



CAMP HEALTH, HOPE &  
HAPPINESS

# 2023 Annual Report

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## Who We Are

Camp Health, Hope & Happiness plays a vital and distinctive role in enriching our community and enhancing the lives of individuals with various types and levels of disabilities. Our specialized summer camp offerings for both children and adults with disabilities are designed to foster inclusion and remove the daily obstacles faced by persons with disabilities.

### Our Mission

Camp He Ho Ha advances the cause of independence and integration for children and adults living with physical and mental disabilities by providing adapted recreational programs designed to meet their special needs and interests.

# Presidents Report

2023 was another year that showed us that sometimes we need to break from tradition to continue serving our community. While we departed from the traditional week-long camps, campers had the opportunity to enjoy overnight camps for the weekend once again. We were thrilled to see campers return and bring their energy back to the grounds. In addition to in-person camp days, online camps continued to be offered; these programs helped keep campers connected to camp in a safe and accessible environment when they could not make it out to camp.

We had another successful fundraising year again. The camp community enthusiastically joined us as we ran two highly successful fundraisers this year—Shoot 4 Cause and Swing FORE Camp. 2023 was also the first year for Ride, Run and Roll, where we were joined by campers and their friends and family for a day of walking and rolling through the park, followed by lunch.

As with all years, this year presented a new set of challenges. Our sincere gratitude goes to Greg Nielsen, Executive Director. His ability to face new challenges and come up with solutions is unparalleled. Camp only works because of the dedication and tireless effort of all the wonderful employees. From camp coordinators, counselors, food service, housekeeping, maintenance, and administration, all of you are integral to camp's mission. On behalf of the board, we express our deepest and most sincere gratitude for all that you do.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the volunteers who make camp possible. Camp would not be the same without your dedication. To our donors, your ongoing support, enthusiasm, and generosity are vital to the success of Camp. Your contributions not only help us operate but also inspire and motivate us, reinforcing the purpose behind what we do.

Lastly, a special thank you to our campers. You are the driving force behind our efforts and a constant inspiration. We look forward to seeing many of you this summer and for many years to come!

Sincerely,

Holly DeBelser



Thank you to our incredible volunteers for your unwavering dedication and compassion to Camp Health, Hope & Happiness! Your collective efforts create a nurturing and joyous environment for our campers, enriching their lives and providing unforgettable experiences. Your tireless work and heartfelt commitment truly make a difference, and we are profoundly grateful for each and every one of you.



# Leadership

## Board of Directors

Holly DeBelser, President  
Evan Gallant, Vice President  
Susan LittleChilds, Treasurer  
Brian Hatfield, Director  
Don Nugent, Director  
Erin Bond, Director  
Lavern Bazin, Director  
Terry Hanlon, Director  
Gary Goetsch, Director

## Administration

Greg Nielsen, Executive Director  
Kelly French, Camp Coordinator  
Michael Bacon, Kitchen Manager  
Chris Sutherland, Maintenance  
Jason Chartrand, Maintenance  
Bobbie Olson, Rental Coordinator &  
Admin Assistant  
Lindsey McAulay, Fundraising &  
Special Event Coordinator

# What We Achieved

## Our Programs

The summer of 2023 was looking positive for our campers and our aching hearts that had been missing the He Ho Ha experience for so long.

We began our summer staff recruitment efforts in December by posting our available summer jobs at over 25 post-secondary institutions across Canada. The response to the employment offers was slower than we had hoped but with great effort we secured a small summer staff team that would enable us to host a reduced capacity (60% of regular) version of our programs but overnight programs would still be a GO!

Alongside this, we opened registration in early February. Camper enrolments came in strong with 790 enrolment requests for the spots that we could offer. The first arrival of campers was scheduled, and we could feel the energy building with our campers as they anticipated the return to overnight camps at He Ho Ha.

To our surprise, 3 days before our summer staff team was scheduled to arrive at Camp He Ho Ha to commence training, the catering company that had committed to providing our meal services for our staff, campers, and aides for the summer of 2024 announced that they were cancelling our contract and would not provide their services for us. We had so many people scheduled to attend our programs but no way to feed them.

We scrambled, posting jobs for cooks and kitchen assistants, calling everyone that we knew, emailed our campers to harvest any food providers or cooks that could come from that circle of influence as well, but alas we were forced to lay-off all of the summer staff (even before their arrival) and cancel the summer camp programs as we knew them.

But we rallied in the only way we knew how. We kept 4 of our summer staff team and converted our programs into a continuation of the day camp and virtual camp programs that we had trialed in 2022. This time, we were able to offer 1 day camp for each of the 10 camps that we would normally host. These were a raging success! We kicked off the season with a Canada Day celebration on July 1st with our senior campers, then continued to the SPACE, the Wild West, a carnival, the Olympics, the jungle and more! The greatest benefit that came from our day camp programs was the shared attendance between the camper and a caregiver. The caregivers were able to witness the joy in the campers as they got to show-off their summer retreat to their loved one.

Kelly French

Camp Coordinator



## Our Impact in Numbers

**479**

**Campers**

We were thrilled to offer Day Camps to 479 campers in 2023! Campers had the opportunity to explore new activities, make friends,, and create unforgettable memories in a supportive and fun environment.

We are overjoyed to have raised \$176,299.06 through grants and fundraising events, a testament to the incredible support and generosity or our community.

**\$176,299.06**

**Raised in Funds**

**45**

**Members**

We are delighted to have 45 dedicated members in our organization, each contributing uniquely to our collective success and impact.

## Fundraising Report

It is with immense gratitude that we reflect on the success of our fundraising efforts over the past year. Your amazing support has enabled us to surpass our goals and continue our mission. Here is a brief overview of our key fundraising activities and the significant impact your contributions have made.

### Annual Fundraising Events

1. **Shoot 4 Cause** Our signature Archery event drew an enthusiastic crowd, uniting community members for a weekend of spirited competition and camaraderie. Thanks to your participation and generosity, we raised a remarkable total of \$77,580.40. These funds are crucial in supporting our ongoing programs and initiatives.
2. **Run, Ride & Roll** This dynamic event, which invites participants to run, bike, or roll, captured the community's spirit and dedication. Although smaller in scale, the passion and commitment shone through, helping us raise \$6,643.30. Every dollar contributes significantly to our cause, helping us reach our objectives.
3. **Swing Fore Camp** The golf enthusiasts among our supporters gathered for the much-anticipated Swing Fore Camp Charity Golf Tournament. This event not only provided a day of exceptional golfing but also raised an impressive \$82,862.36, our highest of the year. This tremendous support directly enhances the quality and reach of our programs.

### Grants

In addition to event-based fundraising, we were fortunate to receive \$9,213.00 in grants from various philanthropic organizations. These funds are instrumental in filling gaps where event funding does not fully meet the needs, allowing us to maintain and expand our services.

### Overall Impact

Combining our energetic fundraising events with the strategic use of grants, we raised a total of \$176,299.06 this year. Each event not only raises funds but also awareness and community spirit around our cause. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all participants, donors, volunteers, and sponsors. Without your support, none of this would be possible.

As we look ahead, we are inspired to continue our efforts and hope for your ongoing support. Together, we can make a difference and positively impact the lives we strive to support.

# DONORS

\$50,000 +

Eileen Labonte  
Bean Family Foundation  
Ingrid Bean

\$25,000 +

Brenda Wyne

\$10,000 +

Estate of Richard William Wirtanen Alter Ego  
Trust

ACT/UCT #1017 Edmonton South  
Arnold Rumbold  
Automated Aquatics  
Camp Health, Hope & Happiness  
Darrel & Edith Martin Family Fund  
Inter Pipeline  
James & Jeanie Brown Foundation  
Joan & Victor Nielen  
Janet Assinger  
Realtor Community Fundation

\$5000 +

ACT/UCT #1016 Edmonton  
Canada Summer Jobs  
Estate of Marjorie Zimmer  
Frank J Flaman Foundation  
Terry & Linda Hanlon  
Kiwans Club of Edmonton Oil Capitol  
Linda & Patrick KlemParkland County  
Royal Purple #22 Edmonton  
Arnold & Grace Rumbold  
Stony Plain Lions Club  
St. Andrews United Church-thrift shop



## \$1000+

A & K Tax Tyme Ltd  
A Clark Roofing & siding LP  
Alberta & NWT Building & Construction  
Trade Council  
Anonymous  
Arctic Fire Enterprises  
ATCO EPIC  
Battery World  
Bear Scare Ltd  
Dale & Joanne Boddy  
BPO Elks Lodge #11 Edmonton  
BPO Elks Lodge #216 Acme  
Camrose Royal Purple #49  
Leanne Chartrand  
CIBC Children's Foundation  
Crystal Glass Canada Ltd  
Cybertech Automation  
Tim Downey  
Drayton Valley Lions Club  
Bill & Trish Elliot  
Brenda Evjen  
Sylvia Ewashko  
Excell Transmission Ltd  
Faulkner Family Fund  
Fix It Right Plumbing & Heating  
Grand Centre Lions Club  
Bodil Hall  
Brian Hatfield  
Charlene Hinkel  
Holy Family Columbus Club  
Doreen & Nelson Hunt  
Jasper Lions Cub  
Kaewest Concrete Construction Inc  
Kichton Construction LP  
LC Works  
Colin Lea  
Dan LeGrandeur  
Estate of Lillian McDermont  
LiUNA! Labourers' Organizing Fund  
Melissa Loerke  
Lykal Holdings Ltd  
Martin Deerline

Caleb Mathis  
Mayer Holdings Ltd  
Norman & Betty Mayer  
Hugh & Madge McColl Camp Fund  
Morinville Lions Club  
Roy Moss  
NFP Canada Corp  
Greg Nielsen  
NorCan Electrical Ltd  
Olds Lions Club  
Overdrive Heavyduty Services Ltd  
Hilde Peterson  
Ponoka Lions Club  
RCM Transport Ltd  
Rimbey Lions Club  
Barbara & James Robinson  
Round Table Transportation Services Ltd  
Royal Canadian Legion #253 Grimshaw  
Royal Canadian Legion #256 Ladies AUX  
Royal Canadian Legion #97 Westlock  
Royal Purple #125 Vegreville  
Ryley Lions Club  
Samies I.O.O.B  
Leslie Smith  
Spruce Grove Lions Club  
St Albert Breakfast Lions Club  
St Albert Host Lions Club  
Sturgeon Rewind Ltd  
Sunrise Fund  
Chris Sutherland  
Brenda Tolen  
George Van De Walle  
Vancouver Foundation-Keith Lord Sport  
Foundation  
Veteran & District Lions Club  
Mike Walsh  
Dave Westwell  
Wild Sheep Foundation  
Bev Wittmack  
Isaac & Betty Yeung



# 6 Ways to Join the Cause

1

Sponsor a Camp He Ho Ha fundraising event and get exposure to our network

2

Become a member and vote in our AGM and receive the latest news on Camp through our quarterly newsletter.

3

Register as a participant in one of our fundraising events and collect donations from your

4

Donate to Camp. You can give a one-time gift or a monthly donation to make a difference in the lives of our campers.

5

Book your next meeting, gathering, or retreat at Camp He Ho Ha and experience our amazing service.

6

Follow and chat with us on all our social media. Find @camphehoha on Facebook



**Donna Ritter**, Family member

*"Camp He Ho Ha is the only time Sam has ever been away from our family. It is the only place where we know he is safe, where his needs will be met and he will be treated with kindness and respect. It is the only place where I know he can go and still feel purpose and independence, because he will be supported to achieve this, just like he is supported in this at home."*

## **CAMP HE HO HA RENTAL PROGRAM**

With summer just around the corner, and our summer camps for individuals with special needs about to begin, we pause to consider the success of the 2023 Camp Health, Hope & Happiness rental program.

There is no denying the past few years have been difficult for everyone including Camp He Ho Ha and the facility rental program. Covid and increased expenses have certainly taken a toll but we are happy to report groups are returning, enabling them to enjoy their hobbies and fun social activities. Thankfully, it includes a stay at He Ho Ha.

Camp was pleased to host 1,666 rental guests which in turn added just shy of \$436,000 of rental revenue to the bank account.

Customer service is a top priority .... our goal is to ensure all guests are well cared for and feel that Camp is their home away from home. Concerns are rare, taken seriously and addressed as quickly as possible.

Compliments are graciously accepted and relayed to the appropriate staff.

Many of the groups accessing the facility are long-time supporters; some attending for 30 plus years. Genuinely good friends of Camp.

Regardless of the length of the stay, or the number of people attending, the Camp He Ho Ha team works hard to ensure each guest feels special and that the doors to Camp Health, Hope & Happiness are always wide open to friends, both old and new.

Wishing you Health, Hope & Happiness  
Bobbi

# Our Financials

## Treasurer Report

The most significant change in fiscal 2023 was that we were able to welcome campers back for overnight weekend camps. It was wonderful to continue serving our community and see more campers than we have been able to in prior years.

Camp ends 2023 in a strong cash position of \$4.35 million, with a minimal amount of payables of \$133 thousand. However, it is important to note that the aging infrastructure at camp requires upgrading, and subsequent to year-end, the board has restricted more cash for large upcoming capital projects.

During 2023, seven weekend camps were offered to campers free of charge, resulting in no camper revenue for the current year. Camp was able to offer camps free of charge due to strong fiscal stewardship in prior years; we are forever grateful to have weathered the storm and come out strong.

Total revenue decreased by just shy of \$750 thousand in 2023. The decrease is due to a very strong fundraising year in fiscal 2022; however, revenue is consistent with normal fundraising years.

During the year, we had an increase in expenses of just under \$300 thousand. This is mainly due to funds needed to operate the weekend camps (including salaries and wages) and unavoidable repairs and maintenance. Due to the increase in expenses, the camp ended the year with an operating deficit of \$230 thousand.

Overall, we are thrilled to have been able to welcome campers back for overnight camps and fulfill our mission of providing safe and rewarding recreational opportunities to children and adults with physical and mental disabilities. We are grateful to be in a strong cash position that continues to allow us to make camp accessible to so many people.

Susan LittleChilds

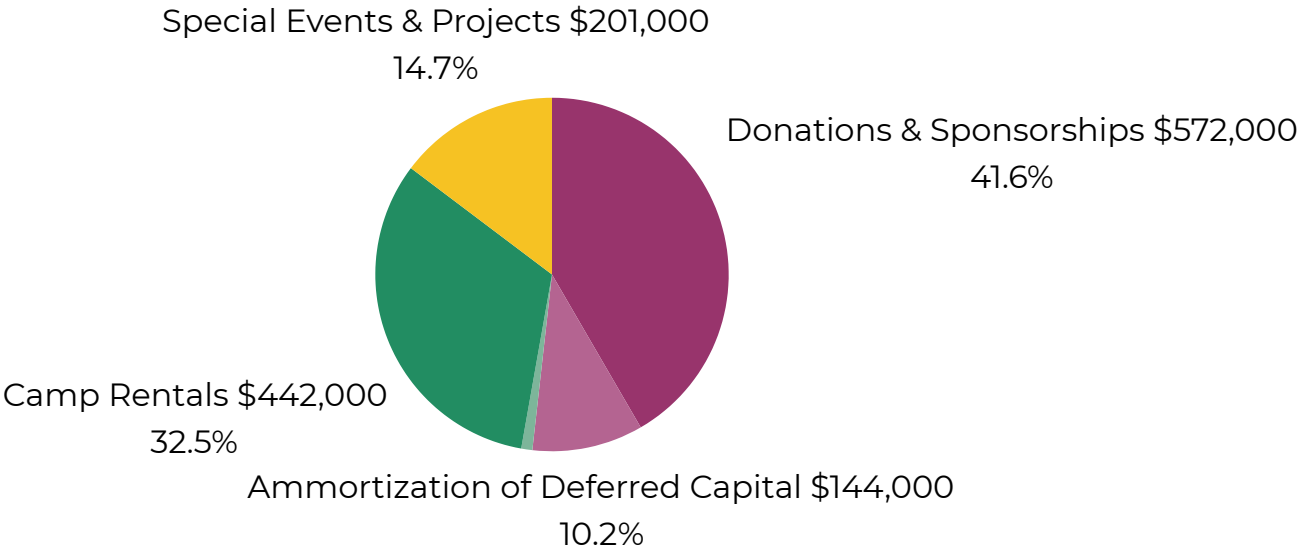
Treasurer



# Financial Report

## Revenues

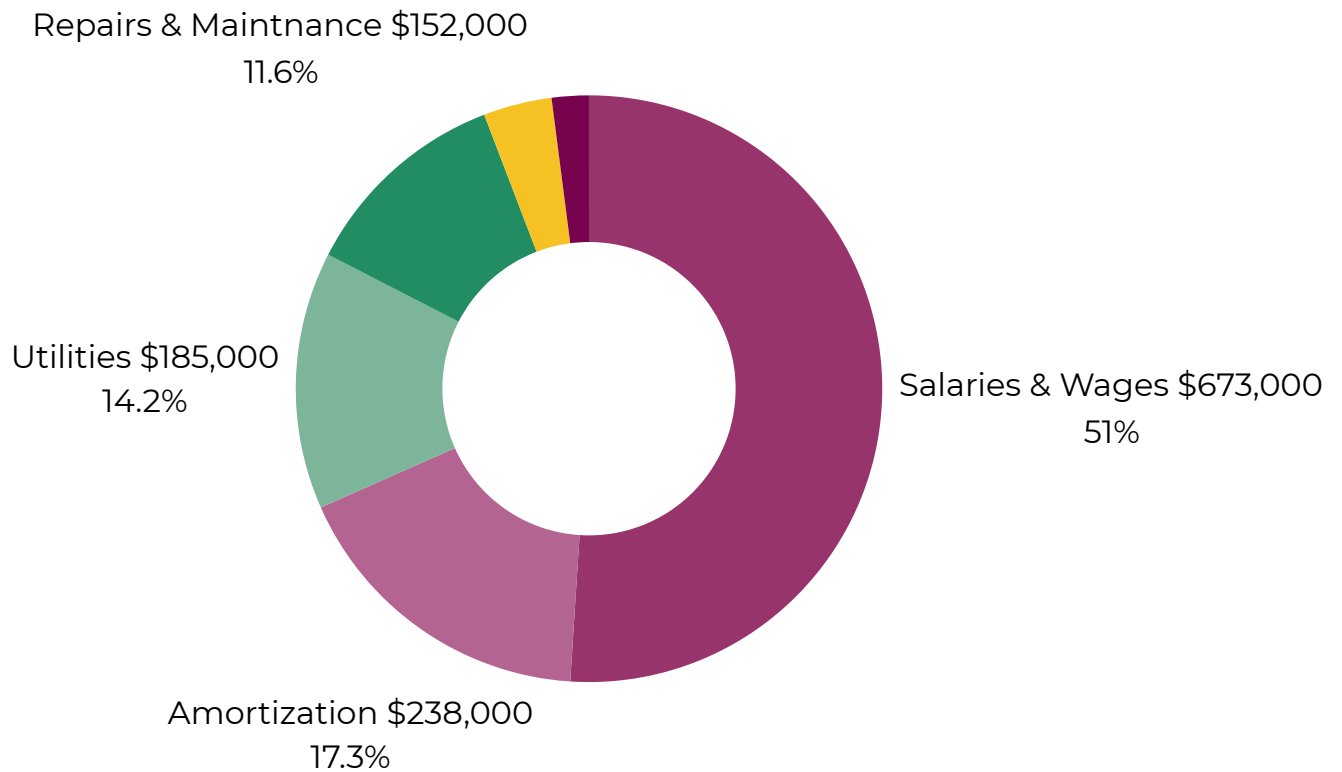
- Donations & S...
- Ammortizatio...
- Government A...
- Camp Rentals...
- Special Events...



**Total Revenue: \$1,379,604**

# Expenses

- Salaries & Wages \$673,000
- Amortization \$238,000
- Utilities \$185,000
- Repairs & Maintnance \$152,0...
- Insurance & Licenses \$49,000
- Office Administration \$26,000



**Total Expenses: \$1,609,500**

# Directors Report

A snapshot of 2023 at Camp He Ho Ha – a year of achievements, financial challenges, generosity, and change!

It was an interesting year as the organization found itself up against a question of how to sustain its funding and maintain its programs amidst a challenging labor market and rising costs.

With inflation affecting every Alberta household it was evident that securing donor dollars would present a challenging puzzle to solve. Camp He Ho Ha did see a decrease in revenues while the costs of maintaining our facility and operating our programs rose.

The 2023 summer camps were operated as day programs due to staffing shortages. Throughout July and August Camp He Ho Ha welcomed over 125 campers to enjoy the place they call home. These campers truly are the fuel that keeps the entire staff team motivated through challenging times. We continue to strive to find ways to make a difference in their lives.

None of this would be possible without the commitment and generosity of many people. From our board members who have guided the organization through its successes and challenges...to our enthusiastic volunteers for generously giving of their time...to our unwavering staff for their unparalleled effort and dedication and to our happy campers for their inspiration!

We thank our donors. Without their encouragement and generosity to Camp he Ho Ha, we could not accomplish what we have...and will...together.

We look forward to embracing the challenges that lie ahead to ensure the legacy of Camp Health, Hope & Happiness on Lake Isle continues to change lives for individuals with disabilities in Alberta.

Greg Nielsen

Executive Director





# Contact Us

For further information, please reach out to us at [info@camphehoha.com](mailto:info@camphehoha.com).

## Camp He Ho Ha

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