

A STORY WITH HEART
BY ELEPHANT THOUGHTS



2019 - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ELEPHANT THOUGHTS | EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
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INCORPORATED APRIL 2002

D E D I C A T I O N

Elephant Thoughts is dedicated to all children and youth facing barriers through its mission to promote equality, reduce poverty and improve opportunity for all children and youth through educational outreach and support.

This document was produced in-house, on many off-hours, by dedicated team members.

P R O L O G U E

'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,' Dickens pretty much sums it up for 2019-20. Prior to the pandemic, Elephant Thoughts was headed for its most successful year to date. Growing 20%, acquiring a new youth-focused eco-retreat centre, launching a re-imagined international program, supporting record graduates in the far north, and more. Then Covid hit.

The pandemic has been difficult, yet the pause in work allowed us time to look at our work and make changes, to critique, to improve, and in some cases, to cancel programs we no longer believed in. We wanted to live by one of the important lessons we teach our students - through adversity there is opportunity to become stronger.

We are very proud of our team of passionate, hardworking, and selfless educators who committed themselves to working through the Pandemic to ensure this organization remains healthy, vital, and ever-evolving.



Once upon a time there drifted a wandering soul,
traveling about the globe had taken its toll.
Where he expected to find joy, he found others in pain.
Where he sought freedom he saw others lose for his gain.
He saw beings born into the world carrying a brilliant light,
equal at birth, hearts free, eyes wide and bright.
Beings of all ages, genders, races, and belief,
different outside, but the same underneath.

Why the injustice? He pondered and thought.
Why do some have so much, while others have naught?



CORE VALUES

At the heart of all that we do are our guiding values.



EQUALITY IN EDUCATION

We believe in equal access to quality education and opportunity for children and youth in our local community and everywhere on earth. We continue to find new ways to reach more pupils and improve access to our programming, support quality education in other facilities, and reduce barriers to opportunity.



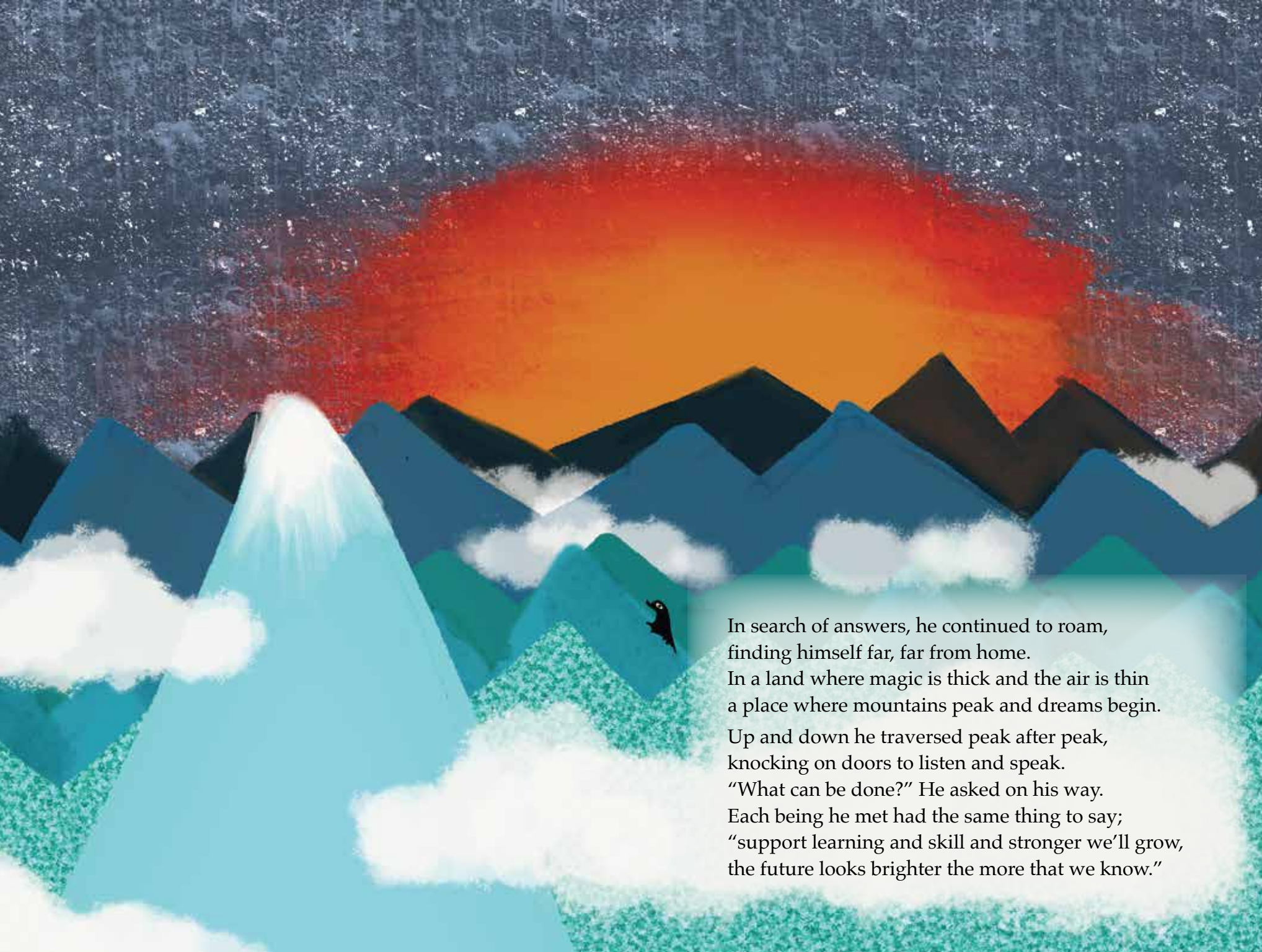
GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

We believe that cultural sensitivity, awareness of privilege, empathy, compassion, and knowledge of global issues are important qualities for young students to develop. We strive to equip our program participants with the tools they need to move forward as active contributors to a world with improved equality for all.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

We encourage students to explore and engage in activities that make them aware of their impact on our planet. Our goal through thoughtful programming is to foster environmentally literate and conscientious citizens capable of building a bright and healthy future for themselves and their communities.



In search of answers, he continued to roam,
finding himself far, far from home.
In a land where magic is thick and the air is thin
a place where mountains peak and dreams begin.
Up and down he traversed peak after peak,
knocking on doors to listen and speak.
“What can be done?” He asked on his way.
Each being he met had the same thing to say;
“support learning and skill and stronger we’ll grow,
the future looks brighter the more that we know.”

IMPROVING OUR IMPACT AND EFFICACY

As an organization, we believe in humility. We embrace mistakes as important lessons. Three areas we aimed to improve this year included; increasing local capacity, improving accessibility and revitalizing our international impact.



LOCAL CAPACITY

The purchasing of Riverstone Eco Retreat increases our local capacity to serve youth facing barriers. Establishing Riverstone, in addition to our other local facilities, marks the shift toward Elephant Thoughts becoming an institution, that not only supports other educational facilities but hosts and develops programs at our own campuses.



ACCESSIBILITY

Elephant Thoughts began the journey toward virtual delivery in 2017-2018. The pandemic lit a fire beneath this goal and highlighted the value of virtual and hybrid program delivery. This year we developed a new branch of the organization, online education, and resources. This will continue to be a focus for us for years to come. Providing access to quality education online allows us to serve a bigger community at a lower cost.



GLOBAL IMPACT

This year we revived our international programs branch through the development and launch of Child Freedom Project. CFP allows us to forge virtual relationships with people, schools, and organizations around the world who define their own need for support. CFP will serve as a virtual platform and hub for learning, fundraising, and connecting. It has been designed to engage youth in global citizenship, environmental stewardship, and responsible aid.

Eighteen years ago that young soul found his name.
Jiru the Elephant was born, eyes bright, heart aflame.
Every day since he's held onto his mission,
to spread knowledge for all, stay true to his vision.
To improve opportunity for youth everywhere,
spreading knowledge to make the playing field fair.



HIGHLIGHTS

This year Elephant Thoughts supported youth and schools in 9 provinces, 3 territories, and 4 countries. Some highlights include:

\$250 000

EQUIPMENT

More than \$250,000 in equipment donated with training and support to schools.

15 000


ENGAGED YOUTH

More than 15 000 children and youth engaged in ET programs.

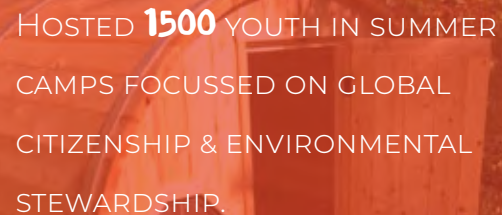
12 000

YOUTH MEALS

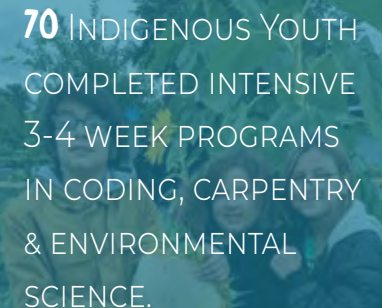
More than 12000 nutritious meals to youth engaged in our programs.



HOSTED A **3** - DAY CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM **20** NATIONAL EDUCATION CHARITIES, BOTH INDIGENOUS AND NON, TO SUPPORT EDUCATION NEEDS ON RESERVES.



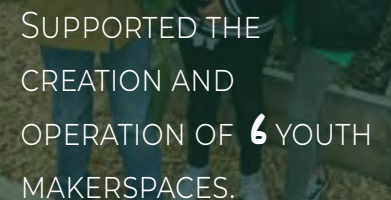
HOSTED **1500** YOUTH IN SUMMER CAMPS FOCUSSED ON GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP & ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.



70 INDIGENOUS YOUTH COMPLETED INTENSIVE 3-4 WEEK PROGRAMS IN CODING, CARPENTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE.



HELPED **245** CREE STUDENTS GRADUATE THIS YEAR, UP FROM 117 THE YEAR PREVIOUS.



SUPPORTED THE CREATION AND OPERATION OF **6** YOUTH MAKERSPACES.



Jiru at home was ready to begin his pursuit
He would need help to make his vision take root.
As he started his mission he knew that he must,
find other beings and bright hearts that he could trust.

RESPONDING TO COVID

The pandemic has had a profound impact on Elephant Thoughts. From March to August alone, we lost \$600 000 in programs and put \$500 000 in grants on hold. This could have been a crippling blow. Instead, it was an opportunity for revitalizing our existing programs and invested in new ones. Our goal was to build organizational capacity to rebound quickly post-pandemic with new programs and increase capacity. Knowing our strength is our team, we guaranteed no one would lose their job. We recruited strong new talent with skills we were missing. We invested in infrastructure to build more capacity at our educational centres.

\$75,000

GIFTS

More than \$75,000 of toys, books, games, and home goods were gifted to families and local heroes, through Project Joy.



MEALS FOR SENIORS

Worked with our youth centre to distribute food to seniors and families.

200

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

We went digital, transforming programming traditionally delivered live and hands-on. We creatively came up with ways to reach students stuck at home.



CULINARY ARTS

Guest chefs taught virtual cooking classes for youth who were provided with delivered meal kits.

2000

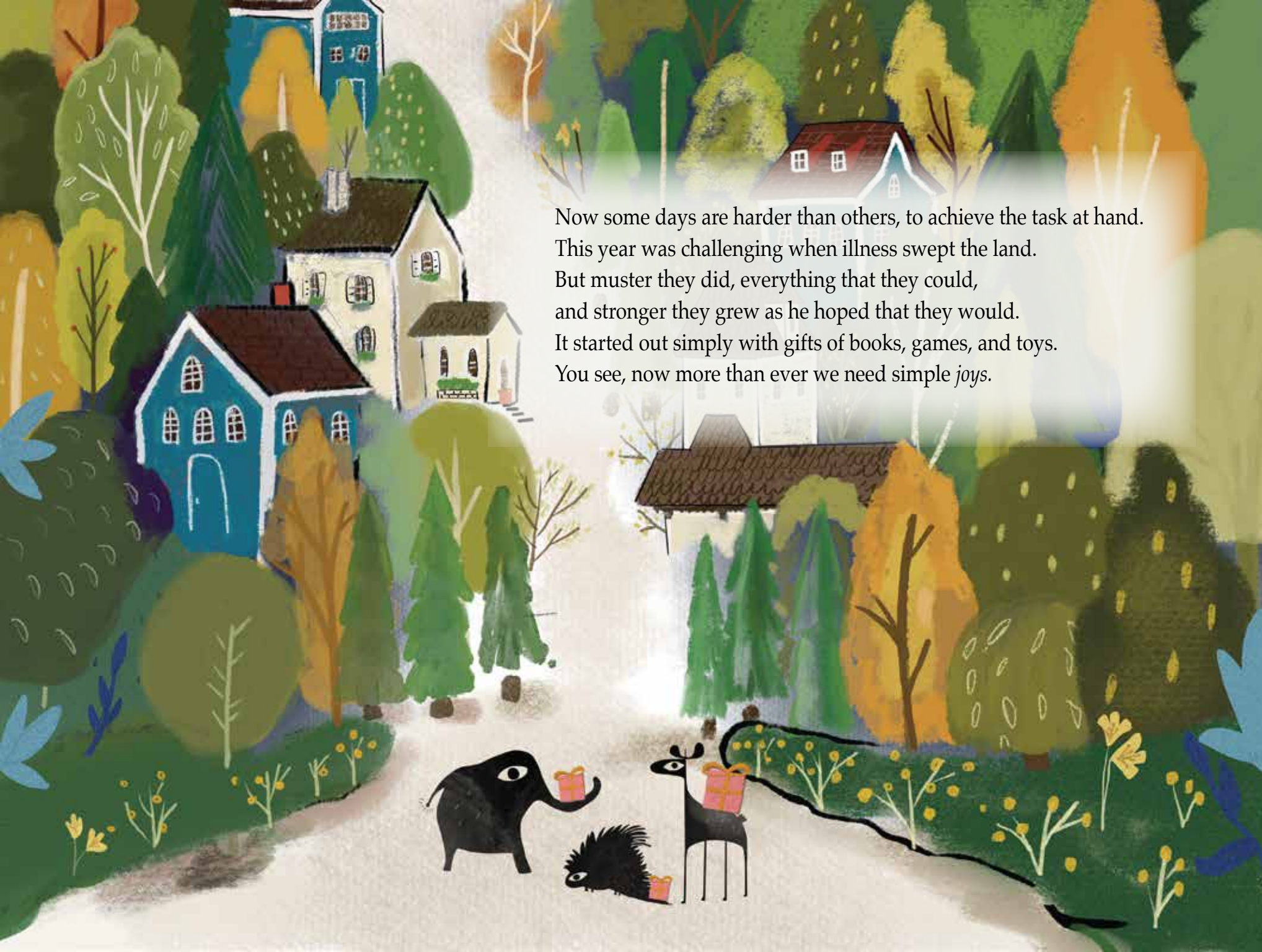
PPE KITS

Produced 2000 PPE kits for local hospitals and seniors at our youth centre with the help of a local distillery.



SPREADING JOY

Partnered with local businesses and artists to paint bright scenes on local business windows.

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a village scene. In the foreground, a dirt path leads through a lush landscape. On the left, a large blue house with a brown roof and a white door stands prominently. Behind it, a yellow house with a brown roof is visible. To the right, a red-roofed house is nestled among trees. The background features a tall blue tower. The landscape is filled with various trees in shades of green, yellow, and orange, suggesting autumn. In the foreground, three animals are depicted: a black bull holding a red gift box, a black hedgehog holding a red gift box, and a black goat holding a red gift box. The scene is set against a backdrop of rolling hills and a clear sky.

Now some days are harder than others, to achieve the task at hand.
This year was challenging when illness swept the land.
But muster they did, everything that they could,
and stronger they grew as he hoped that they would.
It started out simply with gifts of books, games, and toys.
You see, now more than ever we need simple *joys*.



PROGRAMMING

ET's approach to programming blends academic support, skills training, and social and emotional development. Our target audience is youth facing barriers. We integrate strong values of global citizenship, environmental stewardship and the celebration of diversity at every opportunity. While we continue to diversify, much of our programming consistently falls under 3 categories.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

We support the delivery of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the classroom, through innovative, hands on learning experiences.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

We encourage and challenge youth to expand their circle of consideration beyond their immediate experience and to care, act, and empathize on a global scale.

SKILLS TRAINING

Focused on youth aged 16-25, we provided opportunities to learn special skills and trades under expert guidance. This year, these opportunities included cooking, carpentry, and agriculture.



80% OF OUR WORK
IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION SYSTEMS SUPPORTING A NEED
BROUGHT FORWARD TO US BY THOSE PARTNERS.

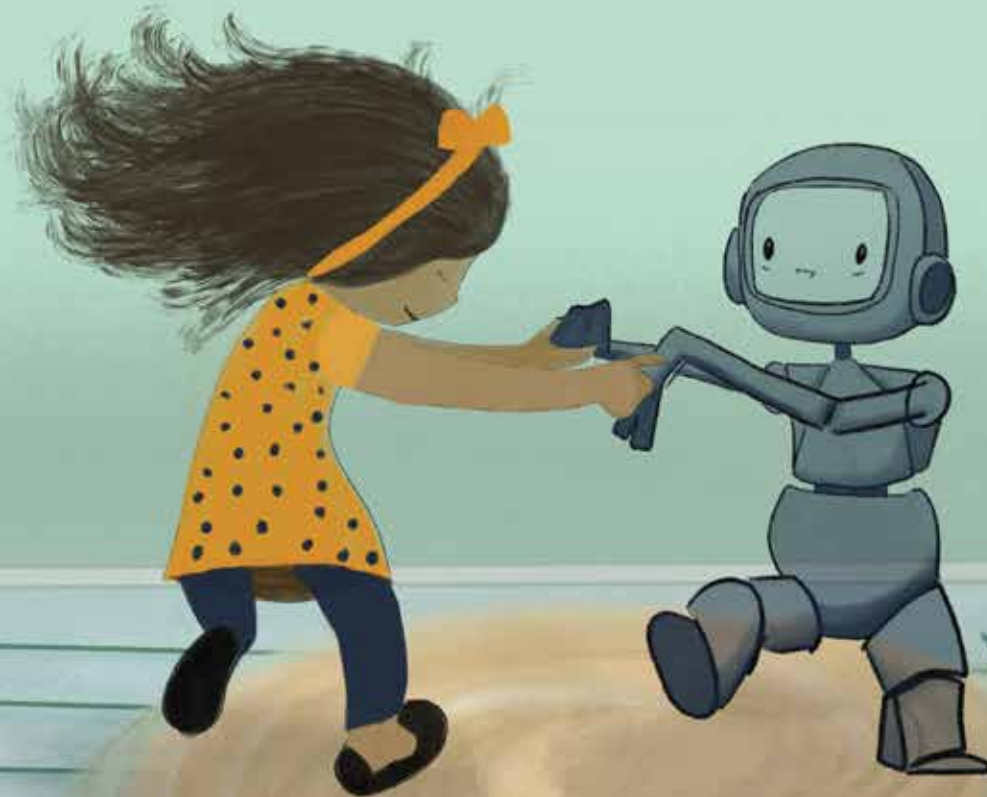
100 INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

75 NON-INDIGENOUS SCHOOLS

A NETWORK OF YOUTH
CENTRES AND MAKER SPACES



With schools closing doors, and jobs being lost,
this plague came down hard at such great cost.
Beyond spreading Joy, Jiru's gang found a way,
to reach all those kids stuck at home every day.
With science and robots for youth stuck indoors,
cooking classes for teens, meals delivered to doors.



CORE ACADEMIC SUPPORT

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION

Support for students in remote communities to increase graduation rates.

SCIENCE & TECH

Workshops to support S.T.E.M subjects in schools across Canada.



12,800

YOUTH ACCESSED

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

VOLUNTEERISM

Canada Service Corps providing opportunities for youth volunteerism.

CULTURAL MAPPING

The creation of digital traditional knowledge maps.
digitalknowledgemap.com

INDIGENOUS JOURNEY

An anti-racism and human rights education portal.
indigenousjourney.com


CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Cultural exchange with Indigenous Elders and Non-Indigenous students.



800

CHILDREN & YOUTH ACCESSED



For those in the classroom, we have not forgotten
a year of school COVID tried to make rotten.
No music, no dancing, no laughter or singing.
No playing, or sport while school bells are ringing.
A tall task for teachers: keep students engaged and apart,
a year such as this can be hard on the heart.
Jiru and friends treated this year like the rest,
Supporting schools near and far, they did their best.



SKILLS TRAINING

CULINARY INTERNSHIPS

120 hours of experience & service with highly skilled resident and guest chefs.

CODING & ROBOTICS

Digital literacy to children and youth with a focus on solving global issues with technology.

DIGITAL MEDIA

Filming, recording, editing, and other media production skills for youth.

SCIENCE CAMPS

Science-based summer camps for children and youth facing barriers.

NATURE SCHOOLS

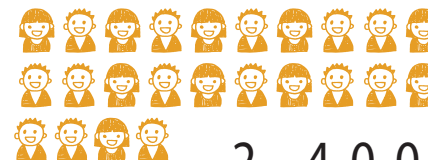
S.T.E.M. based curriculum outdoors. Environmental stewardship focus.

ENTREPRENEURISM

Business development skills, personal development, and goal setting.

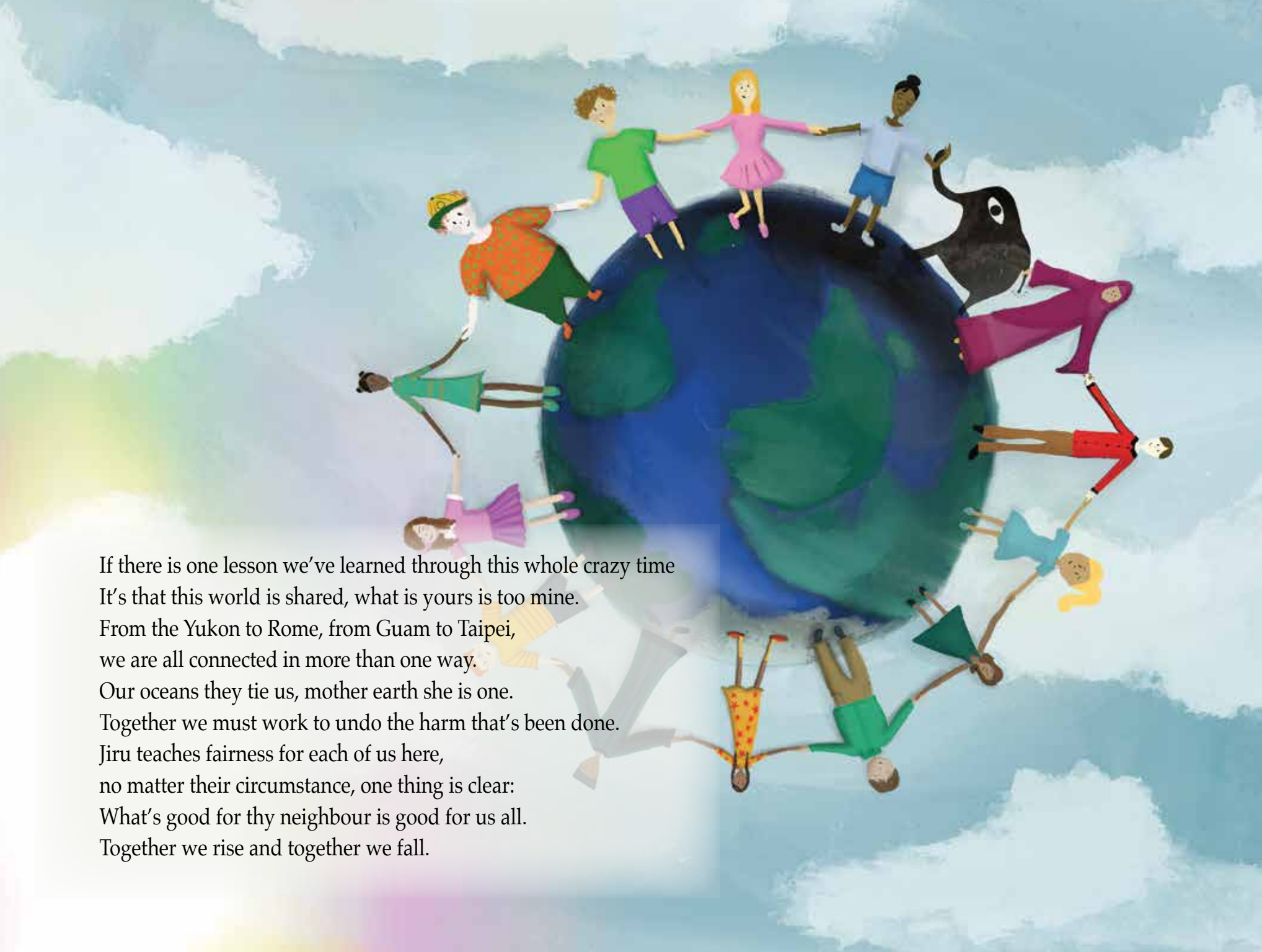
TRADE SKILLS

Carpentry was the focus of this years trade skills programming for youth.



2,400

CHILDREN & YOUTH ACCESSED



If there is one lesson we've learned through this whole crazy time
It's that this world is shared, what is yours is too mine.
From the Yukon to Rome, from Guam to Taipei,
we are all connected in more than one way.
Our oceans they tie us, mother earth she is one.
Together we must work to undo the harm that's been done.
Jiru teaches fairness for each of us here,
no matter their circumstance, one thing is clear:
What's good for thy neighbour is good for us all.
Together we rise and together we fall.



FACILITIES

No longer just an outreach organization, we now deliver many of our programs in our own spaces.



THE WOODS AT KIMBERCOTE

After 3 years of renovating the doors opened this year at our School in Nature in Heathcote, Ontario.

Programming combines environmental science, literacy, and global citizenship, and more, all in a forested, fresh-air-classroom. The school is open to children aged 5 to 12 and is offered free of charge for families facing financial barriers. The current model sees students attending one day per week for 5 weeks program, school term, or full year. We continue to develop our curriculum to be unique, valuable and exciting. While the pandemic did temporarily close our doors, we were able to reopen with adjusted ratios and protocols.



RIVERSTONE ECO RETREAT

Purchased in January, Riverstone is a 136 acre, working farm and conservation area in Durham, Ontario. Riverstone is the coming together of all Elephant Thoughts values and programs. A place to provide exceptional educational programs, to celebrate diversity, and to combat climate change. Programs at Riverstone include: Indigenous culinary internships; nature school; sustainable agriculture internships; youth nature retreats; global citizenship camps; cultural events.



When one door closes, it's true what they say,
that many more open and it's happened this way.
Jiru's mission has grown to include great open spaces
Learning comes naturally in these sorts of place.
On the banks of the river, in the thick of the woods
We will learn from and respect the land, as we should



COLLINGWOOD YOUTH CENTRE

The Collingwood Youth Centre is billed as a Makerspace for Changemakers. The well-equipped facility houses a teaching kitchen, sound recording, and engineering studio, digital production lab, filmmaking, and drop-in centre. It offers youth training in culinary arts, computer coding, sound engineering, arts, and more, while at the same time cultivating leadership skills and giving an outlet for youth to make a difference in the world. It is a safe space for all, welcoming youth of all races, sexual orientations, and beliefs. The centre provides nightly meals. It is jointly managed by collaborating, not-for-profit partners, The Environment Network, Collingwood Youth Centre Inc. and Elephant Thoughts. ET provides 95% of its \$250 000 annual operating budget through grant writing as well as loaning staff, equipment, and programming. The centrally located, purpose-built building was gifted to the initiative by Ray and Winnifred Smith of Collingwood, Ontario.

1,671

DROP-INS

Despite restrictions and the March 13 shut down due to COVID we were still able to serve 1,671 drop-in visitors.

\$20,000

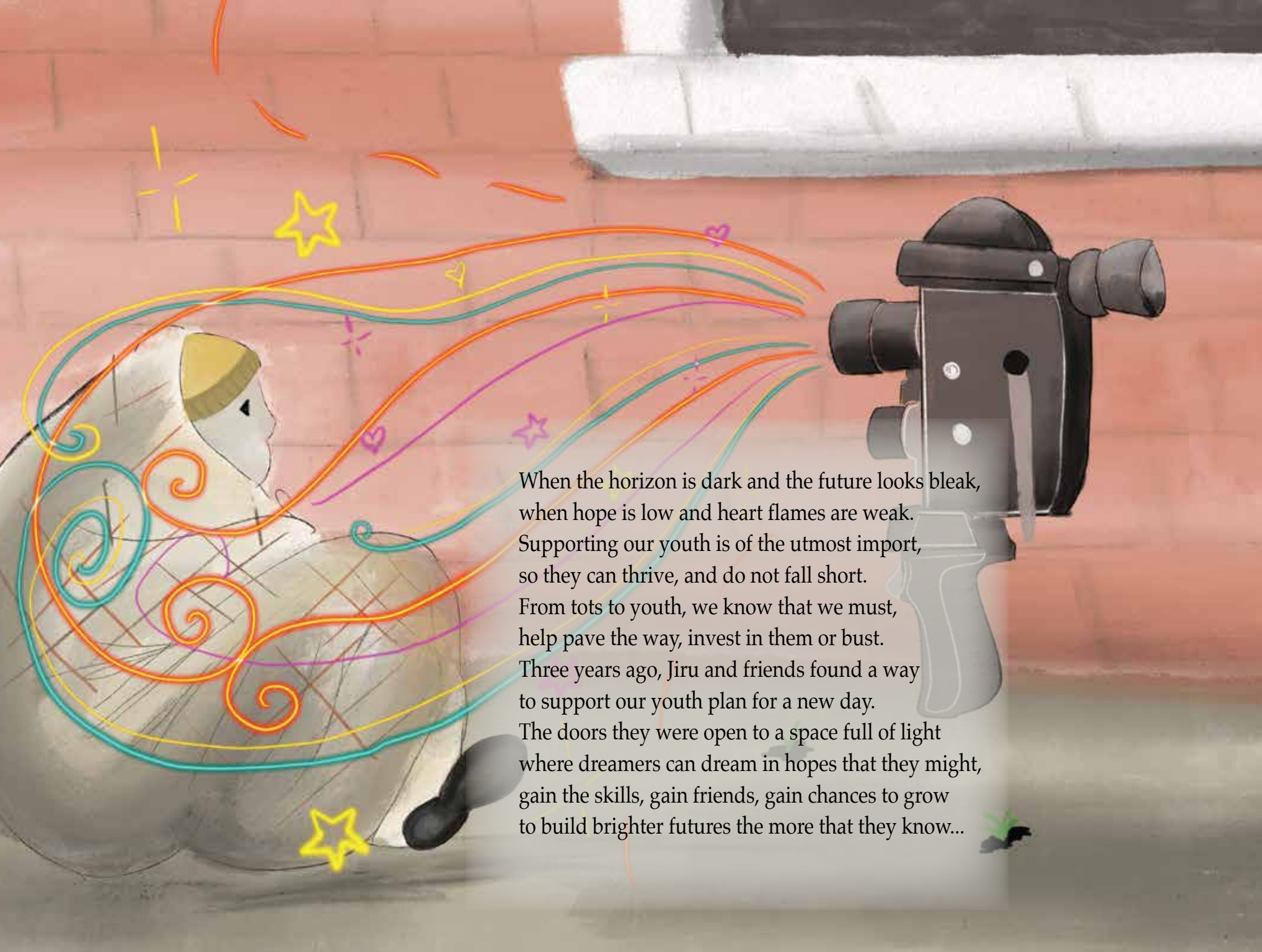
DOLLARS RAISED

The centre raised \$20,000 dollars toward youth homelessness.

2700

MEALS SERVED

More than 2700 meals were provided to youth drop-ins this year.



When the horizon is dark and the future looks bleak,
when hope is low and heart flames are weak.
Supporting our youth is of the utmost import,
so they can thrive, and do not fall short.
From tots to youth, we know that we must,
help pave the way, invest in them or bust.
Three years ago, Jiru and friends found a way
to support our youth plan for a new day.
The doors they were open to a space full of light
where dreamers can dream in hopes that they might,
gain the skills, gain friends, gain chances to grow
to build brighter futures the more that they know...



CHILD FREEDOM PROJECT

Elephant Thoughts is revitalizing its international response through a new program, The Child Freedom Project (CFP). CFP is a platform for Canadian teachers & students designed to build meaningful relationships with international partners through digital learning and fundraising. In this, our inaugural year, we faced unique challenges with schools across Canada being barred from any fundraising activities in the face of the pandemic. We are building our library of content to be ready for the coming school year and are steadily growing our user database.

\$1M

ANNUAL GOAL

Our goal in the coming years is to build the fundraising capacity of Child Freedom Project to over 1 Million Dollars annually.

230

TEACHERS

In its inaugural months Child Freedom Project has had over 200 teachers express interest in the program.

100+

PROJECTS

In our inaugural year, we have collected more than 100 micro fundraising projects from around the world and with them, developing bonds.



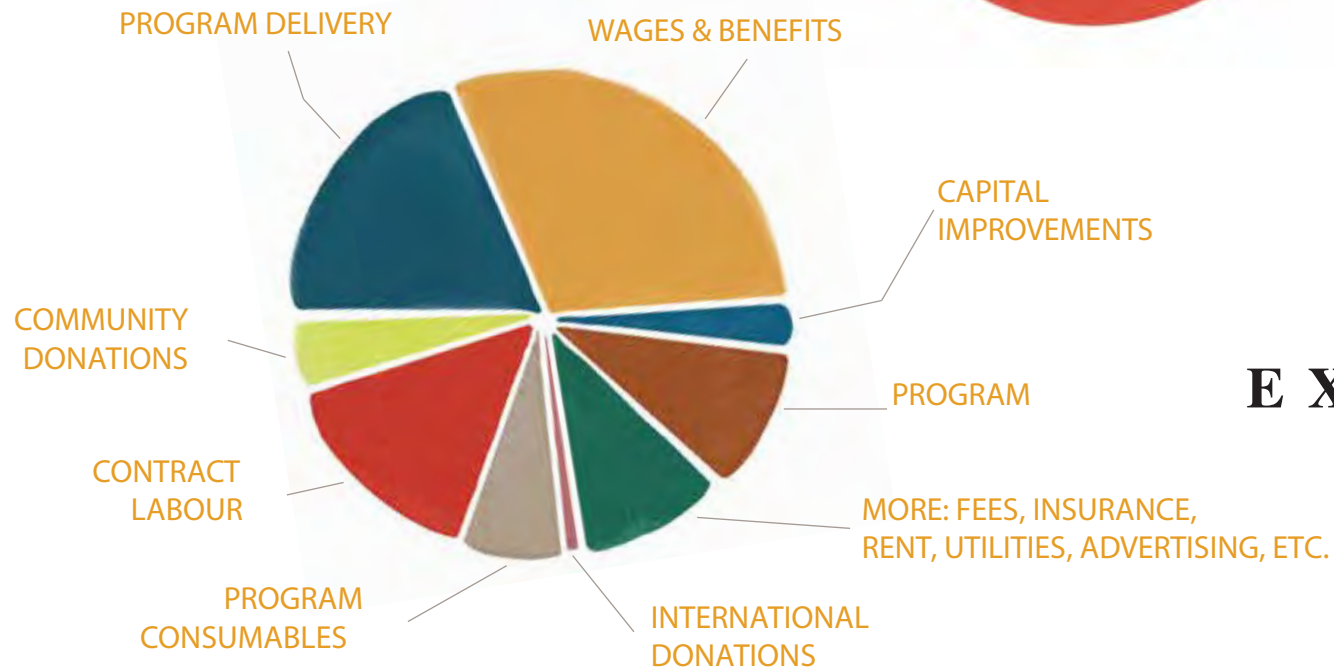
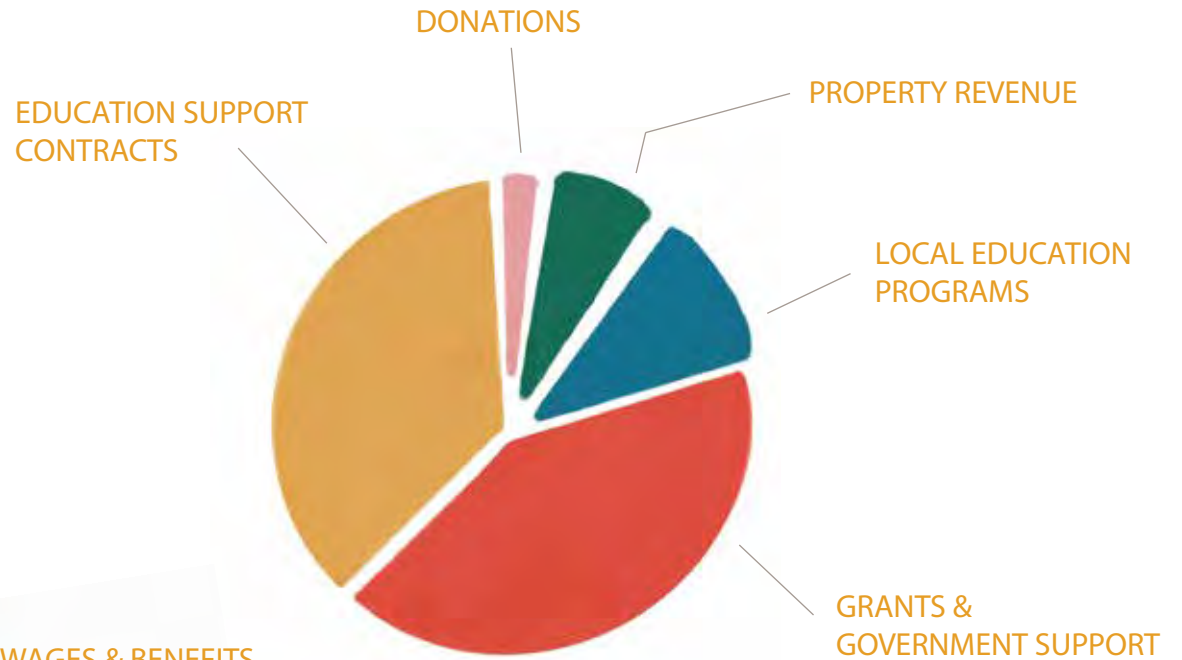
As for the rest of this great big world, Jiru's thought of that too.
Child Freedom Project is launching right on cue.
Spreading love through learning, action, and global bond
Initiatives are growing to help us respond.

DOLLARS AND CENTS

REVENUE	2020	2019
DONATIONS	40670	56725
GRANTS AND GOV'T	1293205	1292648
PROPERTY REVENUE	91697	216607
EDUCATION SUPPORT	1458724	1130000
LOCAL EDUCATION	430987	330192
TOTAL	3315283	3026172
EXPENSES		
ADVERTISING	16513	22230
BANK CHARGES	13443	15829
PROGRAM CONSUMABLES	189879	204396
CONTRACT LABOUR	84975	436862
COMMUNITY DONATIONS	53637	129350
PROGRAM DELIVERY COSTS	810279	586241
INSURANCE	38772	29372
MORTGAGE & INTEREST	48603	57154
INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS	68733	7397
OFFICE AND OTHER	32647	111119
PROFESSIONAL FEES	14800	15735
RENT	54167	12500
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	64270	35271
TELEPHONE AND UTILITIES	24131	19942
PROGRAM TRAVEL	149201	296127
VEHICLE EXPENSES	59523	4977
WAGES AND BENEFITS	1246193	897746
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	162000	87000
CAPITAL PORTION MORTG.	117399	22601
TOTAL	3249165	2991849

PLS SEE OUR ANNUAL AUDITED REPORTS ON OUR WEBSITE

INCOME



EXPENSE



ALBERTA

Alexander First Nation - Morinville
Conklin First Nation
Loon River First Nation - Red Earth Creek

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Bridge River Indian Band
Gingolx First Nation
Kamloops First Nation
Lax Kw'alaams Band
McLeod Lake Indian Band
Neskonlith Indian Band - Salmon Arm
Siska Indian Band - Lytton
Tzeachten First Nation - Chilliwac

YUKON

Teslin First Nation

MANITOBA

Northlands Denesuline First Nation - Lac Brochet
Skownan First Nation

NEW BRUNSWICK

Eel River Bar First Nation
Elsipogtog First Nation
Indian Island First Nation
Kingsclear First Nation
Oromocto First Nation
Pabineau First Nation
Perth-Andover
Andover
Tobique Narrows - Tobique First Nation

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

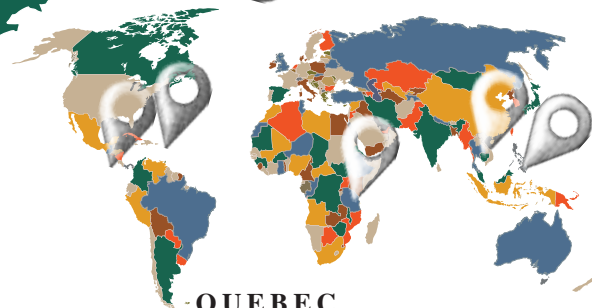
Liidlii Kue First Nation - Fort Simpson

NOVA SCOTIA

Millbrook First Nation - Truro
Shubenacadie
Sipekne'katik First Nation - Indian Brook
Hardwood Lands

ONTARIO

Alderville First Nation - Roseneath
Attawapiskat First Nation
Batchewana First Nation - Sault Ste Marie
Beausoleil First Nation - Christian Island
Big Grassy River First Nation - Morson
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation - Big Trout Lake
Chippewas of Georgina Island
Chippewas of Nawash First Nation - Neyaashiinigmiing
Chippewas of Rama First Nation - Orillia
Collingwood
Curve Lake Ojibway Nation
Ochiichagwe'babigo'ining First Nation - Dalles
Durham
Eagle Lake First Nation
Grassy Narrows First Nation
Hanover
Kasabonika Lake First Nation
Mattagami First Nation - Gogama
Mishkeegogamang First Nation
Mississauga of the Scugog Island - Port Perry
Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory
Owen Sound
Pays Plat First Nation
Southampton
Nibinamik First Nation - Summer Beaver
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation - Dryden
Wahta First Nation - Bala
Whitesand First Nation - Armstrong Station
Windigo Island First Nation/Northwest Angle 37
Wunnumin Lake First Nation
Pic Mobert First Nation
Sagamok First Nation - LaCloche
Shawanaga First Nation - Nobel
Six Nations of the Grand River - Ohsweken



QUEBEC

Cree Nation of Chisasibi
Cree Nation of Eastmain
Cree Nation of Mistissini
Cree Nation of Nemaska
Cree Nation Ouje-Bougoumou
Cree Nation of Waskaganish
Cree Nation of Waswanipi
Cree Nation of Wemindji
Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui
Long Point First Nation - Winneway
Timiskaming First Nation - Notre-Dame-du-Nord

SASKATCHEWAN

Sandy Bay First Nation

PEI

Lennox Island First Nation - Ellerslie

LOCAL

INTERNATIONAL



INTERNATIONAL

Cambodia
Haiti
Philippines
Tanzania

NATIONAL

FEATURE SPONSORS



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ELEPHANT THOUGHTS

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

education for a changing world