse Community Engagement and Collaboration

- 2 New Youth Community Partnership Programs: **York Region CAS & SunLife Partnership Grant with the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada**
Participants represented diverse youth ages 6-16 living with mental health concerns and poverty. **The sessions have served 37+ children and youth. Park Street Education: York Region CAS participation in the pilot program** initiative that provides a trauma-informed academic and socio-emotional tutoring for grades 6-9.
- 100 York Region Community Situation Tables: a community collaborative aimed at reducing victimization, improving safety, and wellbeing.
- 25+ Participation in Community Initiatives and Events: serving a diversity of different communities.
- Active Engagement Across 17+ Community Committees, Councils and Programs.
- 9+ Community Presentations: To enhance community engagement and reintroduce Agency's new approach to child welfare and the integration of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the service delivery.
- Developed and Launch of the **African-Canadian Child Welfare Ushauri (ACCWU)** in collaboration with York Region Alliance of African-Canadian Communities (YRAACC) to systemically address the disproportionality and disparity outcomes for Black families that intersect with the child welfare system. A community collaborative with over **16+ community organizations**.
- Quarterly accountability meetings with community partners.
- Ongoing collaboration with Indigenous and newcomer-serving organizations.

People Wellness and Inclusive Workplace Culture

- 13+ **Diverse Heritage Month Recognitions and Celebrations:** including Truth and Reconciliation Day and Week, Indigenous History Month, Youth Kwanza Holiday Event, Asian Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Women's History Month, Islamic History Month, York Region Pride Parade, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Black History Month, etc.
- 18+ **Chai and Chats** that were community Hosted and staff learning Sessions on various DEI topics.
- 11 **Employee Resource Groups, 1 New ERG: the Green Team.**

Inclusive Leadership and Accountability

- 20+ **Policies Reviewed and creation of New French Language Services Policy and Procedure.**
- 10+ **Ongoing DEI Training and Professional Development** opportunities for staff and Resource Caregivers to build awareness, skills, and competencies to service diverse populations.
- Ongoing implementation of the **DEI and Signs of Safety Group Supervision Framework and model for leadership** to support integration of equity and reconciliation in clinical supervision.
- Continue to lead the enactment of the **York Region CAS Equity Hiring Special Program** with the aim of closing the gap of under-representation in designated positions in the workforce.



Community Engagement

Brighter days: a celebration of colour, creativity, and hope through the eyes of youth.

As part of this year's theme, Brighter Days: A Celebration of Colour, Creativity, and Hope through the Eyes of Youth, York Region CAS proudly launched a Youth Art Project that invited children and youth in our care, along with those from the broader community, to share their unique artistic perspectives.

This initiative was rooted in our commitment to creating welcoming, child- and youth-centered spaces that reflect the voices, experiences, and creativity of those we serve. We invited submissions across a range of mediums, including traditional artwork such as paintings, drawings, mixed media and collages; as well as digital art, photography, and collaborative pieces created alongside peers, caregivers, or mentors.

The response was inspiring. We received a diverse collection of original artwork that will brighten our Newmarket and Richmond Hill offices, transforming these spaces into vibrant, inclusive environments filled with colour, expression, and hope. Each piece tells a story and contributes to a sense of belonging, ensuring that youth can see themselves reflected in the places designed to support them.

By engaging the community in this meaningful way, we created opportunities for self-expression, connection, and empowerment, while bringing our organizational values of inclusion, engagement, and trauma-informed practice to life.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the talented young artists who shared their creativity and helped make our spaces more welcoming, inspiring, and reflective of brighter days ahead.



Amplifying Voices

Together in care - the power of foster families at York Region CAS.

Join longtime foster parents Janet Seow and Deanna Dent (alongside her children), as they share their experiences, reflections, and the meaningful moments that have shaped their fostering journeys with York Region CAS.

Through their stories, Janet and Deanna speak to the deep, meaningful connections they have built with children and youth over the years. Their experiences offer a thoughtful and compassionate perspective on foster caregiving, demonstrating the lasting impact that safe, supportive, and nurturing environments can have on young people. They also emphasize the importance of trust, stability, and connection in helping children and youth grow, heal, and thrive.

Scan the QR code to hear directly from Janet and Deanna in their own words. We hope that their experiences can help raise awareness about fostering and encourage others to consider opening their hearts and homes to children and youth in need of care.

This year also marked an important step forward in strengthening the Agency's foster care program. York Region CAS redesigned its foster care system to better support caregivers and respond to today's realities. Enhancements included the introduction of a training incentive program, increased supports for foster homes, and significantly higher per diem rates aligned with the current economic landscape. These changes reflect the Agency's commitment to ensuring foster families feel valued, prepared, and supported in the essential role they play.

Stories like those of Janet and Deanna remind us of the profound difference foster caregivers make every day. Their dedication not only changes lives but also helps shape a stronger, more compassionate future for children, youth, and families across York Region.

To learn more about becoming a foster caregiver, we encourage community members to attend one of our upcoming foster care information sessions or visit our website: www.yorkcas.org/foster-caregivers.



Volunteer Spotlight

York Region CAS is proud to acknowledge the dedicated individuals whose time, energy, and passion help advance our mission of supporting children, youth, and families across York Region.

Every day, our volunteers show up with kindness, dedication, and a genuine commitment to making a difference. Whether they are mentoring, supporting programs, or offering behind-the-scenes assistance, their impact is felt in countless meaningful ways.

To our volunteers: thank you for being a source of strength, hope, and positivity. You inspire us, and we are deeply grateful to have you as part of our community.

Beulah Osei

York Region CAS is proud to celebrate long-time volunteer Beulah Osei, who was recently recognized with the prestigious 2025 June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Volunteerism. This distinguished honour celebrates Beulah's remarkable leadership, innovation, and enduring commitment to the wellbeing of children, youth, and families in York Region.

Beulah received her award during a moving community celebration in Markham, where hundreds gathered, including local Members of Provincial Parliament, to recognize outstanding volunteers from across the region. Surrounded by close family, friends, and York Region CAS staff, Beulah was honoured for the significant impact she has made over many years of dedicated service.

The June Callwood Award, named after the late Canadian author, journalist, and social activist, is one of Ontario's highest recognitions for volunteer service. In 2025, 15 individuals and four organizations across Ontario were selected

for their extraordinary contributions in fields such as youth advocacy, mental health, the arts, and work with vulnerable populations. Each recipient embodies the spirit of volunteerism that strengthens our province and builds resilient, compassionate communities.

Beulah's contributions to York Region CAS have left a lasting impression. Her unwavering compassion, tireless energy, and deep belief in the potential of every child have inspired those around her and advanced the mission of our Agency in meaningful ways.

We extend our deepest congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to Beulah Osei for this well-deserved recognition. Her example reminds us that every individual has the power to make a difference in their community.

“Beulah's contributions to York Region CAS have left a lasting impression.”

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Service Statistics

Fiscal year April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026

During the Reporting year, the following services were provided:

5222

Received number of calls about child safety

2695

Connected with number of families to assess child safety

295

Began providing ongoing services to number of families to build safety for children and youth

68

Number of children or youth supported with required alternate care by their extended family or within their circle of support (kinship services initiated in fiscal year) – Kinship Children admitted in fiscal year

47

Number of children required care by foster parents, honouring identity and maintaining a connection to their families and communities (number of Children in Care and VYSA initiated in fiscal year)

19

Number of new RSG agreements initiated in fiscal year

Agency Resource Families in York Region: Year End: April 1, 2026



59

Kinship Service Families – Open Kinship Service Homes



61

Children in Kinship Service Homes



33

Foster Families – Open Foster Homes



4

Kinship in Care Families – Open Kinship Care Homes



10

Adoption Homes Open



CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CARE:
Children in Care (CIC), Ready Set Go (RSG), Adoption, Formal Customary Care (FCC), Voluntary Youth Services Agreement (VYSA)

Year Beginning

199



Year End

182

104

Youth received voluntary ongoing support (RSG)

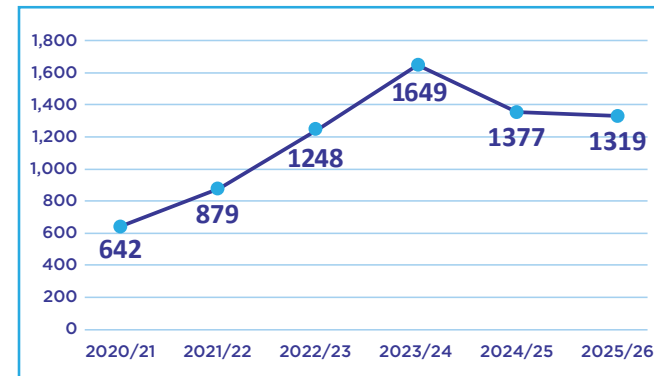
9

Youth received voluntary ongoing support (VYSA)

6

Adoption Completed 2025/26

Community Link Services: Fiscal Year



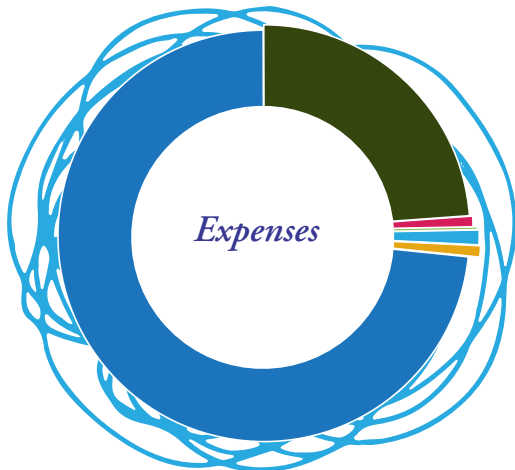
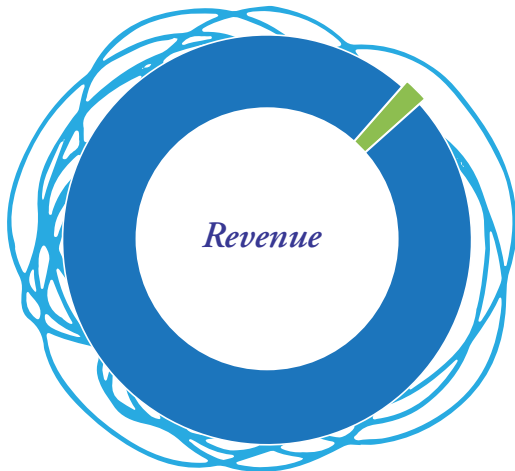
Agency Financials

For the fiscal year April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026



Revenue

Provincial Grant	\$54,681,181
Income & Recoveries	\$975,120
TOTAL REVENUES	\$55,656,301



Expenses

Salaries & Wages	\$29,120,873
Benefits	\$9,931,831
Travel	\$554,312
Training & Recruitment	\$96,893
Building Occupancy	\$1,000,372
Professional Services -Non Client	\$628,090
Boarding Rate Payments	\$10,803,783
Professional Services -Client	\$760,903
Client Personal Needs	\$1,113,072
Financial Assistance	\$337,841
Medical & Related	\$287,347
Promotion & Publicity	\$57,207
Office Administration	\$301,987
Miscellaneous	\$141,026
Mortgage Interest	\$40,641
Information and Technology	\$646,637
Net Amortization of Capital Assets	\$366,614
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$56,189,429

Excess of (expenses over revenues)/revenue over expenses (\$533,127)



The York Region Children's Fund (YRCF) is dedicated to enhancing the lives of children and youth receiving services through York Region CAS. Through the generosity of donors and community partners, YRCF provides critical financial support for programs and opportunities that promote stability, wellbeing, and long-term success.

YRCF also focuses on removing barriers and creating opportunities by funding initiatives such as educational supports, enrichment activities, and essential care items. These investments help ensure that children and youth particularly those facing significant challenges have access to the resources they need to thrive and reach their full potential.

LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS

As of March 31, 2026

Susan Bird, YRCF Board Chair
Tim Flemming, YRCAS Board Chair
Richard Kinch, YRCF Board Member (Treasurer)
Sally Johnson, York Region CAS CEO

Total Donations \$65,349.28*
Staff Donations \$11,569

(*ALL donations – online donations, cheques, restricted funds, bursaries, gift in kind, etc.)

Over the past year, YRCF has continued to strengthen its impact through both community donations and proactive grant-seeking efforts. The Fund regularly applies for external funding to expand its reach and enhance available supports. Notably, YRCF successfully secured funding through the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada, resulting in the receipt of **40 backpacks and \$4,550** in supplementary funding for the 2025–2026 Ted and Loretta Rogers Foster Care Comfort Kit Program. This funding supports the provision of comfort kits for children and youth entering care ensuring they have essential items and personal belongings during what is often a highly stressful and uncertain transition.

Education remains a key priority for YRCF. Through the Stay in School program, and thanks to the continued generosity of donors, **21 students** were supported this year with financial awards to help them continue their educational journeys. These contributions not only ease financial pressures but also serve as a meaningful investment in the future of young people in our community.

Lions Club of Stouffville **\$200**
Maple Lions Charitable Foundation in Trust **\$500**
The Egan Family Foundation **\$600**
Maplerock-Kennedy Advisors Incorporated **\$5,500**
Newmarket Lions Club **\$1,500**
Optimist Club of Aurora Inc. **\$1,000**
Rotary Club of Newmarket **\$5,000**
100 Women who care **\$7,000**
100 Men Who Give A Damn **\$1,500**



The continued success of YRCF is made possible by the compassion and commitment of its donors. Every contribution whether through individual giving, corporate partnerships, or community initiatives directly impacts the lives of children and youth in care. Together, we are building brighter futures and creating lasting change.

A special thanks to those who gave \$1,000+

Paul Penzo **\$2,500**
Stephanie Jeffrey **\$1,000**
Jim Helkie **\$1,000**
Susan Bird **\$1,000**
TD Bank **\$1,000**



Be a part of the community that generously donates:

www.yorkregionchildrensfund.org

Scan the QR Code to Donate Today!

Charitable Registration Number: 83174 0634 RR0001

Currency for Kids

YRCF participates in the Currency for Kids Program and encourages York Region residents to get involved. Foreign currency donations can be dropped off at Continental Currency Exchange locations in Upper Canada Mall and Markville Mall, as well as at our offices. These contributions are converted into funding that directly supports programs and essential resources for children and youth in our care, helping to create meaningful opportunities and positive outcomes.

HOW DONATIONS WERE USED

Stay in School Awards: **\$16,385**
Bright Futures - Educational Support Fund: **\$1,565.80**
Possibilities Fund: **\$14,885.09**
Urgent Infant Care: **\$470.49**
Camp for Kids: **\$9,272.52**

Youth Support Team

York Region CAS' Youth Support Team supports youth involved with the Agency through creative programming and hands-on approaches to help prepare them for key life transitions and adulthood.

Through programs that foster self-awareness, confidence, and essential life skills, youth experience reduced isolation and stronger connections with peers involved in the child welfare system and the broader community. These connections enhance resilience and support youth in preparing for life ahead. By offering direct, hands-on services and support, the Youth Support Team helps elevate youth voices in meaningful and unique ways.

Learn more about the incredible work that our Youth Support Team does by scanning the QR code.



Youth Support Statistics

31 Workshops hosted by 14 Community Partners

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - CPA Canada | - York University AYA Program |
| - John Howard York Region | - York Region Transit |
| - 360 Kids Youth Outreach Team | - StepStones |
| - Justice For Youth | - GTA YMCA Opioids Initiative |
| - 360 Kids LEGIT Team | - OACAS OVOV Lead |
| - Springboard HUB | - GTA YMCA Financial Literacy Team |
| - CMHA York and South Simcoe | - Flip and Floss |

11 Drop-In Youth Social Events were held

4 Certification dates occurred, allowing youth to complete job readiness certifications

2 RentSMART workshop series were held

2 Financial Literacy workshop series were held

3 Virtual Cooking workshop series were held

2 Multi-day conferences were attended

9 Community-building events were held, including 2SLGBTQI+ and cultural awareness events

1 Multi-day community-building event was held

4 Central Zone YouthCAN events were attended

27 Youth Advisory Council meetings were held

These initiatives resulted in over 742 youth contacts throughout the year.

Education Liaisons

York Region CAS' Education Liaison Program helps children and youth involved with the Agency overcome barriers to learning and build stronger pathways to success in school and beyond.

Education Liaisons work closely with children, youth, caregivers, schools, and community partners to support school engagement, advocate for student needs, promote educational stability, and connect young people to opportunities in tutoring, employment readiness, and post-secondary planning.

EDUCATION LIAISONS STATISTICS

140

Total Referrals

27

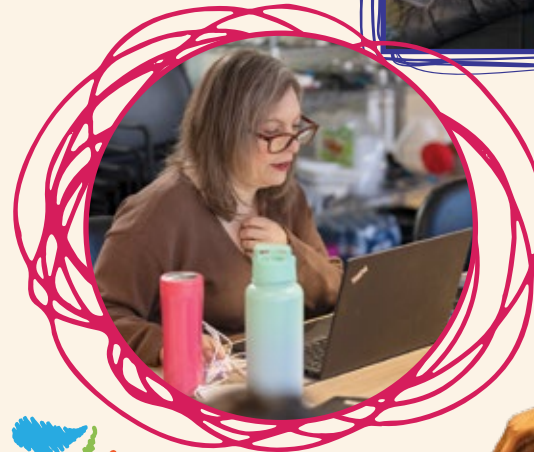
Youth in
post-secondary
education

61

Youth who attended
Education Liaison
workshops

43

Children and Youth
who received
tutoring



Through individualized guidance, system navigation, and targeted workshops, the program empowers children and youth to strengthen their confidence, skills, and readiness for future education, training, and employment.



Youth Advisory Council

York Region CAS is privileged to have the dedication, commitment and expertise of the Agency's Youth Advisory Council (YAC).

Established in 2021, the YAC welcomed five new members as of February 2026.

The Council's mission is to be accessible for consultation with children and youth involved in the child welfare system, York Region CAS staff, and Board members, internal and external committees, and the York Region Children's Fund, ensuring that youth voices are meaningfully included in all aspects of decision-making.

Comprised of youth (16+) that have had involvement with the Agency, the YAC members are driven by a shared vision to transform their lived experiences into something meaningful. By coming together, the YAC aims to actively shape a system that offers future youth in care, the dignity, opportunity, and respect they deserve.

Several key initiatives were successfully completed during the 2025-2026 period, including:

- A youth video series consisting of nine videos was developed to bring awareness to issues impacting youth involved with the Agency. Centered on topics such as community, foster care, housing, and more, the series elevates youth voices by sharing their lived experiences and perspectives.
- Throughout the year, the YAC participated in multiple consultations with Agency staff and departments, providing input and youth perspectives to support informed decision-making.



Scan the QR code to check out some of the projects that the YAC has worked on!

66

We turn shared experiences

into change. 99

– 2025-2026 Youth Advisory Council



Impactful Stories – Donor Spotlights

Dedicated donors making a lasting impact year over year.

19th Annual Holiday Heroes Gift Program

In December, York Region CAS staff helped load a 20-foot moving truck and several vehicles with holiday gift donations generously provided by the students, families, and staff of St. Andrew's College and St. Anne's School as part of their annual Holiday Heroes Program.

In its 19th year, the Holiday Heroes Program sponsored 117 youth, with donations supporting young people who live independently or are away at school. Contributions included

electronics, housewares, toiletries, winter clothing, beds and linens, school supplies, and grocery gift cards.

Young parents supported through the Ready, Set, Go (RSG) program also received an incredible amount of support, including diapers, toys, clothing, and more for their children.

In addition, St. Andrew's College and St. Anne's School also prepared starter kits, including kitchen essentials, small appliances, and more, for six young people turning 18 and transitioning out of foster care, helping reduce the financial burden as they move into their own homes.

York Region CAS staff delivered these gifts to youth participating in the Voluntary Youth Services Agreement (VYSA), RSG, and Independent Living programs.

We extend our sincere appreciation to St. Andrew's College, St. Anne's School, and everyone involved for their extraordinary generosity and continued commitment to supporting children, youth, and families in our community, especially during the holiday season.



Scan the QR code to watch a video recap of our 19th Annual Holiday Heroes Gift Program.



Scan the QR code to watch a video recap of our 2025 YRCF Car Wash Fundraiser.



Car Wash Fundraiser in Support of the YRCF

In August, York Region CAS hosted our annual Car Wash Fundraiser in Newmarket in support of the YRCF. The event brought together staff, volunteers, and community members for a day of connection and giving, with a pay-what-you-can model that encouraged broad participation.

Thanks to the generosity and spirit of the community, the fundraiser raised a total of **\$1,624.49**. From early morning setup through to the final car wash, the event reflected a strong sense of teamwork, energy, and shared commitment to supporting local children and youth.

Funds raised through the YRCF help provide vital supports to children and youth in care who have experienced abuse, neglect, or other challenges. These contributions enable access to educational opportunities, enrichment activities, and essential resources that promote wellbeing, resilience, and positive development.

This year's success once again demonstrated the meaningful impact of community support. Every contribution helped transform the simple act of washing cars into opportunities that enhance the lives of young people across York Region.

A Year in Photos

“

From spring outreach to summer youth programs, fall appreciation events, and holiday drives, we uplifted and connected children, youth, and families across York Region.

”



A Year in Photos



“

Guided by youth and supported by passionate staff, volunteers, foster parents, and partners, each moment sparked joy, celebrated diversity, and strengthened belonging.

”





Stay Connected

Want to stay informed with all things York Region CAS?

Follow us on social media to stay up to date with all our upcoming initiatives and events! Feel free to share the information below with your friends and family who may be interested in our updates.

You can also scan the QR code to subscribe to our community newsletter!



Website: www.yorkcas.org

E-Mail: communications@yorkcas.org

@yorkregionchildrensaidsociety 

York Region Children's Aid Society 

@YorkRegionCAS 

York Region Children's Aid Society 

Charitable Registration Number: 83174 0634 RR0001

Concerned about a child or youth?

Call us 24/7 at 905-895-2318 or 1-800-718-3850



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