



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

ELEPHANT THOUGHTS | EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
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CHARITABLE REGISTRATION # 85213 9336 RR0001
INCORPORATED APRIL 2002

DEDICATION

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

PROLOGUE

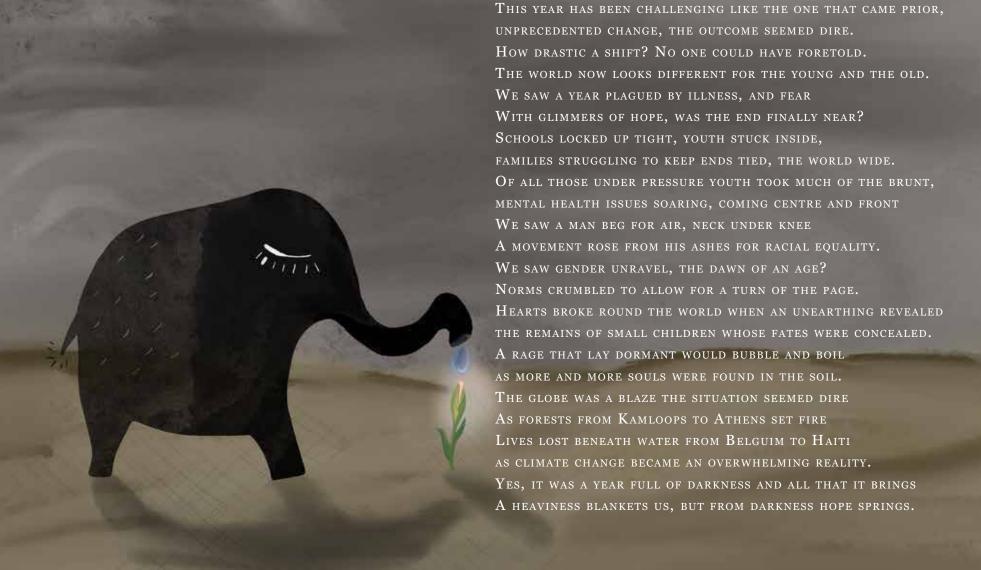
It is truly an honour and a joy to serve in this role. Incredibly hard work, long hours, many challenges, but the reward of feeling proud of what you do every day, of being surrounded by incredible people, of making a living genuinely serving others is more fulfilling than any other type of remuneration.

Of course, we did not expect to be spending another whole year facing the challenges created by the pandemic, but here we are. For ET it has meant turning every aspect of our regular programming upside down. We are educators that work live, in classrooms alongside youth, everything we used to do was hands-on. Being unable to operate in-person meant reinventing each of our offerings. As a result of restrictions our national summer camp program was reduced to only 10%, our regular national in-school support programs were reduced by more than 70%. Our youth centre in Collingwood closed to drop-ins for the entire year, and school fundraising for our overseas partners was completely shut down. Likewise, areas of our revenue generation, including our short-term property rental, were non-existent. Conferences were cancelled, our capital development projects were both put on pause, all while costs skyrocketed. The constant closures made it very difficult for us to achieve our goals.

Despite these challenges, we persevere. We were able to adapt and find solutions largely in part thanks to long standing relationships. We were given the opportunity to learn, test and design new programs and avenues that will be part of our organization for years to come. Isolated or not we found ways to build community. Due to losing income in so many areas, with a commitment to not sacrifice a single member of our incredible team we were forced to seek new partners and opportunities. Something we were ultimately successful with.

As we look back on 20-21, absolutely therewere hardships, tough decisions, mistakes, increased workloads, stress and more, but through those difficult times we grew, we evolved, we learned, we reinvented aspects of ourselves and as a result I believe we are a better organization for it. All this was made possible by one of the hardest working and passionate teams I could ever imagine, alongside an incredible community of Elephant Thoughts friends and supporters. We so appreciate you all. Let's hope next year's annual report does not have mention of Covid in it.

JEREMY RHODES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Here continues the story of Jiru and friends.

WHERE THAT UNLIKELY PACK IS HEADED? WELL THAT ALL DEPENDS.

CORE VALUES

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



HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

We recognize that personal development and mental health are central to life-long learning and sustainable success. We want each individual who interacts with Elephant Thougths to have a healthy, enriching experience that leaves them feeling more confident, and better positioned to take their next step!



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 foster to environmentally literate and conscientious citizens capable of building a bright and healthy future for themselves and their communities.

WITH EACH YEAR THAT PASSES WE LEARN AND WE SHIFT
A CHALLENGE CAN ALSO BEEN SEEN AS A GIFT.
WHEN TIMES LOOK BLEAK, THE FUTURE CONCERNING,
STAY TRUE TO YOUR VALUES, ONE MUST BE DISCERNING.
SO WITH HEARTS OPEN WIDE AND VALUES INTACT
JIRU AND FRIENDS JOINED IN A PACT.
"WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, WE DON'T SHY AWAY,
WE HUNKER DOWN, GET CREATIVE, KEEP DOUBTS AT BAY."
SURE ENOUGH, HOPE SHE RESURFACED, GLEAMING AND BRIGHT
AND AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL, SHONE A BRILLIANT LIGHT.





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.





CORE ACADEMIC SUPPORT

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION

Support for students in remote communities to complete their high school education, improving graduation rates.

SCIENCE & TECH

Workshops and internships to support the delivery of STEM subjects in schools across Canada.



GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

KYP YOUNG GLOBAL CITIZENS

Volunteer opportunities and a series of 10 workshops on global, social and Indigenous issues delivered to class rooms across Ontario.

OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING

Immersing youth in experiences that encourage a deep understanding and concern for the natural environment on a planetary scale. Including camps, retreats, and forest school.

CHILD FREEDOM PROJECT

Encouraging empathy and action towards improved quality of life for all, on a global scale through education, fundraising and international cultural exchange.





SKILLS TRAINING

CODING & ROBOTICS

Delivered workshops to youth across Canada with a focus on solving global issues with technology.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

Youth participated in creating and maintaining an apiary, extensive food gardens, foraging in local environments, sustainable agriculture and butterfly gardens.

DIGITAL LITERACY & MEDIA

Through *Girl with a Plan* & our Makerspaces youth learned and produced podcasts, videos, websites, social media and digital graphics.

ENTREPRENEURISM

Youth groups learned how to created businesses for themselves including a clothing line and several media brands including podcasts and YouTube channels

CULINARY ARTS & BUSINESS

Through internships, retreats & workshops youth learned advanced culinary skills, and the ins and outs of the restauraunt and service business from qualified chefs.

EVENT MANAGEMENT

Youth were presented with team building challenges to raise funds for real global issues, learning the ins and outs of fundraising events.



description



A new homebase that intrinsically reflects each of our core values and facilitates our future plans.

THE SPACE

A 136 acre working farm and conservation area in Durham Ontario, Riverstone is the coming together of all of Elephant Thoughts' values and programs. A place to provde exceptional educational programs, celebrate diversity, to combat climate change and to optimize our ability to serve our community, locally and abroad. This year, programs at Riverstone included. Indigenous and culinary Internships, free nature school, youth retreats, summer camps, cultural events, and more.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

With an extensive community garden, apiary, and acres of organic agricultural land make for incredible educational resources and the opportunity to give back to local families in need through the foodbank.

EVENTS & RETREAT SPACE

This spring / summer the campus was a buzz with activity from Indigenous youth retreats, to subsidized summer camps, to cultural fundraising events and paid internships for youth facing barriers.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The grounds and facilities provide a wonderful space for demonstrating the organization's relationship with the natural environment and how important it is to respect it.

INTERORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Our goal with the Riverstone campus is to never let it sit dormant. One of the ways we plan to make the most of this incredible resource is to offer it to likeminded organizations free of charge.







KIMBERCOTE CAMPUS

A bustling natural space for building community, spreading values of environmental stewardship and giving back.

THE SPACE

The Kimbercote Campus boasts 37 Acres of forested land in the heart of the Beaver Valley. Several educational buildings, nature trails, environmental learning stations and a new meeting space complete the property that is open to the public. A new learning and meeting centre is nearing completion on the property and will add to the spaces' utility and accessibility. Our intention for the property and all of its varied spaces is for learning. collaborative Kimbercote Campus is positioned ideally to support our mandates global citizenship and environmental stewardship.

NEW FACILITIES & NEW HORIZONS

The first phase of the new education facility is complete and will be the future home of events and workshops meant to foster an improved relationship with the environment for local and visiting youth and their families.

SUPPORT FOR NATURE BASED EDUCATION

The space allows us to provide free access to nature-based schools for families facing barriers and to subsidize the operations of two local schools serving children aged 18 months to 12 years of age.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

The space is used for hosting free community events centred around educating guests about the environment, science, and sustainable agriculture.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Butterfly gardens, nature trails, and animal interaction, make up this gigantic outdoor classroom. The campus trails are open to the public, and the grounds provide a wonderful space for demonstrating our relationship with the natural environment.

As we continue along on this happier note

Let's stop at a place that we call Kimbercote.

Here, overlooking the valley below

our escarpment hemmed vision continues to grow.

A centre for learning, for sharing ideas and dreams

for observing in nature between pines, oaks and streams.

A long time in the making, the finish line nears

A labour of love formed through the years

This year we saw friendships multiply and expand.

With likeminded partners we walk hand in hand.

Toward education in nature, beneath fresh open sky

where children blossom to leaders, spread wings and fly

Toward similar goals of a planet protected,

we share this space as a people connected.



MAKERSPACES & COLLINGWOOD YOUTH CENTRE

THE SPACE

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 is a safe, fun space for all. Welcoming youth of all races, sexual orientations, and beliefs. Elephant Thoughts 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 space was gifted to the initiative by Ray and Winnifred Smith of Collingwood, Ontario.

COVID IMPACT

The CYC was forced to close its doors to drop-ins for nearly the entire year. This heavily impacted the centre's ability to serve its community. Virtual programming and small groups were accommodated through specific programming.

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Despite massive setbacks due to COVID restrictions, this year saw small groups of youth flourish in the development of several small brands and businesses. A community canteen was also set up, youth will operate all aspects of the canteen and proceeds will support the centre.

DIGITAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Small groups of youth were provided the opportunity to access the centre in accordance with current COVID policies. These youth produced podcasts, video projects, digital murals, and learned other digital skills.

VIRTUAL SKILL BUILDING PROGRAMS

Virtual programs were offered through the centre, including culinary arts workshops and internships, website building, podcast producing, graphic design and digital illustration, and photography among other skills were delivered to youth in their homes

THOUGH NOT AS WE PLANNED IT, NO NOT AT ALL... IT WAS A YEAR OF SMALL TRIUMPHS BETWEEN THESE FOUR WALLS! GIVE THEM A MIC AND A PLATFORM AND THEY'LL BLOW YOU AWAY, A PANDEMIC COULDN'T SILENT WHAT THESE YOUTH HAD TO SAY. FROM COOKING, TO CODING AND ALL THAT IN BETWEEN, THEY LEARNED AND CREATED FROM BEHIND THEIR SMALL SCREENS. WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT THAT LOCKING THE DOORS COULDN'T KEEP OUT THE LIGHT. WE'LL SAY IT AGAIN: YOUTH ARE THE FUTURE AND BOY IT LOOKS BRIGHT.



CHILD FREEDOM PROJECT

Child Freedom Project is a platform for Canadian teachers designed to build meaningful relationships with international partners through learning, relationships and fundraising. This year public health regulations and school boards across the country disallowed most classrooms from fundraising, with a few exceptions. In the face of huge limitations we saw incredible resilience and resourcefullness from youth who joined forces from classrooms in Canada and youth centres in Africa to work together to raise money in a live, virtual format. We saw teachers show interest and engage with our learning materials and developed relationships with three small, international organizations to better serve international partners and create meaningful connections with students at home.

INTERNATIONAL HUBS

HAITI

Located in Cayes Jacmel our relationship with Devoted to Children Foundation will help us to support environmental and educational efforts initiated by youth facing barriers in the region. Supporting extra-curicular opportunities and environmental education will be the focus of this relationship.

TANZANIA

Through our relationship on the ground with youth centre facilitators at the Amka Arts Centre, in Iringa, Tanzania, we are positioned to serve the Centre as well as other local individuals and groups with small fundraising goals. Our current focus in Tanzania is on youth skill building.

PHILIPPINES

Our Philippines hub, through Volunteers for the Visayas, is located south of Tacloban, in one of the world's most disaster prone regions. By connecting classes in Canada with youth in the Philippines, we hope to create enhanced learning experience with a focus on climate change and human rights indicators.

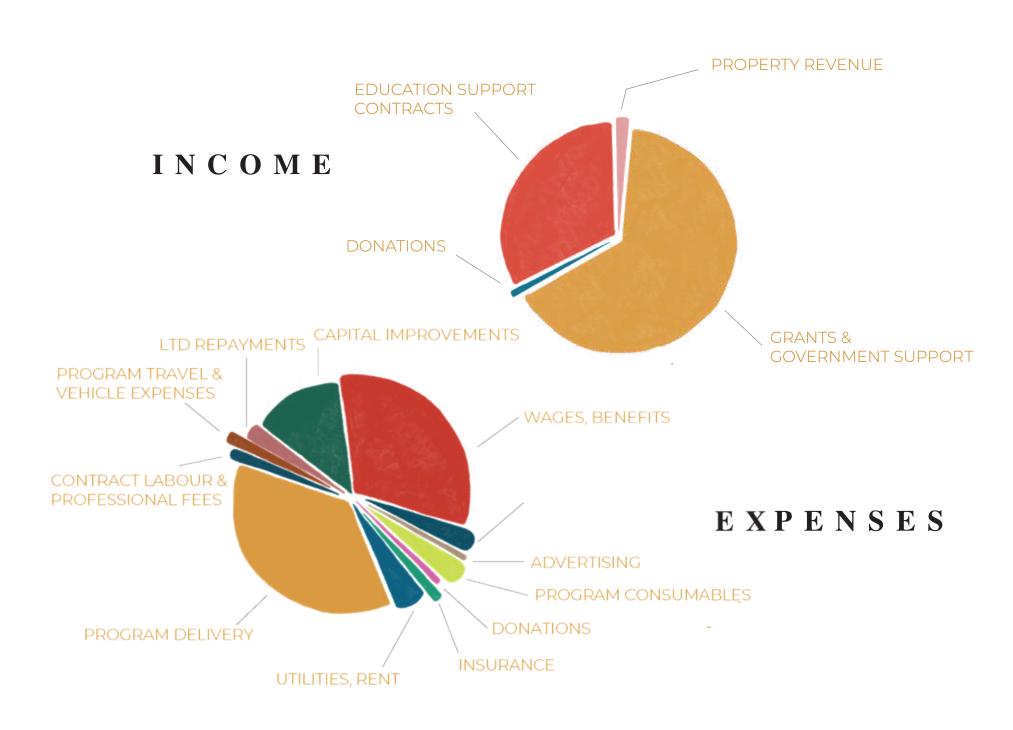


DOLLARS AND CENTS

REVENUE	2020	2021
Donations	40670	72307
Grants and GoV'T	1293205	2329438
Property Revenue	91697	27452
Education Support	1458724	1144670
Local Education	430987	
TOTAL	3315283	3573867

EXPENSES	2020	2021
Advertising	16513	21744
Bank Charges	13443	12667
Program Consumables	189879	108749
Contract Labour	84975	25067
Community Donations	53637	525
Program Delivery Costs	810279	1135659
INSURANCE	38772	41888
MORTGAGE & INTEREST	48603	55702
International Donations	68733	25170
Office and other	32647	64193
Professional Fees	14800	21187
RENT	54167	33333
Repairs and Maintenance	64270	104620
Telephone and Utilities	24131	28011
Program Travel	149201	33817
Vehicle Expenses	59523	31455
Wages and Benefits	1246193	990823
Capital Improvements	162000	291816
CAPITAL PORTION MORTG.	117399	89338
TOTAL	3249165	3115764

Please see our website for full financial spreadsheets.



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 INTERNATIONAL OUEBEC Cree Nation of Chisasibi Cree Nation of Eastmain Cree Nation of Mistissini Cree Nation of Nemaska Cree Nation Ouie-Bougoumou Cree Nation of Waskaganish INTERNATIONAL Cree Nation of Waswanipi Cree Nation of Wemindii Cambodia Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui Haiti Long Point First Nation - Winneway **Philippines** Timiskaming First Nation - Notre-Dame-du-Nord Tanzania SASKATCHEWAN

NATIONAL

Sandy Bay First Nation

Lennox Island First Nation - Ellerslie

PEI

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 Beausoliel 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 -Nevaashiinigmiing 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

GRATITUDE



GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Innovation, Science and Economic Development
Employment and Social Development
Indigenous and Northern Affairs







GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO
MINISTRY OF COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD & RURAL AFFAIRS



NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA





































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