



**between friends**  
*connecting · growing · belonging*

## **2017 Annual Impact Report**



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Camp Bonaventure Field Trip

# Message from the CEO & Board of Directors



The year 2017 began with a special celebration of Between Friends’ 35th Anniversary. A lot has changed in 35 years, and we are proud to be delivering quality programs and services to more members now than ever before!

The growth that we have seen in our **Between Friends I.C.A.N!** (Inclusive Community Activities with No Barriers) Services last year was truly amazing. We are thrilled to live in a country that is now embracing what we have known all along, the importance of inclusion and diversity. We are proud to partner with so many community recreation providers who have solidified a commitment to inclusion, by working actively with us to ensure more individuals can access social and recreational activities in their communities. We are grateful for our funding partners: United Way of Calgary & Area, City of Calgary Family & Community Support Services, and Calgary Foundation, who have joined with us to help make our vision a reality.

We have also seen tremendous impact in our programs and services in the Northeast quadrant of the city. Through our last strategic planning process, we identified this as an area requiring attention. Many families residing in Northeast communities have children with disabilities, yet that area was under-represented in our membership. Our Community Engagement Coordinator for the Northeast, Ashutosh Pathak, has done an amazing job building relationships to increase our membership and enable more participation.

Our Board and Leadership Team worked diligently last year to review and update our bylaws, ensuring that we remain current and relevant. The organization has also begun emphasizing leadership development to ensure sustainability. We review our strategic plan annually. As part of this process we always review our vision, mission, and values statements, to ensure they reflect our identity as the community and our stakeholders adjust and adapt to change. Though the wording changes were minor, the change in our vision statement particularly, demonstrates the importance we place on inclusion. Inclusion is integral to the fabric of Between Friends, as diversity makes us stronger.

We appreciate the support of everyone who has stuck by us during an economically challenging time in Calgary. We couldn’t do what we do without our supporters; those who have given to us for years, those who have recently made their first gifts, and those who stepped up in a big way to help us when we needed it most. Thank you for giving children, youth, and adults with disabilities a place they can make friends, develop skills, and have an enormous amount of fun.



Suzanne Jackett | CEO



Garth Johnson | Board Chair

## Board of Directors

Wayne Clark	Chair
Garth Johnson	Chair
Garth Johnson	Vice Chair
Jessica Yarnell	Vice Chair
Megan Brett	Treasurer
Gerry David	Director
Cheryl Shore	Director
Derek Boniecki	Director
Bradley Fox	Director
Crispin Arthur	Director
Rhodri Meredith	Director
Peter Drag	Director
David Arienzale	Director
Sarah Hammond	Director

# About Us

Between Friends is a charitable organization that provides quality social, recreation and development opportunities so that people with disabilities can connect, grow, and belong. Children, youth and adults with disabilities seek social and recreational activities that are fundamental to enriching self-esteem, quality of life, as well as mental and physical health. These programs become pivotal in the lives of our participants as they decrease the degree of isolation they may face. Activities are customized to all ability levels to maximize enjoyment, and help participants challenge and grow their individual potential.



Between Friends staff at Between Bands Halloween Bash



# Between Friends Programs



**between friends**  
Camp Bonaventure

A true outdoor summer day camp at Riveredge Park and our satellite Northeast camp at 1000 Voices at the Genesis Centre, where friendship and fun flourish for ages 4 to 17.



**between friends**  
W.E.S.O.A.R!  
Weekend & Evening Social Opportunities,  
Activities & Recreation

A variety of social and recreational group activities like bowling, swimming, movie nights, and dancing, for all ages during the fall, winter, and spring.



**between friends**  
I.C.A.N!  
Inclusive Community Activities with No Barriers

A service that promotes social inclusion through training and consultation with community recreation providers such as the YMCA, Calgary Public Library, City of Calgary, and others. Any community based activity can become a Between Friends I.C.A.N! experience.



**between friends**  
Adventurers

A summer program for adults ages 18 and older that is customized to varied interests, including day trips and vacation retreats.



**between friends**  
Camp Fun'zAmust

A fun outdoor sleep away camp in partnership with Easter Seals Camp Horizon, adapted and accessible for ages 7-17 and 18-40 in the summer.





Between Friends W.E.S.O.A.R!



## Our Vision

An inclusive community where people with disabilities reach their individual potential and are recognized as valued citizens.

## Our Mission

Between Friends provides quality social, recreation, and development opportunities so that people with disabilities can **connect, grow, and belong**.

## Our Values

The core values that guide agency activities and decisions impacting all stakeholders are captured in the acronym F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

<b>Fun</b>	We provide opportunities for smiles and laughter with friends
<b>Respect</b>	We respect all people and resources
<b>Inclusion</b>	We focus on abilities and build community
<b>Equity</b>	We provide support so that everyone can be successful
<b>No Barriers</b>	We adapt to the changing needs of our members and strive to diminish obstacles to participation
<b>Diversity</b>	We create a welcoming atmosphere for all
<b>Skills</b>	We encourage the growth and development of everyone involved with our organization

## Key Messages

### Connecting

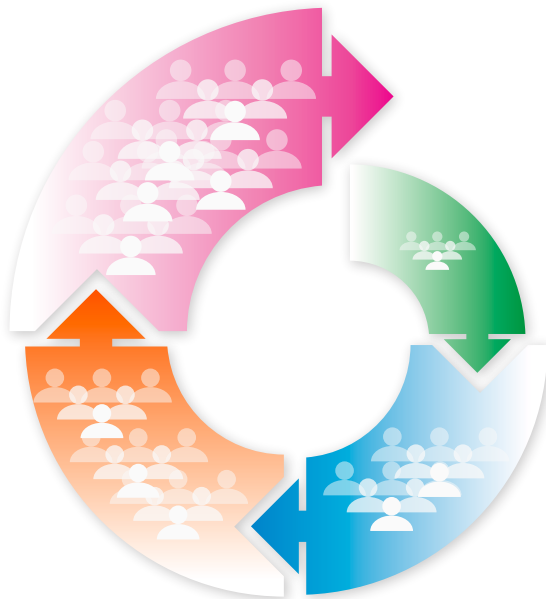
Between Friends provides unique opportunities for individuals with disabilities to have social interaction with peers who may or may not have a disability.

### Growing

Between Friends members develop self-confidence, a sense of accomplishment, and a sense of responsibility.

### Belonging

Our focus is on shared interests over individual differences. These shared interactions and experiences often become the foundation of understanding and lasting friendships.



## Membership Growth

Year after year Between Friends has seen consistent growth in our membership. In 2017, almost 800 members were welcomed, and participated in our programs, camps, and **Between Friends I.C.A.N!** Services.

**2017 • 794 Members**

**2016 • 717 Members**

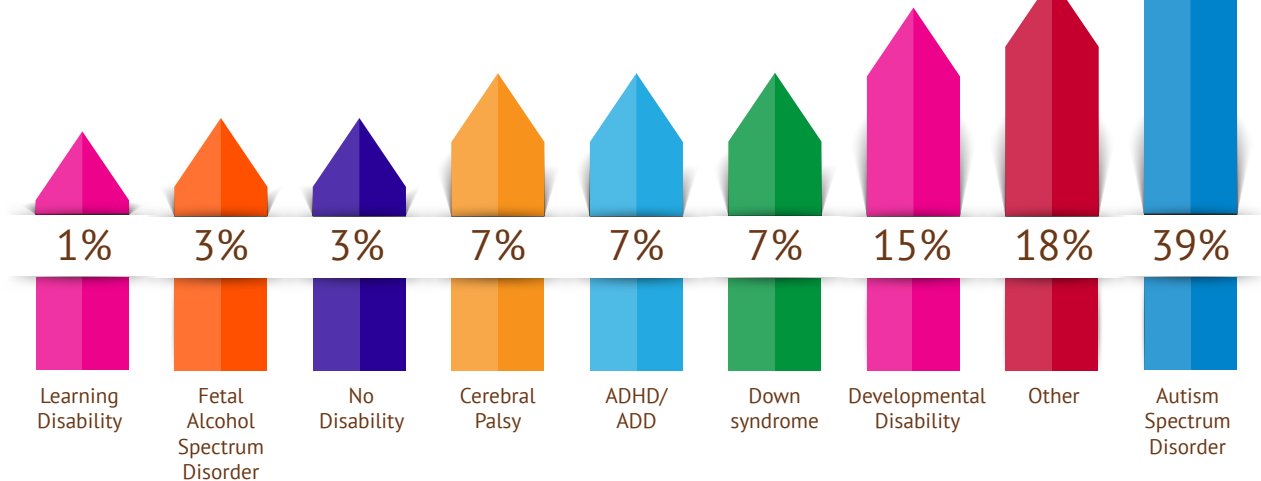
**2015 • 656 Members**

**2014 • 606 Members**



## Disability Breakdown

Between Friends is an organization that supports many individuals with one or more disabilities. In 2017, more than a third of our members were on the Autism spectrum.





## between friends

**I.C.A.N!**

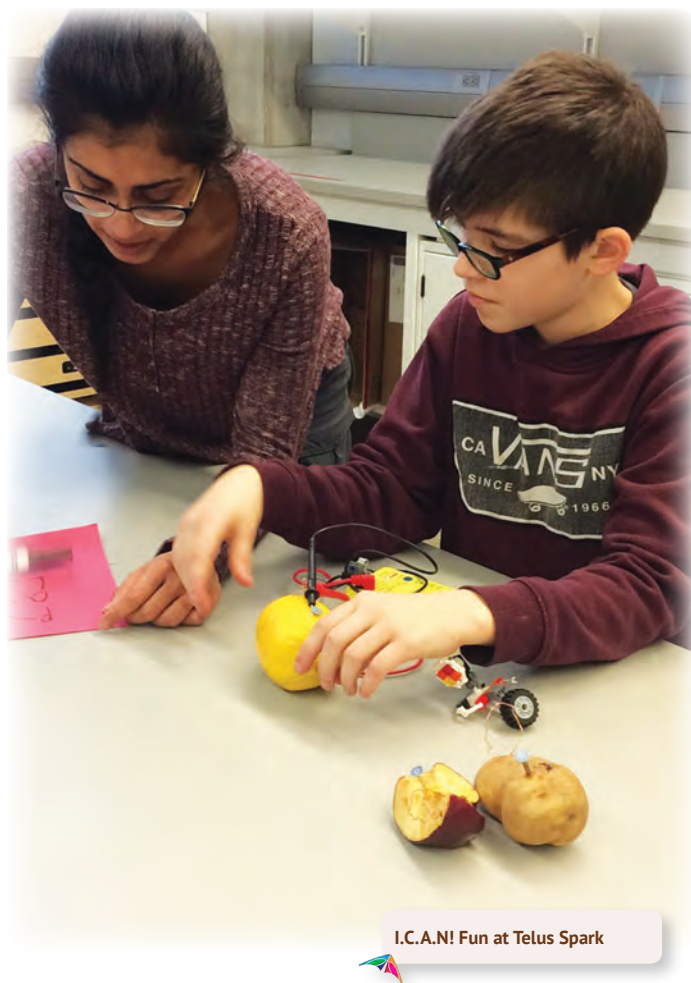
*Inclusive Community Activities with No Barriers*

Did you know that one of the fastest growing initiatives in 2017 was our **Between Friends I.C.A.N!** Services?

**Between Friends I.C.A.N!** Services allow Between Friends to see our “vision in action”. This inclusive model helps Between Friends participants who have disabilities take part in community based programming throughout the city without the requirement of a personal support aide. Instead, Recreation Inclusion Facilitators work with the participants, families, and partner organizations to educate and facilitate an inclusive environment for all those involved in the program. Through **Between Friends I.C.A.N!** Services, we have seen tremendous growth in building capacity among community recreation providers by giving them the tools necessary to successfully provide inclusive programming.

*“Cesar had an excellent experience with I.C.A.N!  
He learned how to be part of a team at SOGO  
Adventure Running and about the importance of  
being aware of his surroundings. We’re going to  
try it again in the fall.”*

– Tibisay Orozco, Parent



I.C.A.N! Fun at Telus Spark

- **Between Friends grew from having 12 Community Recreation Partners in 2016 to 33 in 2017, a 125% increase!**
- **Our Community Recreation Partners include: City of Calgary, YMCA, Calgary Public Library, Repsol Sports Centre, TELUS Spark, and many more.**
- **Community Recreation Partner staff training grew from 13 individuals in 2016 to 280 in 2017!**
- **Our training impact grew from potentially supporting 1,100 kids (440 with a disclosed disability) registered in partner camps in 2016 to 18,994 people (563 with a disclosed disability) in partner programs in 2017**
- **The number of participants accessing I.C.A.N! Services grew from seven in 2016 to 41 in 2017, an increase of 486%!**





**between friends**  
Camp Bonaventure

***"This was my child's first camp and he had a blast! The staff were polite and friendly. We'll want to come back next summer to Camp Bonaventure." – Parent***





## Northeast Programs

**Did you know that there is a large population of individuals with disabilities living in Northeast Calgary?**

In 2017, in an effort to reduce barriers to accessing programs, Between Friends piloted two one-week summer day camps in Northeast Calgary. The camps, which were a satellite of **Between Friends Camp Bonaventure**, ran in July for children ages 6-12 and teens ages 13-17 at the Genesis Centre. **Between Friends W.E.S.O.A.R!** programs were also offered year-round. As of December 2017, we have signed up 52 new members from Northeast Calgary!

Randa, a Syrian refugee new to Canada, found almost no social or financial support in her efforts to adapt to a new country and provide for her daughter Ghazal, a child with significant special needs. Their family not only struggled to secure basic necessities such as housing, food, and employment, but they were also desperately trying to find an organization that would engage Ghazal in activities that would help reduce her stress.

When it seemed like all resources had been exhausted, a settlement agency connected the family with Between Friends, suggesting Ghazal attend the new Northeast satellite of **Between Friends Camp Bonaventure**.

The respite time Randa gained allowed her to give undivided attention to Ghazal's little brother, attend English language courses, and tend to other necessary errands. Participating in the Northeast Camp was a transformational experience for Ghazal; one that continues to have lasting benefits.



Ghazal at Between Friends' Northeast Camp

***“The noticeable changes in Ghazal were amazing! Starting on the second day of camp, Ghazal would start saying ‘Go, Mommy, go!’ as soon as she reached the camp leaders and her group. She would come home and sing the songs she learned for her family.”***

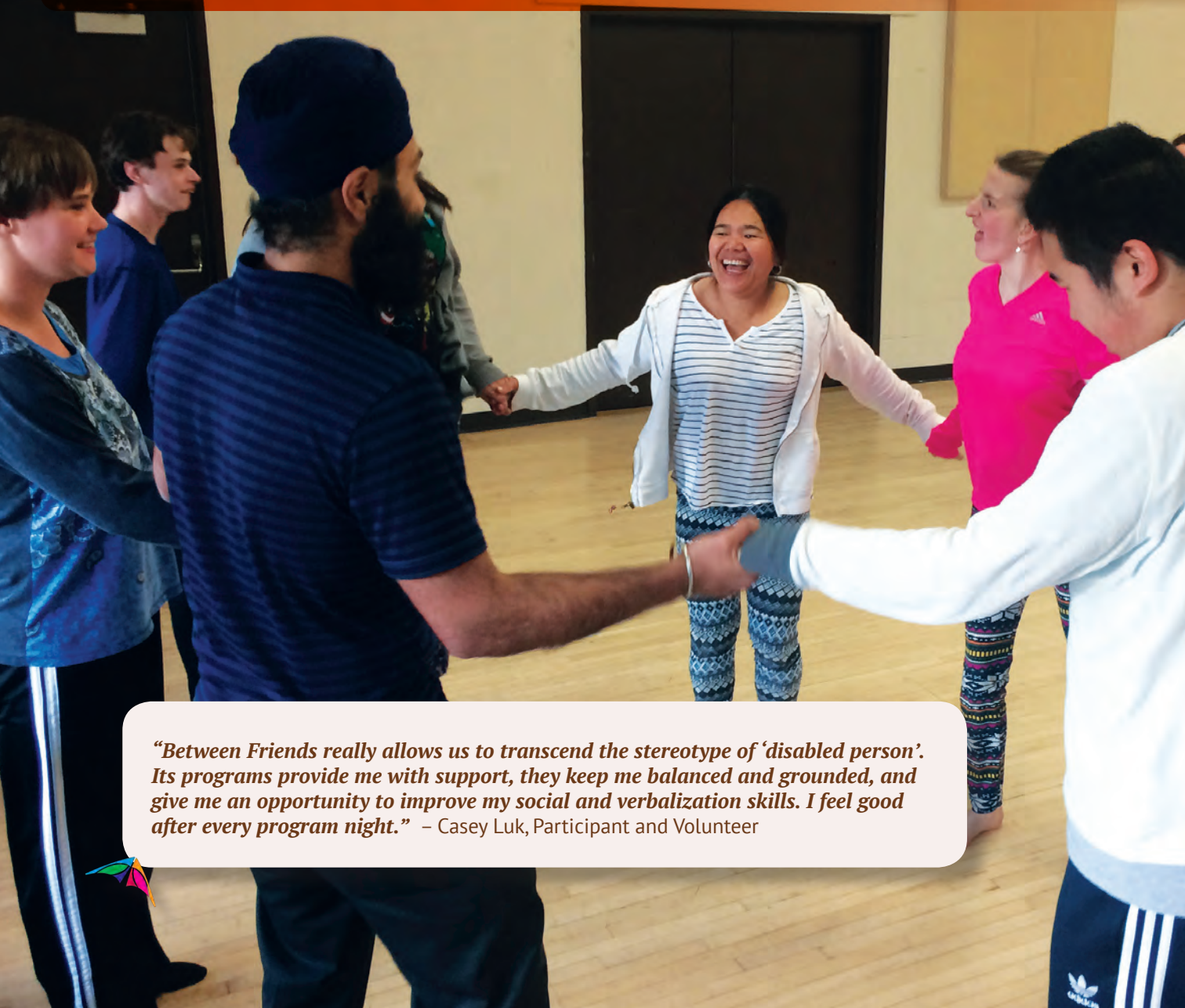
– Randa, Ghazal's Mom



## between friends

W.E.S.O.A.R!

Weekend & Evening Social Opportunities,  
Activities & Recreation



***“Between Friends really allows us to transcend the stereotype of ‘disabled person’. Its programs provide me with support, they keep me balanced and grounded, and give me an opportunity to improve my social and verbalization skills. I feel good after every program night.” – Casey Luk, Participant and Volunteer***





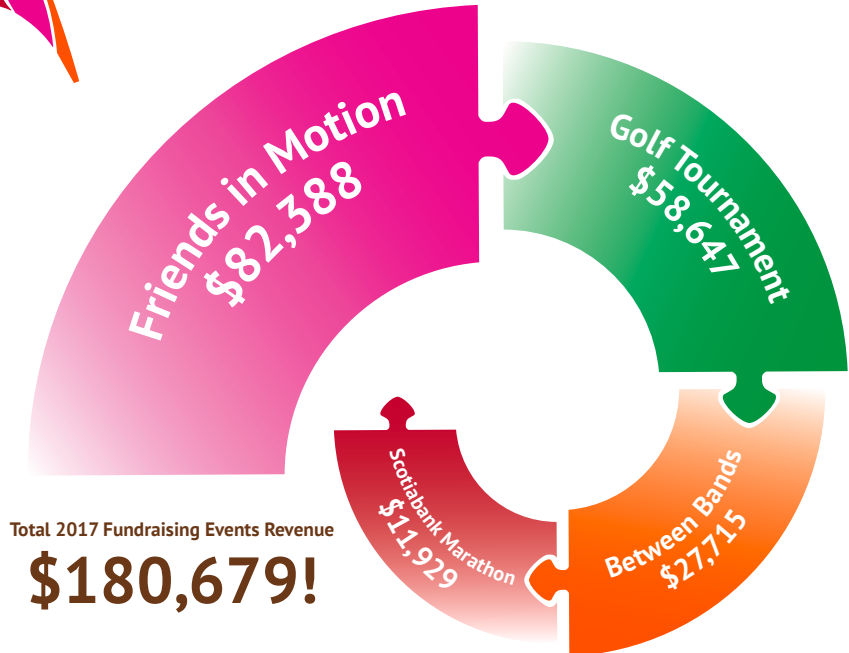
# Volunteers

In 2017 over 18,000 hours of personal time was generously donated towards facilitating programs, camps, fundraising efforts, and special events. Our volunteers consist of Junior Volunteers (ages 12-15), Participant Volunteers who are also members/program participants, our standard volunteers (ages 16+), and our Board of Directors. We can't thank them enough!



# Fundraisers

Our events not only help us financially, they help raise awareness of Between Friends and provide our supporters with fun and memorable experiences.





**between friends**  
Adventurers



*“Between Friends Vacationers program is truly unique in the disabilities community. Many of our participants spend the entire year looking forward to the next Vacationers trip. I have seen more deep and lasting friendships forged while waiting in line for a water slide at West Edmonton Mall, or hiking in Banff, or laughing in a hotel room than I have in any other program...” – Lachlan Milne, 2017 Vacationers Leader*





## Subsidies & Fee Assistance

**Did you know that in 2017 Between Friends subsidized 40-80% of all program costs?**

There is often a high cost associated with supporting a person with a disability. These additional costs may include special therapies, equipment, and respite care. Therefore, money for recreation is not always available. In order to ensure that all of our programs are accessible to anyone who wants to participate, Between Friends, through significant fundraising efforts, subsidizes the cost of all programs and provides additional Fee Assistance to families who need it most.

Without our Subsidies & Fee Assistance Program, a large part of our programming would be inaccessible due to the high cost of providing services for individuals with disabilities. Parents and family members often tell us how important our programs are for their loved ones, and how without these programs their lives would be very different.



Sun's out, shades out! Keeping it cool at Camp Bonaventure

***“Between Friends Camp Bonaventure has really helped my son be active, get outdoors, and meet people who have different abilities. I am a single parent and the fee assistance program has really helped me overcome the barriers of raising a teenager with a disability”***

– Parent

PROGRAM	SUBSIDY	FEE ASSISTANCE	TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED
W.E.S.O.A.R!	\$331,320.75	\$6,533.75	\$337,854.50
Camp Bonaventure	\$204,373.54	\$37,697.50	\$242,071.04
Adventurers	\$187,575.56	\$16,419.75	\$203,996.31
Camp Fun'zAmust	\$46,187.65	\$7,152.50	\$53,340.15
<b>TOTALS &gt;</b>	<b>\$769,458.50</b>	<b>\$67,803.50</b>	<b>\$837,262.00</b>



## The Calgary Between Friends Club Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2017

Audited by Calvista LLP Chartered Professional Accountants  
Full financial statements available online at [www.betweenfriends.ab.ca](http://www.betweenfriends.ab.ca)

### Extracts from Audited Financial Statements

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Current	\$536,247	\$616,221
Endowment Fund	\$1,421,287	\$1,339,783
Property & Equipment	\$71,122	\$58,594
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,028,656</b>	<b>\$2,014,598</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Current	\$138,561	\$65,684
Deferred contributions related to operations	\$223,199	\$374,748
Deferred contributions related to property & equipment	\$59,730	\$48,511
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$421,490</b>	<b>\$488,943</b>
<hr/>		
Net Assets (includes endowment fund)	\$1,607,166	\$1,525,655
<hr/>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,028,656</b>	<b>\$2,014,598</b>

### Statement of Operations

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Fundraising	\$1,274,367	\$1,255,916
Programs	\$722,002	\$669,475
Government Grants	\$221,296	\$104,601
Investment income (grant & endowment fund)	\$34,602	\$38,752
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,302,267</b>	<b>\$2,068,744</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Direct Costs	\$2,077,885	\$1,818,490
Operating Expenses	\$263,623	\$265,716
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,341,508</b>	<b>\$2,084,206</b>
<hr/>		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(\$39,241)	(\$15,462)
Other income (unrealized gain on long term investments)	\$120,752	\$63,134
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenses</b>	<b>\$81,511</b>	<b>\$47,672</b>



# Thank You to Our Fundraising Champions, Sustainers & Leaders



**United Way**  
Calgary and Area



**Bob & Gina Church**



**Robert Rivard**



*We wish to thank each and every one of our donors for the support they  
have given us in 2017. Your generosity makes all of this possible!*



**between friends**

*connecting · growing · belonging*

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403 269 9133

**betweenfriends.ab.ca | @calgarybfc**



Charitable Registration No: 11921 7925 RR0001



**United Way**  
Calgary and Area



**ALBERTA'S PROMISE**  
Inspiring Partnerships for Kids