

EASTER SEALS ALBERTA

2021 Celebration of Community



WHAT'S INSIDE?

Outcomes

Programs

Impact



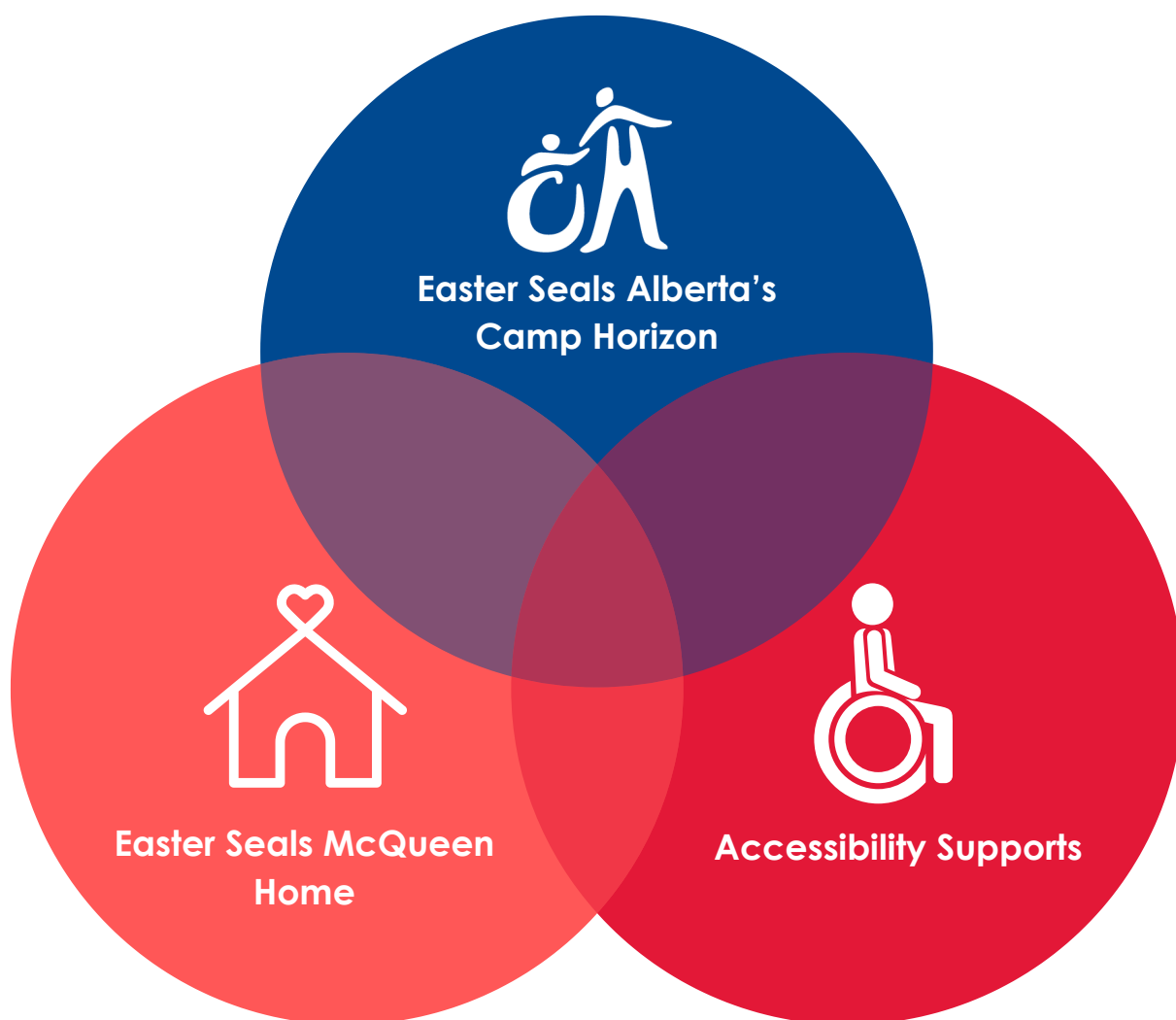
Easter Seals Alberta

**INSPIRING POTENTIAL.
BUILDING COMMUNITY.
ENRICHING LIVES.**

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide services that foster inclusion, independence and recreation for individuals with disabilities and medical conditions.

For 71 years, Easter Seals Alberta has supported individuals with disabilities and medical conditions. We strive to ensure that their resources for an independent and full life are available.



We pride ourselves on putting philanthropic dollars to good work. With your support, we strive to ensure that Albertans living with disabilities and medical conditions have access to the resources they need to remove barriers to an independent and full life.

You make this possible through three main supports:

Accessibility Supports provides critically needed equipment and support to those who qualify 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 is a self-governed, 24-hour personal care residence in Edmonton for people with disabilities looking to achieve more independence, greater inclusion in the community and access to employment, education and recreation.

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 lifelong memories.

MOVED BY COMMUNITY

Easter Seals Alberta is guided by our incredible board of directors. Tasked with providing leadership and strategic direction to the organization through volunteerism, our board exists to govern on YOUR behalf.



Christina White Prosser



Trevor Brick



Stephen Connelley



Kyle Scott



Adam Darbellay



Makrina Morozowski



Vineeta Maguire



Anne Ewen



Dan McPhee



Susan Anderson



Sally Lore



Kathy Sorenson

STAY CONNECTED



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Easter Seals Alberta

Dear Community,

The COVID-19 pandemic is one we will never forget. It has impacted our community, clients, and organization to its core. As a result, in 2021, we spent many hours figuring out our path forward in our new normal.

Our clients, campers, and community remained top of mind as we continued to navigate through the pandemic. In addition, we continued to focus on providing services that foster inclusion, independence, and recreation for individuals with disabilities and medical conditions in everything we did.

While Camp Horizon remained closed for a second year, we were able to keep our virtual programming going and expand to ensure our clients had the resources and connections they needed. This year we grew from our standard Adventure Camp at Home programming to include Holiday Celebrations with Easter Seals Alberta, a virtual Christmas camp celebration, and In The Lead virtual leadership camps over the summer! Both new virtual camps were a huge success and allowed us to reconnect with our campers in a meaningful way.

Throughout the year, Easter Seals Alberta was heavily focused on future planning and meeting the needs of our clients. Behind the scenes, our team was able to secure funding for some major capital projects, including a new splash park that will be open to welcome our campers back in 2022!

In addition to our Splash park, we were able to get McQueen Home a new, more accessible driveway to ensure our resident's safety. McQueen Home was also successful in staying COVID-19 free all year! We are thrilled to have such dedicated and hardworking staff at the home who worked tirelessly to ensure our residents stayed safe throughout the pandemic.

Accessibility Supports was able to fully reopen and provide equipment to Albertans in need. We are thrilled to be able to ensure our clients have the supports they need to live an independent and full life.

We are excited about what the future has in store for our clients and community. We are looking forward to reopening some of our programs in 2022 and following our vision to inspire potential, build community, and enrich the lives of Albertans.

Dan McPhee

President of the Board of Directors



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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.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021



EASTER SEALS CANADA CENTENNIAL

While we were overjoyed last year to celebrate 70 years as a registered charity in Alberta, Easter Seals Canada is celebrating a significant milestone birthday in 2022 - 100 years of operations.

As Canadians, we stand united in our mission to create a more inclusive and accessible society that honours the contributions and potential of Canadians of all abilities.

Over the last 100 years, you have delivered transformative, life-changing programs and services through Easter Seals that have enhanced access, independence, social inclusion, and quality of life for Canadians living with disabilities.

This milestone reminds us of the importance of using our voices to promote an inclusive society. In celebration of our community's support, ten chapters in ten provinces will mark the occasion with events like lighting up provincial buildings and monuments.

Because of our friends, donors, supporters, and community, Easter Seals looks forward to having an impact moving into our next 100 years.

Thank you!



MCQUEEN HOME RENOVATIONS

Established to provide housing support to people with disabilities looking to engage in their community, Easter Seals McQueen Home experienced an incredibly challenging year. As with all properties providing care for people with compromised immune systems, life at McQueen was restrictive in 2021. However, we worked hard to build morale and keep our residents as connected as possible as a team.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Allard Foundation, residents can sleep soundly with their newly installed transmitter locking devices. Before the installation, residents would need to wait for staff to help lock their doors. This assistive technology has provided independence and security to our residents.

The home also celebrated the support received from the Edmonton Community Foundation to overhaul the McQueen driveway. In partnership with an Edmonton-based concrete company, we successfully replaced the cracked driveway – eliminating access issues for residents that could cause damage to their specialized mobility equipment. Residents look forward to getting back out in the community with our newly minted access.



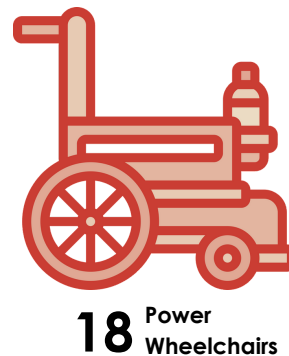
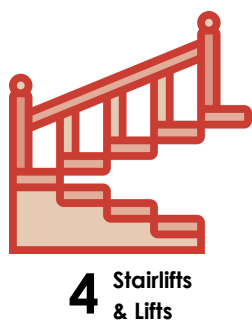
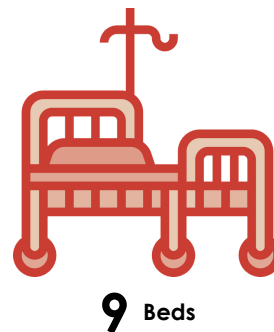
REMOVING BARRIERS THROUGH SUPPORTS

Accessibility Supports provides critically needed equipment and home modifications to enable Albertans with disabilities to remain independent and active community members. For clients accessing the Equipment and Support Services program, their unique equipment needs come with an overwhelming price tag. As your equipment may also require home modifications, transportation adjustments, and increased dependence, these costs are compounded. While the government does offer support, our program ensures that no one falls through the cracks. In addition to people with disabilities, many clients are seniors living on a fixed income.

With human services limited due to COVID-19, the Accessibility Supports program saw a significant increase in demand. As clients looked for ways to decrease isolation through mobility equipment, we were grateful for donations from our generous community, including the Edmonton Civic Employees Charitable Assistance Fund and the Community Foundations of Canada.

Overall, your donations provided over 130 clients with equipment at a total cost of equipment supplied through the Equipment Loan Program of more than \$260,000. While it took a significant amount of resources, we cleared 88 waiting clients before reopening applications to the public in February of 2021.

TYPES OF EQUIPMENT PROVIDED



Total Provided Pieces **105**

Total Cost of Equipment **\$262,849**

MEET STEVE



Steve lives in a small town between Calgary and Red Deer. He has relied on a power mobility aid for most of his youth and adult years. Unfortunately, his mobility device started to fail, and facing the expensive price tag to replace it, Steve spent the last year without his scooter.

Steve describes that year without access to a power wheelchair as incredibly frustrating. "When I was without my scooter, my wife needed to drive me to work and work that around dropping the children off at school in the winter months," says Steve.

After experiencing a decline in his ability to walk and having his former mobility device fail, Steve reached out to Easter Seals Alberta for support.

Thanks to our generous donors, Easter Seals Alberta was able to provide Steve with a new device. After receiving his equipment, Steve was overwhelmed by the increased quality of life he and his family experienced. The freedom his equipment has provided has been life-changing.

"I use my scooter to run errands around town, whether it is getting prescriptions or doing banking or whatever else. It has enabled me to join my family in activities, whether going for walks around town or being involved in playing at the park, going sledding, or going to church," says Steve.

Thanks to you, Steve is grateful to have his independence back – whether he is running errands around town or commuting to work.

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The quality of life my family and I have been able to experience and the freedom the equipment provision has enabled are so much appreciated."

- Steve

LEADING WITH EDUCATION

Established in the loving memory of Phyllis Davidson, The Phyllis Davidson Easter Seals Scholarship helps ease the financial burden of post-secondary schooling for students living with physical disabilities that require mobility aids.

Sierra was one of three well-deserving recipients in the 2020/2021 academic year. Her scholarship allowed her to study abroad in Kinesiology through an exchange program. Although her experience was cut short due to the pandemic, she describes it as "the most memorable journey I have ever done. To be able to travel independently, with a disability, to a new country and explore what I want to do after my degree would not have happened without your support."

Thanks to our generous community, Sierra is well on her way to completing her program and has already landed her dream job.

“

I feel more empowered than ever to show up for those who need it most."

- Sierra



RED SHIRT DAY

Red Shirt Day is a day that creates a visual display of solidarity to support persons and families living with disabilities. Across Canada, we come together and wear red to celebrate the achievements of people living with disabilities and pledge to help create a fully accessible and inclusive society that honours and values the contributions of people of all abilities.

Each year, Red Shirt Day takes place on the Wednesday of National AccessAbility Week. In 2021, Earl Grey School jumped in to support this initiative with both feet. In celebration of their classmate, Julia, they raised more than \$5,000 to support people with disabilities.

Don't forget to wear red on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 in celebration of Red Shirt Day and National AccessAbility Week (Sunday, May 29 to Saturday, June 4).



EASTER SEALS 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 lifelong memories.

In a year when our mandate, in-person camps were not an option, we focused on other activities to bring revenue into the organization and keep the property maintained. While camp has always been available for partner bookings with other like-minded non-profit organizations, we have expanded our offerings to more public opportunities like weddings, family reunions, corporate team building, outdoor education, events, and more.

As a venue, Easter Seals Camp Horizon now offers affordable, customized packages, so you can do it your way! There are many ways to make a camp wedding successful, and packages can be customized based on needs. Most plans include a Friday night dinner and evening stay for the wedding and planning party, with guests arriving on Saturday in time for lunch, followed by an afternoon of activities and fun.

All private bookings are offered on non-camp days to ensure the facility remains accessible to our clients.



BIG CHANGES ON THE HORIZON

With the ongoing uncertainty to public health, 2021 marked the second year of closure for Easter Seals Camp Horizon. While we were unable to host our mandate camps, we took the opportunity to upgrade the infrastructure at Camp Horizon. These updates were critical to ensuring operational efficiency and long-term financial sustainability. They were made possible by you – our generous community of supporters, and we couldn't be more grateful to be moving forward in 2022 with updates to the property.

Water Treatment

Water safety has always been paramount, given the fragile immune systems of our campers. Unfortunately, our existing well at camp was deemed vulnerable to contamination due to its proximity to the Elbow River. Thanks to the generosity of the Kinsmen Club of Calgary, matched with funding from the Community Facility Enhancement Program through the Alberta Culture and Status of Women's Office, we had the resources to undergo upgrades to our water treatment infrastructure. With our new treatment facility in place, we now have access to safe drinking water on demand.

New Water Play at Camp

Construction is well underway on a splash park, which will facilitate a few forms of water play for our clients and campers. More than just a fun way to cool off, splash parks develop fine motor skills, problem-solving, imaginative play, cooperation, and sharing. While this is a substantial investment into the property, the project offers a low-maintenance, climate-resilient addition to Camp Horizon's offerings. Our generous community made this project possible, including the Gerald A. Cooper-Key Foundation, the Kinsmen Club of Calgary, and Pembina Pipeline, matched with funding from the Community Facility Enhancement Program through the Alberta Culture and Status of Women's Office.



VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING TAKES CENTRE STAGE

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

After closing Camp Horizon in the summer of 2020, focus was needed on creating human connections among isolated individuals. As a result, virtual programming became a way for youth and adults living with disabilities to enjoy a camp-like experience from the safety of their homes.



Adventure Camp at Home

Launched in January 2021, Adventure Camp at Home is a virtual class. Each week, there is a new theme, five classes for youth and four for adults. For the program's duration of 2021, there were 811 adult participants and 392 youth. Most of the 299 sessions were consistently full, and we were thrilled to have "regulars" who come back every week. Because of the program's success, Adventure Camp at Home will continue to be offered through 2022.

Adventure Camp at Home was also [recently featured on Accessible Media Inc](#)

In the Lead Virtual Leadership Camp

Thanks to the generosity of RBC, we were pleased to present In the Lead Virtual Leadership Camp. In this program, 12 campers met virtually and worked on individual projects to gain confidence in public speaking and presentation skills while allowing them to share their passions.

Holiday Celebrations with Easter Seals

After feeling isolated, campers had a blast attending our virtual Holiday Celebrations with Easter Seals, thanks to the generous support of ATB Financial. 44 participants attended virtual card making, tree trimming and carolling, and even got presents dropped off at their homes by Santa's helpers.

“These sessions are great ways for campers to connect with each other. Social media pages, emails, and phone numbers were constantly being exchanged because campers were excited to keep in touch.”

- Zack, Virtual Programming Developer

MEET RACHEL

Rachel really likes attending Adventure Camp at Home because she loves how there are different things to do each week. Her favourite camp weeks so far were the Harry Potter themed week and Space Camp. She had a lot of fun!

She really enjoys the activities that everyone does together, like making slime, playing Pictionary and trivia games, and learning how to draw a cat on top of a pumpkin for Halloween. The host does a wonderful job of putting it all together and is always full of energy.

-Rachel

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"My life was very quiet and I didn't have much to do. Camp has really helped me reconnect with people again, as well as meeting new people that I have never met before."

- Rachel



ONE MEMORABLE PUTT

JC's vision was to ensure kids with disabilities had a place to play and belong, no matter their diagnosis. In support of his vision, this annual tournament raises funds for children and adults living with disabilities and medical conditions. In addition, it provides an opportunity for them to attend Easter Seals Camp Horizon.

Our 2021 tournament, held at Sirocco Golf Club on August 26, raised more than \$110,000 to support Easter Seals Camp Horizon. The 74 players enjoyed a beautiful day of golf. Thank you to all our generous sponsors, players, and volunteers for another great event.



Thank you to our sponsors!

CENTURY 21.
Foothills Real Estate



 **SYNCON MANAGEMENT LTD.**



SUPPORT IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

Phil and Dianne Laprairie have always had a passion for cars. They believe if you can make a difference then you should. The Laprairie's had attended Easter Seals Alberta events in the past and knew our mission well from hearing client stories.

When they were moving vehicles around they realized they could marry their passion together and have a meaningful impact through their hobby - antique cars. They approached Easter Seals Alberta with an incredibly generous donation.

They offered a beautifully restored 1957 Chevrolet 150 to go to auction in support of Easter Seals. Electric Garage Auction got involved and auctioned the vehicle pro bono on September 11, 2021.

The Laprairie's feel great knowing that they made a difference in the lives of people living with a disability or medical condition. As luck would have it, the person that bought the car is a member of their community, so they now enjoy the pleasure of seeing their stylish gift enjoyed in town.



PITCHING IN - ONE TENT AT A TIME



A proud partner since 1998, Breathe Outdoors, formerly Camper's Village, established the "Toonies for Tents" program to ensure Easter Seals Camp Horizon has the necessary funding to focus on ability. Luckily for Camp Horizon, 2021 was a busy year for tent sales! In a record for this program, Breathe Outdoors raised \$6,500 through tent sales – proof that a small donation can go a long way. Over the last 20 years, Breathe Outdoors has raised more than \$120,000 to ensure people of all abilities can benefit from this one-of-a-kind program.

Thank you to Breathe Outdoors for their long-standing commitment to fostering inclusion, independence and recreation for individuals with disabilities and medical conditions

LITTLE FEET; BIG HEART



Lochlan, 4, loves to run. So at the Calgary Marathon on September 19, 2021, he gave it everything he had right out of the gate.

Postponed from spring, the Calgary marathon hosted both an in-person and virtual competition. This event offered a unique opportunity to fundraise for the charity of your choice, and for Lochlan that meant supporting people of all abilities.

It was an exciting day that ended with receiving a medal. Lochlan already has plans for training to be #UnstopABLE for the 2022 race.



CALGARY MARATHON

HELPING HANDS

Volunteers are the backbone of our operations - Thank you to everyone who donated their time at Camp Horizon, made calls on Easter Seals' behalf, or assisted with events! We can't do it without you.



NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS **143**

NUMBER OF WORK GROUPS **6**

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS **792**

A proud partner of Easter Seals Alberta, MEG Energy helped with some spring cleaning to keep Camp Horizon looking its finest.

MEG's enthusiastic crew was eager to get their hands in the dirt and give our facility a much-needed facelift. The camaraderie shared between work teams reminded us of when the camp was teeming with activity.

For many of the staff, this was their first opportunity to meet in person. We are grateful to have the ability to host large corporate volunteer groups like MEG, Pembina and TC Energy. Thank you for bringing some laughter back to Camp Horizon!



CAMP IS BACK!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU IN 2022.

Easter Seals Alberta

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