



**JASPER PLACE**  
Family Resource Centre

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

**Because Children are Citizens**

## Our Core Values

**Relationship** – our well-being is profoundly impacted by the quality of our relationships

**Community** – a strong, active accessible community that welcomes and invites participation of all

**Inclusion** – welcoming processes and spaces that strive for equity and value differences

**Learning** – through play, curiosity and open-mindedness

Serving children, families and the community since 1972.



### Vision

We are all leaders in early learning and care. We create stronger, healthier families and communities.

### Mission

To partner with parents in promoting children's healthy growth and development by providing high quality early learning and care, and coordinated family programs and services.



# Dear Families, Board Members, Staff and Community Partners,

At Jasper Place Family Resource Centre, our core values—relationship, community, inclusion, and learning—guide our commitment to keeping the children and families we serve at the heart of everything we do.

This past year has been a time of thoughtful planning, development, and visioning for the future of the Centre. Throughout this process, we have remained firmly grounded in our values, ensuring they shape and inspire our work.

Our Board of Directors and leadership team have worked collaboratively to develop a strategic plan that reflects our values and incorporates insights from program participants, team members, and community partners.

As the landscape of Early Learning and Care transitions toward a predominantly publicly funded system, we remain dedicated to advocating for public policy that upholds the rights of children as citizens and that is informed by current research in early brain development and learning pedagogy.

Our commitment to equitable family support services continues to grow, driven by our values of learning and inclusion. We are actively engaging with community partners to leverage their expertise in serving diverse populations.

Additionally, our focus on relationship and community is leading to ongoing enhancements in our physical environments and fostering the professional growth of our team members.

We are proud of our progress and excited to share a summary of the key developments from the past year.

**ADINE SHUCHUK**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



# Our Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Programs

## Navigating the changing landscape as we move towards a primarily publicly funded system

Alberta continues to participate in the development of a nationwide system of Early Learning and Child Care via the Federal-Provincial agreement.

This past year brought an increase in the affordability grant, further reducing base parent fees to a flat rate of \$326.25, with an aim to reduce fees to an average of \$10 a day by 2026.

Unfortunately, also in early 2025, the unexpected and abrupt end to the Provincial subsidy program left many of our families unprepared for an increase to their monthly fees. With a focus on Jasper Place family Resource Centre's values of inclusion and community, our board of directors worked to redirect funds to temporarily cover this increase for families. A number of families are also supporting this temporary relief with charitable donations. Thank you all who were able to support our community.

## Advocating for High Quality, Inclusive Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC)

The current Canada-Alberta Early Learning and Care Agreement will expire March 2026 with Alberta being only 1 of 2 Provinces who have yet to sign a new agreement.

The Centre is joining alongside other ELCC Programs and community stakeholders in advocating for a system of Early Learning and Care that is of high quality, inclusive and accessible to all families. Some key messages emerging from this work are; Early Learning and Child Care benefits everyone, quality ELCC is inclusive for all children, Early Childhood Educators are the cornerstone of quality child care. The aim is to advocate for the new agreement to support these statements.

Jasper Place Family Resource Centre is participating with the following groups in our advocacy work; The Edmonton Council for Early Learning and Care (ECELC), The Childcare Association for Resources to Administrators (CAFRA), Child Care Now, Alberta Early Childhood Educators Association (AECEA) and the Alberta Early Learning and Care Leaders Caucus.

As part of our work to advocate for quality in ELCC, the Centre also continues to support the research and implementation of FLIGHT: Alberta's Early Learning and Care Framework.

[Flight | Alberta's Early Learning and Care Framework \(flightframework.ca\)](https://flightframework.ca)

As the Centre entered its 12th year of partnership with this project, we are proud to share that six educators completed training in the implementation of Flight with two educators working alongside professors to facilitate the course.



## Continuous professional development for our Early Childhood Educators

Aligned with the Centre's value of learning, our team of educators are supported as life-long learners. Here are a few of the learning topics explored over the past year.

- **Children's social emotional development – Access, Supports and Participation** [GRIT ASaP](#)
- **Supporting children's early literacy through every day practice**
- **Pedagogical documentation to highlight children's learning and educator intentional practice**
- **The Neurorelational Framework - practices to support children's neurodevelopment** [Home - NRF Institute](#)
- **Culturally responsive early learning-SPARK** [Culturally responsive early learning & child care in Alberta - Spark Guide](#)

We are also proud to share that our own Educators from the Orange Hub, Anna and Brahmleen, presented their research and learnings on children and citizenship at the Provincial Alberta Early Childhood Educators Association conference this past spring.

## Improving our early learning spaces

Thanks to Federal and Provincial Grants, as well as fundraising, Jasper Place Family Resource Centre has the following renovation project underway. These projects highlight the philosophy of the environment as the third teacher.

**The Orange Hub outdoor patio space** – At long last, the patio project is almost complete. This project is funded in part by a Federal Accessibility Grant.



**Cabrini spaces** – The ELCC spaces at Cabrini will soon begin renovations to include washrooms in the Oak and Cypress rooms, an accessible washroom in the North Hallway and ramps to our outdoor play spaces. – This project is funded by the Provincial Inclusive Spaces Program Grant.

All of this work is grounded with young children and their families at the center of all we do. Our efforts are informed by the children and families we serve.

### **Comments from our recent survey to families accessing our early learning and child care programs**

“Our family experience has been so wonderful, I feel safe leaving my daughter in their care. Children are welcomed in a warm environment which nurtures their developmental needs.”

“How we have seen our child develop, at such a rapid positive pace, has been a fantastic sight and something I look forward to seeing more of.”

“The educators in my child’s room support my family and I through all aspects of our life. They share what strategies are working or not working with my child and are willing to work with me to create continuity.”

“The level of professionalism by the entire staff is unmatched. I am deeply satisfied with the variety of learning approaches that I have seen in action.”

“To see the view of children as citizens is comforting and inspiring for our own ways of parenting.

“The educators create such a welcoming and caring environment for our son, for us as a family, and for the other children and families, which positively impacts how we see each other as a learning community and a source of support.”

“We enjoy how each educator brings different strengths and interests and how there is space for them to learn and develop alongside the children.”

“I have received so many different strategies to help with challenging behaviours that my children have faced, and so much detailed support.”



**Our 2 early learning programs provide care and learning for over 130 children**



# Our Family Resource Services

Our Family Support Services have three focus areas made possible by two funding sources: the Province of Alberta's Family Resource Networks (FRN) and The City of Edmonton Family Community Support Services (FCSS)



## Connecting parents and caregivers to resources and supports

Our Hub Service Coordinators and Program facilitator's access their vast knowledge of resources and relationships with community partners to reach out and connect parents and caregivers to the services and supports they are seeking.

**474 Parents and caregivers were supported to connect to resources**

## Child Development and Well-being

Our Play Learn Connect programs offer drop-in group play opportunities at locations across West Edmonton. As parents, caregivers and young children gather together, we offer opportunities of social and emotional development for children and for social connection amongst families.



## Caregiver Capacity Building

Our Parent and Caregiver Education programs offer opportunities for people raising children to gain knowledge and skills in child development and positive parenting. Parents and caregivers participate in-person and virtually, one on one, and in groups.

**1836 children and caregivers participated in our 164 Child Development and Parent Education Programs**

## The Impact of our Work in the Lives of Families

**96% of participants have improved networks of social support**

"We have been attending since 2018 when I first became a mother...this program is a part of our 'village', as I've met some wonderful friends here...my children have met their little friends here too and learned how to problem solve and interact with other kids..."

"...being a newcomer to Canada. It made me feel welcomed and helped to access useful information and helpful people. The program helped me with prenatal classes which eased my anxiety about giving birth...definitely gave my pregnancy a positive turn."

"I felt very unsure, isolated and overwhelmed as a parent of 3...now I feel supported, understood and like I have a community of people to lean on..."

"It makes a difference in having a social play place the kids can go to that they feel comfortable and they can make friends while I can meet other moms for help and advice."



**40 under resourced women were supported to have a healthy pregnancy**

**More than 1724 people were helped to access basic needs**

**86% of participants are more confident in their parenting role**

“The program has made me a more patient and empathetic parent and it’s given the kids lots of opportunities to meet new friends and to grow and develop in positive ways.”

“I learned how to handle my children when they are in a bad mood without having to feel bad.”

“I learned lots of great strategies how to deal with my kids’ behaviours.”



**82% are better able to help their child develop age appropriate skills**

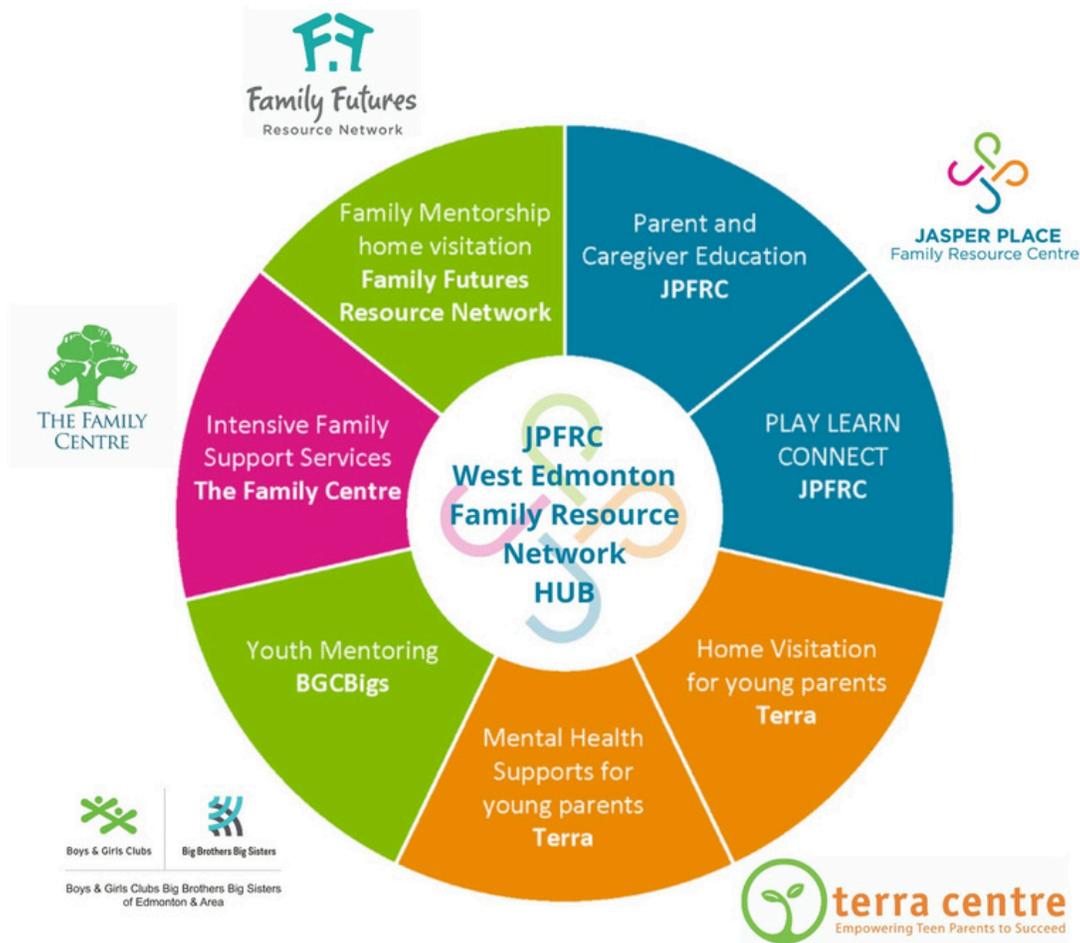
“I learnt that you don’t need so many toys, children can interact with everyday household items and just playing with them, using imagination is the most important way to connect to my children.”

“Learned new ways to incorporate interactive play, opportunities to learn skills around problem solving, coping with being a parent of multiple young children.”

“I learn what type of behaviours are age appropriate for my child and how to set boundaries in a positive way.”



## Here is a model of the West Edmonton Family Resource Network



### THE WEST EDMONTON FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK

Jasper Place Family Resource Centre is proud to be a Family Resource Network Hub for west Edmonton.

As a Hub, the Centre coordinates early intervention and prevention services to families in west Edmonton by leading, supporting and developing collaborative practices with community partners.

We are better able to serve children and families through collaborative partnerships.

We are continuously reaching out to develop and nurture partnerships with other human serving organizations and work to bring these organizations together to build a coordinate system of services that meet the current needs of families in our community.

**Family Support Services are better accessed in West Edmonton thanks to 22 community partnerships**

## Comments from our agency partners

"It has been an absolute pleasure to be a spoke partner to WEFRNH. The core values and strategic direction aligns so well with our agency. Together we are stronger to be change agents and impact the lives of children and families."

"JPFRC aligns with our agency's values. Any person I have worked with has been so supportive and kind."

"We feel so fortunate to be working alongside you all to support children, youth, and families."

"Thank you for being such a great partner and helping to support our programs! Together, we have been having a significant impact on the community."

"Jasper Place Family Resource Centre provides many opportunities for the spoke partners to engage with each other and share their experiences and resources. These opportunities are very beneficial to the families we serve, as we are able to share knowledge and resources. We also network and develop meaningful relationships with other agencies get families to the right resource in a timely manner."

## A few new partners we began working alongside this past year

**North Glenora Community League** – To bring Play, Learn, Connect Programs to families in the community



### **The KICKSTAND Hub at West Edmonton Mall (WEM)**

– Kickstand a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing youth mental health across the province. Kickstand at WEM is a hub for young people ages 11–25 seeking free mental health counselling, substance use counselling, peer support, Indigenous wellness services, employment support and primary health care. Through this partnership, JPFRC is bringing parent capacity building services to parents of the youth.



# Engaged and Amazing Team Members

## Learning together in a community of practice

Jasper Place Family Resource Centre knows that learning is most generative and impactful when it is experienced in a practice of relationship. Our teams gather monthly in communities of practice to research, share knowledge and build understanding. Here are a few topics the family resource team has worked on this past year.

- Understanding gender and sexual diversity,
- Indigenous ways of knowing and being
- Ways to support our own and others mental health and well-being.

## Recognizing long term service to children and families

When team members are engaged and committed to our work over time, it is beneficial for the children, the families and one another.

Here are some long-time team member commitments to honour.



Over 10 years	Over 20 years
Gale O'Hara Susan Watmough Lynn Fauchon-Shydrowski Katie Sharp Stephanie Basker Carman Ede Kanwal Khalil Andrea Hansen Rhonda Peppel Ngan (Emy) Nguyen Fariba Shafieizadegan	Adine Shuchuk Sherie Balaban Pam Gudmundson Paulina Reye

## Continuously improving our team members experience with us

Aligned with the Centre's values, we are invested in ensuring our team members feel valued and supported. This involves seeking feedback from everyone and using it to build a continuous plan for improvement. This coming year, the leadership team will work collaboratively to outline Centre practices that support the psychological safety of our team.

## Supporting our efforts

Jasper Place Family Resource Centre values the work of community volunteers and practicum students in working towards our vision and mission. Supporting students with learning field placements helps to ensure a strong and committed future workforce.

This past year, the Centre

- worked with 99 volunteers
- supported 25 students in their learning through practicum experiences

### Team member comments about working at Jasper Place Family Resource Centre

"I have a lot of pride because we are well known in the community and we go above and beyond to do an excellent job."

"It is rare that you find a job where you genuinely like every single one of your coworkers, but this is that job!"

"It feels like a family supporting each other through life. A village raising our next generation."

"I feel fulfilled in my job supporting families and children and advocating for their needs and best interests."

"I truly love the environment here—the people, the leadership team, and everything in between."

"It genuinely feels like a family away from home, where everyone is valued and encouraged. It's a wonderful, uplifting place to be."



# Our Board of Directors

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The work of our Board of Directors ensures the Centre's vision and mission are brought to life through the lens of the Centre's core values.

With input from team members, program participants, community partners, and facilitation support from Alberta Community Development, the Board and leadership team created a new, 3-year strategic plan.

## The plan has 4 Focus areas

### Organizational Identity

We clearly and concisely communicate and share how we contribute to the community  
-JPCFRS is recognized as a values-driven organization

### Strengthening Relationships with Community

The community is engaged and invested in JPFRC's work and those we serve.  
-JPCFRS is trusted and sought out for leading ELCC practices, knowledge, and partnerships

### Sector Excellence

We work collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure an equitable, accessible future for all children and families  
-JPCFRS advocates for high-quality ELCC

### Organizational Resilience and Excellence

JPFRC structure, policies and processes support a vibrant organizational culture and drive performance  
-JPCFRS has a strategic, sustainable financial system  
-JPCFRS is a destination of choice for ELCC educators

# Our Board of Directors

**In the coming year, the board will work on developing and creating action strategies to bring these focus areas to life!**

**A very big thank you to our Board of Directors for sharing their time and expertise.**

## 2024/25 Board of Directors

**Board Chair- Andy Mikula**  
**Vice Chair- Laina Kelly**  
**Treasurer- Beau Cotey**  
**Secretary - Bailey Curtis**  
**Director- Brianne Vereschagin**  
**Director - Ashima Samaru-Jurf**  
**Director- Suzy Connolly**  
**Director - Heather Mangan**  
**Director -Nelgee Laminta**  
**Director- Nicole Hatton**

## Saying farewell

A heartfelt farewell to the following Board Members.

Jasper Place Family Resource Centre thanks you for your service in making a difference in the lives of children and families.

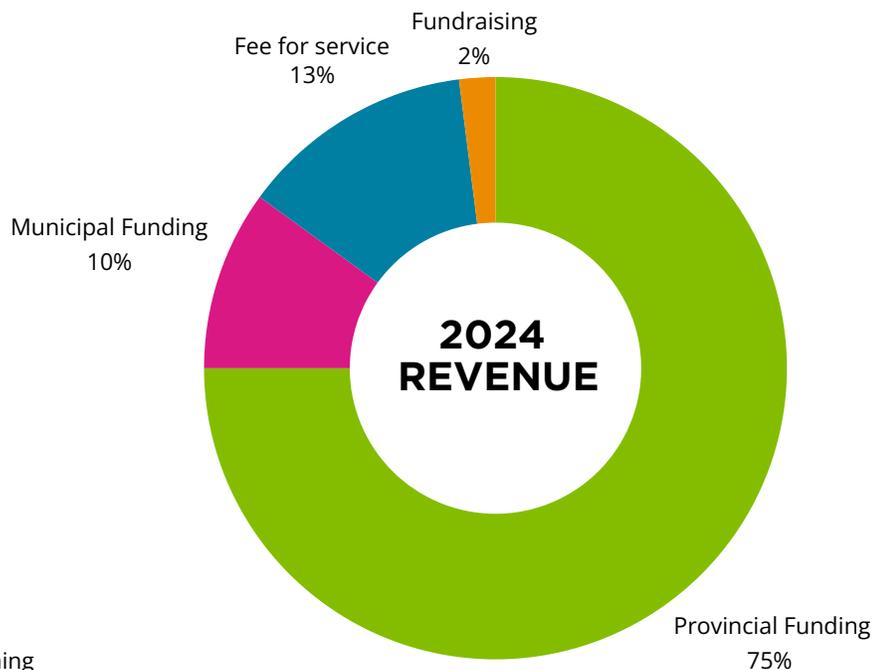
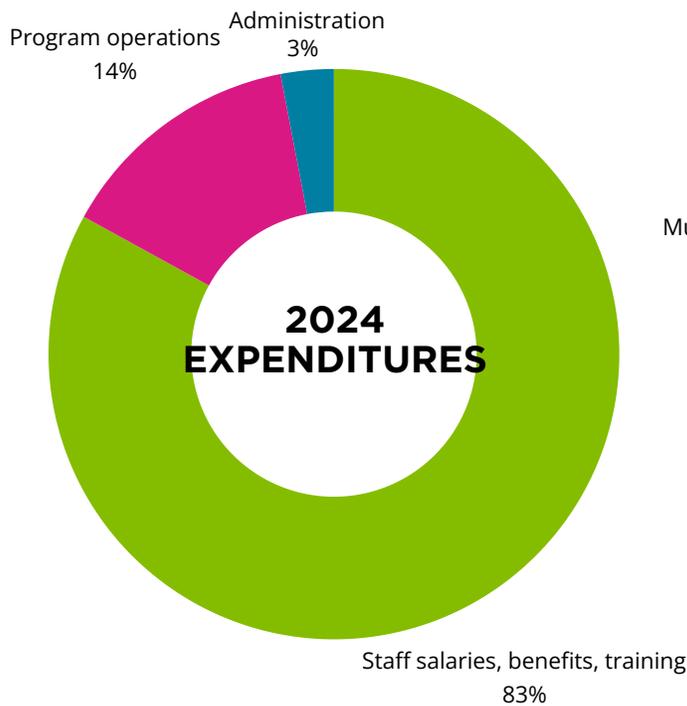
- Bailey Curtis
- Suzy Connolly
- Laina Kelly
- Nicole Hatton

### Interested to serve?

We are always looking for new board members with diverse areas of lived experience and expertise.

[Join our Board of Directors - Jasper Place Family Resource Centre \(jasperplace-cfrc.com\)](https://jasperplace-cfrc.com)

# Financials



## Fundraising

Fundraising is an important source of revenue for Jasper Place Family Resource Centre.

Funds raised help us to purchase materials and equipment that support our quality programming.

Our AGLC Charitable Gaming License for Casino's is a key source of fundraising.

## Volunteers needed

Jasper Place Child and Family Resource Society will participate in a Casino November 9 and 10, 2025. Volunteers are critical to the success of this fundraising event.

Watch for volunteer sign-up information coming soon!

# THANK YOU!

to our Funders

**FCSS**  
Family & Community  
Support Services



**Canada** 

**TO THE BOARD, FAMILIES, CHILDREN, AND COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.**