



CHILDREN'S  
AID FOUNDATION  
OF CANADA



# Transforming Lives: The Teddy Bear Fund 2019-2020 IMPACT REPORT

THANK YOU for your investment in the Teddy Bear Fund. Because of you, **8,909 children, youth and families received critical supports** allowing them to access the tools and resources they need to move confidently forward and create a bold vision of success for themselves.

Each year, Children's Aid Foundation of Canada's Teddy Bear Fund – with the support of our incredible donor community – grants \$1.25 million to the Children's Aid Society of Toronto to enable them to respond to the immediate and changing needs of children, youth and families in crisis. Last year, the Fund supported 23 strategic initiatives that helped change the lives of families and their children in Toronto. These initiatives ranged from parenting supports, family group counselling, enrichment programs and more.

Now with 29 Founding Donors making commitments of \$100,000 or more and many annual contributors, the Teddy Bear Fund has raised over \$5.9 million in cash and pledge commitments since launching in 2016, allowing us to continue supporting young people and families in Toronto. We sincerely thank you for your commitment.



“I used to think for a long time that family was the group of people that you actually came from, that you lived with, that was your actual bloodline. I've come to the understanding that family is something that you can make. Family to me are people who try to provide support and help when you need it, even when you don't ask for it, the people that genuinely want to see good happen for you.”

– KAHLEEN, Former youth in care and Foundation funding recipient



# CHANGING LIVES: PROGRAM PROFILES

## ADDRESSING OVER-REPRESENTATION OF BLACK CHILDREN IN CHILD WELFARE: THE KUPONYA PROJECT



Kuponya means “healing” in Swahili, which is imperative for Black and bi-racial families who face significantly more barriers in accessing services and resources, as well as systemic oppression and racism. The Kuponya Project offers a unique, trauma-informed approach to working with Black families in Toronto, helping them heal from past traumas and experiences. The project is a collaborative, innovative program between the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto (CAS of Toronto), Caribbean African Canadian Social Services, and The Jean Tweed Centre (an agency serving women and their families who struggle with substance use and/or gambling concerns).

Participants have experienced various trauma, including but not limited to domestic violence, anti-Black racism, and sexual abuse. The intention of this Project is to help build strong partnerships with community agencies, emphasizing prevention and early, trauma-focused interventions leading to healthier, stronger and empowered Black families. Last year, 90 families were referred to the program and 220 children were helped. The Project is helping reduce the number of Black children coming into care, which is of particular concern for CAS of Toronto as they are committed to addressing the overrepresentation of Black children and youth in their care.

“I am thankful that this program exists because without this program, I would have not understood healthier coping parenting skills. **Thanks to this program, I have a healthier relationship with my child.**”  
– Mother and Kuponya Participant

## YOUTH TRANSITIONING OUT OF CARE - CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO THRIVE

At the age of 18, young people from care “age out” of foster care and need support as they transition into independent living. Without a family



or a strong social support network, youth leaving care often feel isolated, find themselves out of work or school, and risk falling into poverty and homelessness.

The Teddy Bear Fund is helping these young people with the resources and supports they need to transition out of care into a life of independence and success through critical life skills programs, including:

- Providing access to the Pape Adolescent Resource Centre (PARC), a preparation for independence program that strives to empower youth to navigate the transition to independence and community

- Teaching young people the fundamentals of money management skills like budgeting, debt management and building credit
- Providing access to a social worker to provide guidance and support
- Offering guidance to youth during their search for affordable housing
- Resources to help youth complete their education (secondary or post-secondary)
- Teaching youth simple cooking skills and the value of fitness and nutrition
- Finding stable employment by developing strong cover letters, resumes and interview skills
- Providing connection and relationships through the Pape Adolescent Resource Centre for youth who may feel lonely and isolated after leaving care

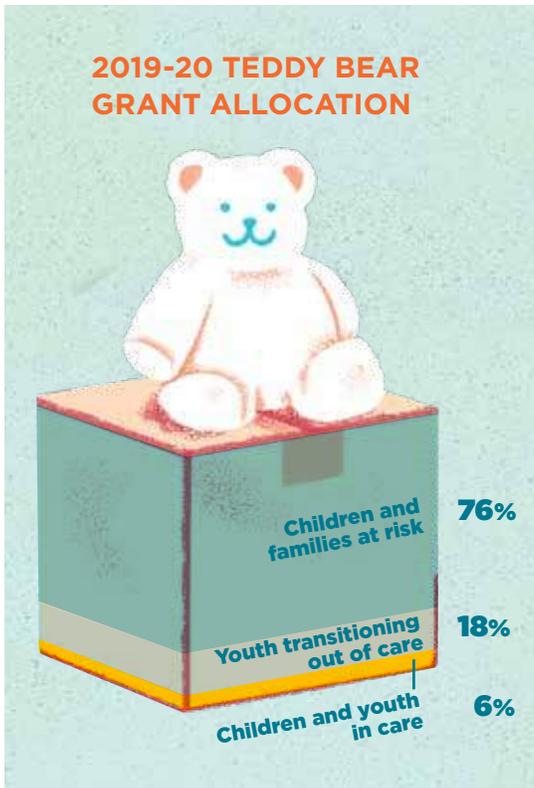
These programs are offered in group settings to help build relationships and networks.

# MEET CHRISTINA



“When I was living on the streets and in shelters, when I was about 20, I knew I needed help. I was referred to the Pape Adolescent Resource Centre and they helped me with funding. As far as I can remember, Children’s Aid Foundation of Canada has been there to support me in all the ways that I need; for things like working and getting a career and education. Because of all of the support, I’m on my feet. I completed my Personal Support Worker certificate, and I’ve been able to find work in that area. If it wasn’t for the Foundation, it would be the same repeating cycle over and over. The fact that the Foundation gives support until we’re 30, makes it even better. I’m just going to keep moving forward. The Foundation gives me a place to turn.

I’d really like to do nursing; I love helping others, and I’m going to keep moving forward. I’m just making little steps. [Youth from care] go through some really [hard] things, and if they don’t have the resources they need, what will happen to them? There’s so much that goes on that youth can’t bear by themselves. I have a big heart, and if I can help just like the Foundation does, I hope to do that one day. Thank you so much to the Foundation.”



**\$1.25M**  
GRANTED IN  
2019-2020



**8,909**  
children and  
families helped



**55**  
youth from care  
received care  
packages as  
they began post-  
secondary studies



**301**  
kids sent  
to camp



**193**  
mothers and  
fathers received  
the tools they  
need to overcome  
trauma and  
develop healthy  
parenting skills



**414**  
youth received  
support through  
Pape Adolescent  
Resource Centre



## CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

We are immensely grateful to you for choosing to invest in the Teddy Bear Fund. To our Founding Donors, Gala patrons, annual contributors, and those whose loved ones have chosen to leave a legacy gift, we offer our sincere thanks.

### JUDITH LOEB COHEN TEDDY BEAR FUND PROFILE

Judi Cohen has had an incredible impact on children, youth and families across Canada for over three decades through her advocacy, leadership and philanthropy.



A true visionary, Judi understood before many that by strengthening families, children would have a far better chance to thrive and reach their full potential, and dedicated her time and energy to creating tools, programs and funding to achieve this goal. Amongst many accomplishments, Judi established the Teddy Bear Affair Gala 33 years ago, creating a lasting legacy and raising millions of dollars to support those involved in the child welfare system.

To celebrate her passion and leadership in the sector, the Foundation honoured Judi at the 33rd annual Teddy Bear Affair Gala in November 2019, announcing the establishment of the **Judith Loeb Cohen and Family Teddy Bear Fund** to continue Judi's legacy. With generous gifts from family and friends, and from Judi and her husband Mickey, this fund has raised over \$300,000 to date.

For decades past and decades to come, thousands of children, youth and families will benefit from Judi's efforts. Together with these young people and their families, the Foundation is forever grateful to Judi for her hard work, dedication and leadership.

Pictured: Mickey Cohen and Judi Loeb Cohen

#### 2019-2020 Teddy Bear Fund Committee

Eric Bélanger, Chair  
Atif Ayub  
Vineet Malhotra  
Rory Mitz  
Grant Rasmussen

#### Founding Donors

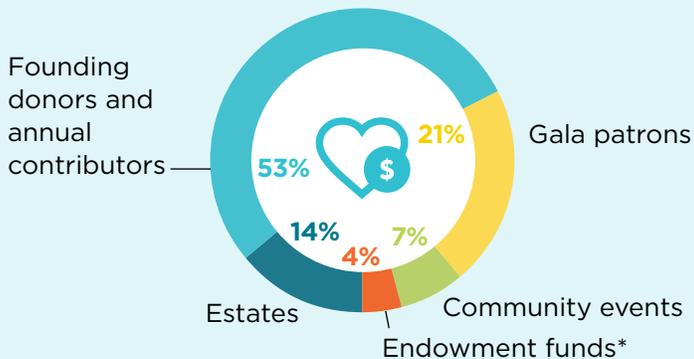
Our list recognizes the generosity of donors who have made a gift by March 31, 2020.

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In Memory of Pinkle Sturgeon

### SOURCES OF \$1.25 MILLION RAISED IN 2019-2020



\* Endowment revenue is based on investment interest and dividends from Teddy Bear Endowment Funds

**THANK YOU** for supporting Toronto's most vulnerable children, youth and families through your investment in the Teddy Bear Fund. Without you, these programs would not be possible.

[cafdn.org/teddybearfund](https://cafdn.org/teddybearfund)

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