



2021  
Report of  
**HOPE**

NAYLA





Faced with the news that their child has cancer, families from across western Ontario have turned to Childcan for direct support since 1974. Financial assistance, emotional support, social programs, research funding – it's all supported solely by donors who get involved because they know that childhood cancer is an experience that nobody thinks they will face, let alone one that families can prepare for. We, and those families, are forever grateful for the generosity that enables us to be here in the most difficult times.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2021 continued to be an unusual year. For Childcan, it meant remote working from our homes when able to, being on and off lockdown and more stringent regulations at the hospital. 3rd party events slowly started to come back but through our amazing supporters we were able to hold a strong financial position. We also dealt with turn over. I'd like to thank the dedication of our previous staff and am excited about the dedication that our new staff members bring. Due to our strong financial position and dedication of our employees, volunteers, and supporters we were able to increase our support to Childcan families. We have made significant strides organizationally, and, like all charities, the pandemic has presented us with our fair share of challenges. But I am confident we will continue to recover. Though Childcan was presented with short-term challenges, I'm pleased to report that we have a full staff of dedicated individuals working full-time at our Childcan office. I encourage you to reach out and meet the new staff members if you have not already. The board of directors and I would like to thank you for your continued support and are excited to see you all soon at an in-person event!



**ADAM BROCK**  
Board Chair

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we prepare this 2021 annual report, I am humbled by the incredible support throughout Childcan's circle of community. New in my role as Executive Director (June 2022), I have already witnessed first-hand the passionate and hope-filled commitment by so many individuals, schools, companies, and foundations, all invested in lessening the burdens experienced when families are faced with the news that their child has cancer. Truly inspiring! Thank you for welcoming me into your community. Please know that I will work tirelessly to advance Childcan's mission and foster hope and support for our incredibly brave children and families.

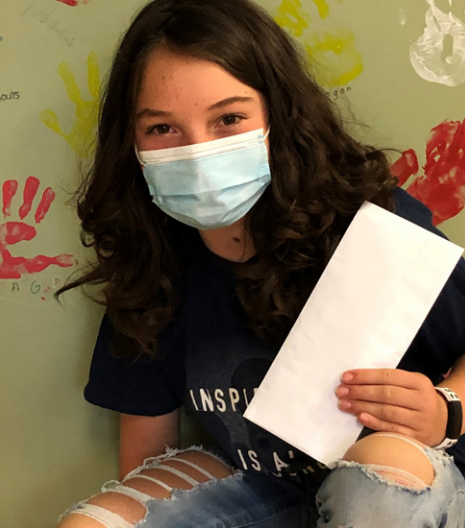
Through 2021, Childcan continued to enhance and innovate its support programs ensuring that the needs of our families were fulfilled and additional gaps in supports were addressed. We established a 'one-of-a-kind' Supplemental Therapy program that ensures children have support beyond their initial treatment. Trachea and feeding supplies, hearing aids, glass eyes, and mobility devices are just a few examples of types of supplemental therapy provisions covered.

Our commitment to research continued to grow. This year saw the largest research investment ever for Childcan. Thanks to the generosity of our community, our commitment to ensure all paediatric patients served within the Division of Paediatric Hematology Oncology have equal access and opportunity to participate in clinical trials and research initiatives.

Thank you to our donors, event participants, and volunteers! Because of you, we can provide an incredible amount of direct-to-family financial assistance while continuing to expand on and deliver our core programs and services. Together we are making a difference in the lives of families facing childhood cancer.



**SUZANNE FRATSCHKO ELLIOTT**  
Executive Director



## VISION

We believe childhood cancer must be designated a child health priority, and that support services for families are critical.

## MISSION

Childcan raises awareness and funds to provide personalized, responsive and compassionate programs and services to families facing the childhood cancer journey, from diagnosis, through treatment, to recovery or bereavement.

## OUR PILLARS

1. Mission Effectiveness
2. Leadership, Networking, Collaborative Action
3. Deeper and Broader Engagement

## OUR SERVICES

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Hospital parking passes
- Hospital meal vouchers
- Gas, pharmacy, and other gift cards
- Individual family financial support
- Assistance with treatment-related travel and accommodation expenses
- Post-secondary education bursaries
- Assistance with funeral costs

### EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

- In-hospital, over-the-phone, in-person and virtual support
- Support groups
- Parent, couple, and sibling bereavement counselling
- Wellness programs
- Sibling support
- Family activities, gatherings, outings, and events
- In-hospital family meals
- Access to accurate, helpful information and resources
- Early and school years skill-building and tutoring programs
- Advocacy and awareness building to increase community knowledge and support

### RESEARCH SUPPORT

- Funding for novel research and therapies closer to home

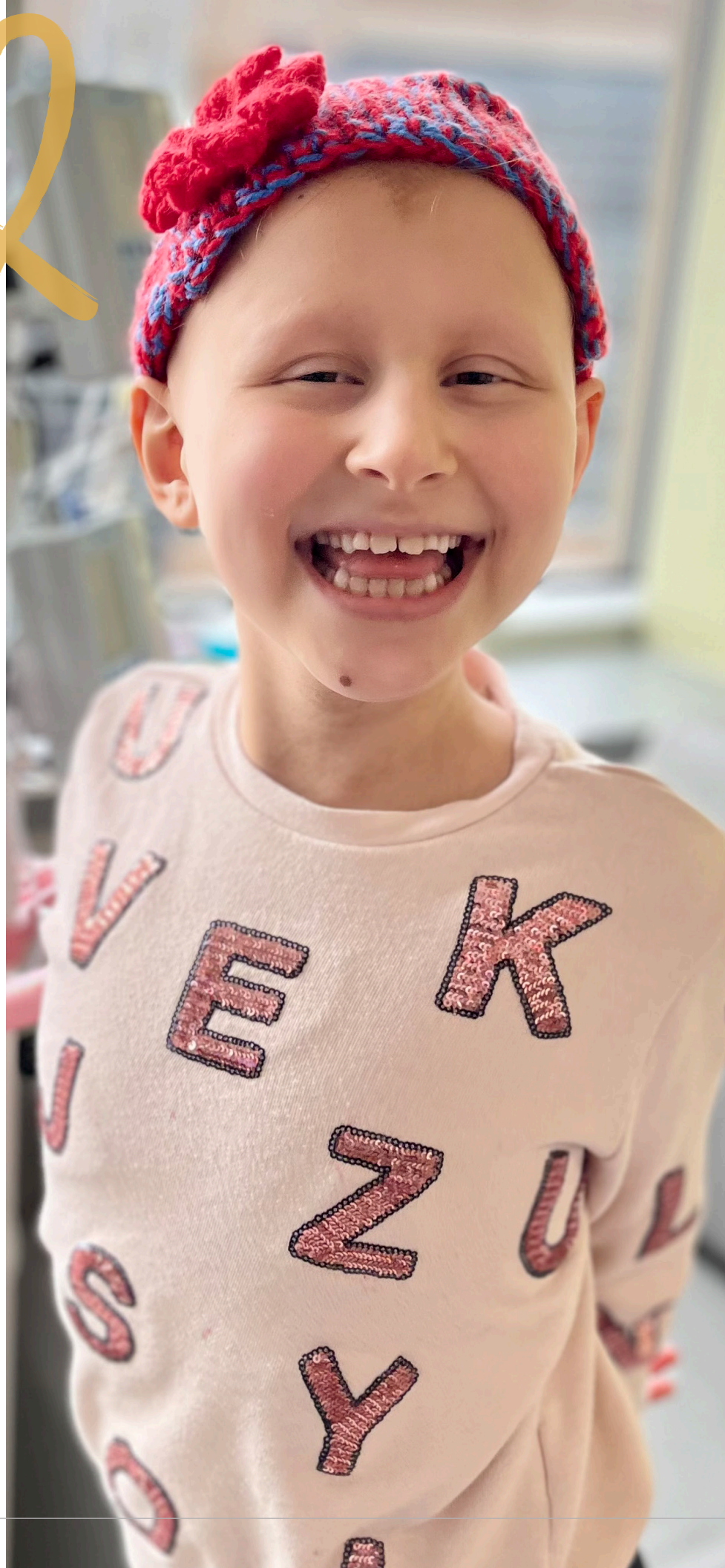
# FINDING JOY IN THE STORM: NAYLA'S STORY

as told by her mom, Patricia

It was late August 2021, and we were busy doing what most families with school-aged kids were doing: savouring every last minute of those long summer days, while also preparing for the new school year.

Nayla had just celebrated her 8th birthday and spent her days swimming, riding her bike, and playing outside with her sister and neighbourhood friends. One day, however, she came in crying in pain. My husband rushed her to the ER but was turned away with the advice to take her home and give her Tylenol. A few days later, she wasn't improving and we knew something wasn't right. It was that second trip to the ER that turned our world upside down.

Within a few hours, the attending ER doctor approached my husband with devastating news: "I'm so sorry, but we believe that your daughter has Leukemia. She'll be sent shortly to London Children's hospital via ambulance." Because of the pandemic rules, he was alone and had to give me this news over the phone. My heart sank. I felt broken, confused, and shocked. My baby girl, my healthy vibrant baby girl. How could this be possible?



I immediately rushed to the hospital and, seeing Nayla, felt a sense of calm and peace. She was so at ease and seemed to be taking everything in her stride. She didn't know her diagnosis or what it meant, but she knew something was very wrong and that we were heading to a different hospital.

The disease had caused some damage to her spleen – the reason behind the severe pain she'd been experiencing – and she was almost sent for emergency surgery. However, the team overseeing her care had determined that surgery was not inevitable and that she was stable enough to travel to London.

The critical care team, social worker, child life specialist and oncologist we met soon after arrival were incredible. While we were almost paralyzed with fear, we were grateful that our girl was in such capable hands. We were reassured that despite the fact she'd be spending some time in Critical Care, she would pull through and that her illness, Burkitt's Leukemia, was treatable.

With another young daughter at home, our world was turned upside down and our family of four was separated across two cities, two hours apart.

For eight days, Nayla lay in Critical Care, unable to walk, hooked up to so many machines and pumped full of morphine to ease the pain. Chemo started within a day or so and we got to work helping her to be as comfortable as possible and reassuring her things would get better – that she would get better.

Finally, Nayla was stable enough to be moved to the Pediatric Floor and officially began her first of six consecutive rounds of chemo. We were advised to plan for a six month stay, with minimal visits home. During the first month, Nayla had severe nose bleeds in the middle of the night; these were the scariest moments for her. She also questioned why she needed so many blood transfusions. Her care team always answered her questions.

A few weeks into treatment we received our first piece of good news: undetectable disease levels in Nayla's marrow. Of course, I began to cry.

"Why are you crying, Mama?" Nayla asked.

"Because it's working my love."

"Of course, it is. They told us it would."

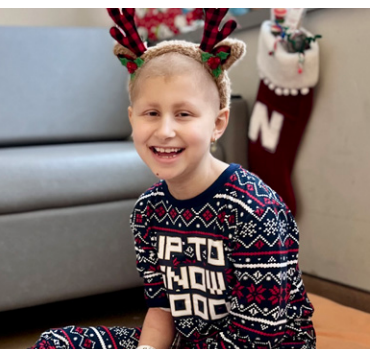
While the next six months were brutal and challenged us in ways we never expected, there were also many moments of joy. Nayla showed us how to be brave, live in the moment and take every challenge in stride.

We made our little hospital room home and met so many warm, friendly people. Nayla maintained a busy schedule, opting to spend time with the art therapy, child life, and music therapy teams as much as possible. She also kept up with school thanks to the help and support of an amazing teacher who visited her bedside.

A few days after her sixth and final treatment, we got to go home. It was surreal and felt like a dream. Even now, a few months later, I still get emotional hearing the girls' laughter echo throughout the house.

It's almost impossible to convey our gratitude to those that cared for Nayla, the oncologists, nurses, medical and support staff. Our family was also blessed to have the support of family, friends, our DM Eagle school community, and incredible organizations like Childcan. My husband and I were completely blown away by the outpouring of support.

We are walking forward in hope, forever changed by this experience.



*"Nayla's is a story of resilience, determination, and how to find joy in the storm."*



# MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact Childcan and our families throughout 2021. In response, Childcan's management and board of directors continued to carefully steward funds received while strategically growing our programs and services to support our families and community effectively and efficiently. Committed to providing families with assistance with treatment-related travel expenses, Childcan was able to meet the demand for, as well as offset the associated cost increases for gas and accommodations throughout the year.

Childcan's revenue was \$746,610 in 2021, a decrease of \$70,468 from 2020. Our wonderful community raised \$310,507 through third party events, a 4.8% increase versus 2020 and an amazing result given many events had to be postponed or re-imagined. Childcan's signature events saw a marked decrease in 2021, raising \$73,441 versus \$229,384 in 2020. This revenue decrease was mainly caused by our inability to hold our signature Polar Bear Dip events in person in March 2021 and a scaled back 10,000 Paces event in the Fall. However, generous donations from individuals, families, corporations and granting organizations totaling \$361,633 made up most of the shortfall from signature events, representing a 24.7% increase versus 2020.

Childcan disbursed \$209,022 in direct family support, a 3.6% increase versus prior year. We continued to assist our young adults in pursuing their goals by awarding a record twelve post-secondary bursaries and we increased our commitment to the Children's Hospital's paediatric research unit to \$50,000 for 2021 to help improve treatments and offer options for our families closer to home. In addition, we committed to increasing our commitment to \$100,000 in 2022, representing a total commitment of \$380,000 since we began supporting the research unit in 2016! Total charitable support represented 70.5% of expenses while fundraising and administration costs increased slightly by 1%.

Payroll costs increased by 9.7% which reflects a full year of compensation for our part-time Family Support Liaison in Windsor who started with Childcan in July 2020. This was another important step to strengthening our commitment to serving our families in that region.

Despite another challenging year, the Board and Staff continued to build assets and reserves, increasing our net assets by 9.7% versus 2020. In 2022, we will update our strategic plan to set the vision for the next three years for the organization as we emerge from the pandemic by putting these assets to good use. We intend to preserve our strong financial position, while providing the support our community needs, and sensibly increasing our mandate and services provided.

2022 holds much promise for Childcan, with a new Executive Director on board and an updated strategic plan to guide our efforts – we will continue to be here for our families - with programs and services that will make a meaningful difference in their lives for many years to come.



**RUSSELL SMITH**  
2021 Board Treasurer



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

year ended December 31

	2021	2020
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$746,610</b>	<b>\$817,078</b>
Fundraising – third party	310,507	296,417
Donations	252,445	275,916
Fundraising – signature events	73,441	229,384
Grants	109,188	13,990
Investment and other income	1,029	1,371
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$756,104</b>	<b>\$669,008</b>
Programs and Services	387,151	315,770
Administration	42,932	27,813
Salaries	301,604	274,963
Fundraising	24,417	50,462
Surplus of Revenue over Expenses	(9,494)	148,070
Government Subsidies	89,932	67,157
Net Revenue	80,438	215,227
Net assets, beginning of year	829,818	614,591
Net assets, end of year	910,256	829,818

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

year ended December 31

	2021	2020
<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$1,009,814</b>	<b>\$982,013</b>
Current		
Cash	707,474	653,928
Accounts receivable	10,000	1,200
Inventory	3,280	3,280
Government remittance recovery	23,324	21,676
Government assistance receivable	28,168	61,657
Prepaid expenses	17,227	11,872
Capital Assets	220,341	228,400
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>\$99,558</b>	<b>\$152,195</b>
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	25,352	25,985
Deferred revenue	14,206	86,210
Long-term debt	60,000	40,000
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>910,256</b>	<b>829,818</b>

## SOURCES OF REVENUE



- 41.6% Fundraising – third party events
- 33.8% Donations
- 9.8% Fundraising – signature events
- 14.6% Grant
- 0.2% Investment

## EXPENSES



- 70.5% Charitable Support
- 17.2% Fundraising
- 12.3% Administration

## OUR 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Adam Brock, Chair  
Vijay Venkatesan, Vice-Chair  
Russell Smith, Treasurer  
Kate Aversa  
Michael Connell  
Jim Norbury  
Rhonda Vercillo

## OUR STAFF

Kathleen Barnard, Executive Director  
Erin Boyce, Finance and Office Administrator  
Lorraine Jewell, Windsor Family Support Liaison  
Renee Simmons, Family Support Lead  
Jennifer Watts, Community Engagement Coordinator

## OUR CHILDCAN FAMILIES

Because of the generosity throughout our circle of community, we can support families and children across western Ontario who have received a childhood cancer diagnosis from, or are being treated at, Children's Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre or the paediatric oncology clinic at Windsor Regional Hospital. It is with a full heart that we support these families in partnership with our donors. Thank you.



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