



Look at us grow!

Annual report 2024



Dear donors, sponsors and event participants,

The publication of our annual report provides a perfect time for reflection. 2024 will always hold cherished memories – we had a record-breaking year for fundraising, celebrated 50 years of CHEO and CHEO Foundation, and launched our national Kids These Days marketing campaign.

This \$220 million fundraising campaign is the largest in CHEO Foundation's history and will have a huge impact for children, youth and families in our region and beyond.

Over the past few decades, there has been a dramatic increase in the number and complexity of pediatric health issues. Kids are waiting far too long for care and that's not okay. With support from our caring community, a new integrated treatment centre will be built, and the existing campus will undergo much-needed upgrades and redevelopment.

All of us in this region have come to appreciate the importance of having CHEO in our community. I was a CHEO kid, and my kids were CHEO kids. I find that I don't have to speak to someone for very long before I discover a connection to CHEO – if not themselves, a family member, a neighbour, a colleague or a friend. The same is true for donors. The reasons for giving can be close to home, or a desire to support the most fragile among us. I wish all donors could see the impact of their contributions; it is phenomenal. When kids come through the doors at CHEO, nearly every aspect of their care and treatment – the equipment, the programs, the research behind the diagnoses and treatments – is either funded by, or enhanced by, your sponsorship, your participation in events and your individual donations. Community support makes everything possible at CHEO. Families that rely on CHEO feel the impact of your kindness and your generosity each day.

Please enjoy this annual report. It is a snapshot of what you have helped to achieve. Your belief in our mission not only provides crucial financial support but also inspires us to work harder. We look forward to sharing each step on the road to that future we must build. Thank you for walking with us, thank you for being part of Team CHEO.

Thank you for caring.

Warmest regards,



Steve Read
President and CEO
CHEO Foundation





Table of contents

CHEO's 50th birthday	4
CHEO's objectives for the next decade	5
Transforming to meet the needs of kids today	6
A first look inside CHEO's newly renovated MRI suite	7
ThinkRare and Artificial Intelligence	8
Breaking down communication barriers	9
A secure environment for kids at Roger Neilson Children's Hospice	10
Supporting families in need	11
Dialectical behaviour therapy	12
Board of directors	13
Donor bill of rights	14
Financials	15

CHEO's 50th birthday

We reached a major milestone as CHEO celebrated 50 years since first opening its doors in May 1974. The idea of CHEO originated in the 1960s when a group of mothers and grandmothers mobilized to request a pediatric centre in the region. For the past half-century, CHEO Foundation has helped CHEO offer cutting-edge medical services tailored to the unique needs of children, from routine check-ups to life-changing surgeries. Throughout its history, CHEO has been a pediatric health-care leader, pioneering breakthrough treatments and advancements in medical research, and thanks to the support of our community it continues to grow.

Since 1974, our population has grown, our service offerings have grown, and our catchment area has grown. Today, CHEO receives over 700,000 visits per year and partners with thousands of organizations and health-care professionals. As CHEO Foundation looks to the future, we remain dedicated to supporting CHEO in delivering exceptional care to children and families. With the continued generosity of our community, CHEO will continue to make a profound and lasting difference in the lives of countless children for generations to come.



KIDS THESE DAYS

Whether CHEO is creating improved spaces or harnessing the power of data and artificial intelligence to address persistent healthcare challenges, the focus remains unwavering: **helping children and youth live their healthiest, fullest lives. Learn more about our most transformative campaign yet.**

CHEO's objectives for the next decade

Times have changed for kids' health and it's increasingly clear that how we care for children needs to change, too. Since opening its doors, CHEO has been a leader in enhancing the lives of children and youth. Over the next 10 years, CHEO will transform, innovate, and grow to meet the evolving needs of children now and in the future. To bring this vision to life, CHEO Foundation launched Kids These Days, a \$220 million fundraising campaign.

Here's how the campaign is helping make this vision a reality:

- Expanding and enhancing mental health facilities to address the growing mental health crisis in our region
- Redeveloping critical areas such as the Emergency Department, medical imaging, and the pharmacy
- Advancing diagnostic capabilities, relocating newborn screening, and facilitating ground-breaking research through the development of state-of-the-art laboratories
- Renovating operating rooms to accommodate the latest surgical techniques
- Modernizing research facilities to drive improved pediatric care outcomes

Expected to be operational in 2028, **CHEO's Integrated Treatment Centre** will provide an improved approach to care through a new model co-created by clinicians and patients.



Transforming to meet the needs of kids today

This is why CHEO is planning new buildings, reimagining spaces and integrating new innovation and technology. CHEO's Integrated Treatment Centre will improve care and increase access to services for kids and youth living with complex medical, developmental, behavioural or mental health needs.

The new six-storey building will be located on CHEO's main campus and will be connected by a link to the main hospital. CHEO recognizes the challenges faced by families with children and youth with complex needs. The new Integrated Treatment Centre will provide everything families need in a centralized location and connect programs and services together, so families can receive integrated, seamless care.

Some of the highlights of this 220,000-square-foot building will include:

- Multi-use clinic space
- Physiotherapy rehab gym
- Expanded mental health clinics
- Indoor and outdoor multi-use spaces
- Space for children and youth with complex emotional needs
- State-of-the-art treatment rooms
- Advanced technology to enable virtual care
- Family support and community spaces
- New parking structure (Completed in April 2025)



A first look inside CHEO's newly renovated MRI suite

The newly renovated CHEO MRI suite is up and running, offering new décor, enhanced space to improve the patient experience and shortened wait times. The suite is also home to a new GE SIGNA Artist Evo MRI magnet, which offers more accurate and timely diagnoses, leveraging innovative new AI Deep learning technology to analyze higher-resolution images.

MRI technologists can now complete most scans much more quickly, which will improve the experience for children anxious about an MRI and also enable the team to see more children.

Funded by the generosity of donors, the new magnet will also save time for more complex cases where a head scan is needed. A new type of four-minute scan can create six different images, which would previously require six different scans that would each last between two and five minutes.

For the past year and a half, the MRI team has worked hard to implement innovative strategies to cut the wait list in half — from 18 to nine months — for kids who need general anesthesia to have an MRI.

The MRI also has what's called a "zero TE" type of imaging that looks very similar to images from CT scans. This means CHEO can replace some CT scans with MRIs to reduce radiation for patients.

The new MRI suite is part of an overall transformation and upgrade on the CHEO campus, made possible through generous support from community donors.

ThinkRare and Artificial Intelligence

CHEO researchers recently harnessed the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to develop a groundbreaking search algorithm that identifies children and youth who may have an undiagnosed rare genetic disease and refers them for genetic testing – putting an end to their diagnostic odyssey.

ThinkRare was born from this work and is already changing the future of some patients at CHEO. “The ThinkRare algorithm means we can help families find answers and get the care and support they need sooner,” said Dr. Kym Boycott, Senior Scientist at the CHEO Research Institute and Chief of Genetics at CHEO. “This algorithm is a game changer. Using AI to scour CHEO’s electronic health records based on set criteria, ThinkRare can accurately identify kids who may have an undiagnosed rare genetic disease and refer them to our clinic – something that may have never happened without it.” Since its launch, the ThinkRare algorithm has identified seven patients with rare genetic diseases, allowing for improved medical management and access to resources. This incredible feat would not have been possible had it not been for the establishment of the Data Informatics Team and infrastructure at the CHEO Research Institute – made possible by donor funding.

“The **ThinkRare algorithm** means we can help families find answers and get the care and support they need sooner.”

Dr. Kym Boycott,

Senior Scientist at
the CHEO Research
Institute and Chief of
Genetics at CHEO.





Breaking down communication barriers

With the increasing number of newcomers arriving in Canada, the population of families that CHEO supports are becoming more diverse. Many of these families do not have English or French as a first language, which can result in challenges when communicating with their care team. Donor funds have assisted in reducing these barriers by covering the cost of translation for medical records and language resources for families. Examples of documents that community funding has helped translate include diagnostic certificates into Mandarin, patient experience surveying questions into Arabic, patient discharge summaries into Swahili and eating disorder meal planning guides into Spanish.

Thank you for ensuring that families receive medical information in their preferred languages, reducing safety risks and increasing their overall experience with the health care system.



A secure environment for kids at Roger Neilson Children's Hospice

Caring for young ones with life-limiting conditions requires specialized equipment to assist in many aspects of daily life. Sleep is just one example of a crucial physical need that can be supported using purpose-built equipment like mesh beds.

These beds offer a comfortable place to sleep while also providing a safe and secure environment that keeps children in place. Even when they roll or kick, the sturdy mesh material protects them while allowing good ventilation and visibility.

Comfort and safety are the most important things for the children and youth who come to Roger Neilson Children's Hospice, and thanks to donors who funded the purchase of these special beds, more sweet dreams can be enjoyed with less worry for caregivers.

Supporting families in need

Staff at CHEO look for ways to help fill critical gaps through family assistance, so that parents can be their child's foremost support without having to deal with unsurmountable financial pressures. There has been an ever-increasing need for assistance in the last few years given the rising cost of living and a high number of families struggling with basic living costs.

Over the course of 2024, a total of 75 families were supported with a wide variety of specialized equipment such as portable lifts, adaptive seats and wheelchair parts, food gift cards to help families with the rising cost of food, and taxi chits to enable attendance at appointments. A typical amount of financial support ranges from \$200 to \$500 per family for specialized equipment, \$50 per family for food gift cards, and several taxi chits per family for appointments. **These examples are just a few ways your dollars have provided tangible and compassionate help during the most difficult times for CHEO families.**





Dialectical behaviour therapy

CHEO's Emergency Department has seen a dramatic increase in children and youth presenting with suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. In response, mental health experts often use Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) to enhance care and service delivery for children at risk of, or in the early stages of, mental health challenges. The DBT program helps address the needs of adolescents who have difficulty regulating their emotions, resulting in chronic or repeated suicidal ideation, self-injury, family conflict and school problems.

A total of 52 patients were served by the program in 2024. In DBT, youth learn to accept themselves without judgment. At the same time, they are encouraged to find approaches to change problem behaviours in ways that bring them closer to their own ultimate goals. This therapy includes education for parents and family members. Furthermore, in DBT, youth learn many skills to help them handle their intense emotional reactions including mindfulness, interpersonal effectiveness, distress tolerance, and emotional regulation.

This past year, CHEO piloted a new DBT grad group for youth. The goal of the grad group was to inspire participants towards not only being service users but also being service contributors. Research suggests maintenance groups are a terrific way of promoting effective use of DBT skills for those actively in group DBT therapy as well as those who have completed the program.

Board of directors

Ainsley Malhotra
Chair

James McKellar
Vice Chair

Ross Hunt
Past-Chair

Charles-Antoine Rozon
Treasurer and Secretary

Angela Singhal
Director

Antonia Betts
Director

Anver Malam
Director

Jessica Sheridan
Director

Julie Lupinacci
Director

Karen Sparks
Director

Mike Mount
Director

Roxanne Bouchard
Director

Terry Ludlow
Director



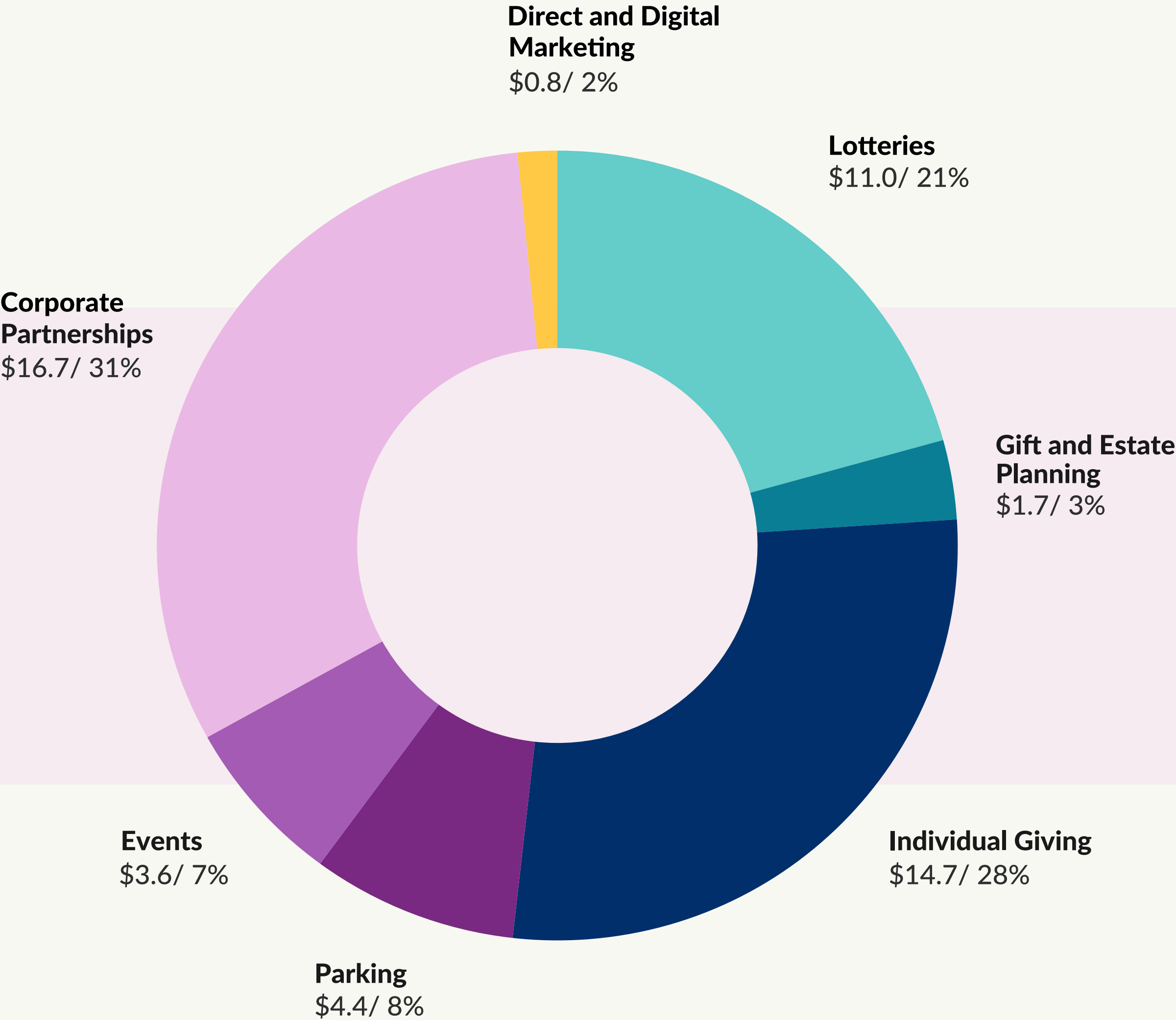


Donor bill of rights

- To be informed of CHEO Foundation's **mission**, of the intended use for donated resources, and of the capacity for donations to be used **effectively** for their intended purpose.
- To be informed of the identity of CHEO Foundation's **governing board**, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgement in its **stewardship responsibilities**.
- To have access to CHEO Foundation's most recent **financial statements**.
- To be assured their **gifts** will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
- To receive appropriate **acknowledgement and recognition**.
- To be assured that information about their donations is handled with **respect** and with **confidentiality** to the extent required by law.
- To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be **professional** in nature.
- To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of CHEO Foundation, or hired solicitors.
- To have the **opportunity** for their names to be deleted from mailing lists.
- To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive **prompt, truthful** and **forthright** answers.

Financials

Sources of revenue (in millions)



Financials

Investments in child health
Grants and Charitable
Activity (in millions)

