



# **METAMORPHASIS**

**BY ELEPHANT THOUGHTS**



# 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT *AND SHORT STORY*

BY ELEPHANT THOUGHTS

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INCORPORATED APRIL 2002

# DEDICATION

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

# PROLOGUE

It would be very easy to lament on the challenges faced this past year. In truth, this has been one of the most stressful and challenging years of our 20 years of operation. The post-pandemic year proved more challenging than any during.

Plagued with the same challenges facing other organizations - staffing shortages, COVID-related restrictions, rising costs, supply shortages, and changes to regular granting programs - it was certainly very difficult. Our delivery was stunted and again we were forced to reevaluate and transform. Alas, our challenges were nothing in contrast with those faced by schools, teachers, and most profoundly, students. Emboldened by the struggle we were witnessing around us, we met these challenges with the best of our ability, and most certainly, with passion and fervour.

As the economics of some of our longest standing programs had changed or disappeared we were forced to change and replace them. We evaluated the impact of every programs, doubling down on those that were working and releasing those that were no longer relevant. We evaluated partnerships, reaffirming and strengthening those most effective, letting go of some that had proven themselves less effective, and forming new ones with other quality, like-minded organizations..

We have created a series of new youth education programs that we feel are our strongest to date. This year truly marks a major shift in our organization's development. From a history of child-focused programs and outreach, we are developing our campuses as hubs of workforce skill development focused on an older audience, an audience we perhaps once served as children. Youth took the brunt of the last year's global pandemic and we focused on developing an exciting repertoire of services to support their sustained success, health, and happiness.

I personally am very thankful for the Elephant Thoughts community which includes our team, our volunteers, our partners, our clients, our friends, and our supporters. Despite a very stressful year we worked together to serve with passion and impact and came out the other side a stronger organization. With deep gratitude and excitement for this era of transformation,

Jeremy Rhodes



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After years of uncertainty and shaken morale,  
Let's check in with Jiru and his gaggle of pals.

Following a time of global stress and grief  
Jiru thought he could sigh a breath of relief.

Alas, long lingered the pandemic's far reaching wrath,  
The event less a blow than its aftermath.

As we've come to learn about this wily bunch,  
When the going gets tough, this crew packs a punch!

Hearts and minds open, ready to listen and learn,  
They were ready to morph - larva to moth, fiddle to fern.

Like carbon to diamond under pressure transformed,  
A heavy burden couldn't tarnish how they performed.

New insights aplenty, motivation renewed,  
On they marched, excellence in pursuit.

Despite resources scarce, new friends far and few,  
At the end of the year their impact, it grew.

Now, more than ever, Jiru's heart brimmed with gratitude,  
For his unlikely, brilliant, beautiful brood.



# IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

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**67 200**

Volunteer hours

**11 200**

Hours of employability  
skills



**6 169**

Youth who received  
academic support

**66**

Unique communities  
served across Canada



**7 334**

Youth served

**57 000**

Dollars donated in  
equipment

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While in the thick of it, it's hard to see clearly,  
How far you have come, after struggling dearly.

After an uphill climb through thick fog and cloud,  
Reaching the top they could look down and feel proud.

While it was a year of great challenge, small wins, and  
finding our way,  
By year's end their impact had grown at the end of the  
day.





# CORE VALUES

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## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

We recognize the urgent need to protect and preserve our planet's ecosystems. We promote sustainable practices and raise awareness about the importance of conservation and knowledge. Through our initiatives we aim to inspire individuals and communities to take responsible actions that safeguard our environment for future generations.



## G L O B A L C I T I Z E N S H I P


We believe in fostering a sense of global community and interconnectedness. We encourage youth to embrace their role as responsible citizens of the world by promoting understanding, empathy and cooperation across borders and cultures through cultural exchange and international engagement.



## H O L I S T I C E D U C A T I O N

We advocate for education that goes beyond academics and empowers individuals to develop their full potential. We believe in nurturing the intellectual, emotional, physical, and social well-being of individuals. Our programs and initiatives prioritize a well-rounded education that fosters critical thinking, creativity, empathy, and personal growth.





When challenges arise values face threats.  
Lucky for us, an elephant never forgets.  
So they went right on teaching love for earth  
mother.

Respect and equality for every sister and  
brother.

Love for all humans from Bangkok to Berlin,  
And love for oneself because it starts from  
within.

Central to every step that was taken,  
Values remain steady, sturdy, unshaken.

# ACADEMIC SUPPORT

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## JOURNEY NORTH

This program has an incredible and measurable impact on both those who deliver the program and those who receive the academic support. Underrepresented youth are provided with unique work and life experience, enriching training and pathway support. The youth travel to remote communities after receiving holistic training and provide academic support during the school year and summer school for key courses.

## SCIENCE WORKSHOPS

Our teaching team visited elementary schools across the country to deliver a series of hands-on science workshops tailored to curriculum and grade level. This year's themes included scientific method, forces and motion, space, energy and electricity, rocks, minerals, coding and robotics.

## SUMMER SCHOOL

A group of 13 trained instructors delivered our first virtual summer school program in nine communities within the Cree School Board. Offered in both French and English our instructors delivered high energy, high tech lessons in Science, Math, English, Cree Language, History, Art, Cree Culture among others.

*"ET made a huge impact on the students interest to complete their work"*  
-Teacher

## SUMMER CAMP

Subsidized 5 day CSTEM based summer camps delivered virtually in-community and at our Riverstone Campus. Activities included coding, robotics, renewable energy, agriculture, biodiversity and global citizenship. The aim of the programming is to excite participants about a career in science, technology and health.

## CODING WORKSHOPS

Students learned the fundamentals of coding and programming while experimenting with a variety of robotics and participating in other learning activities.

*"Every teacher and every student went home STOKED about their learning with ET. It was fun, interactive and incredibly well organized. I was impressed at how well it all flowed, the support and organization. THANK YOU! We'd LOVE to have you back"*

-Teacher

**860**

subsidized summer camp placements

**2,130**

students engaged in in-class workshops

**570**

students served through Journey North



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There is a great need inside of us all,  
To keep on striving, to get up when we fall.

To ever be learning, to gain knowledge and light,  
To push back in challenge, never give up the fight.

Alas all of this gumption is easier said than  
achieved,  
Strength has to be mustered, built and believed.



# SKILL DEVELOPMENT

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Youth skill development is the future of Elephant Thoughts. This year we solidified a path forward, developed relationships with funders and partners that will work with us in the years to come to grow and nourish this important focus.

The skill development programs are designed to equip underrepresented youth with hard, technical skills in relevant, sustainable streams like agriculture, culinary arts, digital production, renewable energy, and green building. Additionally, youth will learn life skills, gain cultural sensitivity training, and engage in enriching experiences; building friendships, supports and memories that will last a lifetime.

This year participants partook in retreats, cultural exchange, incredible paid work placement and one group even started their own foundation.

131K

Hours of training in digital internships.

369

Youth participated in skill development programming.

88

Participants attending educational, cross-cultural, holistic retreats.

300

Participants engaging with our makerspaces.





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We've said it before and we will say it again,  
Youth are the future and have always been.

As is the theme of the year that's just come to its  
end,  
Jiru and friends have had to shift, morph and to  
bend.

To be humble, be quiet, be still and observe,  
To listen in order to better serve.

As needs are shifting, so must the action,  
For their efforts to have impact, gain traction.





# GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

## YOUTH COUNCILS

Supported the development of two youth councils. The youth councils are encouraged to identify issues within their communities both local and global and empowered to engage in activities and initiatives that will make positive change. Members are provided with opportunities to learn new skills, engage with our international partners and participate in enriching retreat experiences.



Our partner hub in Tanzania is a centre supporting homeless youth with food, sanitary services, arts and technology skills training.

## YOUTH RETREATS & VISITS

This year we were finally able to host a number of youth retreats and site visits at our Riverstone campus. Groups participated in activities including yoga, journaling, culinary workshops, outdoor education experiences, leadership challenges, arts programs, drumming workshops, learning sessions with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers.



Our partner hub in the Philippines is a community centre that provides shelter, Internet, feedings, and educational services to children and youth.

## CHILD FREEDOM PROJECT

Several schools engaged with our online learning and fundraising program. Monies were raised for projects in Haiti, Tanzania, Cambodia, Cuba and the Philippines. Relationships have been solidified with 5 international hubs with who students and youth involved with Elephant Thoughts programs will have the opportunity to share, learn, engage with and support microfundraising projects.

350



students engaged with Child Freedom Project

5

international hubs serving hundreds youth

795



students engaged in global citizenship

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With so much happening right in front of our eyes,  
It is easy to forget about the world outside.

Alas, Jiru believes that self implies other,  
As such we must always look out for one another.

While our impact gets bigger, our world she gets smaller,  
We are undeniably tied by mother earth as we call her.

Never more evident, our global oneness needs no more proof.  
And so across borders Jiru continues to extend trunk and hoof.

Discovering sameness and exploring divides,  
In more ways than one, these connections keep us alive.



# SPACES

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Each of our unique physical spaces saw an incredible increase in traffic, returning to greater attendance than prepandemic by the end of the year. The success of particularly our Riverstone Campus model will guide us away from “outreach” and toward building the team and infrastructure to host and offer our own programs in our own beautiful spaces.

## RIVERSTONE CAMPUS

This year we made extensive improvements to our Riverstone campus in response to the overwhelming demand and excitement for the property and the programs being offered. We increased our number of bunkies, winterized infrastructure, expanded our community garden, completed a four-season carpentry studio, erected a proper tent village among other activities. The property has become the new headquarters of the organization and is a thriving buzz of activity in four seasons. We are preparing to host culinary, building and agricultural retreats for underrepresented youth in the coming year.

## KIMBERCOTE CAMPUS

The construction of our 3 story Passive Build School building was completed this year. We continue to support our two partner tenants, Wild School and Hundred Acre Woods in their mission to provide quality, naturebased learning to the community. We also hosted a number of workshops for visiting youth in collaboration with community groups and our two on-site partners. We continue to explore new and vibrant uses for this beautiful campus.

## MAKERSPACES

We continue to expand our maker-space network across Canada and to improve the programming, tools and resources made available to youth through these dynamic spaces. The spaces offer programs in digital mapping, social media, digital design, resume and cover letter writing, podcasting, photography, videography and editing, art as therapy, 3D and graphic printing, digital song composing and more as we listen to the communities we serve.

## COLLINGWOOD CAMPUS

Construction on a new commercial kitchen at our First Street location in Collingwood and a new canteen in Collingwood's Central Park arena began this year. We successfully ran a number of culinary and tech internships from the youth centre and launched an active youth council aimed at advising the centre and the broader community on issues facing youth and participating in community service opportunities.

# 100

families fed **daily** by our youth centre community fridge and culinary programs


# 10 950

children and youth who engaged with our Riverstone Campus this year

# 150

local children served **daily** at our Kimberrcote campus





With a difficult few years in view from the rear  
The ground that we cover grows more expansive each year  
From where the escarpment hems horizon east to west  
Where children learn neath Niagara's grand crest

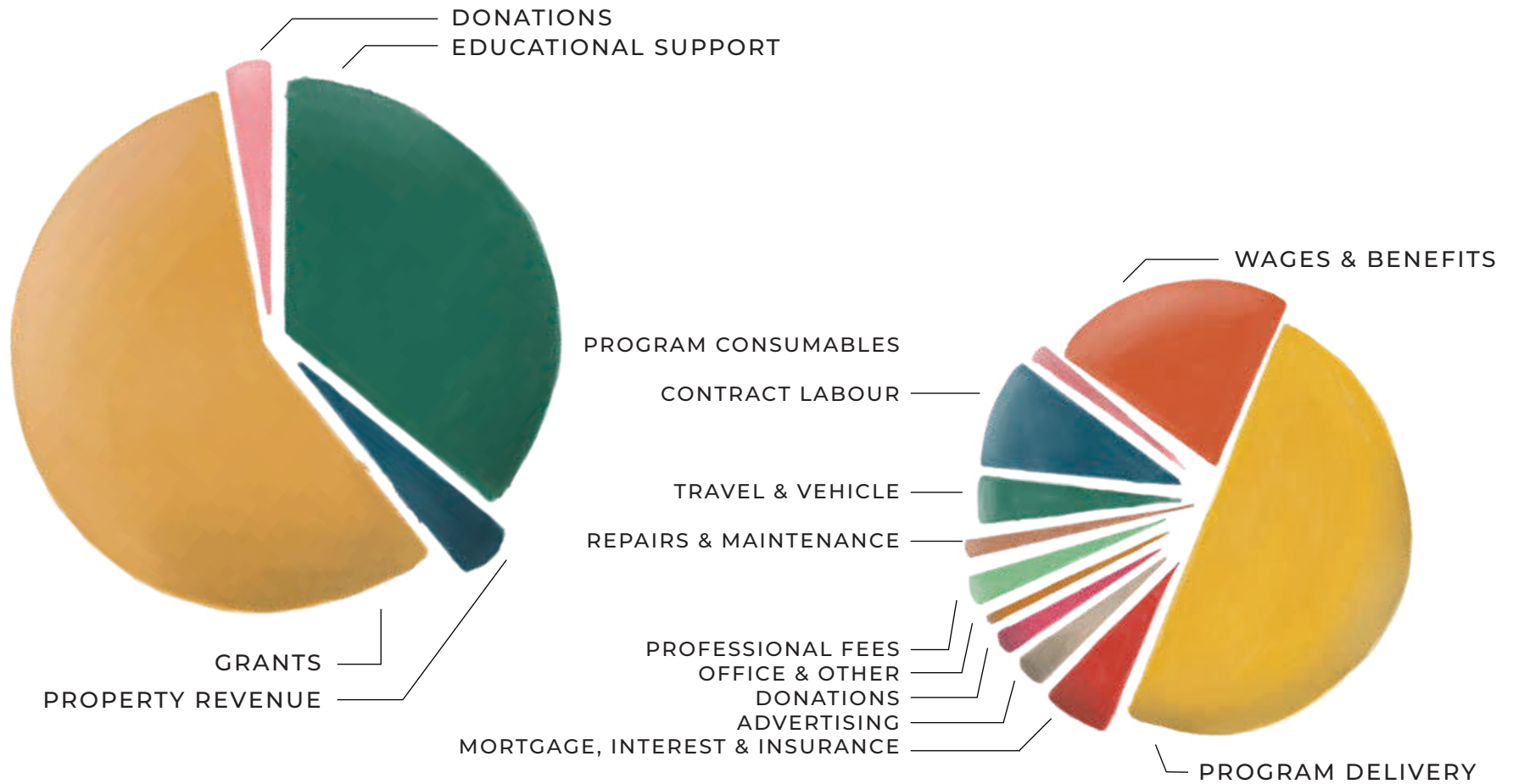
To the mighty Saugeen bending through grass and pine  
Her soft clay covered curves gently twist and they wind  
Hugging clay banks bustling with love, laughter and light  
Thriving now thanks to Jiru's foresight

Here's where it happens, where we are the change  
Where cultures join, share, meet and exchange.  
A rumble of thunder, or drum meeting hand?  
You never know what is brewing on these plots of land

Spaces for community to celebrate earth mother and all of  
her gifts  
Offering open air learning through all seasonal shifts

In a few short years between trees gardens and streams  
These spaces have become the stuff of Jiru's big dreams.

# DOLLARS AND CENTS



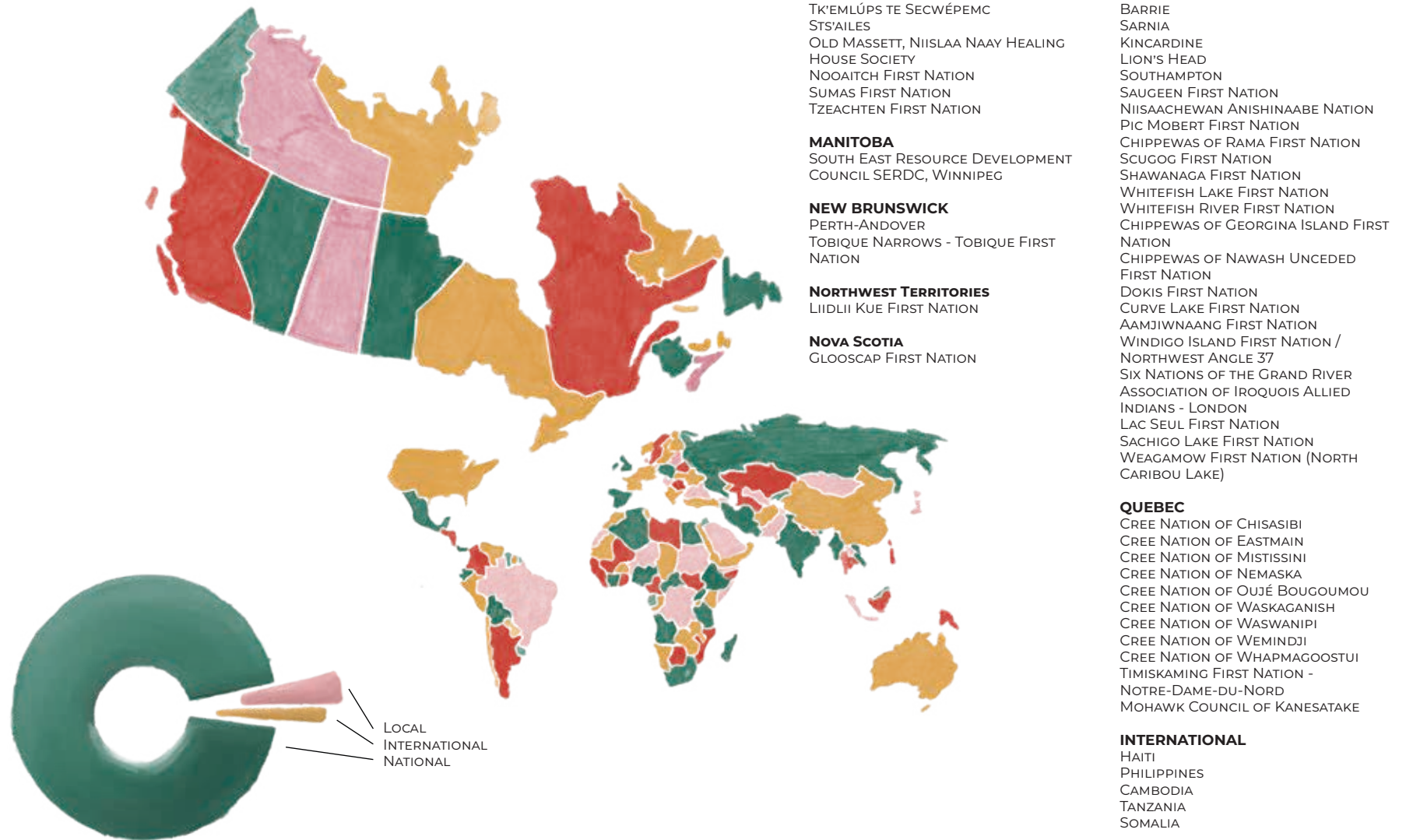


# YEAR OVER YEAR

REVENUE	2021	2022
DONATIONS	72 307	147 366
GRANTS & GOV'T	1 612 814*	2 470 032
PROPERTY REVENUE	2 7452	116 803
EDUCATION SUPPORT	1 144 670	1 522 727
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3 573 867</b>	<b>4 256 928</b>
EXPENSES	2021	2022
ADVERTISING	21 744	6 004
BANK CHARGES	12 667	13 241
PROGRAM CONSUMABLES	108 749	330 759
CONTRACT LABOUR	25 067	49 849
COMMUNITY DONATIONS	525	45 421
PROGRAM DELIVERY COSTS	1 135 659	1 992 071
INSURANCE	41 888	52 731
MORTGAGE & INTEREST	55 702	66 396
INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS	25 170	61 391
OFFICE AND OTHER	64 193	83 831
PROFESSIONAL FEES	21 187	21 095
RENT	33 333	--
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	104 620	92 154
TELEPHONE AND UTILITIES	28 011	28 774
PROGRAM TRAVEL	33 817	76 518
VEHICLE EXPENSES	31 455	72 157
WAGES AND BENEFITS	990 823	853 229
CAPITAL PORTION MORTG.	89 338	93 511
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 823 948</b>	<b>3 939 132</b>

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR FULL FINANCIAL SPREADSHEETS

# IMPACT MAP



# GRATITUDE

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97.7 MAX FM  
ALL SAINT'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
APATISIWIN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (CHRD)  
AUDREY AND DONALD CAMPBELL FOUNDATION  
BLUE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE FOUNDATION  
BRUCE POWER  
C. C. TATHAM & ASSOCIATES LTD.  
CANADA POST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
CANADIAN FEED THE CHILDREN  
CANADIAN INSURANCE ACCOUNTANTS ASSOCIATION  
CANADA NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION  
COLLINGWOOD COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GREY BRUCE  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA  
CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF BRUCE  
DALGLISH FAMILY FOUNDATION  
DONNER CANADIAN FOUNDATION  
DUNBARTON FAIRPORT UNITED CHURCH  
ECCLESIASTICAL  
ECHO FOUNDATION  
ECO CANADA (WAGE SUBSIDY)  
ELECTRICITY HUMAN RESOURCES CANADA  
EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
CANADA (GOVT OF CANADA)  
ENERGIE NB POWER  
ENVIRONMENT NETWORK  
EQUILIBRIUM FOUNDATION  
ETFO BLUEWATER  
ETFO DURHAM OT LOCAL  
EVA LAFLEUR FOUNDATION  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FNCFF  
GEOFFREY H. WOOD FOUNDATION  
GREENSTONE GOLD MINES  
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

HELLO FRESH CANADA  
HESKW'EN'SCUTXE HEALTH SERVICES  
HOME DEPOT - THE ORANGE DOOR PROJECT  
GRANT  
HONDA CANADA FOUNDATION  
HUMANE SOCIETY  
HURONIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS  
INDIGENOUS SPORT AND WELLNESS  
INTACT FINANCIAL CORPORATION  
INVASIVE SPECIES  
J. P. BICKELL FOUNDATION  
JOHANSEN LARSEN FOUNDATION  
JOHN MACDONALD & THE SPERANZA FOUNDATION  
KIWANIS TORONTO  
LEGION LADIES AUXILIARY #63  
MAURICE PRICE FOUNDATION  
MCPEI  
MI'KMAQ CONFEDERACY OF PEI  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL AFFAIRS (GOVT OF ONTARIO)  
MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (GOVT OF ONTARIO)  
MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OP  
MUNICIPALITY OF WEST GREY  
NATURE LEAGUE?  
NATIONAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (GOVT OF CANADA)  
NUNEE HEALTH BOARD SOCIETY - NOT CURRENTLY ON WEBSITE  
ONTARIO 150 PARTNERSHIP  
ONTARIO - MINISTER OF FINANCE  
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
ONTARIO POWER GENERATION  
PATERSON SMITH FAMILY FOUNDATION  
PTARMIGAN FOUNDATION

PRASAD FAMILY FOUNDATION  
ROTARY CLUB COLLINGWOOD, MIDLAND, MINDEN, SGB, HIP, YOUTH GROUP  
ROTMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION  
SASK POWER  
SECOND HARVEST FOOD RESCUE  
SENIOR'S COMMUNITY  
SENSOR TECHNOLOGY LTD.  
SOUTH GREY BRUCE LITERACY COUNCIL  
STOUFFVILLE IGOMA PARTNERSHIP  
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE (DARILYN COLES)  
TD FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
TELUS BARRIE COMMUNITY BOARD  
TELUS FRIENDLY FUTURE FOUNDATION  
THE ARTHUR AND AUDREY CUTTEN FOUNDATION  
THE DICKSON FAMILY FOUNDATION  
THE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMPANY  
THE KEEP FAMILY FOUNDATION  
THE LAWSON FOUNDATION  
THE LEFLAR FOUNDATION  
THE PETERBOROUGH K. M. HUNTER CF  
THE TORONTO FOUNDATION  
THE TOWN OF BLUE MOUNTAINS, COLLINGWOOD  
TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD  
TOWN OF GREY HIGHLANDS  
TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH  
TOWNSHIP OF CLEARVIEW  
TRILLIUM FOUNDATION (GOVT OF ONTARIO)  
TRILLIUM MUTUAL INSURANCE - ROOTS  
UNITED WAY OF BRUCE GREY  
URBAN SYSTEMS FOUNDATION  
URSULA FRANKLIN ACADEMY  
WASAGA BEACH LIONESS  
YMCA OF SIMCOE MUSKOKA



*Education for a changing world*

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