



2025



Between Friends
connect • grow • belong

Annual Impact Report

Table of Contents

3 CEO & Board Message

4 About Us

5 Who We Are

6 Family Spotlight

7 Donor Spotlight

8 Personnel Spotlight

10 Financial Statements

11 2025 By The Numbers

12 Our Donors

14 Our Achievements

Board of Directors

Naminder Sandhu	Chair
Cory Vance	Past Chair
Sean Bower	Vice Chair
Taso Arvanitis	Treasurer/Secretary
Gerry David	Director
Amber Dunleavy	Director
Ian Hendy	Director
Rupi Bergamin	Director
Alexandra McLeod	Director
Carolyn Simpson	Director
Kimberley Presser	CEO



A Message From The CEO & Board of Directors

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As Chair of the Between Friends Board, I am pleased to share my reflections on another strong year for the organization. Our members fully embraced a rich variety of programming, from Camp Bonaventure to other year-round opportunities for social gathering, adaptive recreation and skill-building. We know from our members that these experiences continue to bring joy, connection, and growth to so many lives. We are especially proud of the continued expansion of our programming in Red Deer, which has seen increased participation and deeper community integration. While fundraising in the not-for-profit sector remains an ever-present challenge in today's financial climate, Between Friends continues to be relatively successful, thus able to support our vital programs across Southern Alberta.

I extend my appreciation to our dedicated staff, volunteers, board members, families, and loyal community partners. Your support is the foundation of everything we achieve. In particular, I commend our staff who navigated significant restructuring this year while remaining focused on our mission and vision, ensuring we continue delivering the highest level of service to our community. We also look forward to strengthening awareness of the organization through expert consultation on impact and outcomes communication. Our story is an incredible one and our hope is to continue to grow our reach in the community!

Warmest regards,

**Kimberley Presser &
Naminder Sandhu**



Vision

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

Mission

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

Key Messages

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

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

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

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.



Who We Are

616 Calgary Members



401 Youth

215 Adults

75 Family Memberships

541 Individual Memberships

12 Family Memberships

34 Individual Memberships

46 Red Deer Members



41 Youth

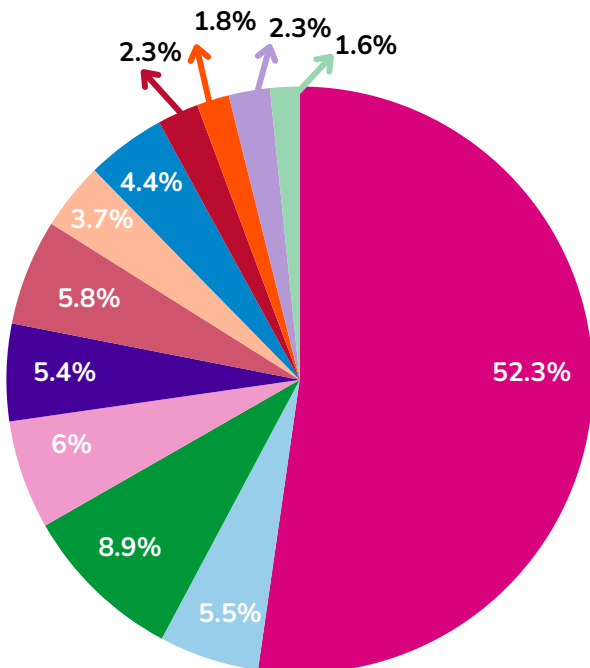
5 Adults

160 Program Volunteers



10,266 Volunteer Hours - \$153,990 Saved

Member Breakdown



- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Global Developmental Delay
- Other
- Intellectual Disability
- Developmental Disability
- FASD/FAE
- ADHD/ADD
- Brain Injury
- Down Syndrome
- No Disability
- Cerebral Palsy
- Epilepsy

Between Friends is an organization that supports many individuals with one or more disabilities. In 2025, 52.3% of our members listed Autism Spectrum Disorder as their primary disability.

Creating Community in Red Deer



This year, we are proud to spotlight the families who make up our Red Deer community. These are families who share a common goal of finding meaningful, inclusive opportunities for their loved ones to connect, grow, and belong.

Many families come to Between Friends after facing barriers to recreation, and when we began to offer programs in Red Deer, those families had a place to go. One of our parents said “When Between Friends opened up programming, it gave our son some important things he was missing: a community he needed with friends like him, and amazing adventures with staff that care. It’s undeniable the impact it has made for him, our family, and other kids in our community.”

For participants, our programs are often best described in their own words. As one participant shared, **“At Between Friends I have had a lot of fun. We do fun activities and crafts, plus I have made so many friends. It is awesome.”** Simple moments like trying new activities and spending time with peers are what makes the biggest difference.

Thank you to all of our families for trusting us and allowing us to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our members, both in Calgary and Red Deer, every day.



Nutrien's Lasting Impact at Camp Bonaventure

Nutrien has been a valued supporter of Between Friends since 2009, contributing more than \$110,000 to help create inclusive opportunities for children, youth, and adults with disabilities. Over the past decade, Nutrien has been the primary funder of the Camp Bonaventure Garden, helping transform it into a vibrant and meaningful part of camp life. The garden provides participants with hands-on opportunities to plant, grow, and harvest while building confidence, teamwork, and a sense of accomplishment in a welcoming outdoor space.

Through Nutrien's continued investment and multi-year support, the Camp Bonaventure Garden has expanded into a more accessible and sustainable learning environment. Recent enhancements include the addition of a solar-powered watering system, a greenhouse, accessible pathways that allow participants using wheelchairs to fully navigate the space, and the development of a thriving food forest with new berry trees and shrubs. These improvements ensure that participants of all abilities can engage in meaningful gardening activities while connecting with nature.

For the past ten years, Nutrien has been proud to support Camp Bonaventure's horticultural therapy garden, helping participants grow, harvest, and enjoy fresh, nutritious food. In addition to healthy snacks, the garden builds skills, confidence, and a sense of accomplishment through hands-on growing experiences for participants.

- Chloe Sprecker, Nutrien

Today, the garden continues to flourish as a place of discovery, learning, and inclusion. Participants enjoy activities such as planting, watering, and harvesting, while partnerships with community organizations expand opportunities for engagement and skill-building. Thanks to Nutrien's generosity, the Camp Bonaventure Garden will remain a place where individuals can grow not only plants, but also confidence, friendships, and lifelong memories.



Powered By People and Purpose

In 2025, Between Friends was recognized as a Great Place to Work® and certified as a Great Place to Work for Young Talent™ — an achievement that reflects the caring, inclusive culture our community has helped build.

These recognitions were based on feedback directly from employees, who shared that they feel valued, supported, and connected to meaningful work every day.

From camp counsellors creating unforgettable memories to program staff fostering friendships and belonging, every team member plays an important role in making Between Friends a place where people can thrive and grow.

Between Friends has become an especially meaningful workplace for young talent because it offers more than just a job. It offers purpose, mentorship, leadership opportunities, and the chance to make a real impact in the lives of others. Many team members begin their journey as summer staff or volunteers and grow into leadership roles, gaining confidence, experience, and lifelong skills along the way.

Young employees are encouraged to share ideas, take initiative, and build meaningful relationships while working in an environment rooted in inclusion, collaboration, and support. Through hands-on experience and strong mentorship, staff develop not only professionally, but personally as well.

For nearly five decades, Between Friends has focused on creating inclusive spaces for individuals with disabilities. These awards highlight that same commitment within our workplace culture. One built on trust, collaboration, mentorship, and purpose.



The Ripple Effect Starts Here



I originally signed on as a volunteer in an effort to contribute to my community; I wanted to donate some of my time to helping other people. What I did not foresee—and I recognize that this is heinously cliché—is **the immense impact that Between Friends has had on my own wellbeing.**

Through Between Friends, **I have found a strong sense of purpose and an incredible community.** I have built friendships with numerous people that I wouldn't have otherwise met.

-Calem Schalm, Volunteer

I have had the pleasure of being a volunteer practicum student at Between Friends. I have been able to apply academic theories surrounding disability inclusivity into real-world practices.

Not only did I further my learning and experiences around disability and barriers surrounding it, but **I also realized that I want to become one of the many, amazing people that advocates and creates spaces for people with disabilities.**

- Jan Donguines, Practicum Student



My experience with Between Friends has taught me that **everyone deserves to feel like they belong and are supported in society.** I learned from Between Friends on how small acts of kindness and service make a huge difference in people's lives.

One of the most memorable aspects of volunteering is that Between Friends has created a safe and welcoming environment for families. **It provides not only programs for children, but also reassurance to parents that they are not alone.** To me, it is powerful to see how much it means for families to feel included, valued, and connected to others who truly care.

- Marie Claire K, Volunteer



2025 Financial Statements

The Calgary Between Friends Club Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2025. Audited by Czechowsky, Graham & Hanevelt Chartered Professional Accountants. Full financial statements available online at www.betweenfriends.ab.ca

Extracts from Audited Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	General Fund	Property & Equipment	Endowment Fund	2025	2024
Current	\$639,701			\$639,701	\$1,162,845
Endowment Fund			\$1,848,552	\$1,848,552	\$75,664
Property & Equipment		\$32,481		\$32,481	\$1,817,935
Restricted Cash				\$0	\$21,100
Total Assets	\$639,701	\$32,481	\$1,848,552	\$2,520,734	\$3,077,544
Liabilities				2025	2024
Current	\$45,214			\$45,214	\$47,310
Deferred Contributions Related to Operations	\$110,713			\$110,713	\$471,915
Deferred Contributions Related to Casino	\$13,786			\$13,786	\$74,055
Deferred Contributions Related to Property & Equipment		\$16,984		\$16,984	\$68,414
Total Liabilities	\$169,713	\$16,984	\$0	\$186,697	\$661,694
Net Assets (includes Endowment Fund)	\$469,988	\$15,497	\$1,848,552	\$2,334,037	\$2,415,850
Total	\$639,701	\$32,481	\$1,848,552	\$2,520,734	\$3,077,544

Statement of Operations

Revenue	General Fund	Property & Equipment	Endowment Fund	2025	2024
Fundraising	\$1,598,602			\$1,598,602	\$1,501,919
Programs	\$757,914	\$51,430		\$809,344	\$693,980
Government Grants	\$215,987			\$215,987	\$87,494
Investment Income (Interest & Endowment Fund)	\$10,056			\$10,056	\$32,504
Total	\$2,582,559	\$51,430	\$0	\$2,633,989	\$2,315,897
Expenses				2025	2024
Direct Costs	\$2,519,193			\$2,519,193	\$2,130,021
Operating Expenses	\$291,687	\$61,608		\$353,295	\$282,771
Total	\$2,810,880	\$61,608	\$0	\$2,872,488	\$2,412,792
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	-\$228,321	-\$10,178	\$0	-\$238,499	-\$96,895
Other Income (Unrealized Gain or Long Term Investments)	\$0	\$0	\$156,686	\$156,686	\$214,110
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	-\$228,321	-\$10,178	\$156,686	-\$81,813	\$117,215

2025 by the Numbers

Friends in Motion

\$95,823

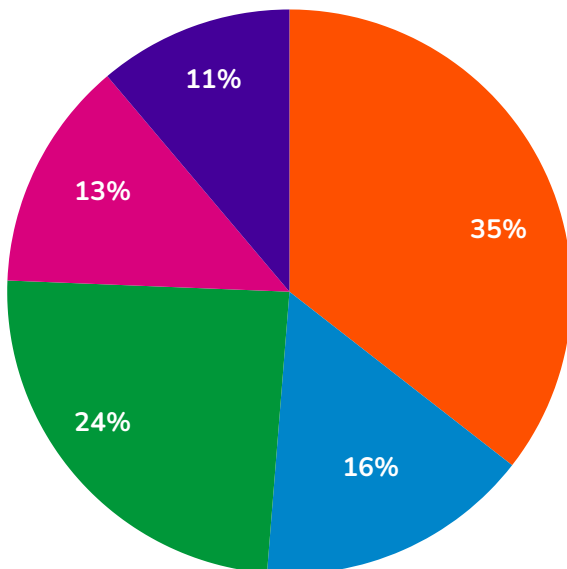
Golf Tournament

\$91,013

Circle of Friends

\$22,733

Our Funding



- Grants and Foundations
- Events
- Individual Donors
- Corporate Donors
- Government

Between Friends receives funding from a number of different areas. In 2025 24% of our funding came from individuals. This is an **increase of 71%** from prior year.

Our Donors

We are deeply grateful to the extraordinary donors who stood beside us throughout 2025.

Your generosity didn't just support our work, it made it possible. Because of you, our members have continued to access the programs, connections, and sense of belonging they count on.

Your commitment fuels everything we do, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a wonderful community behind us.





Mentor Donors \$10,000

Auxilium Foundation

Big Hearted Mavericks

Blue Spruce Acorn Fund

Business Fore Calgary Kids

Chisholm Industries Ltd.

Jules Foundation

Ken Mostowich

Mawer Investment Management

Mihaichuk Family Foundation

Nickle Family Foundation

Northmount Kiwanis Club of Calgary

Nutrien

Olympia Charitable Foundation

Robert & Liz Rivard

Rogers Charity Classic - Birdies For Kids

TransCanada Pipelines Ltd. (TC Energy)

William S. Herron Foundation

Leader Donors \$25,000+

Lily Street Foundation



When Schools Closed, We Opened!

In the fall of 2025, families across Alberta faced uncertainty as schools closed during the province-wide teachers' strike. For families of children and youth with disabilities, the impact went far beyond missed classes. Many suddenly lost access to routines, social connection, and supports their children rely on every day.

That's when Between Friends stepped in.

In response to the strike, Between Friends quickly launched "Care Camps," emergency daytime programming designed specifically for children and youth with disabilities. What began as a rapid response became a vital source of stability and connection for families navigating a difficult time.

Each day, participants were welcomed into a safe, inclusive environment filled with games, creative activities, outdoor adventures, and opportunities to connect with friends. More importantly, they were surrounded by staff who understood their needs and created spaces where they felt they belonged.

For parents, the camps provided more than childcare. They provided relief.

One parent shared that after the sudden closure of school, their son's anxiety and isolation increased dramatically. After attending Care Camps, they saw him smiling again and excited to participate in activities with peers who accepted him exactly as he was.

Another family explained that without the camps, one parent would have had to leave work during the strike. Instead, they were able to maintain stability at home while knowing their daughter was safe, supported, and thriving.

Through Care Camps, Between Friends created something every family needed during that time: connection, support, and a place to belong.



Friends Who Ran for Something Bigger

In 2025, Between Friends hosted its first annual Fun Run in partnership with Calgary social group **Girls Who Like To Do Things**, aptly named “Friends Who Like To Do Things.” The partnership was created to expand awareness of Between Friends in the wider community while raising funds to support inclusion and social programs.

The 5km walk/run around Sandy Beach Park welcomed 120 registered participants, with Camp Bonaventure serving as the hub for the warm-up, raffle, and post-run celebrations. Despite rainy weather, 80 participants still came out to show their support and enthusiasm for Between Friends.

Accessibility remained a priority, with registration set at just \$10. Nearly one-third of participants chose to add an extra donation ranging from \$5 to \$100. Thanks to the generosity of both Between Friends and Girls Who Like To Do Things communities, participants enjoyed goody bags, raffle prizes, and post-run ice cream.

The event raised nearly \$2,000 while also introducing dozens of new people to Between Friends and its mission. The partnership created meaningful new connections with individuals eager to support inclusion, friendship, and community in a fun and engaging way. Between Friends is incredibly grateful to Girls Who Like To Do Things for helping reach new audiences and create such a memorable event. After all, connection is at the heart of everything Between Friends does.

The Friends Who Like To Do Things Fun Run returns on July 26, 2026, with more details coming soon.



Looking Ahead to 2026

As we reflect on all that was accomplished in 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the community that makes Between Friends work possible. Together, we celebrated milestones, overcame challenges, and continued building spaces where everyone can connect, grow and belong.

We are excited for all that lies ahead and look forward to a fantastic 2026 filled with growth, connection, and new opportunities to make an impact together.



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