

2017-2018

# ANNUAL REPORT



ABC

head start



# OPENING DOORS **FOR CHILDREN** AND FAMILIES

---

Diverse, intercultural and transitional - all words to describe the past year at ABC Head Start Society. The children and families we are supporting are coming from all over the world bringing their talents, perspectives and dreams. To meet new challenges, we are making changes to our policies, programs and investing in the well-being of our employees.

ABC Head Start Society is focusing on innovation, partnerships and collaboration. We have implemented two new programs, refocused our efforts to strengthen our family engagement services and empowered our dedicated staff to be more engaged in local neighbourhoods, groups and communities.

As the number of refugee families across the world increases, ABC Head Start Society has seen a dramatic shift in the families we are serving with 85% reporting a country of origin other than Canada. This brings a great complexity of family needs; therefore, we have forged new partnerships with other immigrant serving organizations, mental health services, the City of Edmonton and cultural coalitions.

We are proud to have opened our \$25 a day child care centre, 123 Grow Child Development Centre, in Fort Saskatchewan. We were first awarded the grant in 2017, and opening the centre presented several challenges. However, we are happy to announce our doors opened in September of 2018, and already have a wait list of over 30 families. The community of Fort Saskatchewan, its leaders, businesses and service providers have been welcoming, and we look forward to strengthening and building future partnerships.

Our resolve to support our society's most vulnerable children and their families remains. We intend to forge a new service delivery model to address the issues which impact early learning such as poverty, infant mental health, trauma, intercultural and intergenerational support.

To do this we need your continued support. You can get involved with ABC Head Start Society by volunteering your time in one of our programs or for one of our initiatives, donating to our mission, or sharing your talents.

Sincerely,

Scott Cuthbert  
Chair, Board of Directors

Walter J. Lidster  
Executive Director

## Board Of Directors

Scott Cuthbert - Chair

Aimee Caster - Vice Chair

Aileen Campbell - Treasurer

Shirley Guest - Secretary

Cyril Balitbit

Joyce Purdy

Raina Rudko

Tibetha Kemble

Chaylene Gallagher

Ashlyn Bernier

Rita Melo



ABC Head Start Society respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 6 territory, traditional lands of Indigenous people.



# ABC Family Circle Begins



In the summer of 2018, ABC Head Start Society launched a brand new program called ABC Family Circle. The planning for this new initiative started in September of 2017 while sifting through studies and surveys completed by ABC Head Start parents. A resounding number of parents talked about the need for a summer program to support the transition from Head Start to school, and to recognize that a family's complex needs did not just end because July arrived. A planning committee of staff and community partners formed and initiative began to take shape. They made it their goal to create an inclusive environment for families and reduce barriers for entry into the program.

A team of four staff and eleven volunteers worked with children and their families while fostering relationships with our partners throughout the summer. Ten of our volunteers were parents of children in the program, who collectively donated 439 volunteer hours. We served 40 children aged 6 mos. to 12 yrs. old, with a focus on outdoor play and opportunities to socialize and bond with other children. Many of the children over 6 yrs old attended BGC BIGS programming with one of our staff several times a week. There were also days when the older children chose to stay with their younger siblings at ABC Family Circle. The children from Peter Pan Daycare and families from the Capital Region Housing complex south of Millbourne Market Mall took part in all of our Friday gatherings, broadening the community reach of the Family Circle program and creating social connections to reduce isolation.

The generosity of the community was overwhelming. Donations from Edmonton's Food Bank, the Mill Woods Farmer's Market, Zach's Famous Donair, Safeway and the Real Canadian Wholesale Club provided over \$8,000.00 in food for our program participants. We took part in the Food Bank's 'After the Bell' Program, sending children home with groceries each week. We piloted the ABC Halal Depot with WECAN Food Basket Society, providing fresh produce and halal meats to families at reduced rates. Over the summer we hosted 6 community BBQs serving halal meat, grilled veggies, and snacks to the neighbourhood, supported by many community volunteers and the City of Edmonton's Neighbourhood Engagement program.



This incredibly successful initiative would not have been possible without our core supporters: The Butler Family Foundation, The John and Dianne Storey Family Foundation, The Melton Foundation and Edmonton Community Foundation's Vital Signs grant. We also received cash and in-kind donations throughout the summer from unexpected donors like MHK Independent Brokers, Northbridge Insurance, and private donors from the community.

---

## ABC Parents...

COME FROM  
**72**  
DIFFERENT COUNTRIES



SPEAK  
**50**  
DIFFERENT LANGUAGES



TOP 5 LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH: Arabic, Somali, Urdu, Oromo, Punjabi

---

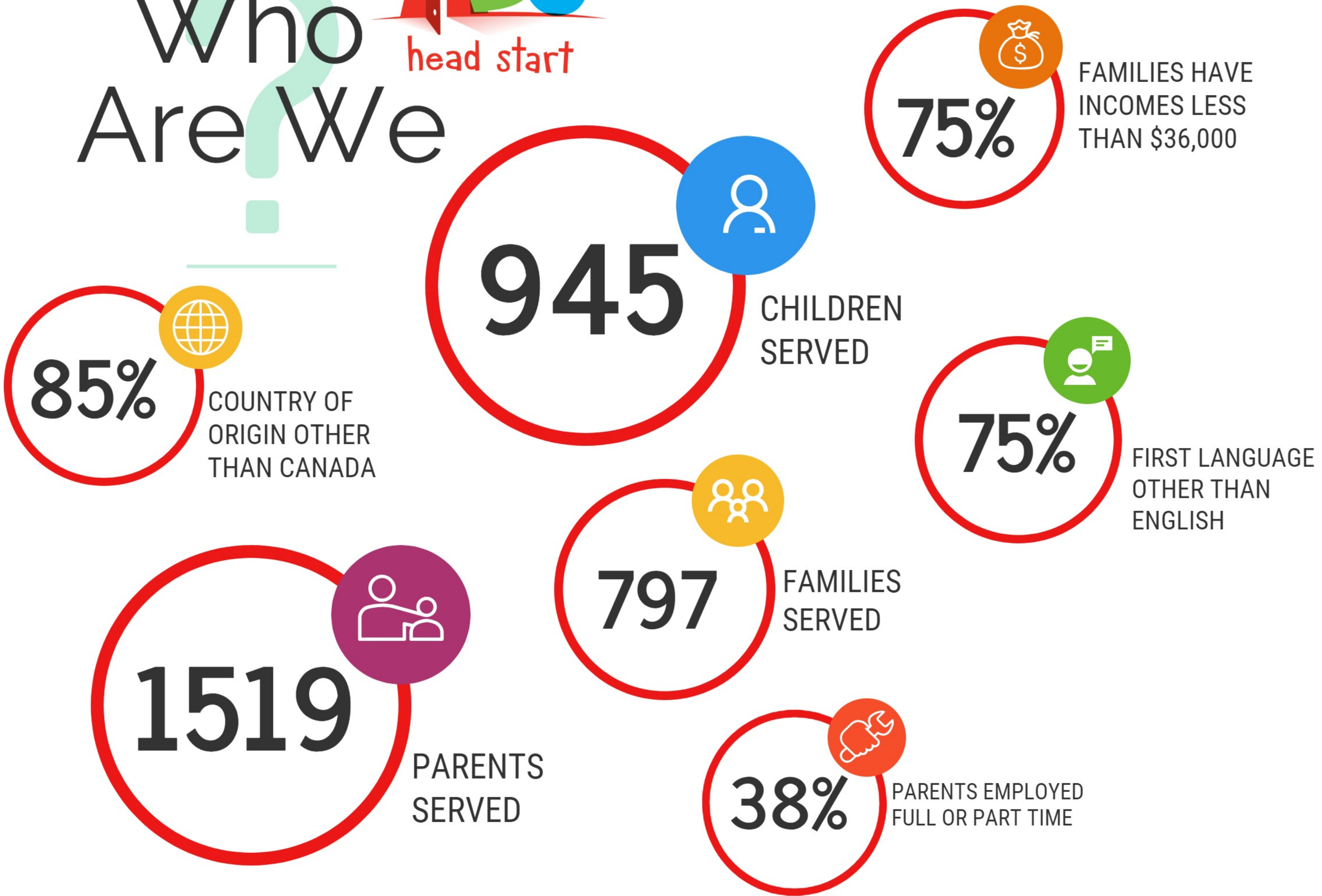




ABC Head Start Society is a registered charity which has been committed to promoting and supporting strong children, families, and communities in Edmonton for over 33 years.

# Who Are We?

## A Year At A Glance...







100%

Of our families fall below the low-income cut-off.

# Who Are We



863

Parents are immigrant or refugee.

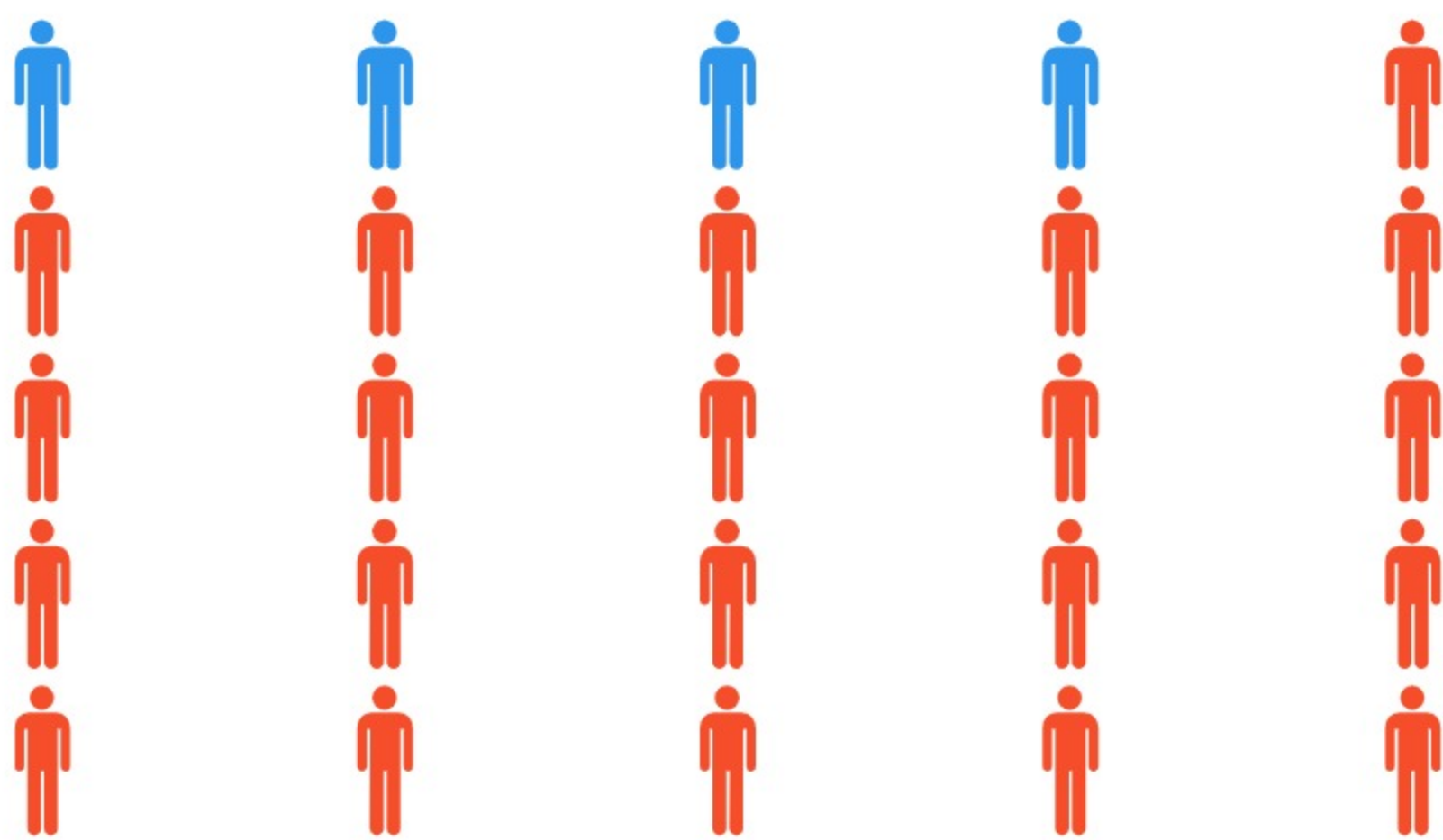


We support families by providing workshops, community resources and a safe and supportive environment for family members to share their challenges and needs.



54%

Children we serve are experiencing developmental delays, social, emotional or behavioral problems.



Each year we have more applicants than we can accommodate, and for every family we accept we turn away 2 families.



We support children by providing an early learning program that helps young children develop the critical thinking, language, social/emotional and physical skills they need to be successful.

**"It is very hard to have twins and this program has made it a lot easier. I have learned to be patient with my children, to communicate, to build trust..."**

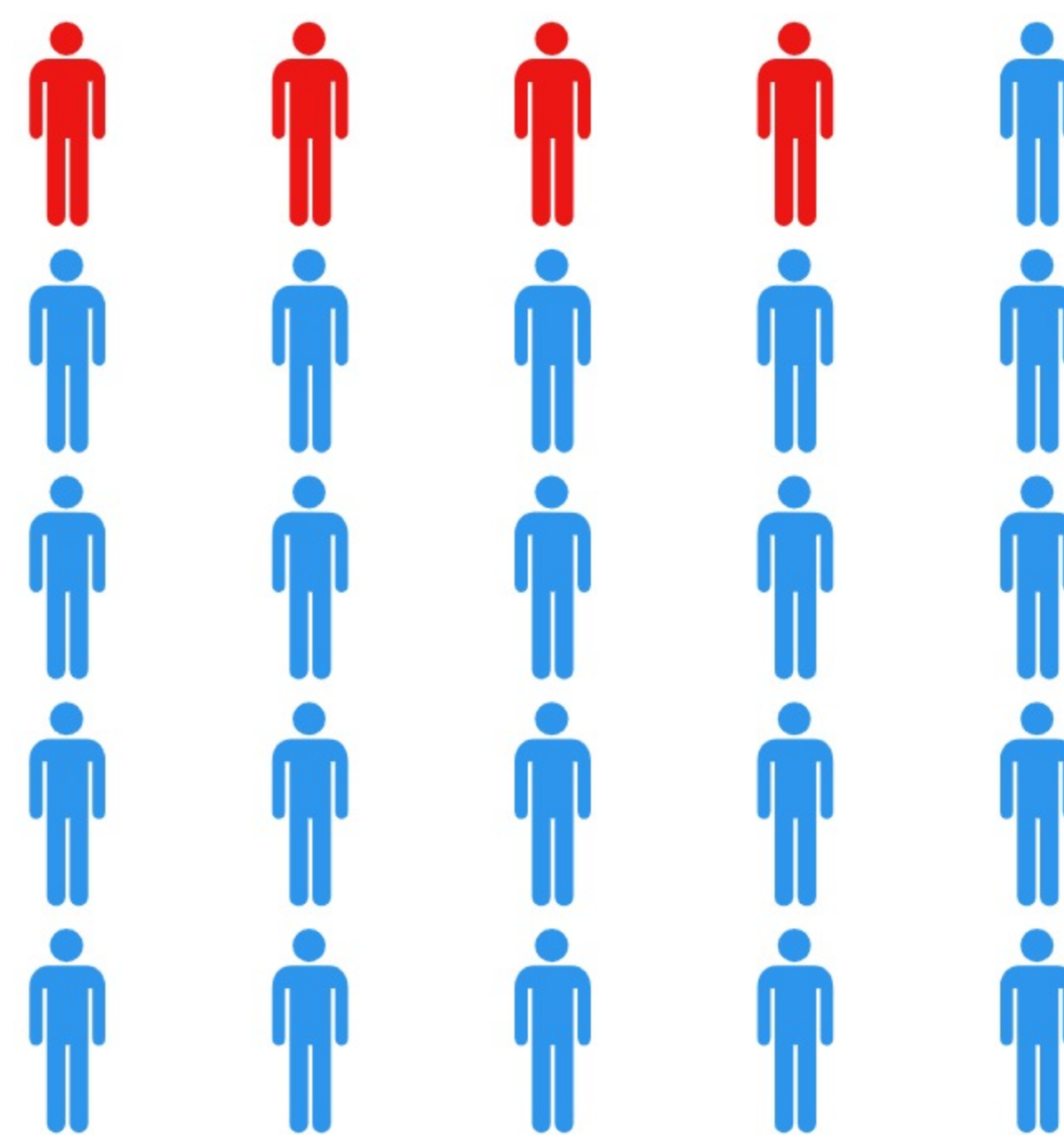




How Do  
We Do It

253  
VOLUNTEERS

95  
STAFF



8185

VOLUNTEER HOURS



3422

STUDENT PRACTICUM HOURS



## Food For Thought

According to the Growing Food Security in Alberta Network (GFSA); Food Security can be described as *the condition in which all people at all times can acquire safe, nutritionally adequate, and personally acceptable foods in a manner that maintains human dignity.*

ABC Head Start Society knows that this is not the case for all Albertans; especially some of the families we support. Food security is one of the growing challenges our families face. This year we worked hard to develop new partnerships with community organizations to address this challenge and help families acquire the food they need. This included new partnerships with COBS Bread Bakery, WECAN Food Baskets, Edmonton's Food Bank and Fort Saskatchewan Alliance Church - as well as an existing partnership with Rio Terrace Church.

**COBS Bread Bakery** - bi-weekly visits to pick up approximately 1000+ items. Each family who wishes to participate, gets a bag (sometimes two) full of bread & treats to take home.

**WECAN Food Baskets** - initiated a ABC Food Depot out of our Mill Woods location with Halal Food Baskets for families. This low-cost, cooperative buying allows families grocery money to go further and provides baskets of meat, fruit and vegetables.

**Edmonton's Food Bank** - provided nutritious snacks to our ABC Family Circle program and surplus of items such as baby food, to our Head Start program.

**Fort Saskatchewan Alliance Church & Rio Terrace Church** - provides food hampers for families at Thanksgiving & Christmas.



"Thank you for your program, I can tell the difference it makes in families lives. The children I worked with this year have grown so much thanks to the supportive staff."

- ABC Head Start Society Volunteer



# Thank you to our supporters

Abegail Ahorro  
Afton Elementary School  
Allan Robert Andrais  
Allan Wachowich  
April Killins  
Associated Engineering  
Atco Gas  
Betty Reiter  
Beverley McConnell  
Brookview Dental  
Bruce & Audrey MacGregor  
Burnco  
Cameron MacGougan  
Carol Severyn  
Carter Greschner  
CIBC  
CN Railroaders in the Community  
COBS Bread Callingwood  
COBS Bread Fort Saskatchewan  
Dale Short  
Dan Walters  
Daniel Johnson  
Dave Robson  
Delwood Elementary School  
Diane Sinclair  
Eaux Claires Save-on Foods  
Ecole Parc Elementaire  
Edmonton Community Foundation  
Edmonton Oil Kings  
Edmonton Space & Science Centre  
Edmonton's Food Bank  
Eldon & Anne Foote Fund  
EPCOR  
ETS  
Fort Saskatchewan Alliance Church  
Fort Saskatchewan Families First Society  
Funky Petals  
Germaine Chau  
Glastonbury Shopper's Drug Mart  
Gold Bar Developments  
Harold & Vivian Dundas Family Fund

Head Start Health Team - Alberta Health Services  
Heritage Sobey's  
Holly Lazar Cross  
Home Depot Fort Saskatchewan  
Inter-Pro Property Corporation  
Isla Brown  
James Boyes  
Janelle Maharaj  
Jean Robson  
Joyce Purdy  
Kappa Alpha Theta  
Kelly Hennig  
Kingsway Superstore  
Kompany Family Theatre  
Kountry Knits & Sewing  
Larry & Janet Anderson Learning Resources Endowment Fund  
Lorna Brown  
Maclab Properties Group & Midwest Property Management  
Margaret Robertson  
Mark-Ulrich Knoefel Prof Corp  
Meadowbrook Shopper's Drug Mart  
Meadows Superstore  
Melton Foundation  
MHK Insurance  
Michael Kinash  
Michael Seneka  
Michaels  
Mill Woods Farmer's Market  
Mill Woods Common Sobey's  
Morgan Schultz  
Northbridge Financial  
Oasis Orthodontics - Mark-Ulrich Knoefel  
Princeton Parent Association  
Ray Purdy  
Red Robin  
Rochelle Wilson  
Rogers Communication Canada Inc.  
Royal Alexandra Employee's - Charitable  
Donations Fund Neonatrix Services

Safeway Millbourne Mall  
Santa's Anonymous  
Shopper's Drug Mart Fort Saskatchewan  
Shores Jardine LLP  
Sinclair Dental  
South Common Superstore  
Stacey Scott-Nykolyshyn  
Staples  
Staples Fort Saskatchewan  
Stony Plain Road Superstore  
Surabhi Dave  
Telus Communications  
The Brick  
The Gulevich Family  
The John & Dianne Storey Family Foundation  
Tim Smythe  
United Way  
Violet Poon  
Walter Lidster  
Westmount Shopper's Drug Mart  
Whitemud Home Depot  
Wholesale Club  
William Connauton  
Zach's Famous Donair...and many others.

## 3 Ways to GIVE

- 1 Make a donation online at [abheadstart.org/donate](https://abheadstart.org/donate)
- 2 Mail a donation to  
**12122 68 St. NW  
Edmonton, AB  
T5B 1R1**
- 3 Provide goods & services  
[giving@abheadstart.org](mailto:giving@abheadstart.org)

---

**ABC Head Start Society is a registered charity which relies on the generosity of the community to be responsive to the needs of the children and families we serve. Please consider becoming a supporter today.**

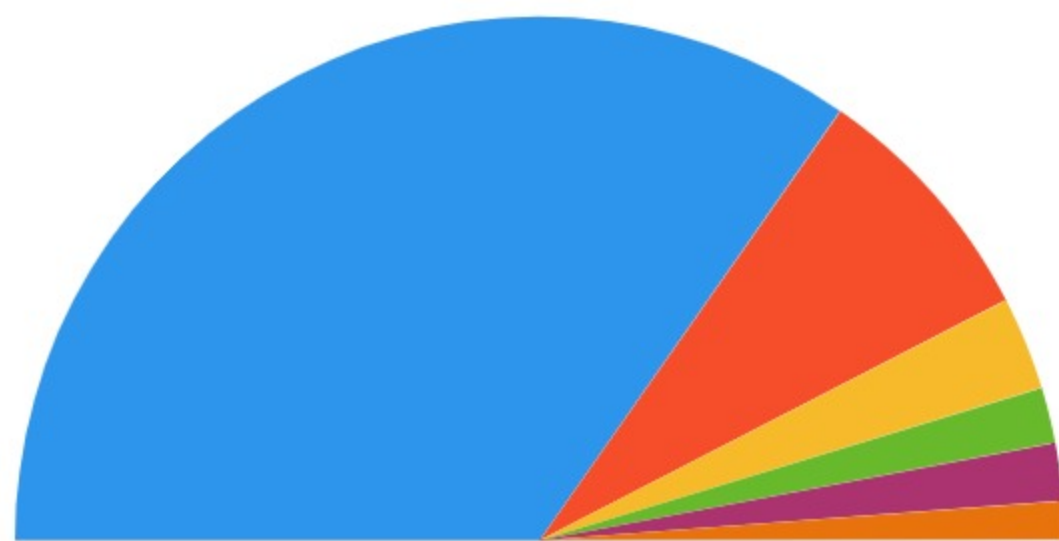


2017 - 2018

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

---

REVENUE



TOTAL: \$5,600,390

- Alberta Education
- Children's Services
- City of Edmonton F.C.S.S
- Public Health of Canada
- Donations & Fundraising
- Grants

EXPENSES



TOTAL: \$5,656,703

- Staffing
- Client Transportation
- Rent & Building Maintenance
- Program Costs, Supplies & Equipment

\*A complete set of audited Financial Statements are available upon request.

## ABC Head Start Society

Opening Doors For Children & Families

Administration office located at:  
Jerry Forbes Centre for Community Spirit  
12122 68 St. NW  
Edmonton, AB  
T5B 1R1

Charitable No: 137044962RR0001



780.461.5353



[www.abcheadstart.org](http://www.abcheadstart.org)



[info@abcheadstart.org](mailto:info@abcheadstart.org)



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



[facebook.com/abcheadstart](https://facebook.com/abcheadstart)

