

Children's
Ability Fund

2010-11 Annual Report



www.childrensabilityfund.ca





our vision

... equal participation in our society for
all persons with disabilities

our mission

... to provide funding to enhance the
independence of people with disabilities
throughout northern Alberta



Message from the **Chair**

My heart is filled with love when I see that we have been able to positively touch the lives of so many individuals and families. Your generous contributions of money, time and resources has allowed the **Children's Ability Fund** to give the gift of happiness in the form of equipment, vehicle modifications and even adaptive sports equipment. These gifts translate into the more important, yet, intangible gifts of joy, peace and personal success.

I feel like a very proud parent when I see the radiant smiles of "my children" that have been put there by the newly found independence and discovery of abilities brought on by the freedom provided by you. Trust me when I tell you that the burden of disability is lighter when the proper piece of equipment is on-hand or modification is made.

I have an adult onset disability due to several strokes. It was rough having the life I knew shattered into a million pieces. Humpty-Dumpty has nothing on me! But unlike Humpty, I was able to put my life back together better than ever. You know, all it took was one piece of equipment to get me started and continuing along the path to achieving a quality of life I never knew was possible. My power wheelchair gave me the mobility I needed to expe-

rience life in the most fulfilling way.

I returned to university where I obtained 2 bachelors and 1 masters degree, I volunteered everywhere, shopping is my favourite activity, I get to make a nuisance of myself, I socialize with family and friends, I have a great job, I share an apartment with my 2 cats – James and Forest, and I even travel – I just got back from Istanbul! I may be dependent on my wheelchair for mobility but my independence and freedom have given me joy, personal success and the confidence to be great! The best part . . . I can share who I am because any limitation or lack of a limitation has an effect – positive or negative - on everyone I have the right and privilege to be in contact with.

This is your gift of love. I applaud you. **Children's Ability Fund** applauds you. More importantly the recipients of your generosity, and sometimes sacrifices, have a great big bearhug for you. You may never know the full impact of your generosity but you can know that it is full of amazing!

Thank you for your compassion and friendship! We look forward to continuing our friendships!

Linnie Tse
Chair



Message from the executive director

One of our biggest strengths is the ability to change with the times.

We are ever evolving at the **Children's Ability Fund**. Over the years we have introduced new programs and provided funding for new equipment as needs changed and new technology was developed to make equipment even more efficient.

We solidified this at an organizational level when during our recent strategic plan update one of the major goals defined was - The **Children's Ability Fund** meets the needs of more clients.

Currently, the local 211 Community Connection identifies the top two unmet needs for people with disabilities as (affordable, accessible) housing and accessible transportation.

Accessible transportation is critical for people with disabilities to have the freedom to travel where, when, and how they choose. The introduction of new technology continues to broaden opportunities for people with disabilities to drive vehicles with adaptive devices and over the last few months we have noticed a dramatic increase to queries as to where to find funding for transportation needs.

Hence . . . in 2010 the **Children's Ability Fund** announced our NEW Vehicle Adaptation program. This program provides a grant of up to \$10,000 and may include the structural modification of a family owned vehicle. (Until recently, the **Children's Ability Fund** has provided funding for equipment only to make a vehicle accessible; items such as ramps, lifts, hand controls, tie-downs).

We are very proud to report that five families have benefited from this program already (and more have been approved or are in the works) . . . And the feedback is most encouraging!

"We treasure just being able to do the simple things like going shopping – it's just a complete pleasure and NOT a major undertaking."

"Now, when we go out it is a thrill. The van has big

windows and Miranda can enjoy the journey."

"Having the seat has made us mobile again – the shopping trips, movies, swimming, birthday parties and visits to family and friends are a joy."

As we look forward, we will continue to meet the needs of people with disabilities by providing funding for the equipment needed to; assist with daily activities, maximize independence, participate fully in the community (at home, at school and at play) and enhance individual well being. The **Children's Ability Fund** is proud to play a small but vital role in the independence of people with disabilities throughout northern Alberta.

Carol Russ

2010/2011 Board of Directors

Linnie Tse, MEdes	– Chairperson
Michelle Roy, BScPT	– Secretary
Brian Alquire, CMA	– Treasurer
Sylvia Herman	– Director
Ken Gulevich	– Director
David Dorward, CMA CA	– Director
Wayne Evanson	– Director
Robroy (Bob) McGregor	– Director
Jack Lund	– Director
Jim Banks	– Past Chairman

2010/2011 Staff

Carol Russ, CMA, BMgt	– Executive Director
Marilyn Melnychuk	– Client Care Coordinator
Joanne Rediron	– Office Manager

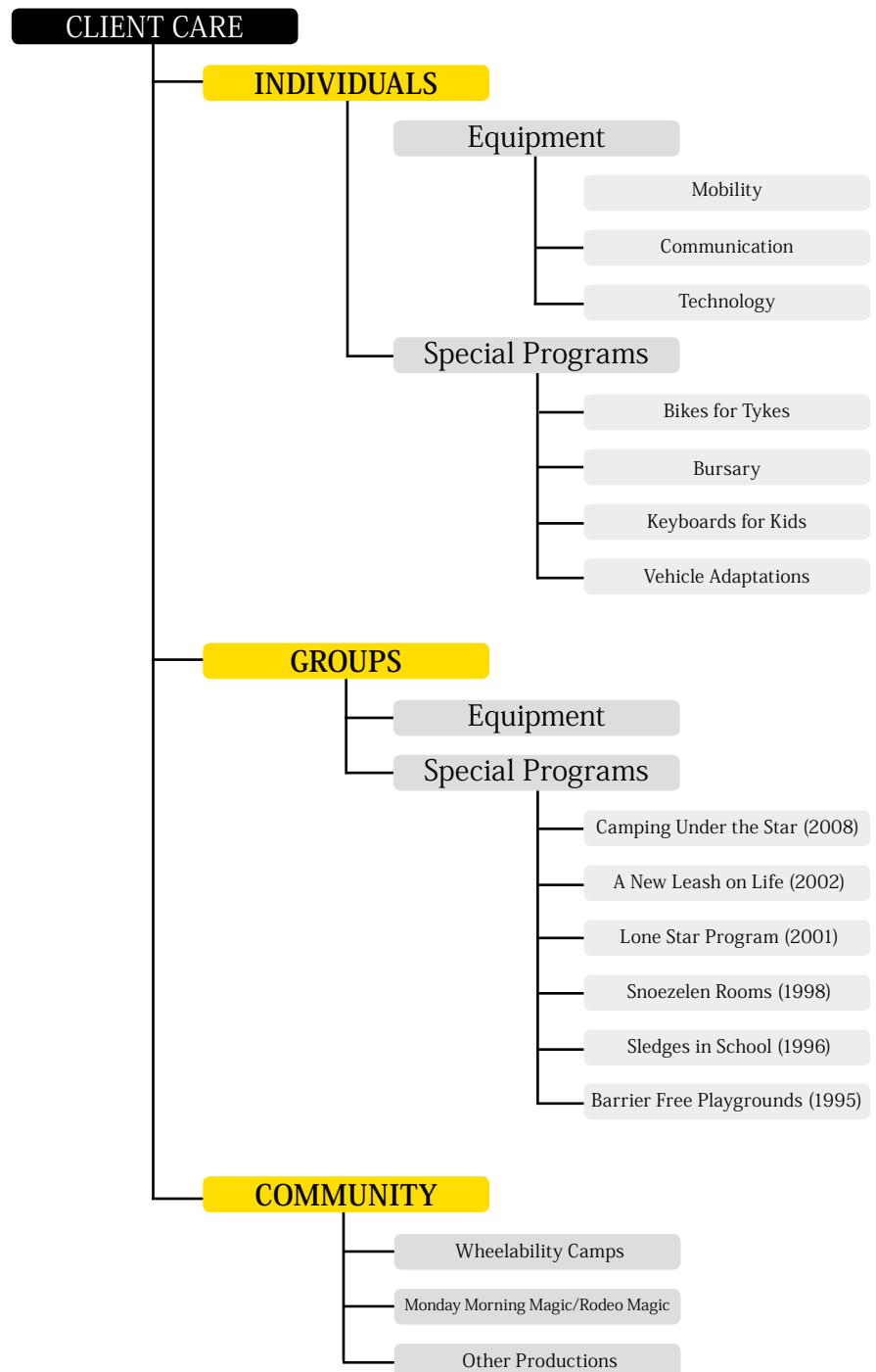
Client care

The **Children's Ability Fund** goal is to create awareness and enhance independence by providing specialized equipment for people with disabilities.

Our focus is on children but age or type of disability is not a consideration when reviewing an application. Applications are accepted from individuals residing in Edmonton and Northern Alberta and are prioritized depending on basic needs, immediacy of the request and financial need.

Funding is directed towards three basic areas:

- Individuals
- Groups
- Community



Individuals Equipment

Specialized equipment includes such items as:

Mobility Devices – Wheelchairs, walkers, overhead lifts, porch lifts, vehicle lifts, ramps, lift chairs, hospital beds, tilt systems, standing frames, car seats, leg braces

Communication Devices – TTY's, signaling devices, voice synthesizers, FM systems

Other Technology – Alphasmarts, Braille printers, zoom text, joysticks, keyboards

INDIVIDUALS – Summary		Edmonton		Northern Alberta	Total
Mobility Aids / Devices	21	\$53,199	29	\$89,915	\$143,114
Communication / Signaling Devices	1	\$9,536	0	\$0	\$9,536
Computers / Educational Assistive Devices	1	\$260	0	\$216	\$476
Total individual requests					\$153,126

I am writing on behalf of Louis, a four year old little boy with Osteogenesis Imperfecta Type 3 (brittle bone disease), who received funding for a power tilt from the Children's Ability Fund for his first power wheelchair. It is because of the generous support of the Children's Ability Fund that we as a community can meet children's needs.

Louis is excited about the prospect that his own wheelchair will not have to be returned to a vendor after a trial – which previously brought Louis to tears. The power tilt will encourage such growth in responsibility and independence in managing his symptoms and participation in school and community. Thank you again!

Physical Therapy Consultant
GRIT Program

I thank the Children's Ability Fund for making it possible for me to get around so much better now that I have this power chair. It is amazing the places I can go now, like visiting family members, shopping, church, or just going out for coffee with friends. I am constantly on oxygen so I can take my machine with me. So I thank you once again for the added freedom your generous gift has allowed me.

Betty C.

Special programs

Telus Keyboards for Kids Program

Although the original focus of the Keyboards for Kids Program was on individuals, we realized that this simple piece of equipment could be beneficial to schools with special needs students – therefore impacting a greater number of children with disabilities as well as their caregivers. The **Children's Ability Fund** was fortunate to receive funding from TELUS to purchase 100 AlphaSmart Neos and distribute them to school districts in and around the Edmonton Capital Region. We named the program the Telus Keyboards for Kids in Schools Program which concluded in December 2010.

The Edmonton Public School Board gave us the following feedback:

Teachers identified many positive outcomes from using the NEO. Once basic keyboarding skills were learned, teachers reported students wrote ideas down more quickly and legibly than if they were hand writing. Organization of their work also improved with the use of this tool. It allowed for more individual attention and instruction from the teacher, which supported the writing process. This led to easier writing of first drafts and edits. Students collected and documented ideas more quickly which improved the students' independence and confidence. It allowed for technological growth as students learned to transfer information from the NEO to the computer and use the editing process (spelling, fonts, size and punctuation).

One teacher noticed that it enabled her student (with fine motor difficulty) to complete the same writing tasks as the other students in the same amount of time. Students were seen to stay on task, complete writing assignments, work independently and appeared more engaged in the assignments. Using the NEO took away much of the daily frustration students previously felt when working on assignments. They were successful, proud of their work and were eager to share the NEO with their classmates.

Teachers reported that students in the project experienced a wide range of challenges and disabilities. Disabilities included: attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, mild/moderate cognitive delays, cerebral palsy, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and Down syndrome.

Student writing challenges included: poor motor



control (both gross and fine motor), impulsivity, phonemic awareness, processing and decoding skills, spelling, organizational skills and English as a second language.

We are very grateful that the Children's Ability Fund was able to provide Edmonton Public Schools with AlphaSmart NEOs. This opportunity allowed us to increase teacher knowledge and skills around the use of assistive technology. However, most importantly, students with unique learning needs were directly impacted and gained from the overall effort.

Deborah Brandell, Supervisor
Sandra Gluth, Consultant

Special Education, Programs
Learning With Technologies

Special programs

Children's Ability Fund Bursary

The **Children's Ability Fund Bursary** is awarded annually in amounts up to \$5,000 at the discretion of the Board of Directors and may be allocated to more than one individual. The selection committee bases its decision on personal accomplishments and financial need.

The **Children's Ability Fund Bursary** was shared by four individuals this year:

Jeff of Fort McMurray – Jeff's diagnosis is autism spectrum disorder. Despite his disability he is active in his community and helps with Santa's Anonymous and the Relay for Life. Jeff is a very successful student who is well liked by adults as well as highly respected by his peers. He will be attending the University of Alberta and hopes to become a Paleontologist.

Brandi of Red Deer – Although Brandi has a degenerative hip disease which makes walking, standing and bending difficult and painful, she is a dedicated volunteer in the Central Alberta Cancer Centre. She is recognized as a socially responsible, caring and talented person. Brandi will be attending SAIT and plans to get her diploma in Digital Graphics Communication.

Lyle of Sherwood Park – Lyle is legally blind as a consequence of juvenile onset of Retinitis Pigmentosa. He is a very positive young man who teaches Sunday school, has earned a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, volunteers for the Strathcona County Youth Council and maintains a job at the local Dairy Queen. He hopes to earn a degree in Computing Science from the University of Alberta.

Cody of Edmonton – Cody is an intelligent, dedicated and capable student who has Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 2. This is a progressive neuromuscular condition that results in severe weakness, development of joint contractures and scoliosis. He is a full time wheelchair user. His goal is to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree at Grant MacEwan University with his major being psychology.

Children's Ability Fund Bursary



— \$100,000 - Goal

— \$78,850 to date



I am sincerely grateful to be awarded the Children's Ability Fund Bursary. You have helped immensely with funding my dream. I am already in school and enjoying every minute of it – Thank-you SO MUCH!

Brandi

Individuals Special programs

Vehicle Adaptations Program

NEW

Accessible transportation is critical for people with disabilities to have the freedom to travel where, when, and how they choose. The introduction of new technology continues to broaden opportunities for people with disabilities to drive vehicles with adaptive devices.

The nature and scope of conversions can range from relatively minor modifications such as the installation of mechanical hand controls, moderate modifications designed to provide greater accessibility to passenger positions, and complex/customized modifications allowing the operation of the vehicle from a mobility aid using adapted driving controls. In general, the costs of conversions are directly related to various factors including:

- the nature and severity of an individual's disability
- the principal use of the vehicle (e.g., for transporting an individual as a passenger versus driving the vehicle)
- the complexity and number of modifications required to adapt a vehicle, based on the nature/severity of an individual's disability and the purpose of the vehicle
- the type of vehicle

Depending on the nature of the conversion, costs can range from \$1000 or less for hand controls to \$15,000 and up for conversions involving major structural modifications to mini-vans (e.g., lowering the vehicle's floor or raising the vehicle's roof). Until recently, the **Children's Ability Fund** has provided funding for equipment only to make a vehicle accessible; items such as ramps, lifts, hand controls, tie-downs.



The Vehicle Adaptation program provides a grant up to \$10,000 outlined as follows:

- Funding up to \$5,000 for an adult and \$10,000 for a child is available to structurally modify an already-owned vehicle (work to be done by an accredited vendor) or to assist families to purchase new accessible vehicles.
- If funding for a second hand vehicle is requested, we must have the following paperwork:
 - A vehicle inspection report to ensure the vehicle is in safe operating condition
 - Confirmation that the modifications or installation of accessible equipment has been done by an accredited vendor



5 FAMILIES FROM
EDMONTON, LEDUC,
LLOYDMINSTER, STONY
PLAIN AND RED DEER
BENEFITED THROUGH THE
VEHICLE ADAPTATION
PROGRAM THIS YEAR
TOTALING \$55,000.

Special programs

Bikes for Tykes Program

The Bikes for Tykes program was introduced to provide funding for the adaptation of a bicycle for the individual needs of a child with a disability. Our goal is to provide a means for a child to participate in the everyday activities that all children enjoy; riding to the park, exploring unknown territory and spending time with friends. Bikes provide an independent mode of transportation that helps build self-esteem and gives a sense of freedom. Special adaptations to a bicycle can help a child with disabilities "delight in being a child".

The scope of this project ranges from minor adaptations to a fully customized bicycle to provide the necessary support for a child's personal needs. Cost of adaptations can range from \$500 up to \$1,800 for a customized bicycle.



**3 NEW BIKES WERE
PURCHASED THROUGH
THE BIKES FOR TYKES
PROGRAM THIS YEAR
TOTALING \$2,116**

Thanks to your organization, our daughter enjoyed a wonderful summer filled with many great memories. Owning this new bike has meant so much to Britney, it has given her almost complete INDEPENDENCE outside which was not possible before. We live on a large dairy farm, so keeping up with her siblings and friends outside was not easy. Prior to receiving the bike, someone would have to pull Britney around in a wagon. Now Britney can hop on her bike, by herself and go wherever they go. She made several trips to her Grandparent's house about a ¼ mile away with her siblings throughout the summer. But her greatest accomplishment this summer was riding to our nearby small town about 3 miles away. Thank you so much for your willingness to help our daughter receive this wonderful new bike. We are so grateful for organizations like yours who help to make life more "normal" for our special needs children. Britney will enjoy using this bike for many years to come.

Britney's mom

Groups Special programs

The **Children's Ability Fund** also considers requests from groups and organizations working for the betterment of people with disabilities within their community.

In 2010, two groups received grants for equipment totaling \$9,807:

- **Alberta Abilities Lodges, Edmonton**
\$7,040 for a TrailRider

The TrailRider is a specially-designed wilderness access vehicle. It is essentially a modified wheelchair with the ability to travel on hiking trails through the woods and up and down small hills with the aid of others acting as "sherpas." Affectionately described as 'a cross between a wheelbarrow and a rickshaw', the TrailRider is actually a precision-made vehicle, engineered to the highest specifications. It has taken hundreds of people with disabilities to places they never thought were attainable.

The Alberta Abilities Lodges Society makes the TrailRider available on loan for families or groups to take persons with a disability into the outdoors.

- **Heart of the Golden Age Society, Thorhild**
\$2,767 for a pool lift

This easy to operate lift benefits the seniors in the community as well as families with children with disabilities who might not have otherwise been able to use the swimming pool.

Thank you for the \$5,000 playground grant. It truly helped us achieve our goal. The playground is now finished and it looks wonderful. It is a great honor to have Wetaskiwin's first wheelchair accessible playground.

Parkdale School, Wetaskiwin

PEACE AREA RIDING
FOR THE DISABLED
SOCIETY (PARDS) WAS
AWARDED THIS GRANT
FOR 2010



Lone Star Program

The **Lone Star Program** offers a grant annually in amounts up to \$2,500 to assist organizations that provide therapeutic riding and are recognized by the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA). Therapeutic riding is a form of therapy using horses to benefit persons with various disabilities ranging from physical to emotional.

Benefits of therapeutic riding:

- Development of mobility, balance and co-ordination
- Improvement of muscle tone and strength
- Increased concentration and improved learning skills
- A challenging recreational activity
- Independence, integration and a sense of achievement
- Development of self confidence and motivation

On behalf of the Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society, I would like to express our gratitude for approving our funding request to the 2011 Lone Star Program. This grant will help our organization to continue, as we have for over 27 years, to keep our therapeutic programs accessible to all who need them. The **Children's Ability Fund** is an extraordinary organization and plays a vital role in PARDS success. We truly appreciate your ongoing support. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

J. Douglas, Executive Director

Groups Special programs

Camping Under the Star

The **Camping Under the Star** program offers a grant of \$5,000 to not-for-profit recreational facilities and organizations providing recreational opportunities to children with disabilities in northern Alberta.



CAMP HE HO HA
IN SEBA BEACH WAS
AWARDED THIS GRANT
FOR 2010

*I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the **Children's Ability Fund**, the very special fabric woven into the lives of the hundreds of children and adults who make lasting memories at Camp. Every summer because of your generosity, over 750 children and adults with every type and degree of disability and illness, ranging in age from 6 to 104, and coming from communities large and small throughout Alberta, have an opportunity to participate in a week long recreational summer camp designed with them in mind.*

Joan Nielsen, Executive Director



Barrier Free Playground Grants

The **Barrier Free Playground** program offers a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to groups constructing a new playground that meets the new Annex H standards. Annex H spells out the base level requirement for what constitutes an accessible playspace and will ensure that all playspaces are both safe and accessible so everyone in the community can participate.

Our goal is three-fold:

- to “enhance the independence of children with disabilities”
- to encourage the inclusion of accessible playground equipment for children of all abilities
- to create awareness about the issue of accessibility for all children at the playground and within the community

FUNDING WAS
APPROVED FOR
PLAYGROUNDS IN COLD
LAKE, SHERWOOD PARK,
SPRUCE GROVE, ST ALBERT
AND WETASKIWIN FOR A
TOTAL OF \$25,000

Community

The **Children's Ability Fund** has been working in communities in northern Alberta since 1947. Part of our commitment to the community goal is active participation through sponsorship of events that promote awareness and provide opportunities for children with special needs to participate in fun activities.



Rodeo of Smiles

Rodeo of Smiles is a special day for children with disabilities held every year at the Leduc Black Gold Rodeo. Billy Ability is on hand to meet with the participants as they enjoy a variety of rodeo activities and a variety of activities such as the petting zoo, mascots, games, and face painting.



Rodeo Magic

This year was the 16th annual **Rodeo Magic**, a unique program that is produced by Northlands and is focused specifically on children with disabilities between the ages of 6 to 14. Invitations are sent to qualified schools welcoming the children and their chaperons to become "Rodeo Stars" for the day. The program provides an opportunity for each child to meet and interact with "real cowboys and cowgirls" in the arena in which they compete with fellow classmates, while developing some fun rodeo skills such as barrel racing, bronc riding, horse back rides, mini chuck wagon rides and much more. At the end of the day there are smiles all around and magic in the air.

Monday Morning Magic

Monday Morning Magic (hosted by Northlands) has been a long-running tradition of Capital EX since 1978, when the fair was still known as Klondike Days. It is a special event that gives hundreds of children with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy Capital EX in a safe and controlled environment away from the hustle and bustle of the crowds. This year over 500 children along with their families and caregivers were able to enjoy the rides and a special program of entertainment and fun with help from members of the Edmonton Oil Kings, Oilers Octane, Edmonton Oilers, Edmonton Rush, Edmonton Capitals and Edmonton Eskimos.

Western Canada Sledge Hockey Tournament

Sledge Hockey is the Paralympic version of ice hockey and has become one of the biggest attractions for spectators at the Winter Paralympic Games since its debut in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994. It is fast-paced, highly physical and played by many clubs throughout North America. This was the first year that **Children's Ability Fund** sponsored the Paralympic Sports Association Sledge Hockey team to give the players a great opportunity to compete at an international level.



The **Children's Ability Fund** is proud of our work in northern Alberta and we appreciate the opportunity to meet our donors, clients and friends in these communities.

Vegreville Exhibition and County Fair

Starting the Exhibition and County Fair off with a parade through downtown Vegreville, the following three days bring activities for everyone to see and do! From chuck wagon races to the tradeshow; the craft and horticultural show to the carnival rides, games, and beer gardens this event attracts people of all ages and interests. This was the 5th year that the **Children's Ability Fund** entered a float in the parade with Ken Gulevich (King Ken) as our Honorary Ambassador.



WHAT A GREAT WAY TO
MEET AND GREET THE
COMMUNITY!

Stony Plain Farmers' Days Parade



Farmers' Days Rodeo and Exhibition offers a weekend packed with fun events from rodeo performances to a delicious pancake breakfast. A parade, live entertainment, a trade show and a midway are just a few of the activities included in the annual lineup. This was the 2nd year that the **Children's Ability Fund** entered a float in the parade with Richard O. as our Honorary Ambassador.

Campaign 2011

The **Children's Ability Fund** relies on the generosity of our loyal donors to provide the necessary dollars so we may continue to provide funding for specialized equipment to those most in need.

Our fundraising efforts focus each and every year on providing basic equipment. More than 90% of the requests we get for individual equipment are for some kind of mobility device. The majority are for BASIC needs to assist people to be more independent in their homes, at school or in the workplace and to be more active in their community.

"It's not that we want this equipment – our family needs this equipment."

An overhead ceiling track for Nicholas in both his bedroom and bathroom allow him a new independence and freedom.

Nicholas's Mom says . . .
"Thank-you – we really appreciate it. For the last twelve years we have had to lift Nicholas in and out of his wheelchair. Especially now that Nicholas is older and bigger the lift system in his bedroom and bathroom are a necessity. Now he has the ability to transfer himself and as a young man he is very appreciative of his new found privacy."



The **Children's Ability Fund** wants to ensure that Nicholas and others with disabilities have the same opportunities to move, work and play. With specialized equipment, people with disabilities and their families will experience more mobility and independence in their day to day activities.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, organizations, groups, clubs and corporations we were able to reach our goal of \$100,000 to help purchase new equipment just like Nicholas' overhead lift system.

Endowment Fund

Each year the Endowment Fund provides funding to assist with the administration and overhead cost of the **Children's Ability Fund** ensuring that all donations received are used to purchase equipment to enhance the lives of people with disabilities.

Every year a percentage of all bequests are added to the Endowment Fund for continued growth and continuity. This year we are grateful to have received funds from:

Estate of Mr. George Windsor
 Estate of Marie Jeanne Randon
 And disbursements from the Ralph Buttner and Hughes Trust Funds

In Memory of

Several people made a donation in honor of a loved one. At a time when they were remembering someone very dear to them, they also thought of others and extended their hand in support of those in need. This year we received donations in memory of:

Brian Shute
 Carol Hughes
 Elsa Marie Lodewyk *
 Grace Manners
 Jack Lennon
 Olive Hardstaff
 Jim Zazula
 Kenneth Richards
 Lyle Priest
 Maynard (Bud) Corbett
 Mrs. Lillian Harrison
 Mrs. Louetta Alice Rudnisky
 Murial Knowlton
 Raymond Harry Beath
 Shirley Walker
 Stan Newlin
 Terry Wooldridge

Thanks to the decision to honour a life well lived, the **Children's Ability Fund**, in turn, will be there to help others live better too.

Remembering
Elsa Lodewyk (1992 - 2011)



The **Children's Ability Fund** was able to have played a small role in Elsa's independence by providing various pieces of equipment including an overhead lift, computer assistive devices and a seating chair. Numerous gifts from family and loved ones have been received in Elsa's name and with these generous donations Elsa has once again touched the lives of others who need our help.

Elsa came into this world with many challenges, limitations and needs that were wonderfully met by the people God sent into her life. She reflected love, joy, peace patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Elsa touched the lives of many family members, care givers and teachers who helped look after her.

(from Elsa's memorial)

*We give this gift in recognition of the care and compassion provided to our daughter for over 18 years by Dr. Lyle McGonogle and his staff. We also want to recognize that Elsa and our family have been recipients of equipment from the **Children's Ability Fund** and want to again thank you for funding you provided for Elsa.*

Sid and Patricia



Shining Stars

It's easy to be a **Children's Ability Fund** Shining Star and to help make things a little brighter for someone with a disability. Participants encourage customers, friends, students and colleagues to help give *the gift of a voice, mobility and independence!*

Children's Ability Fund Shining Stars have sold stars at their businesses, hosted garage sales, sold 50/50's and raised funds through their own community initiatives. These are ordinary people who have chosen to do something extraordinary. Reach for the Stars - you have the ability. Here are the people that shone brightly this year:

Second Cup



Vinay Aggarwal and his team from the Second Cup (Calgary Trail) have been proud supporters of the **Children's Ability Fund** for many years.

In addition to selling "stars" in his stores, Vinay is an avid supporter of the golf tournament and bowling event and this year he added the Silver Skate Festival – donating "hot apple cider" to all who braved the blustery weather.

Silent River Kung Fu

The **Silent River Benevolent Foundation** has carefully selected a group of deserving charities and initiatives (near & far) to work toward making the world a better place for children. Under the leadership of Master Jeff Brinker, the Silent River Kung Fu students and teachers are just as dedicated to making a difference in the world as they are to the discipline and hard work it takes to succeed in the Martial Arts.

At the Annual Black Belt Promotion Ceremony and Chinese New Year Banquet on February 5, 2011 we were honored to receive another donation of \$3,000 for the third consecutive year.

Thank-you Master Brinker, the Silent River Kung Fu Society and their Benevolent Foundation – we really appreciate your support!

In recognition of the community involvement we were delighted to nominate Silent River Benevolent Foundation for the **AAFRE Celebrate Excellence Awards** for 2011

Silver Skate Festival

Although it was a blustery weekend, over 30,000 people attended the Silver Skate Festival in February 2011 enjoying a host of free, fun filled, family activities.

The **Children's Ability Fund** is proud to be the charity of choice for the Silver Skate Festival. Last year the Festival raised donations through the sales of 50/50 tickets and commemorative "lights" to help brighten the winter night.



Walmart and the Children's Ability Fund team up for people with disabilities

The **Children's Ability Fund's** 2nd annual Walmart Media Wheelchair Challenge and Fundraiser was a great success.

Media personalities accepted the challenge and experienced what it might be like and how difficult it is to get around if you have a disability – especially without appropriate equipment. They were given a basic manual wheelchair, a basket and grocery list and asked to retrieve the items within a half hour.

"Our goal was to demonstrate what it's like to have a disability and how specialized equipment can increase the mobility and independence of persons with disabilities." says Carol Russ, Executive Director of the **Children's Ability Fund**. "Unfortunately, equipment that offers a little more freedom often comes with a large price tag. This is where the **Children's Ability Fund** can help, children to senior citizens – although over 80% of our clients are children, we do not discriminate by age or disability."

The Walmart South Common store has been very generous! They hosted a BBQ and sold stars after the media challenge to help raise funds for the charity. In addition they recruited the support of other stores around the city and raised the goal of \$10,000!

Big thanks to the media, **Children's Ability Fund** friends and wonderful Walmart managers, charity committee and associates for ensuring another successful event.

Fundraising Special Events



*Bowl for Children
May 2011*

The 13th Annual JOE FM Bowl for Children was another great success - raising just over \$19,000 for the **Children's Ability Fund**. This event continues to thrive because of the on-going support of our sponsors, celebrity team captains, and participants who go above and beyond to raise pledges for the charity.

The winners of this year event were:

5th place: Gillian from Team Portia's Mixed Nuts

4th place: Fatima from ATB Financial

3rd place: Richard from Billy's Stars

2nd place: Robin from Import Tools

1st place: Marty from Team KRP, winning a 40" Panasonic LCD TV.

The **Children's Ability Fund** would like to thank all of our supporters and our major sponsors: JOE FM, Ed's Rec Room, West Edmonton Mall, Double Diamond Electronics and Ben Moss!

We would also like to thank the local celebrities who showed off their bowling skills and captained up our teams: Eskimos Corbin Sharun; Dakota House (North of 60); Erin Isfeld, Sonia Sunger & Joel Gotlib from CTV; Rachel Acton, Abgelica Gawronski & Brad Kelley from Shaw TV; Canadian Women's Hockey Team Goalie Shannon Szabados & Canadian Womens Sit Volleyball team member - Jolan Brunner; JOE FM Team Gary James, J'Lyn Nye, Shannon Fox, Derek Allen and Rhubarb Jones; the Edmonton Energy Cheer Team and the ENTIRE Edmonton Energy Basketball team lead by Coach Harker with Captain Lee Scruggs, Benson Callier, Casey Crawford and Troy Gottselig, Andrew 'AGP' Parker, Quinnel 'Q' Brown and Curtis Nash & Blaine LaBranche, Rashaun Broadus and William Broadus.

So much fun for such a great cause! Looking forward to next year!

Children's Ability Fund special fundraising projects give us a unique opportunity to raise money in a fun and exciting environment. Although these events are not huge revenue earners, they help "friend raise" and create opportunities to pitch stories to the media about the event and our organization. We receive substantial coverage, both promotional and newsworthy, as well as recruit new donors along the way.



Tee Fore Two Golf Tournament

The weather was fabulous and our friends were many as we gathered on August 25th at Redtail Landing Golf Club for the **8th Annual Dynateam Realty Tee Fore Two Golf Tournament** in support of the **Children's Ability Fund**.

Over 100 golfers and 20 volunteers enjoyed the sunshine and company for a great cause. All together, almost \$15,000 was raised for our group at this event.

We were thrilled with the support of this tournament from the community. CTV, CHED and the Edmonton Journal returned as our major media sponsors - big thanks to Daryl McIntyre from CTV who did an extraordinary job as our emcee. Also returning as hole sponsors were Walmart, KRP, NAPOS, Reid Built Homes, Dorward & Company, Shopper's Home Health Care, ACT, RBC Investments, ECO Medical, McDonald's, OPM Asian Bistro, Second Cup, River Valley Beverage and Parker Dubrule and new this year was Carton Land Inc.

The **Children's Ability Fund** is very fortunate to have Jack Broadfoot, President of Dynateam Realty as a stalwart supporter of our organization. This event exists because of his belief and commitment to what we do—increase the independence of people with disabilities in our communities!



A very special thank you to Michael Dugan who spoke about his own experience with the **Children's Ability Fund** and how our support meant so much to his family. His love for his young daughter, Portia, and gratitude for our support, brought many to tears. No one could have expressed the importance of what we do better.

Thank you to everyone who joined us this year—we look forward to seeing you all on the greens at next year's event.

Volunteers

Volunteer Recognition and Appreciation

We like to recognize those individuals who so generously donate their time and energy to help us reach our goals. Over the past year the following individuals reached some milestones in volunteer commitment.

GOLD Star 100+ Hours

Helen Banks

Wally Ostafichuck

SILVER Star 50+ Hours

Rhoda Lupaschuk

BRONZE Star 25 + hours

Linnie Tse

Deb Dietz

Laura Loiselle

Ray Loiselle

George Key

Volunteer Projects

This year we set a new record of 1,199 volunteer hours (that equals the value of a part time person for a whole year). We are truly grateful to the many individuals who donate hours of their precious time to help us raise money and awareness.

Our largest volunteer fundraising projects in terms of man hours worked were:

Casino	258 hours
Edm Capitals 50/50 draws	230 hours
ACT Gold Brick	150 hours
Silver Skate Festival	118 hours
Vegreville 50/50 draws	109 hours
Tee Fore Two Golf	107 hours
Board Meetings +	75 hours

We couldn't do what we do without the help of our dedicated volunteers **THANK YOU ALL !**

Gerry Herman Volunteer of the Year Award

Each year we recognize special individuals who have made a significant contribution to the **Children's Ability Fund** through their volunteerism and this year we are delighted to acknowledge **Jim Banks**.

As founder and President of Banks-Hill System Ltd we first met Jim as our next door business neighbor. As a successful business man he had the experience and expertise that was needed for the **Children's Ability Fund** and upon his retirement we were happy to persuade Jim to join the Board of Directors (2004).

Since then Jim has volunteered at just about every event the **Children's Ability Fund** has been a part of, including selling 50/50 tickets at a variety of events, manning a hole at the golf tournament, working the bank at a casino, presenting trophies at the Bowling event and representing the Board at various events. Not only has he amassed over 250 volunteer hours he has also brought his lovely wife Helen to volunteer on many occasions.

In addition, Jim has been very active on the Board of Directors, serving on a number of committee's and as the

Chairman for four years. Jim has also been responsible for recruiting several new members to the Board.

When asked why he volunteers Jim responds, "I want to contribute to my community in a meaningful way by donating my time to a worthwhile charity that is making a significant difference."

Jim is quick to recognize the contribution others make . . . "The most impactful thing I have experienced through my involvement with the **Children's Ability Fund** is working with the dedicated staff and volunteers, knowing that their commitment will continue the good work of the organization . . .", while downplaying the role he has played in the growth of the charity.

Jim is a proud volunteer and supporter of the **Children's Ability Fund**. He can be seen sporting CAF jackets, vests, shirts, and bags on many continents, always happy to promote our programs wherever he may be.

The **Children's Ability Fund** is indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated and outstanding volunteer and we are delighted to name Jim Banks the 2011 Gerry Herman Volunteer of the Year.



Jim Banks

Financial

Children's Ability Fund Statement of Financial Position As of June 30

	2011	2010
ASSETS		
Current Assets	149,862	398,317
Investments	3,811,539	3,492,787
Capital Assets (Net)	1,395	673
	<u>3,962,796</u>	<u>3,891,777</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	116,136	93,730
EQUITY		
Beckett Trust	2,147,440	2,147,440
Endowment Fund	1,200,102	1,177,248
Bursary Fund	78,880	78,850
General Fund	420,238	394,509
	<u>3,962,796</u>	<u>3,891,777</u>

Children's Ability Fund Statement of Operations For the Year Ended June 30

	2011	2010
REVENUE		
Estates & Legacies	10,159	228,980
Interest & Royalties	257,049	161,431
Donations	75,147	98,080
Fundraising Projects	71,514	66,420
Realized Gain (Loss) on Investments	94,017	51,319
Gaming	69,955	44,636
	<u>577,841</u>	<u>650,866</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Administration	182,557	174,484
Fundraising Projects	38,955	45,157
Programs & Public Awareness	29,448	26,077
Campaign Costs	9,875	14,919
GST	2,320	2,528
	<u>263,155</u>	<u>263,165</u>
DONATIONS Client Care		
Individual Client Requests	155,604	119,630
Vehicle Modifications	55,000	0
Groups & Group Programs	25,469	57,737
Barrier Free Playspace Project	25,000	25,000
Children's Ability Fund Bursary	5,000	3,000
	<u>266,073</u>	<u>205,367</u>
Surplus/Deficit	<u>48,613</u>	<u>182,334</u>

Children's Ability Fund - Financial Synopsis

Audited Financial Statements have been prepared by independent external auditors Kingston Ross Pasnak and are available for review.



**Children's
Ability Fund**
of the Northern
Alberta Crippled
Children's Foundation

Clifford & Mabel Becket Trust Fund

In 2000, the **Children's Ability Fund** received endowment proceeds of \$2,281,354 from the Becket Trust. This has been placed in an internally restricted fund for future use.

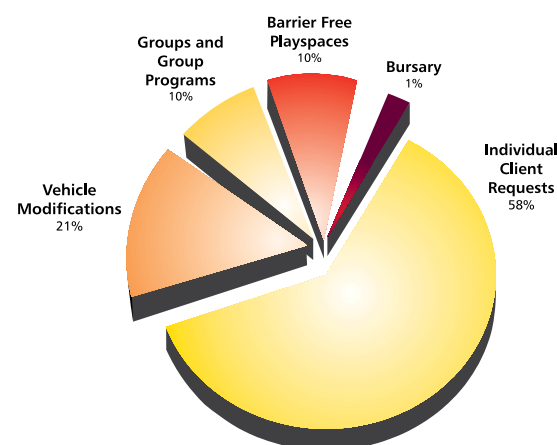
Endowment Fund

In 1987, the Board of Directors established the Endowment Fund to ensure that resources would be in place to meet the growing demand to provide the necessary funding for people with disabilities. Our goal is to reach \$10,000,000.

Bursary Fund

The Bursary Fund was established in 1998 to ensure a source of funds for the **Children's Ability Fund** Bursary awarded annually to a student(s) with a disability entering the first year of a post secondary program.

Client Care Donations



To everyone at the Children's Ability Fund

From the bottom of our hearts - Thank you so much for funding the chair for our van for Sydnee. She is so happy to have a life again, going out ALL the time now. Shopping, visiting, birthday parties, school, movies ... and the list goes on. You also made it possible for us to get her involved with a team, so Sydnee is now on the mini's Northern Lights Wheelchair Basketball team !!!

You are angels
Kevin, Sheila, Sydnee & Owen

