In order to create meaningful social impact for children and families in Calgary, it is so important to stay current with research in our field. Knowledge informs and transforms, better aligns our work, and is evolving Closer to Home (CTH) into a cutting edge social organization. CTH’s 15 programs reach deep into Calgary communities. We give parents the tools to ensure healthy development of their young children. We work with youth and their families to positively impact their mental health. And, we engage Indigenous people in strengthening their cultural identity and healing from intergenerational trauma. Many thanks to our Board of Directors, staff, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, donors and funders who continue to support our work; and especially to Elder Kerrie Moore for her wisdom in guiding CTH to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee 94 Calls to Action. Our future is bright as we look forward to new exciting initiatives, partnerships and continuous transformation to make a real difference in the lives of children and families.

Karen Olivier, 
Chief Executive Officer

Trish Bronsch, 
Board Chair

2,448 children, youth & families served this year

↑ 55% since 2015

Families are Staying Together: 92% of families at risk of having their children removed from their home successfully completed our Family Matters program and stayed together
PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR: ARTHUR MURRAY

As an Alternate Teaching Parent in our Community Teaching Homes over the last four years, Arthur has helped more than 31 youth find their sense of belonging with his genuine interactions, care and concern.

COMMUNITY BUILDER: DR. DANIEL GARFINKEL, REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGIST

Over the past nine years, Daniel has collaborated with CTH to help kids overcome trauma such as abuse, exposure to domestic violence and parental drug use. His expertise and willingness to go above and beyond changes lives.

100% of eligible practitioners achieved International Certification with the Teaching-Family Association

Countless partners and community resources work with us to achieve the best outcomes for kids and families

DONOR OF THE YEAR: KEVIN HAUGHTON

As a loyal donor, Kevin says that his contributions go directly to supporting the people that need it most, and have meaningful and lasting impact. For over 10 years, Kevin’s support has made a difference to families we serve.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: SUSAN HARMAN

Susan connected with CTH when she signed up to volunteer during our Adopt-a-Family initiative. Ever humble, Susan insists she hasn’t “done much,” but to us, her support has been invaluable.

345 donors supported CTH this year

55 dedicated volunteers contributed 1,291 hours this year

Award Winners

READ MORE about this year’s award winners at closertohome.com/awards2019
Many of the children, youth and families we support struggle with issues that affect their mental health, such as trauma, poverty, abuse, social isolation and more. If mental health issues are not addressed early, they can lead to more problems later in life, including addiction, family breakdown and homelessness.

**Youth Mental Health**

82% of youth in our Community Teaching Homes entered the program with mental health concerns

**Increased Resiliency**

92% of parents who received support through our Family Resource Centre said they were better able to respond to daily challenges

“The staff helped me learn skills I never knew. They don’t get upset and they are patient. They give me a chance to find my words.”

– Youth in Teaching Home

**Safer Kids**

Safety and well-being improved for 92% of children and youth in foster care

**Improved Social Connections**

94% of parents who received support through our Family Resource Centre reported an increased number of friends, family members and others who provide emotional support and assistance

Approximately 4,000 Canadians die each year by suicide.

In 2017, suicide accounted for 36% of deaths among youth aged 15 to 19. Every day, we work with youth experiencing mental health concerns that could lead to self-harm or even suicide without the right interventions.
Healing from Trauma

Cultural identity and knowledge of one’s personal identity within the context of history builds a sense of empowerment, resiliency and well-being. Reclaiming cultural pride through connection with Elders, ceremony and traditions brings about healing.

Overcoming Trauma: The average Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) score in our Indigenous programs is 6/10. As ACE scores increase, so do the risks of negative outcomes, such as addiction, depression and suicide. In fact, those with an ACE score of 4 or more are 460% more likely to suffer from depression and 12x more likely to attempt suicide.
Early Childhood Development

Emotional, social, cognitive and physical development of young children directly impacts their resiliency and well-being throughout their lives. Investing in early childhood development by providing the tools, supports and knowledge parents need to raise healthy, happy kids is critical to maximize children’s future well-being.

**Improved Parenting**

93% of parents in our Healthy Families program were better equipped to parent their children with increased knowledge of positive parenting skills.

**Improved Social & Emotional Development**

100% of parents in our Kiwehtata Parenting Program were better able to support their children’s social and emotional development through increased knowledge of parenting strategies.

“\[quote\]
I was welcomed with open arms in a peaceful, safe environment for me to grow and learn.\[/quote\]

- Parent

**Safer Families**

93% of parents in our Healthy Families program improved their knowledge and skills to meet their child’s needs and provide a more nurturing, safe environment for their children.

**Meeting Developmental Milestones**

71% of children in Foster Care met or showed improvements in reaching their developmental milestones.

Measuring children’s progress on developmental milestones is an important part of our ECD programs. We use rigorous screening tools to assess developmental milestones and social/emotional health. If there are any concerns, we design an individualized support plan with the parent to identify effective strategies to ensure young children reach their full potential.
Statement of Operations for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019

FUNDING SOURCES

- Ministry of Children’s Services: Calgary Region $4,094,358 77.0%
- City of Calgary: Family and Community Support Services $165,864 3.1%
- City of Airdrie: Family and Community Support Services $126,375 2.4%
- Delegated First Nations Authority $31,573 0.6%
- Homeless Foundation $320,305 6.0%
- Other Grants and Revenue $280,782 5.3%
- Donations and Fundraising $285,236 5.4%
- Investment Income $11,357 0.2%

$5,315,850 100%

FUNDING USES

- Community Group Homes $1,865,073 35.1%
- Foster Care Services $611,742 11.5%
- In Home Family Supports $712,245 13.4%
- Early Intervention Services $1,147,045 21.6%
- Grants and Other $308,890 5.8%
- Fundraising $75,136 1.4%
- Administration $586,502 11.1%

$5,306,633 100%

NET INCOME $9,217

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

- Program Delivery Costs $4,644,995 87.5%
- Administration $586,502 11.1%
- Fundraising $75,136 1.4%

$5,306,633 100%

Complete financials posted at www.closertohome.com. Our Annual General Meeting is held every June.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Trish Bronsch, BSN, Chair
Dr. Paul Ratti, M.D., Vice Chair
Bailey Rivard, CPA, CA-IFA, CFE, CFF, Treasurer
Brett Shikaze, LLB

Dean Mullin, Ph.D, MBA, P.Eng.
John Wilbeck, MBA
Kate Andrews, LLB
Shannon Friesen, CPHR

Closer to Home is accredited by:

Thank you to our primary funders:

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Front page photo by Sandy Thompson.