

SUMMER 2026

Gratitude REPORT

TOTAL RAISED:

\$471,138

George Jeffrey
Children's Foundation



Centre client Sam and his sister enjoying Wilderness Discovery

THE GIFT OF ADVENTURE

For many families, opportunities to step away from daily routines and simply enjoy time together are limited. Thanks to donor support, the Wilderness Discovery camping experience is helping make those moments possible!

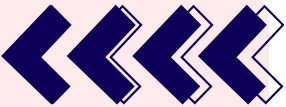
Now entering its fifth year, this special opportunity gives Centre clients, along with their families and caregivers, the chance to spend a week at Wilderness Discovery Centre on Shebandowan Lake. Families can enjoy a fully supported, barrier-free camping experience surrounded by nature.

But more than anything, this experience is about time together.

It's about mornings by the lake, afternoons spent exploring, and evenings gathered around a campfire. It's about siblings playing, parents relaxing, and families creating memories that might not otherwise be possible. In a setting designed so everyone can participate fully, families can focus less on logistics and more on simply being present with one another.

Each year, we hear how meaningful this experience is. For some, it is their first time away as a family. For others, it is a rare chance to reconnect and enjoy the simple moments that mean so much.

Because of you, these experiences are possible!

OVER 
3,400
CHILDREN & YOUTH
RECEIVED SERVICES



Thank you to everyone who supported our 2025 Best Western Plus Dryden Hotel & Conference Centre's Children's Charity Golf Classic



Stella WaxBar held their 4th Annual Red Carpet Charity Gala

MESSAGE FROM THE CEOs

Cindy Levanto, Foundation CEO
Tina Bennett, Centre CEO

At the heart of everything we do is a shared commitment to supporting children and youth in our community, and we are continually inspired by the generosity that makes this work possible.

With the support of our donors, community partners, and local organizations, George Jeffrey Children's Foundation is able to fund programs, services, and equipment that directly impact the lives of the children and families served by George Jeffrey Children's Centre.

This year, as the Centre celebrates 65 years of service, we are reminded of how far it has come. From its early beginnings to the comprehensive, family-centred care provided today, the Centre has remained a place of possibility and support for families across Northwestern Ontario.

We are proud to work alongside one another and alongside a community that cares so deeply. Together, we are helping create opportunities, remove barriers, and support children in reaching their greatest potential.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Thank you
from our

Foundation Board of Directors

Peter Miedema
President

Jenny Porter
Vice-President

Michael Duncan
Past-President

Jamie Harris

Dawn Sebesta

Yvonne Norton

Ivana Chies

Zoie Yurick

Foundation Staff

Cindy Levanto
Chief Executive Officer

Stephen Margarit
Foundation Coordinator

Krysta Piaskowski
Donor Relations & Communications Officer

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Peter Miedema

When I think about the impact of our Centre, I don't think in numbers. I think about lives changed, families supported, and futures made possible.

As President of the Foundation Board, I want to sincerely thank our donors, partners, and community. Your generosity makes this work possible. Because of you, more than 3,400 children and youth each year can access the care they need to grow and thrive.

I also want to thank my fellow board members, volunteers, and Foundation staff. Your commitment is reflected every day in the experience families have at the Centre.

The funds raised through the Foundation do more than support programs. They create opportunities and help shape brighter futures for children and families across our community.

This work is deeply personal to me. My late sister had special needs, and through her journey, I came to understand how important a children's treatment centre can be. It is more than a place families come for care. It is a source of connection during times that can feel overwhelming.

Thank you for believing in this work and for continuing to stand behind the children and families we serve.



Boozefighters Motorcycle Club Chapter 174 donated proceeds from their first ever Poker Run



Jim Mauro supported Autism in our community with his book *The First Santa Claus*, inspired by his grandson Carter



Members of Foresters Financial donated and assembled 120 snack packs for Centre clients to enjoy



Jordyn Sauv -Lambert, Client Services Assistant

BUILDING BETTER CARE TOGETHER

Understanding what children and families need starts with listening. Thanks to donor support, the Client Services Assistant pilot role, currently held by Jordyn Sauv -Lambert, is helping strengthen that connection in a meaningful and personal way.

This is a highly client-facing position that focuses on building relationships and creating space for families to share their experiences. Whether it is a conversation in the hallway, support during programs, or simply being a familiar and welcoming presence, Jordyn helps families feel comfortable, supported, and heard.

"Getting to connect with clients and families and hear their genuine responses has been such a rewarding part of this role," Jordyn shares. "I also really value the chance to see who the Centre's clients are and how clinicians support them every day."

The insights and feedback gathered through these day-to-day interactions are shared with teams across the Centre. This helps staff better understand what families are experiencing, what is working well, and where there may be opportunities to improve. It ensures that services continue to reflect the real needs of the children and youth we support.

We are already seeing the difference. Families are more engaged, communication is stronger, and programs are becoming even more responsive because they are shaped by real experiences and feedback.

Because of you, we are not only providing care. We are listening, learning, and improving together.



WHEN PROGRESS BECOMES POSSIBILITY

The Geravelis Family

When Leo was diagnosed with Autism in June 2025, his parents, Victoria and Nick, began navigating a new journey filled with uncertainty. Like many families, they hoped with the right support, Leo would continue to grow and reach new milestones.

When Leo started at George Jeffrey Children's Centre, that hope quickly began to take shape.

Since beginning services, Leo has made remarkable progress. "One of his most exciting achievements has been his communication development. He went from saying just two words to more than two hundred," says Leo's dad, Nick.

For Leo's mom, Victoria, the impact has been deeply meaningful. Wanting to give back, she recently asked loved ones to donate to George Jeffrey Children's Foundation instead of birthday gifts, helping more children and families access the same care and support.

"Leo looks forward to coming to the Centre every week," says his mom, Victoria. "He loves the bubble wall and the therapy ball pit. It's been amazing to watch him grow in a place where he feels comfortable and encouraged to be himself."

Stories like Leo's are why this work matters. **Because of YOU**, children are reaching new milestones, and families are finding hope and possibility every day.



Some of your donations at work...

\$6,330

Food & Snack
Cupboard

\$29,836.93

Taxi Program
550 Taxi Rides!

\$5,800

Daycare Playground
Enhancements

\$5,270

Client & Family
Events

\$9,360

Physiotherapy &
Occupational Therapy
Stabilizing Equipment

\$25,620

Client Services
Pilot Program