



COLLEGE~
MONTROSE

Children's Place

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Table of Contents

2023

A Success Story 03

About Us 04

Our Year in Review 06

A Message From Our Leadership 08

Community Engagement and Partnerships 09

Our Volunteers 10

Staff 12

Financial Overview 14

Thank You 16

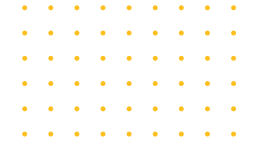
Photography
KEVIN CHIA
KENNETH TSE

A Journey of Growth and Belonging: How CMCP Transformed Our Lives



"Before attending CMCP's programs, he struggled to speak, only uttering basic words like "Mama" and "Papa." However, with the guidance and encouragement provided by the amazing staff and through the programs, he quickly began to develop his language skills."

Deepti and Akarsh



Since discovering CMCP in August, shortly after arriving in the country, my child's progress has been remarkable. Before participating in CMCP's programs, he struggled to speak, only uttering basic words like "Mama" and "Papa." However, with the guidance and encouragement provided by the amazing staff and through the programs, he quickly began to develop his language skills. Now, at just two years old, he confidently says words like "water," "butter," and even forms sentences to express his needs. Thanks to CMCP's support, he has made incredible strides in his communication abilities, bringing joy and pride to our family.

Our journey with CMCP has not only transformed my child's language development but has also fostered a sense of belonging and community for us. As he grows and thrives in this nurturing environment, we are grateful for the positive impact CMCP has had on his life and our family's overall well-being.

CMCP's Drop-In Programs have been equally impactful for us as parents. They provided a welcoming space where I could connect with other young parents, share experiences, and learn from one another. The sense of community and support we found at CMCP has been invaluable in our journey as a family, contributing to our overall well-being and sense of belonging in our new home.



OUR VISION

Healthy Children
Healthy Families
Healthy Communities

OUR 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 the following:

01. Supporting healthy child development
02. Promoting healthy families
03. Fostering mutual aid and peer support
04. Strengthening parenting knowledge and skills
05. Breaking down isolation
06. Valuing Inclusion and Harmony

OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

01. Play and Learn Drop-In
02. Family Workshops
03. School Readiness
04. Young Parents Connect
05. Parent Relief
06. Cooper Mills-Gooch Community Food Bank



DROP-INS

17,455 visits by 2591 Children
16,662 visits by 2467 Adults

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Over 424 hours of outdoor programs were carried out at designated parks at our various locations

WORKSHOP AND PRE-REGISTERED PROGRAMS

We are thrilled to have had **91 families** participate in our engaging workshops and pre-registered programs, such as School Readiness and Parenting in the Early Years sessions, as well as our delightful participant breakfast meetings. We sincerely appreciate their engagement and look forward to welcoming even more families in the future.

TOY LENDING LIBRARY

Our Toy Lending Library has been a great source of educational and stimulating play for families this year. We have proudly served **48 children** through our Gooch toy lending library, ensuring they have access to diverse play opportunities in the comfort of their own homes.



CMCP PROGRAM REPORT CONT'D

PARENT RELIEF

Our Gooch site offers a parent relief program for parents who need a helping hand to attend appointments, get more needed rest or fulfill other responsibilities. We provide a safe and stimulating environment where parents can leave their children for a negotiated amount of time. In 2023, we had **206 sessions** to address separation anxiety and create meaningful connections.



FOOD BANK

We are incredibly proud of our Cooper-Mills Gooch Community Food Bank, which served more than **2998 Individuals** and **1713 Households** in 2023. With an average of **250** families every week! Through our zero-funded initiative, we were able to distribute over **50,000 pounds** of food to those in need. Our community's food insecurity is a serious issue, and we are grateful to be able to offer this outreach alongside our other family support programs.

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

CMCP

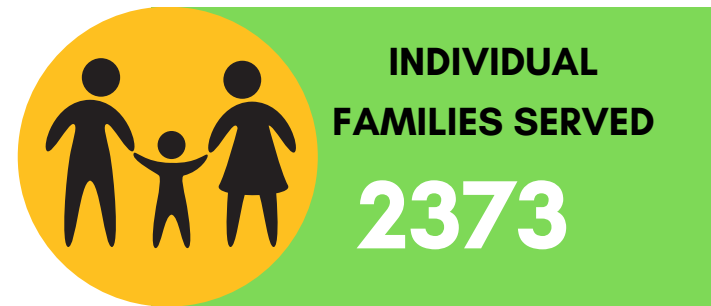
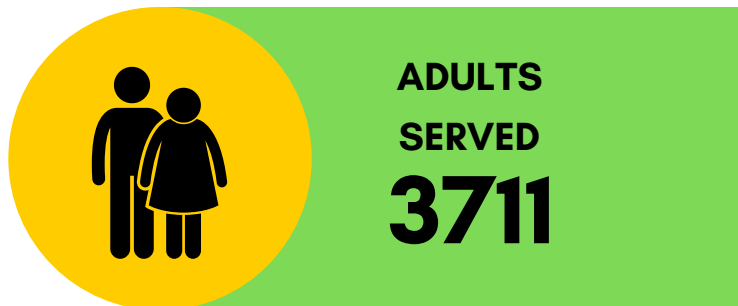
OTHER INITIATIVES

We brought joy to families during the holiday season by distributing backpacks, toys, and activity kits. We're grateful for the support of Heal Space, the Chum Christmas Wish and the Toronto Star Claus Fund. We look forward to spreading more happiness and cheer.

- Santa Star boxes were distributed to **67 children**.
- Through the United Way Gift-In-Kind Program, **50 families** were provided with dinner turkey.
- Chum Toys were distributed to **168 children**.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW



MESSAGE FROM CMCP'S LEADERSHIP

We are pleased to report on 2023 for CMCP, a year in which we marked 40 years of service to our community. It was a year of many changes and challenges but also a year marked by successes and accomplishments. The most obvious among those changes was the organization's leadership. Not only did we have a new Executive Director; there were changes throughout the management team. We were also joined by four new front-line program staff. Seeing this new team come together and continue with CMCP's legacy of service to our community has been great.

Beyond all that, much of our focus in 2023 was on things you could describe as "adjusting to the new normal". During COVID, a lot of our effort went into communicating with families in our community and finding out what they needed and how we could help. Those efforts continue while we re-establish programs and services with our many community partners. Our approach of listening to families and responding to their needs took us in a new direction in 2021. In partnership with five other organizations, we began operating a food bank. The need for that service continues and became even more acute during 2023. In fact, we served 250 households a week during 2023, compared to 180 in 2022. Much of CMCP's contribution to the food bank was originally covered using a portion of our United Way funding. That funding is no longer available. That means that our commitment to keep the foodbank open is only possible through fund raising efforts. On that note, we are very happy to report that we had our most successful year ever at our various in-person fundraising events. Another important change in 2023 was the move of our Lambton EarlyON from the Lambton Park Community School to 3775 Dundas Street W, the same location of our Gooch Program. This change allows us to provide better, more continuous service in that neighbourhood.

We were also very pleased during 2023 to receive a Community Services Recovery Grant through the Canadian Red Cross. With these funds, we have undertaken an organizational Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) audit. The grant also supports a range of EDI training. Together, these efforts will help us ensure that we learn to better provide an inclusive and healthy environment for staff, volunteers and participants in our programs. They also reflect CMCP's commitment to reconciliation and our focus on equity.

The last bit of news from 2023 is a little less optimistic. Artscape, the non-profit organization which has been our landlord at our main Shaw Street location, has run into financial difficulties. The situation is quite complicated and varies across the several locations that Artscape owns throughout Toronto. Our location in Artscape Youngplace is now in the hands of a court-appointed receiver who will seek solutions to recoup funds for Artscape's creditors. It remains hard to know what exactly this will mean for us in the long run. For now, we continue to lease our location on a month-to-month basis and hope that will continue for a while. We continue to work with the City of Toronto and other tenants in the building to find solutions that will allow us to continue in this facility that has served us so well. We are exploring all possibilities, including a possible purchase of the site or a relocation to another site in the area. We will keep you informed as the situation evolves, and don't be surprised if we are in touch about a possible capital campaign.

As always, we want to thank our many supporters including our program funders, individual donors and the many volunteers who support our work.



**PATRICK
MADDEN**
Chair, Board of Directors



**CORINA
JOHN**
Executive Director

CMCP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS



The Big Toddle Returns

We couldn't be more excited to announce the highly anticipated return of the Big Toddle Annual Community and Fundraising Event! In August, we were blown away by the incredible turnout of over **400 attendees**, including **180 adorable children** who participated in the Big Toddle.

Exceeded our fundraising goal by

35%!

We are truly grateful for your support in making this event a resounding success.



Honorary Recognition for 40 years of Community Service

We were delighted to be recognized by our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Spadina Fort-York, commending our 40 years of service to the community. This recognition underscores our unwavering dedication to inclusivity, support, and empowerment for families. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to MPP Chris Glover for acknowledging our efforts, and we are excited to pursue our mission of positively impacting lives in the future.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) audit

In 2023, we were grateful to receive a Community Services Recovery Grant from the Canadian Red Cross, enabling us to conduct an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) audit and provide EDI training. These efforts reflect our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment for staff, volunteers, and participants, aligning with our focus on equity and reconciliation.



THANK YOU! DEAR VOLUNTEERS

Our success is owed to an incredible team of volunteers who have dedicated an astounding **6124 hours** of their time to enhance the quality of our service delivery. We cannot express enough gratitude for their unwavering support, commitment, passion, and reliability. Their dedication has been pivotal in driving us forward, and we are so fortunate to have them on our team. Our volunteers have adapted seamlessly to changing health and safety policies to prioritize the needs of our children and families. They have gone above and beyond to ensure that we can deliver our services to those who need it most, and their selflessness, enthusiasm, and tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed. We are sincerely grateful for their invaluable contributions.

Meet Voy, the 2022 Catherine Fowler Award for Volunteer recipient, has been an integral part of CMCP's mission and vision since 2017. Volunteering weekly in the community kitchen, Voy prepares delicious and nutritious snacks for both children and adults, embodying the spirit of supporting healthy child development and promoting healthy families. Beyond his culinary skills, Voy fosters mutual aid and peer support by sharing recipes and encouraging families to try new foods, thus strengthening parenting knowledge and skills.

We are also grateful to our corporate volunteers who supported various of our programs at the Cooper Mills Community Food Bank and at our special events:

- Purposely
- RBC
- West Neighborhood House
- Clio
- BMO
- KPMG
- IBM
- Scotiabank



 **147 Volunteers**

 **6124 Volunteers**

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We have a group of passionate volunteers who support our mission at College-Montrose Children's Place. They play an integral role on various committees to drive our work forward. If you are interested in joining our team, please send your CV to info@cmcp.ca.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Patrick Madden - Board Chair & Chair of Governance
2. Committee Robert Spafford - Vice Chair & Treasurer
3. Mirjana Vladusic - Secretary
4. Patrick Waller-Governance Committee and Development Committee
5. Abby Wong - Chair of Program Committee
6. Clara Juando-Prats - Program Committee
7. Laurel Maule - Chair of the Development Committee
8. Morten Lave - Development Committee
9. Marzio Silva - Development Committee

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

1. Arfina Lamy
2. Jasminta Ryan

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Lisa Dunlop
2. Don Spandier
3. Emilia Rodrigues

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

1. Tara Cassidy

MEET OUR TEAM!

We are delighted to share the news that our team recently welcomed Sherlyne Fletcher back to our organization as the Community Programs Manager! Additionally, we are thrilled to announce that Maximilian Okechukwu, the Community Engagement Assistant, took on the role of Community Engagement Manager. We are also excited to have Breanna Bylok, Ximena Guerra, Emily Graham and Julienne Evans join our program staff



STAFF

1. **Executive Director:** Corina John
2. **Community Engagement Manager:** Maximilian Okechukwu
3. **Community Programs Manager:** Sherlyne Fletcher
4. **Executive Assistant and Administrative Support:** Donia Kobrosly
5. **Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator:** Sarah Sequeira
6. **Front Desk:** Intesar Tahir
7. **Site Leads:** Marnie Bernstein, Melanie Robitaille, Emma King
8. **Program Staff:** Julienne Evans, Mercedes Dickson, Breanna Bylok, Ximena Guerra, Romana Huq, Emily Graham, Mauro Lombardi, Guang Yu Yang, Donnette Lawrence.
9. **Students:** Terry Zhang, Chloe Costa, Tiffany Nguyen, Emma Shaw, Xiaoyi Zhang, Cindy Tang, Jia En Huang, AliyarYoussefi, Jessica Eusebio, Christina Lacha, Yevheniya Pekar, Mina Chen, Bohdan Onushko, Zhenzhen Li, Shantelle Zhou, Yasmin Mohamed, Haali Ahmed



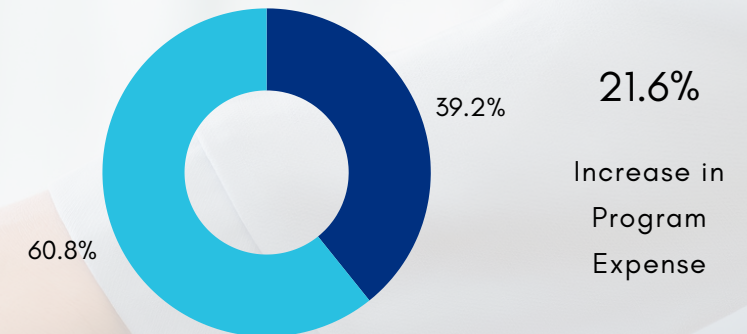
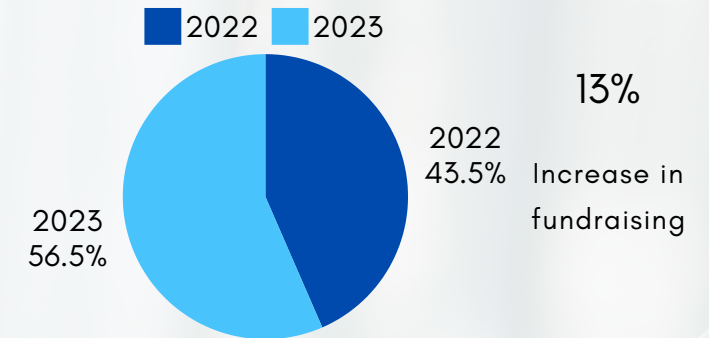
3,320

HOURS OF SERVICE

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE	2023	2022
Government funding	\$741,467	\$724,124
United Way Greater Toronto	\$115,145	\$157,448
Corporate & Foundations	\$32,953	\$19,156
Individual Donations	\$111,118	\$83,281
Fundraising & Other	\$89,474	\$ 78,419
Interest	\$20,780	\$ 4,896
	\$1,110,937	\$1,067,324

EXPENSES	2023	2022
Personnel	\$739,381	\$731,708
Payment to Partners	\$85,989	\$93,886
Program	\$81,409	\$52,558
Occupancy	\$139,458	\$124,369
Professional Fees	\$48,841	\$39,188
Administration	\$22,317	\$24,015
Staff Travel and Development	\$4,267	\$2,001
Fundraising	\$13,744	\$8,917
Amortization	\$1,016	-
	\$1,136,421	\$1,076,642
Excess of Revenue of Expenses for the Year	\$(25,484)	\$(9,318)



TREASURER'S REPORT

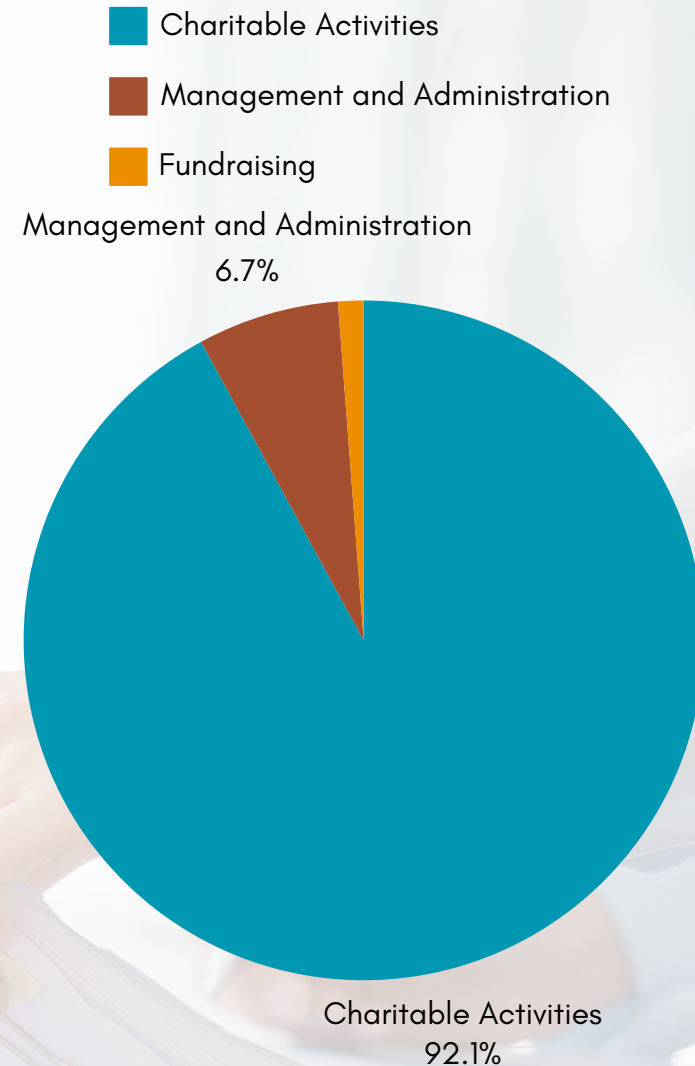
While securing adequate funding remains a constant challenge, especially in light of the current inflationary environment, CMCP's fundraising efforts exceeded expectations, reflecting the dedication support of our community and stakeholders. This helped to mitigate the impact of unanticipated program expenses and the ongoing challenge of staff availability.

CMCP ended the year with a deficit of \$25,484 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$52,629. Despite the deficit, CMCP maintained a healthy reserve of about \$498,000, equivalent to around 6 months of operating expenses. This demonstrates prudent financial management and sustainability.

Looking ahead to 2024, the bankruptcy of Artscape, our main site's landlord, presents a significant challenge. The Board and Management will need to navigate this situation carefully to ensure continuity of operations and minimize any disruptions, all in the context of a continued challenging fundraising environment.

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

WHERE THE MONEY GOES



THANK YOU!

Government Funders

- Children's Services - Toronto
- Early ON Child And Family Centre
- Employment and Social Development - Canada
- Employment and Social Services - Toronto
- Ministry of Education - Ontario

Community Funders

- United Way of Greater Toronto
- LiUNA Local 183 and LiUNA OPDC
- Canadian Red Cross
- Delta Bingo and Gaming

Community Partners

- BGC St. Alban's Club EarlyOn
- Cecil Community Centre
- Lambton Park Community School
- Mary McCormick Recreational Center
- Sketch
- The Cross-Cultural Community Services Association
- Toronto Community Housing
- Toronto Metropolitan University
- Toronto Public Health
- Toronto Public Library
- University of Toronto
- Waterfront Neighbourhood Center

Donors and Community Supporters

- Academy of Lions
- Art Gallery of Ontario
- Bar Poet
- Bellwoods Books
- Boler Mountains
- Brazil Remittance
- BstreetRMT
- Burgundy Asset Management
- CBC News Experience
- Casa Abril Restaurant
- Caudalie Spa Boutique
- Chiado Resturant
- Chum Foundation
- Cidel
- Daily Bread Food Bank
- Downtown Winery
- Ferma Import & Export Inc
- Gigi Frills
- Golden Turtle Restaurant
- Greater Toronto Adjusters Inc.
- Heal Space
- Koukla
- Long & McQuade
- Lover's Land
- Lucky 13 Tattoo and T-Shirt
- Macedo Winery
- Made you look
- Mamakas
- Misfitmethod
- Nestle Canada
- Nicety's Property Management Inc.
- Oyster Boy
- Project Essence
- Ripley's Aquarium
- Runnymede Presbyterian Church
- Sausade
- Skip the Dishes
- St. Giles Kingsway Presbyterian Church
- Union

We deeply appreciate the consistent support from our monthly donors and the generous contributions from those who have donated at various times during the year. Your donations have played a vital role in the success of our endeavors, and we highly value your interest and positive impact.



Contact Us

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