

Easter Seals Alberta



REPORT TO THE
COMMUNITY

2019

Our Vision and Mission

Vision

Inspiring Potential. Building Community. Enriching Lives.

Mission

To provide services that foster inclusion, independence and recreation for individuals with disabilities and medical conditions.





Easter Seals Alberta

Inspiring Potential. Building Community. Enriching Lives.

We pride ourselves in putting philanthropic dollars to good work. With your support, we can provide ongoing services to Albertans living with disabilities and medical conditions. We strive to ensure that the resources they need for an independent and full life are available. We make this possible with our three main supports:

Easter Seals Alberta's Camp Horizon provides subsidized five-day summer camps and respite weekends for individuals with disabilities and medical conditions.

Accessibility Supports provides critically needed equipment and support to those who qualify both physically and financially. This includes Equipment and Support Services (ESS), our home automation program, the disability travel card, the Give a Kid a Lift program, and the Phyllis Davidson Easter Seals Scholarship.

Easter Seals McQueen Home, a self-governed, 24-hour personal care residence in Edmonton for people with disabilities looking to achieve more independence, greater inclusion into the community and access to employment, education and recreation.

Message from the Board President and CEO

We are thrilled to be able to share with you the highlights of another amazing year here at Easter Seals Alberta.

Easter Seals Alberta's McQueen Home and Camp Horizon both hosted their first ever open houses! We gave you the opportunity to come by, visit with the staff and clients, do some fun activities and enjoy a great meal. We had so much response that this year, we will be hosting another open house at each location!

We were so thrilled to be part of some exceptional weddings hosted at Easter Seals Alberta's Camp Horizon. We can't wait to see what we can be a part of in 2020.

Easter Seals Alberta had another extremely successful event season. We hosted two golf tournaments on warm and sunny days, breaking records at the Easter Seals Kevin Karius Celebrity Golf Classic and confirming Century 21 Foothills Real Estate as the presenting sponsor at the JC Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament for the next three years!

We also introduced Brunch Reinvented with Jann Arden! The event was a hit, we sold out in just under 6 weeks and were proudly able to say that 95% of the ticket price went directly to the cause. Huge thanks to Jann Arden and Dinner with Julie for taking part! Stay tuned, we have some other events coming in 2020.

Our three-year strategic plan is well under way and we are eager to continue to provide assistance and smiles to Albertans living with disabilities and medical conditions.

Demand continues to exceed capacity for our Accessibility Supports program. In 2018, we had 70 people on our wait list, and in 2019 we ended the year with 94 individuals on our wait list, this resulted in an 34% increase in demand.

We also increased our social engagement by over 40%! You can stay in the loop with us too by following us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

We are incredibly optimistic about what 2020 has in store for Easter Seals Alberta. We will be refreshing our mission and values to create an aligned and focused provincial approach to providing services for Albertans with disabilities and medical conditions. Easter Seals Alberta has a strong foundation of partnerships within the community and we look forward to continuing to grow these partnerships and the shared commitment to those we serve. The organization has had a reputation for assisting individuals with disabilities for almost 70 years and with our invigorated team at the reins, we are starting 2020 with success!



Paula Telfer
CEO



Dan McPhee
President of the
Board of Directors

Welcome Paula!



**Introducing Paula Telfer,
Easter Seals Alberta's new CEO!**

Paula is a proven leader with over 17 years of senior management experience. Throughout her career, she has directed programs and

initiatives designed to address the needs of vulnerable people in a multitude of different social sectors. Her resume includes work with street outreach, youth homelessness, family and child protection and much more. She was the 2015 recipient of the FCSSAA Award for innovative programming and has achieved her certification in Strategic Leadership. This past year, Paula brought her passion and commitment to Camp Horizon as Director of Operations. She is a believer in building collaborative community relationships as well as developing strong and sustainable connections with our donors and clientele. She looks forward to the opportunity to increase the visibility and impact of Easter Seals Alberta in the province. Welcome to the team Paula! We look forward to watching Easter Seals Alberta flourish under your leadership!

Easter Seals Alberta's Board of Directors

BOARD PRESIDENT

Dan McPhee

Retired Engineer, Shell Canada

TREASURER

Dale Briske, CPA

Retired, Telus

Bradley Wamboldt

Engineer, Suncor Energy

Vineeta Maguire

Vice President, Encana

George McConechy

Senior Wealth Advisor,
Raymond James

Debbie Couch

Leader, Total Rewards,
ATB Financial

Nancy Beauchemin, CPA

Accountant, Partner, SVS
Group

Susan Anderson

Owner/Operator
Show Horse Facility

Stay Connected!



[Easter Seals Alberta](https://www.facebook.com/EasterSealsAlberta)



[@eastersealsab](https://www.instagram.com/eastersealsab)



[@eastersealsAB](https://twitter.com/eastersealsAB)

Easter Seals Alberta Outcomes

723 Volunteers province wide

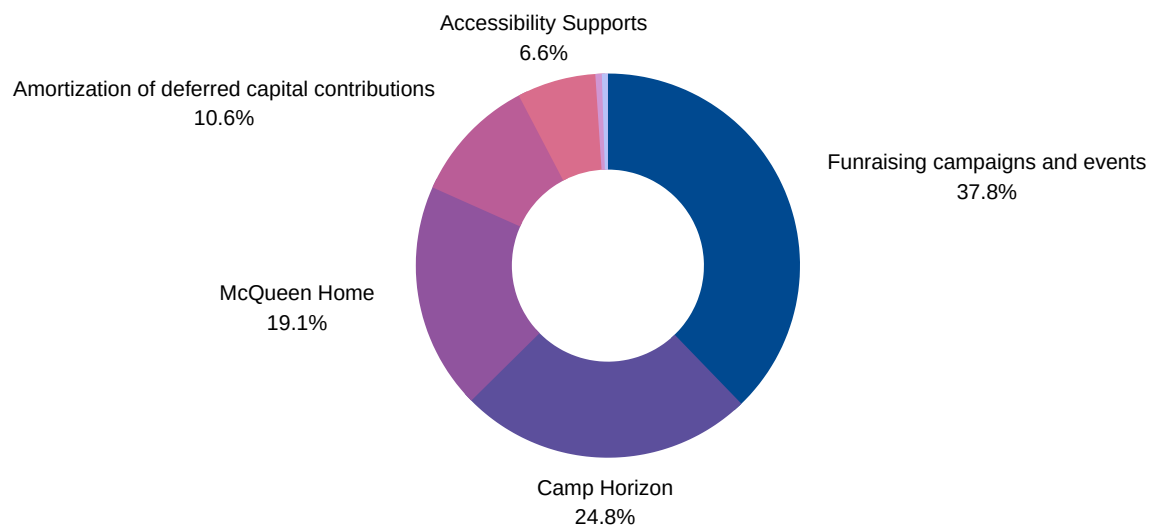
1,279 Clients served in total

1,142 Clients served from AB

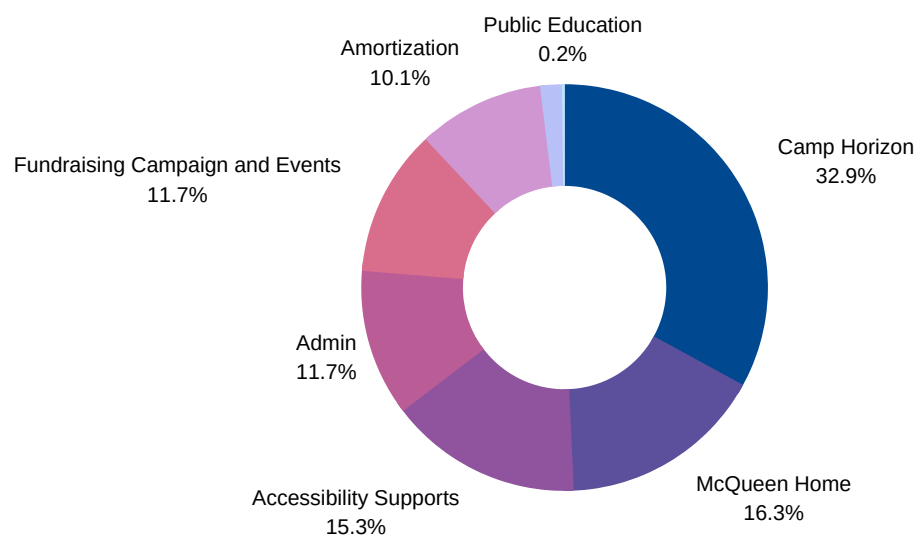
137 Clients served from across Canada and the USA

29 Partnerships and collaborations with external organizations

REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



Accessibility Supports

Accessibility Supports aims to provide critically needed equipment and support to enable Albertans to remain independent and active members of their community. This includes the Equipment and Support Services, Home Automation, Phyllis Davidson Easter Seals Scholarship, Disability Travel Card and the Give a Kid a Lift program.



Meet Shailynn

Phyllis Davidson Easter Seals Scholarship Recipient

The Phyllis Davidson Easter Seals Scholarship offers post-secondary academic scholarships to students living with physical disabilities that require a mobility aid (wheelchair, scooter, crutches, etc). Created in loving memory of Phyllis Davidson, these scholarships help ease the financial burden of post-secondary schooling.

My name is Shailynn Taylor and I am your average 22-year-old woman. Aside from one major difference... Due to a genetic and degenerative disease called Spinal Muscular Atrophy I am permanently confined to a wheelchair. SMA is a condition which is often compared to ALS as it presents similarly but begins at birth, leading to its title of the number one genetic killer of children under two. Since SMA is degenerative, I initially lost the ability to walk at six years old, the ability to stand a few

years later and will slowly lose the abilities to eat, breath unassisted and eventually speak.

Having extreme physical limitations brought on by a life threatening disease, you learn to appreciate the help and supports that cross your path along the journey. Easter Seals Alberta is one of those supports that was introduced to me when I moved to Calgary to continue my education at Mount Royal University. Due to my condition I knew working while going to school would not be an option for me so I began to apply for scholarships, hoping they could reduce the need for me to put the additional strain of working on my body. I had heard of Easter Seals back home and knew they were a great resource and support for families living with complex medical conditions so I looked them up and discovered they offered the Phyllis Davidson Scholarship.

I applied and the next thing I knew it was September and I was heading into their office to be presented with my cheque. That scholarship nearly paid for my entire first semester and allowed me to spend those months focusing on my health and my education instead of stressing about finances. The past three years I have received this scholarship and been given the freedom to take care of myself, something Easter Seals does in all aspects of their work.

Whether it's scholarships, equipment, home renovation grants or time at the amazing Camp Horizon, Easter Seals allows individuals to experience normalcy in their lives. To forget their condition for a moment and know they're taken care of. They relieve stress and provide freedom. I am so grateful for the support of Easter Seals in my life and want to personally thank you for making the programs that make such an impact in my life possible.

-Shailynn



Meet Lorinda.

Accessibility Supports Recipient

When I was just 17-years old, I was camping with my sister and friends when a freak accident occurred, and a tree fell on our tent while we were trying to leave to seek shelter. The tree was large, and as a result, I was left pinned underneath, and I couldn't seem to move my legs to get out from underneath the tree. It was a dramatic night and honestly felt like I was in a horror movie as the lightning, thunder, and the storm continued to rage around us. After a few hours, I was able to be rescued and was air-lifted to the hospital where I was informed that I had broken my back and my spinal cord was severed which meant that I had lost the function of my legs and had become a paraplegic.

It was a hectic time while I was in the hospital there was so much going on; surgeries, rehabilitation, learning how to cope with being in a wheelchair, and the list went on and on. On top of everything, our family home was not accessible at all. There were stairs everywhere.

As the prospect of going home was getting close, my dad knew that we needed

help and he turned to Easter Seals Alberta, and we were able to formulate a plan to get me home from the hospital. They donated stair-lifts so I could get around in my home and be a little bit more mobile. While it was great and it allowed me to be at home, it didn't really give me the independence that I craved as a 17-year old. I still needed someone to help bring my wheelchair down to the level I was wanting to be on.

But, then we were told that Easter Seals was partnering with a local elevator company to provide an elevator in a family's home and that our family was the first recipient of the program and that we would be receiving an elevator! We were shocked, surprised and overwhelmed with too many emotions because having an elevator was the only solution for me to be independent in my home. The "Give a Kid a Lift" program started, and after five short weeks of renovations our house

was entirely wheelchair accessible meaning I could go up and down stairs and be on whatever level I wanted to be and could go out with friends and come home and not disturb my family! I was mostly free to roam my home, and it felt GREAT! We were overwhelmed with the support and still to this day I feel tears of gratitude when I think about how this elevator has helped me! It's so hard to go from running around your home to being stuck in a wheelchair the elevator truly impacted my life and allowed me to get my independence back. I feel so fortunate that my Dad connected with Easter Seals all those years ago, and I can truly say they have had such a positive impact on my life and my family's life. I am grateful beyond words for the difference you make in our community, in our city and in our country!

Thank you!



Easter Seals McQueen Home

Easter Seals Alberta's McQueen Home in Edmonton is a nine-bedroom home for individuals living with a disability, who, due to their high medical needs, would be unable to live independently without support. These individuals are able to connect and actively participate in their community, including; volunteering, attending courses, working part-time, and spending time with family and friends.

In 1975, McQueen Home founder, Ruth Peterson's vision was for her young son, Gerry, to have a place to call home in the community with other young adults with disabilities or medical conditions. This was a place for them to thrive and actively participate in their community.

Like any home, residents dine together, watch hockey, play board games, provide input on their home, and enjoy many summer barbecues. They are engaged and active members of their community. The home, funded through Alberta Health Services, Supporting Living, offers safety and security for individuals by providing 24/7 staffing, including an LPN and health care attendants. The disabilities and medical condition of the individuals varies and currently include Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis, Spina Bifida, and spinal cord injuries.

While staffing is provided through AHS, all capital purchases and improvements for the home are fundraised for and provided by generous Albertans.



Meet Chad.

McQueen Home Resident.



Chad is a long term resident of the Easter Seals Alberta's McQueen Home. He has been living at McQueen Home since 2010. In 1999, Chad was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). This did not stop him from working right away. Since he was diagnosed, he has had a fairly progressive decline in physical ability.

Chad has moved around all his life, when he arrived at McQueen Home, he said "It got to a point where it was nice and stable. There were no ups and downs, I wasn't in a place where I didn't know if I was going to have a house the next day. It's given me stability."

Without Easter Seals McQueen Home, Chad says "I would probably be living with a group of people where I really shouldn't be. More mental

problems and stuff like that. A house for physical disabilities was exactly what I needed."

McQueen Home is an ideal place to live for someone with a physical disability. As Chad says "They encourage you to get out and for people who don't have a lot of movement, that is a really important thing to encourage people to get out, do things, to expand their horizons."

At McQueen Home, if you're looking for independence, you can have that. If you need assistance, you can have that. It's a home – we really emphasize home – everything about this place says 'Home'."

McQueen Home has also had a strong impact on Chad's mental health, "It's really nice having all the people here come from different backgrounds with different thoughts. It encourages everyone to be able to look at something from another direction or alter their thinking to be able to interpret something."

He loves to live at the Easter Seals McQueen Home because it gives him independence to live the quality of life that he chooses for himself.

"I think part of it was when I talked to the other residents, when I talked to the house manager. Everyone talked about how this was a home."

You don't feel like you're in a care facility, you feel like you're at home."



Jen Learned to Drive!

One of our long term residents, Jen, was beyond thrilled to learn to drive once again with the use of adaptive hand controls. The McQueen Home manager, Cindy, came home one day to see Jen getting in her car and driving away. When we asked Cindy how she felt, the only words she could think of was "So proud. So extremely proud". Cindy and Jen had been talking about getting Jen back into a vehicle and driving for almost a year, but Jen was understandably apprehensive. This was a huge milestone for Jen and a big step towards gaining more independence for herself.

Jen is very active in her community and having the ability to drive will enable her to get to the Oilers games without relying on the Disabled Adult Transit Service (DATS).

We asked Jen how she felt now that she has the ability to drive once again,

"One word; Awesome!"

The excitement is in the air at McQueen Home as each of the residents strive to reach their individual goals in 2020!

Easter Seals Alberta's Camp Horizon

Easter Seals Alberta's Camp Horizon provides individuals with disabilities and medical conditions with life-changing outdoor camp experiences. Camp offers a unique opportunity for campers to build self-esteem and independence. Activities challenge their mind and body, while creating lasting friendships and life long memories.



LEAPing to New Heights!

A camper who participated in the LEAP program, sponsored by RBC, did his final presentation on wanting to be a part of Search and Rescue (SAR) - just like his dad. It is his dream to be on a SAR team and help the local community out. He spoke very highly of his dad and how he aspires to be like him. He plans to learn how to dog handle, read a map and compass, perform first aid in the back country, among many other hard skills. At camp, we did a mock demonstration of a real search call. The camper had to respond to the call, search for the missing person, provide first aid, and transport the person to safety. The camper came alive at the opportunity to practice SAR skills with camp staff and showed his passion for this dream during his extravaganza presentation. This camper is always going above and beyond to help staff at camp out in

any way he can. For 2 years now he has helped act in the fall haunted house. He also sometimes runs stations during all camp activities. Outside of camp he volunteers at the Calgary Stampede and other charity events. This camper is coming back again this summer for our Future Leaders (LEAP) program again and we cannot wait to see him shine!



Conquering Fears Together

One of our leadership counsellors, Rory, during his first full day of summer shared a very special moment with one of his campers, Liam. Liam was incredibly scared of heights and could not decide whether or not he wanted to attempt our high ropes course. He shared his fears with Rory who told him he was with him every step of the way and would help him the whole time. This put Liam at ease and he decided he would go for it! He made his way up to the high ropes course with Rory and they did the first few elements together. Soon Liam's fear turned into excitement and he began to make his way around the course at a pace Rory could not keep up with. On the top, and most challenging part of the high ropes course they sat down together with their legs dangling over the side. Liam thanked Rory for helping him conquer his fear and told Rory that he

wished his parents could see him, as they would be so proud. Without hesitation Rory called the photographer and asked her to take some photos of him and Liam on the course. Rory then organized for the photos to be printed and gave them to Liam to show his parents. Liam was so grateful and so proud of his achievements and couldn't wait to show his parents.



The Joy of Christmas Camp

By: Camp Program Manager

Being part of our Christmas Camp, presented by ATB Financial, and witnessing the incredible impact it has on not only our campers but the staff and volunteers who attend, is so special. It is unlike anything else I have ever experienced. This camp brings so many people together who do everything in their power to create what can only be described as pure magic for our campers. I have never witnessed as much kindness and generosity in one place.

We even get a visit from Santa and Mrs Claus! When they enter the Main Lodge on Christmas morning it is like celebrities have arrived. The pure joy on campers faces when they meet Santa leaves not a dry eye in the room. At camp we talk a lot about ah-ha moments. A moment where you have to catch your breath because you have been hit with how incredible our campers are and how amazing what you are doing is. I have had many of these myself. Over Christmas Camp I see our volunteers having ah-ha moments at every

new activity they go to. Every year we ask the family or caregivers of our campers what they would like for Christmas and we try our best to get them something they really want. Last Christmas, one of our campers had asked for a silver watch with an elastic strap. This was weirdly difficult to find. Myself and my colleague, searched everywhere for a watch of this description and finally found one in Walmart for only \$13. We were so relieved! When Christmas Day came around and our camper had gone up to visit with Santa, chatted with him a little, had her photo taken with him and Mrs Claus, she sat back down and started going through her gifts. She was so pleased with everything she had got but then she got to the final gift in her bag. She pulled out the watch and she could not have been happier. She stood up, holding the watch above her head so everybody could see, and with tears in her eyes, she began to tell everyone about the wonderful gift she had got from Santa, because he must have read her letter and got her exactly what she wanted. She immediately asked the staff on her team to open it and she put it on right away. For the rest of the camp she told anybody who passed her all about her watch. This camper came back this summer, wearing her watch, just as pleased with it then as she had been on Christmas Day.

So much joy and magic is packed into this short camp. I am always so overwhelmed by the commitment, love, and energy people give to make Christmas Camp possible. Without people's kindness we wouldn't be able to do any of what we do. I am so grateful for everybody that makes it possible - from the volunteers to the individuals who adopt a camper to provide them with a gift. Anyone who contributes helps to ensure that our campers can spend their holidays at one of the most magical places that exists.



Easter Seals Alberta's Events

Helping people with disabilities and medical conditions is what we do at Easter Seals Alberta, but we can not do it alone. Each year we host several events to raise funds to support our mission. Take a look!



**Jann Arden and
Julie Van Rosendaal
(Dinner with Julie) after
Brunch Reinvented.**

We Care Ball

Presented by CO-OP Home Health Care

This year's classic was a record breaking success raising \$109,000, the highest amount in the tournaments 28-year history! Funds from the tournament will go towards supporting our McQueen Home here in Edmonton, our Accessibility Supports program, and Easter Seals Alberta's Camp Horizon.

Thank You to our Sponsors!



Kevin Karius Easter Seals Celebrity Golf Classic

Presented by Prism Flow Products

This year's classic was a record breaking success raising \$109,000, the highest amount in the tournaments 28-year history! Funds from the tournament will go towards supporting our McQueen Home here in Edmonton, our Accessibility Supports program, and Easter Seals Alberta's Camp Horizon.

Thank You to our Sponsors!



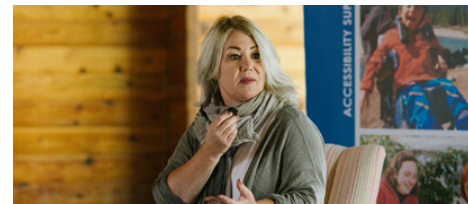
Brunch Reinvented with Jann Arden

Thank You to everyone who came out to camp to support the first ever, Brunch Reinvented with Jann Arden! A huge thank you to Jann Arden, Dinner with Julie, and everyone else who volunteered to help make this event possible. We raised \$23,895 with 95% of your donation going directly to support Albertans living with disabilities & medical conditions! Stay tuned to see what fun ideas will follow this brunch in 2020.

Thank You to our Sponsors!



CHRISTY P SWANBERG



JC Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament

Presented by Century 21 Foothills Real Estate

This year the tournament marked its 7th consecutive year with a record 110 golfers and over \$135,000 raised! The cumulative total contributions from this event now exceeds \$750,000! This success is all in thanks to your commitment to support the JC Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament and Easter Seals Alberta's Camp Horizon. Funds raised in 2019 will be used to send individuals with disabilities and medical conditions to camp.

Thank You to our Sponsors!

CENTURY 21.
Foothills Real Estate

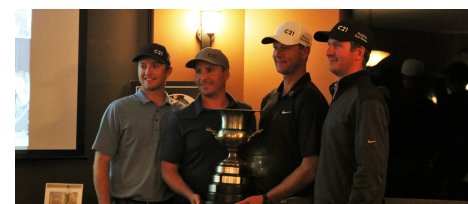
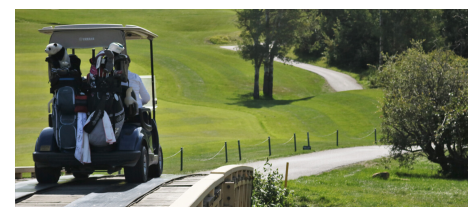


Barbara
Anderson

▲ SYNCON MANAGEMENT LTD.



Ex - Tech
Contracting



Philanthropy in Community

Community is the core of what we do and plays an important role. We rely on our community as the need continues to grow for our services. Together we help all Albertans maintain a high quality of life.



Thanks to our Century 21 partners across the province who have been hard at work fundraisng for Easter Seals in 2019!

Easter Seals Alberta | 2019 Report to the Community

UnstoppABLE Rowing Marathon

By: Dawn Krpan | Head Coach at Bedrock Crossfit

What comes to mind when you hear the word CrossFit? Super Humans/Crazy Fit/Scary etc.

But the reality is that CrossFit is for everyone. At Bedrock CrossFit we have taken it beyond the standard “everyone” and have included all abilities including those with cognitive and physical disabilities. It became clear after we started working with adaptive athletes that they had the same desires to be better at daily life tasks, sports, and be involved with community as those that are able bodied and able minded. The desires might be the same but getting there can be so much more difficult due to access, costs, and other barriers. This is where we were introduced to Easter Seals and just about every one of our athletes had benefited from the programs and services that Easter Seals offers. It was because of this that we decided to try and help raise funds for Easter Seals and raise awareness about adaptive athletics.

Our first initiative was a Karma Workout where we opened up our gym to members and non-members

and waived our fees for the day and asked people to donate to Easter Seals instead. We designed a workout that represented what it would feel like for a seated / wheelchair adaptive athlete. Talk about upper body burn! We were able to get local sponsors for prizes at both events and Easter Seals sent out a representative each time to come and talk to our group and collect donations. We raised \$600-800 each time. It was one of these talks that we learned how much it costs to send someone to Easter Seals Camp Horizon that we asked ourselves how do we make this bigger and better!

The next season, came around and we then created a community building evening of Lawn Bowling with a silent auction and 50/50 draw. This was certainly bigger and better and this time we were able to raise a few thousand dollars

Easter Seals helped with this event in several ways through promotion, acquisition of licenses and provided staff on the day of the event to help collect funds from the silent auction and to also talk to our guest about the work they do in the community. As fun and successful as this event was, we went back to the drawing board for the next year. We want to shift back to an activity that was more physical and could bring even more of the CrossFit and Adaptive athletics world together, and of course raise more funds.

This is where the UnstoppABLE Rowing Marathon came to be. Indoor rowing on a Concept 2 rowing machine is something that nearly everyone can do and the idea was born for a marathon style event. This event was going to be big and the team from Easter Seals did not disappoint with their level of



commitment and help to create a successful event. This time they provided an online event registration platform with fundraising functions that made the fundraising a breeze.

Participants and their donors received tax receipt, were kept up to date about the event and added that sense of competition/ rivalry to the teams that were trying to raise the most funds. Once again their team provided assistance with event through promotions, set up the night before, support throughout the event and afterwards. This event saw all abilities out from able bodied, young (16 year old solo rower) to 82 years old, and adaptive athletes with both/either cognitive or physical disabilities participating. It truly brought the community together! So our first mission was accomplished of community building and awareness but our second goal of raising \$15 000.00 was completely crush and we raised over \$30 000.00!

Now our goal is to continue bringing awareness about Easter Seals to even more of the CrossFit / Fitness community through this rowing event. This year we have more gyms in Alberta and even one in Toronto that will be participating in the Unstoppable Rowing Marathon. If you are thinking of doing an event for Easter Seals do not hesitate to contact them for support!



ATB Financial Presents Christmas Camp in Kananaskis

ATB Financial has been an outstanding corporate donor to Easter Seals Camp Horizon for many years. Their unwavering support for our charity speaks to the impact that our services have on the individuals we serve. But don't take it from us, hear it from ATB Financial themselves!

As anyone who's been there knows, Camp Horizon is a special place, where best friends are made and kids and adults of all abilities thrive.

"These experiences and connections are vital to self-confidence and well-being," says Curtis Stange, President & CEO of ATB Financial.

ATB and their team members have been involved with Easter Seals for a number of years, and through a number of different ways. They have faced their fear of heights by repelling off the side of an office tower through the Drop Zone event, where proceeds go to Camp Horizon. Funding has been directed towards accessible dorm rooms, equipment and subsidized fees for campers. ATB's Calgary branches also come together each holiday season to raise funds and collect gifts to fulfill campers' wishes.

"Our team members look forward to volunteering at Camp Horizon every year," Stange says. "This December during an extreme cold snap, every single ATBer who signed up for the Christmas Camp decorating day braved icy mountain roads and snow to help prepare for all the campers."

"We look for meaningful ways to create happiness for Albertans of all abilities and walks of life. That's exactly what Camp Horizon does, and the impact is life-changing," Stange adds.



Family of Philanthropy 2019

Thorne Family

The Thorne family has been involved with Easter Seals Alberta for 20 years. Their son, Ben, was born with Cerebral Palsy and requires a wheelchair to get himself around. Over the years we have seen Ben and his family utilize most of our programs. Ben attended Camp Horizon, received a porch lift and an elevator through our Accessibility Supports Program, and was a recipient of the Phyllis Davidson Easter Seals Scholarship. He has since graduated and has a full-time position working in Marketing and Communications.

"Ben has become an outstanding young man and has an excellent outlook for the future," his mom says. "He acquired an education, with help from the Easter Seals Alberta scholarship program, developed great speaking skills through his opportunities to speak at Easter Seals Alberta events. I'm very proud of him and feel secure knowing that he will do well in life."

Ben first got involved with Easter Seals Alberta by attending Camp Horizon. "We dropped Ben off and my mom told all of the staff that if Ben needed to call home he could. A few days passed and we hadn't heard anything, so mom finally called camp. The staff told her about everything Ben had been up to and that he was having an absolute blast! We picked Ben up at the end of the week and the first thing he said to my mom was "can we put my registration in for next summer?!" From that summer on Ben returned to camp for many, many, years" says Ben's sister, Meagan.

At Easter Seals Alberta's Camp Horizon, kids and adults are allowed to explore, grow and learn about themselves. We often hear about individuals coming home more confident, with higher self-esteem and new friendships that last a lifetime. For many, Camp Horizon is the first

place kids meet other kids with similar conditions and have a space where they are free to be themselves.

Ben can clearly remember his time at Camp Horizon and indicates that his fondest memories always come down to two things: "the freedom it provided and the people that ran it. There was nothing like being able to escape the busyness of day-to-day life, relax and just be a kid for a week. As someone with a disability, these opportunities can be extremely hard to come by and anyone who attends Camp Horizon will have memories that last them a lifetime."

As Ben says, "Without the services that have been provided to me by Easter Seals over the years, I would not have been able to follow my passions in life anywhere near as easily."



Ben's sister, Meagan, continues to say "Every experience we have had with Easter Seals to date has been SO impactful. When I was young, I definitely knew how lucky we were to have the support of Easter Seals with the home renovation. Looking back at it now, I almost feel... speechless. Easter Seals gave our family the ability to support Ben in his home then, now, and into the future. They took away some of the worry for my parents and instead gave them peace of mind knowing Ben would be supported in his home, year after year, as he continued to grow. They helped remove barriers and gave Ben the ability to be independent in his own home!"

Ben and his family have continued to give back to Easter Seals Alberta over the years. We are honoured to be able to see their journey come

full circle with us. From a family who needed our resources to a family who gives back in some capacity every year. As Meagan says, she continues to support Easter Seals Alberta because "Easter Seals provides a variety of services and supports for people of ALL ages. Sometimes it seems as though there is only one path to take and at the end of the road the answer given is "no". Easter Seals can be that fork in the road and provide alternative means to access funding, equipment, or vocational activities where it may not have otherwise been possible."

We are so thrilled to have the Thorne family's continued support over the years and to feature them as the 2019 Family of Philanthropy!



**We are
excited to
see what
the future
brings!**

Easter Seals Alberta

Suite 103, 811 Manning Road NE Calgary AB T2E 7L4
info@easterseals.ab.ca | (403) 235-5662