

COLLEGE - MONTROSE

# CHILDREN'S PLACE



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2022**

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# Vision

HEALTHY CHILDREN  
HEALTHY FAMILIES  
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



# Mission

**CMCP** is a free family resource program that addresses the changing needs of diverse families. We create connections between children, parents, grandparents and other caregivers in local neighbourhoods with a focus on:

- Supporting healthy child development
- Promoting healthy families
- Fostering mutual aid and peer support
- Strengthening parenting knowledge and skills
- Breaking down isolation
- Valuing inclusion and harmony.

In partnership with families and the community, we provide safe, stimulating learning environments and opportunities for children, parents and caregivers. **Children's Place** is an open, collaborative organization that values and respects the unique needs and strengths of all families





# Message from the Chair



Patrick Madden

Chair

It seems that each year lately we start these messages by talking about it being a year of change and all the new challenges we are facing. That trend continues. As the impacts and limitations of COVID recede we continue to adjust; not so much a **"return to normal"**, as a finding a **"new normal"** incorporating what we have learned over the last few extraordinary years.

For CMCP though, 2022 will be remembered for a different reason. When Emilia first started talking about retirement, it didn't really seem real. It is still hard to imagine CMCP without Emilia Rodrigues, but what a **legacy she leaves**. The way CMCP responded to the challenges of COVID and continued to serve community needs is a tribute to her leadership. I know I speak for the rest of the board, staff and volunteers and participants past and present when I thank Emilia for all that she has done and wish her the best for the future.

The work of a board of directors is pretty easy with leadership like that; just attend a few meetings and share in the credit for all the great work that gets done. Suddenly though we on the board had an important role to play; finding a new executive director who could fill those shoes. All we needed was someone with exceptional expertise in childhood development and family support services, a passion for the work, and someone who shared CMCP's dedication and values – no problem. Well, turned out we didn't need to look too far. Right there under our noses was the ideal candidate. Most of you already know **Corina**. She has been working with CMCP since 2007 and held the position of Community Programs Manager since 2016. She has already been a big part of CMCP's success. Corina took over the ED role in January and quickly made us feel very comfortable that we had made the right choice. All of us on the board are looking forward to working with Corina as she leads CMCP into the future.

As always, I want to thank our funders (Toronto Children's Services and the United Way of Greater Toronto) along with all those who support our fundraising efforts.

# Message from the Executive Director



Corina John  
Executive Director



It's said that nothing is permanent except change. The truth of this statement was something that we all felt over the past year at CMCP. Once again, the COVID-19 pandemic demanded that we exercise our ability to be flexible, responsive, and adapt to new circumstances with very little notice. I am proud to say that as an organization, we've grown in our ability to expect the unexpected and still find ways to thrive.

We left for a winter holiday closure in December of 2021 a little nervous, but very excited to return to 100% indoor, in-person programming our first week back in January 2022. Little did we know that we would be again forced to pivot to virtual programming as the Omicron variant swept through the city and lockdown measures were enforced once again. Our staff were heroic in their efforts to ensure that virtual programming continued to engage families with the support and resources that they need.

The changes that all of us have experienced as a result of the pandemic also highlighted the need for us to reconnect and hear from our community. We held a series of community consultation events to help us determine how families' priorities had changed as they emerged from the pandemic and inform our ongoing program planning and development. The most resounding need we heard from parents was they "needed opportunities to help socialize their children". The increase in attendance at all our programs has clearly shown this to be true.

As the year progressed, we shifted to a blend of virtual and in-person programming to offer access to all families, regardless of where they were at in their pandemic journeys. We began in-person indoor programming in late March with new pre-registration and capacity requirements, and vaccination and masking policies in place to ensure the safety of our families, staff, and volunteers. We also substantially increased our outdoor programming until the end of November, to ensure that families who weren't yet comfortable being indoors, had safe ways to connect.

In the latter half of the year, we were able to lift some of the restrictions around indoor gatherings and return to 100% in-person programming. Recognizing that some parents were still not comfortable with large group socializing, we continued to offer our "It Takes A Village" virtual program which provides 1:1 connection between parents and staff to discuss where and how to access programs and address concerns about child development and parenting choices.

The past year has once again tested us in ways we couldn't have predicted and forced us to think outside of the box again and again. I'm proud that we have risen to this challenge and continued to show up for our children, families and communities with the resources and support that they need and deserve.

# PROGRAMS

## IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING

We were so excited to return to in-person programming in March of 2022. Families were eager to return to our drop-in programs and workshops for face-to-face connection, community, and learning.

### DROP-IN PROGRAMS



**8,091**

visits by

**1,914**

children



**8,490**

visits by

**2,098**

adults



### WORKSHOPS AND PRE-REGISTERED PROGRAMS



**81** children and **79** adults participated in workshops and pre-registered programs including School Readiness programs and Parenting in the Early Years sessions

# VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

We also continued to offer virtual programming in 2022 as the COVID-19 situation evolved over the course of the year.



**484**

virtual drop-in sessions  
attended by

**2641**

families



**198**

virtual 1:1 making connections  
sessions, attended by

**925**

families

## OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING

We continued to offer outdoor programming up until November 2022 to increase accessibility for families who weren't ready to return to indoor programming (such as those with young children who were not able to be vaccinated). We offered a range of activities that allowed for social distancing but still allowed for connection and community with our families.



OF OUTDOOR  
**PROGRAMMING**





# PARENT RELIEF

At our Gooch site, our parent relief program is offered to support families during difficult times. Parents have the option to leave their children for a negotiated amount of time in a safe and caring environment while they go to appointments or attend to other pressing responsibilities. Given the isolation that many families experienced during the pandemic, parent relief has also provided a much-needed opportunity to address separation anxiety and increase opportunities for socialization.

In 2022, we provided

**50**

**Parent relief sessions**

**100**

**hours of respite**  
to families in need

COVID-19 led us to implement a much-needed toy lending library so that families could provide a variety of educational and stimulating play opportunities in their homes, as they weren't able to attend programs early in the year.



# TOY LENDING LIBRARY



**29**  
children accessed  
toys from our Gooch toy  
lending library this year.





# FOOD BANK



Despite funding cuts in 2022, we stayed committed to operating our CooperMills-Gooch Community Food Bank with fundraising dollars and community grants and donations. The use of the food bank continued to grow throughout the year as families worked to cope with the increasing cost of living. In August we were serving an average of 145 households a week and by October, we were serving an average of 180 households each week and growing.

## IN 2022, **WE SERVED:**



**1847** individuals



**140,000** pounds of food



**713** households

A special thank you to our partners for their continued dedication and support of volunteers and funding for this program

Daily Bread Food Bank, Runnymede Presbyterian Church, St. Giles Kingsway Presbyterian Church,  
Toronto Community Housing, Jane Alliance Neighbourhood Service

# YOUNG PARENTS CONNECT



We continued to offer our **Young Parents Connect program (YPC)** throughout 2022, holding creative workshops to increase the resiliency and well-being of young parents with a focus on building parenting and entrepreneurial capacities.



In Spring, summer and fall we held **20 sessions** in chocolate making and vending, alongside integrated mindfulness and self-care sessions, attended by **17 young parents.**



We continued to build capacity and work with young families on enterprise skills and refining their chocolate making skills, including multiple opportunities for families to sell their chocolate at markets and sales.



In Winter 2022, we held a series of arts workshops and creative consultations and reached **79 young parents.**

**3**

3 parents facilitated workshops for another group of young parents in the Time Out program and **3 have obtained their food handler certificates.**

**5**

Five of our young parents are **now vending independently** (selling goods ranging from baked goods, hot sauce, candles, organic lotion and lip balm),



We look forward to continuing the YPC core partnership with Sketch, Planned Parenthood Toronto, Unity Health Toronto and welcoming new partnerships as we continue to grow.

# OTHER INITIATIVES

Once again, we were able to brighten the holiday season for many of our families by distributing backpacks, toys and activity kits. We're thankful for the generous support of Chum Christmas Wish and the Toronto Star Claus Fund that supported these activities.



**60 Children** received backpacks with school supplies from **Blaney McMurty** through United Way's Gift-in-kind program

**89 Children** received toys through the **Chum Christmas Wish fund**

**100 free tickets** to the **Royal Ontario Museum** were distributed to our families through United Way's gift-in-kind program

**39 kids** received a Toronto Star gift box through the **Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund**

**23 Gooch families** attended our family celebration to enjoy Caribbean food, music and fun and took home a Tell Me a Story Activity kits funded by **Chum Grant**.



# BOARD AND COMMITTEES

College-Montrose Children's Place is governed by a group of highly dedicated and dynamic volunteers who strongly believe in our mission. These volunteers set policy and direction for the organization. They also sit on various committees to support our work.

If you are interested in potentially joining this team of incredible volunteers,

please email your CV to [info@cmcp.ca](mailto:info@cmcp.ca).

## **Patrick Madden**

Board Chair & Chair of Governance Committee

## **Robert Spafford**

Vice Chair & Treasurer

## **Mirjana Vladusic**

Executive Committee

## **Patrick Waller**

Governance Committee & Development Committee

## **Abby Wong**

Chair of Program Committee

## **Clara Juando-Prats**

Program Committee

## **Laurel Maule**

Chair of Development Committee

## **Morten Lave**

Development Committee

## **Marzio Silva**

Development Committee

Also supporting our work by serving on our Program Committee: **Jasminta Ryan and Arfina Lamy**

# STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES



	2022	2021
● Government funding	\$ 724,124	\$ 742,269
● United Way Greater Toronto	\$ 157,448	\$ 195,016
● Corporate & Foundations	\$ 19,156	\$ 19,298
● Individual Donations	\$ 83,281	\$ 117,814
● Canada Emergency Wage & Rent Subsidies	-	\$ 39,796
● Fundraising & Other	\$ 78,419	\$ 36,309
● Interest	\$ 4,896	\$ 1,634
	<b>\$ 1,067,324</b>	<b>\$ 1,152,136</b>



	2022	2021
● Personnel	\$ 731,708	\$ 749,913
● Payment to Partners	\$ 93,886	\$ 115,121
● Program	\$ 52,558	\$ 54,117
● Occupancy	\$ 124,369	\$ 121,085
● Professional Fees	\$ 39,188	\$ 33,017
● Administration	\$ 24,015	\$ 24,938
● Staff Travel & Development	\$ 2,001	\$ 2,725
● Fundraising	\$ 8,917	\$ 942
	<b>\$ 1,076,642</b>	<b>\$ 1,101,858</b>

## SUMMARY - 2022

REVENUE	\$1,067,324
EXPENSES	\$1,076,642
	EXCESS OF REVENUE OF EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR <b>\$(9,318)</b>

# TREASURER'S REPORT



As we prepared for 2022, we continued to operate under a cloud of uncertainty as **COVID-19** restrictions were re-introduced in order to combat the rapidly-spreading Omicron variant.

Understanding the challenges that this placed on CMCP both in terms of the potential continued loss of fundraising events, as well as the increased needs of the community, the Board of Directors approved a deficit budget of **\$52,916** for 2022 to ensure that management had the necessary resources available. As a result, we ended the year with a deficit of just **\$9,318**.

Despite just over two years without any fundraising events, the organization remains in a very strong financial condition with just over **\$519,000** in reserves, representing roughly six months of our operating budget.

We are grateful for the continued support of **Toronto Children's Services** and the **United Way Greater Toronto**. We are also thankful to each of our corporate and individual donors for their generosity and shared belief in our mission.

# VOLUNTEERS

After having our physical doors closed to volunteers for over a year during the COVID-19 pandemic, we were thrilled to finally start welcoming back new and returning faces to our sites in March of 2022. As a non-profit organization, we have continuously relied on the commitment, passion and reliability of our incredible volunteer team to support our organization. From cooking and serving snack times at our drop-ins, to helping feed the community at the Cooper Mills – Gooch Community Food Bank, to our committees and board of directors, we cannot thank our volunteers enough for their hours of dedication to CMCP. This year, they showed a level of flexibility like no other, adapting to changing health and safety policies in order to put our children and families first. With a variety of talents, backgrounds and interests, and a desire to share these skills without hesitation, our **volunteers committed 4783 hours of work** that enhanced the quality of service we delivered as an organization over 2022 and we cannot thank them enough.



# STAFF

Our dedicated staff team is the foundation of everything that we do at CMCP. Our talented, caring professionals go above and beyond the call of duty to make sure our families feel welcomed and connected. We are so grateful to have such a wonderful team.

We underwent some significant changes in our staff team this year. At the end of 2022, our Community Engagement Manager Mark Osler resigned after seven years with CMCP to explore other adventures. Sherlyne Fletcher, Lead Family Support Worker, resigned to pursue full-time studies.



And finally, our Executive Director, **Emilia Rodrigues**, retired this year after 39 years with CMCP. Leading CMCP was the first and only job that Emilia held in Canada. She welcomed the very first families through the doors at CMCP back in 1983, when the organization was serving only a handful of participants in a tiny room in Montrose Public School. She now leaves behind a thriving organization that is serving over 3,000 families each year. Emilia led CMCP through massive change in the family support sector across almost 4 decades, while holding steady to the organization's purpose and vision. She has always been a champion for our staff members, going above and beyond to ensure each individual had the chance to achieve their goals. Emilia led with confidence, grace and a sense of humour that will not be forgotten. We wish her much laughter and joy in this next phase of her life's journey.

# STORIES



## Anh's STORY

I first met the staff of the Gooch/Lambton CMCP program at the park in the summer where they held their outdoor program. I learned they had a centre in the building next door to where I live, and also programs during the school year at Lambton, where my older son attends elementary school. These programs were so convenient for me. My son was just over 2 years at the time and not really talking. I was nervous at first because of his shyness, and I didn't know how the program or the people would be.

My son was very shy, and wouldn't let go of me. He never spoke to anyone, and cried if I was even just a foot away from him. It was really hard. He didn't know how to share, and didn't want to participate in any of the activities. He cried when I tried to make him sit at Circle Time, but was okay sitting on my lap a few feet away. I tried to force him to sit, but the staff were very supportive and told me it was okay to stay as far away as he was comfortable, and not to force him as then it would always be a negative thing for him and he was enjoying it with the distance.

It took a long time, but bit by bit he was able to sit at Circle, and eventually participate more and more. Even though we were going every day, he still wanted me close by, and I was worried for him to start getting ready for school, and learn to play and talk with others. They recommended I start spending a little time in the kitchen, enjoying a coffee and giving him some space.

Then gradually we worked up to using the Parent Relief program, first for just 20 minutes or half an hour. Now he is so comfortable I can leave him there for as long as I want and he enjoys himself playing with all the other children.

His speech was such a concern at first. I had him in Speech and Language programs, but it was online during Covid and didn't help at all. One of the staff suggested I keep calling them and push for more services, and even offered to contact them with me, but soon, with his comfort and his progress in the program, he was talking so much he doesn't want to stop, and I didn't need the speech pathology.

**Now I don't worry about my son starting school, and I know he can join the School Readiness program in the summer and be really prepared for when school starts.**

There is help for me at the Gooch program too. The staff is so helpful and friendly, and when I need help, there is someone to ask. I get help understanding the Canadian school system, going over emails and letters to make sure I am understanding them properly and doing what they ask so I can help all my three sons in school. They helped me to register for Optional Attendance so Daniel can go to Lambton School with his brother.

Now we go to the program every day and it is like a second home and a second family to me and to my son. I love this centre! If someone asks me about it, I say you get what you give: you lead with your heart, they lead with their hearts. There is someone there to help.





## Hon's STORY

Our son was born in 2021 at the peak of the pandemic, and we as a family had limited options for safe spaces to offer him for play and learn due to COVID. He had suffered some trauma at birth, and was experiencing some physical delays that we really weren't sure the extent of, or what kinds of supports he would need. We really wanted to have him out and interacting, and in a space where he could develop and grow.

We went first to the St. Helen's EarlyON program at Mary McCormick, and they recommended we take advantage of the Parent Relief program at Gooch when we really needed it. When we spoke to staff at Gooch about our son's experiences, and our uncertainty with regards to the extent of his needs, it just so happened that they were hosting a workshop with a Special Needs resources group from St Michael's Hospital. We attended the workshop and were able to get connected with all the services we needed for Sebastien.

Our family and my toddler son have greatly benefited from all the community-based programming that the Gooch Centre/CMCP has organized. The way that CMCP has designed, planned and facilitated family support has been essential to our son's developmental growth.

The environment has provided us a place where our child can interact with other children, and our family can interact with other families and caregivers. The opportunity to learn and play together has been essential for our son's social skills, and the development of his large and fine motor skills.

CMCP allows children to have the opportunity to engage in many structured, open-ended and play-based activities, while families have a chance to expand their social support networks and strengthen their parenting and caregiving skills. We also really appreciate the parent relief program that has helped our family manage competing caregiver needs.

CMCP is a godsend that we were and still are so very grateful for. The helpful and caring staff and the programming are the true stars of the space. Their resources like their toy library and community outreach programs have been so helpful. These resources have benefited our son's growth and helped us navigate what community resources were available like Centennial Infant and Child Centre.





## A MOTHER'S STORY

I was new to Canada and had two young children, a boy almost 3 and a girl 1 year old. We were living in the same building as the Gooch program, so we went down to find something to do, so my kids weren't bored at home. It was nice to have a place to be where the children could have fun, see other children and learn things. CMCP gives us support, helps us learn, and helps my children have fun and not be lonely. My kids have been able to learn the language and work on other skills like sharing and playing with others. Now we're all more comfortable meeting new people.

When I got pregnant, I could use the Parent Relief Program and leave the children for a little while. I was very tired with the pregnancy, and I could get some rest knowing the other two children were safe and happy and having fun. My older one needed to learn more language skills, and staff helped him to start talking. When it was time to take him to kindergarten, we put him in the School Readiness program at Lambton School. This was a big help - he had trouble sharing, he didn't sit to eat, he didn't clean himself, and the program helped him with those things so he would be ready for school in September. He started school and everything was good.

I like everything about CMCP: the place, the staff, the programs, the food. I am very comfortable here to relax and take care of the baby and my daughter has fun and plays with other kids. She learns a lot and plays with the staff also. The people here are all very friendly and happy. If I need, I can leave my daughter to play and have fun and I know she'll be well taken care of.

# DONATIONS & SUPPORTERS

None of our work would be possible without the support of our two major funders:



who both continue to work in conjunction with their wide array of resources and organizations to meet the needs of the community. We're grateful for the ongoing support of these funders and our other partners.

The lifting of pandemic restrictions meant we were able to return to some in-person network and board meetings, which provided a welcome chance for face-to-face connections. It also meant that we were able to hold our first major fundraising event since 2019. **We hosted our "Night to Remember" at the well renowned Chiado restaurant.** The event was a tremendous success and we're so thankful to **Albino and his amazing team**, to **Cidel Asset Management** and **Burgundy Asset Management** for their sponsorship and to all those who showed up to support us. A huge thank you also goes out to **LiUNA Local 183** once again, for their generous support of CMCP.

In 2022, we focused on increasing members of our monthly giving campaign, and friends of CMCP showed us just how important CMCP was to them. Many thanks for your continuous support which allows us to be responsive to the community needs as they arise!



## GOVERNMENT FUNDERS

Children's Services  
Toronto

EarlyON Child And  
Family Centre

Employment and Social  
Development – Canada

Employment & Social Services  
Toronto

Ministry of Education  
Ontario



## COMMUNITY FUNDERS

United Way of Greater Toronto

LiUNA Local 183

Delta Bingo and Gaming



## CORPORATE/ FOUNDATION FUNDERS

All Access Consulting LTD.

Burgundy Asset Management  
Ltd

Carla Corsi Real Estate  
Corporation

Chum Charitable Foundation

Cidel Asset Management

Daily Bread Food Bank

McCall MacBain Foundation

Paypal Giving Fund Canada

St. Giles Kingsway Presbyterian  
Church

Runnymede Presbyterian  
Church

The CLOROX Company

The Paul and Margy Campbell  
Family Foundation

The Toronto Star Santa Claus  
Fund

# YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

CMCP relies on the community to ensure we are able to serve our families. You can help by making a donation, join CMCP's Extended Family Monthly Giving Program or getting your company involved. If you would like to learn more about how you can support CMCP and/or how your gift will impact children and families in the community please contact Executive Director Corina John at [cjohn@cmcp.ca](mailto:cjohn@cmcp.ca)



# OUR SUPPORTERS

Abby Wong  
Adele Reid  
Aleksandr Vasilev  
Alex Pinto  
Amber Joyce  
Amy Jiang  
Andrew Grieve  
Angela Bhutani  
Angela De Mesquita  
Anna Scott  
Antonio Urdaneta  
Aykhan Guluzade  
Barbara Noordover  
Ben Redford  
Bernard Simon  
Bobelvis Pritchard  
Bonni Harden  
Bronson Alli  
Carla Weinstein  
Carmela Sibbio  
Carole Mokbel  
Carolyn Langill  
Cathie Percival  
Cathy Hluchy  
Cathie Rao  
Chang Kai Kan  
Charles Campbell  
Cheryl and Colin Grieve  
Christine Brown  
Corina John  
Cory Gill  
Craig Gill  
David Lewis  
David Grafstein  
Dawn Azzopardi  
Dileshni Jayasinghe

Emilia Rodrigues  
Eric Wilson  
Fiona Chapman  
Franca Gucciardi  
Funke Sodipe  
George Hardy  
Hannah Bontogon  
Hannah Hickey  
Irvin Waller  
Isabel Perez Doherty  
Jahmila Felix-Mussenden  
Jaki Oneill  
Jane Adams  
Jessica Campbell  
Jessica Reid  
Jessie Hui Chung Wu  
Joyce Chow  
Judy and Nigel Campbell  
Julie Martins  
Kaitlin Kurysko  
Kate Karn  
Ken Mitchell  
Kirsten and Vincent Halpin-Mercier  
Laurel Maule  
Libby Thevarkunnel  
Lisa Dunlop  
Lisa Grogan-Green  
Marcony Almeida Barros  
Maria Cellucci  
Marion Lane  
Martin Tang  
Meg Ewing  
Melanie Woodbeck  
Melissa Grover Dickstein  
Melissa Michel

Michael Di Iorio  
Mirjana Vladusic  
Mohammad Jangda  
Monika Piotrowicz  
Morten Lave  
Natasha Sawh  
Nicolas Chelvanayagam  
Paige McPhee  
Patricia M Grenier  
Patrick Waller  
Patti Kirk  
Paul and Chez Van Gerven  
Paula Knopf  
Paulina Marcinkowski  
Pina Wittershim  
Rafe Hunt  
Reichel Siscar  
Robert Pritchard  
Robert Spafford  
Roberta and Leslie Robb  
Roma Malik  
Russell Hann  
Sara Kussner  
Sevda Mansour  
Tatiana Njeim  
Theresa Cooke  
Timothy O'Leary  
Toni Mortimer  
Ty McDonald  
Virginia Hall  
Vladimir Vladusic  
Voy Stelmaszynski  
Wendy Donaldson  
William Donaldson  
Young Kim



COLLEGE~  
MONTROSE

# Children's Place

## College-Montrose Children's Place

### Artscape Youngplace

180 Shaw Street, Lower Level 2  
Toronto, Ontario M6J 2W5



[www.cmcp.ca](http://www.cmcp.ca)



[info@cmcp.ca](mailto:info@cmcp.ca)



[@cmcptoronto](https://www.instagram.com/cmcp.toronto)



College Montrose  
Children Place



**416-532-8100**

**Charitable number: 11886 7985 - RR0001**



**EarlyON**  
Child and Family Centre

 **United Way**  
Greater Toronto