



# Aspire Special Needs Resource Centre 2021 –22 Annual Report

## Message from Aspire

2021-2022 was another turbulent year in the world and Aspire responded to this unpredictable environment by staying true to its mission to provide hope to children with special needs, the families who love them and the communities that care for them. Due to the unending dedication and creativity of Aspire's staff, we were able to continue services as the COVID-19 pandemic persisted by adapting spaces, programs, and protocols to ensure all public health measures were met. In September we also completed the installation of a new HVAC system that helped ensure a safe environment for our children, families, and staff.

The pandemic once again meant the cancellation of Evening of Decadent Dessert, our major annual fundraiser. However, our incredible donors supported us through the 12 Days of Joy 50/50 and our Journey of Hope virtual event in the Spring, and we were thrilled to host Push and Pace in person in June of 2022. Push and Pace was also the new draw date for our Children's Raffle, adding additional excitement to this annual June event.

A generous donation from Mutual Fire/Lakestone Insurance allowed us to renew and refresh our resource library. The Greg Weber Discovery Library has now been updated with current resources, available to anyone in the Aspire community to borrow, and is supported with an online, searchable catalogue.

We were able to purchase a new bus in September to replace one of our two transportation buses. The reliability of these buses is critical as they deliver children to our building every day for programming and then back safely to their homes. These buses are outfitted with special accommodations allowing for wheelchairs and other equipment our children use daily.

The Board was excited to partner this year with the Red Deer and District Community Foundation to create a Fee Assistance Endowment Fund. Through this fund, we have been able to

create a new option for donors who want to provide sustainable funding to Aspire's Fee Assistance Program, which removes financial barriers for all families seeking access to Aspire services.

Aspire renewed our values this year. These values are the underpinning of all the work we do. We are:

- **Holistic:** An integrated approach to all we do that is personalized and inclusive.
- **Optimistic:** Focused on innovation, empowerment and investment in the future.
- **Passionate:** Generating excitement, commitment and celebrating milestones.
- **Empathetic:** Keeping a curious mind, cultivating understanding and connection.

I'd like to end this letter with a heartfelt thank you to all of Aspire's incredible staff, and in particular to our invaluable Executive Director, JoAnne Hayden. They showed remarkable innovation and resilience in the face of an incredibly challenging year, and we are grateful for their talent and their dedication.

I'm also grateful to our families and our donors, who demonstrated their support for Aspire throughout the year in ways big and small. Aspire is truly a family because of all of you, and we are privileged that you allow us to be a part of yours.

On behalf of the Aspire Board of Directors,

Michelle Edwards Thomson, Board Chair

# PROGRAMMING 2021-22

From September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022, Aspire staff were busy providing programs, services and resources to local families, while also planning for and offering events and activities. Here are a few highlights from the past year.

## Aspire's Programs

At Aspire, we offer a variety of programming and services for children with special needs and their families, including: the Early Access to Supportive Education (EASE) Preschool Program, Transdisciplinary Assessment & Consultation (TAC) Program, Diagnostic Clinics, Individualized Services, and more.

### EASE Program - Early Access to Supportive Education

The **EASE preschool program** was once again at full capacity in 2021-22, serving **56** students with complex needs onsite. EASE is Aspire's specialized preschool program for children with severe delays or disabilities. We focus on each child's individual strengths and needs to build a solid foundation in this crucial stage of their development. The goal is for families to feel engaged and supported as staff guide their child's learning.

“He loves his time at Aspire, and I know that each day, as I send my heart out the door to his EASE classroom, he is challenged, supported and loved.”

### Transdisciplinary Assessment & Consultation (TAC) Program

The 6-week in-centre **TAC Program**, which parents attend with the child, and the Diagnostic Clinics, had a combined total of **76** children complete their programs this year. A comprehensive report of the child's strengths and needs, complete with relevant diagnosis, recommendations, and strategies for moving forward, is given to the parent or guardian at the end of the program.

“The biggest surprise of all, hands down, is the sense of freedom we have after going through the TAC program at Aspire. The program was life changing. Simply put, the Aspire team is good at what they do.”

### Individualized Services (IS) Program

Sometimes a family wants more support at home or in their community program. Also, school programs may require assessment or intervention services to support a child in their classroom.

**259** children and their caregivers were assisted in 2021/2022 through the IS Program, including:

**45** children were assisted by IS clinics.

**24** children were seen through Family Support for Children with Disabilities contracts.

**182** children were seen through school contracts.

**8** children received therapy services at home, in the community, or at Aspire.

### Greg Weber Discovery Library

Aspire's resource library was updated with new resources after funds were donated on behalf of Greg Weber, the library's new namesake. The upgrade also includes an online portal to place holds on resources that are available for pick up at Aspire.



# FUND DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Fundraising Events and Activities

Aspire strives to secure sustainable funding to ensure our continued support to the Central Alberta community. The combination of government funding, which represents 79% of our annual budget, and our innovative fundraising efforts allows us to fulfill our mission of providing hope to children with special needs, the families who love them, and the communities that care for them.

The support that Aspire receives through fundraising is essential to our annual budget. Aspire is so grateful for all the special events, third party events, gaming activities; as well as every individual, service club and corporation that chooses to support Aspire financially. The continued commitment from our community supports our goal of providing essential services to special needs children and their families in Central Alberta.

Thank you to all our sponsors, donors, volunteers, families and supporters who share in our mission. Without your gifts of time, talent and dedication our impact would be limited. Thank you for leading by example and truly making a difference.

## 12 Days of Joy 50/50 Raffle

Bringing a little holiday cheer and some fun prizes, the 12 Days of Joy 50/50 Raffle was once again a hit in it's second year! Our community showed up again and the pot grew to \$8,640, giving the 50/50 raffle winner a total of \$4,320 to celebrate with. We also had numerous community donors who added to the fun with some daily prizes. A special thanks to the Elliott Family for sponsoring the 12 Days of Joy Raffle.



## Mother's Day Gift Packs

The second year of the Mother's Day Gift Packs was once again well received by our community. The luxury gift packs for the special women in our lives included various donations from generous local supporters and sales helped us raise \$14,169.35 to support services and programming at Aspire. Special thanks to Stems Flowers & Café, You Had Me at Cupcake, Central Alberta CO-OP, Rocky Mountain Soap Company, Oodles of Chocolates, Happy Hippo Bath Co., Robin Armitage - PartyLite Affiliate, AvaRose Designs and Peavey Mart.



## Aspire Children's Raffle

Our sincerest thanks to our major Children's Raffle sponsors, Southside Dodge Chrysler Jeep, Tsunami Water Solutions, Artemis Jewelers, and Servus Credit Union for offering up 3 incredible prizes. Winners took home either \$2,500 in cash, a gorgeous white gold and diamond pendant valued at \$5,875 or a 2022 Jeep Compass North valued at \$36,290. With the help of our parents, staff, community member, friends and family, we sold a total of 9,187 tickets and raised \$45,935. We couldn't have done it without you!



## Push & Pace Fundraising Walk & Run

Push & Pace – In 2022 we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of Push & Pace walk, run and wheel event, originally known as Walk for Aspire. Started by a caring group of Aspire parents, Push & Pace has grown and continues to be a fun inclusive event. It is now an event that many of our families and community members look forward to, each and every year. With the help of our event sponsors, Pembina Pipeline Corporation, TD, and GroupSource, as well as local business and the fundraising efforts of our participants, Push & Pace was successful in raising \$8,400. These funds will support Aspire's programs and services, fee assistance for families, assessment, and therapy tools.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 21/22

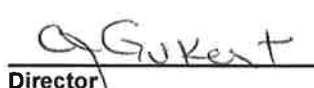
## Aspire Special Needs Resource Centre Statement of Financial Position

As at August 31, 2022

	2022	2021
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	1,203,704	2,070,289
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	138,676	392,875
Guaranteed Investment Certificates (Note 4)	1,000,000	105,695
Restricted cash (Note 5)	110,538	52,583
Prepaid expenses and deposits	4,038	1,352
	<b>2,456,956</b>	<b>2,622,794</b>
<b>Capital assets (Note 6)</b>	<b>1,331,639</b>	<b>1,341,770</b>
<b>Intangible asset (Note 7)</b>	<b>6,638</b>	<b>8,849</b>
<b>Deposit on capital asset</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,000</b>
	<b>3,795,233</b>	<b>3,981,413</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accruals (Note 9)	133,543	275,254
Deferred revenue (Note 10)	158,053	245,561
Current portion of term debt (Note 11)	35,125	31,672
	<b>326,721</b>	<b>552,487</b>
<b>Term debt (Note 11)</b>	<b>97,101</b>	<b>188,676</b>
<b>Deferred contributions related to capital assets (Note 12)</b>	<b>265,430</b>	<b>275,930</b>
	<b>689,252</b>	<b>1,017,093</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	2,165,437	2,109,984
Net assets invested in intangible and capital assets	940,544	854,336
	<b>3,105,981</b>	<b>2,964,320</b>
	<b>3,795,233</b>	<b>3,981,413</b>

Approved on behalf of the Board

  
Director

  
Director

## Financial Commentary

Aspire incurred a surplus of \$141,661 for the year ended August 31, 2022. The surplus occurred despite issues created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our deferred revenues decreased by \$87,508 which was related to TAC funding that was spent during the year.

Audited financial statements are available upon request; contact JoAnne Hayden, Executive Director, at 403.340.2606.

# Aspire Special Needs Resource Centre

## Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

*For the year ended August 31, 2022*

	2022 <i>Budget</i> <i>(Unaudited -</i> <i>Note 19)</i>	2022	2021
<b>Revenue</b>			
Funding	2,034,413	2,243,484	2,591,327
Donations and fundraising	312,093	285,751	266,789
Family Support for Children with Disabilities	249,850	238,201	313,908
School contracts	192,620	198,975	102,488
Registration and program fees	213,375	136,395	145,770
Wage subsidies (Note 13)	-	81,444	785,702
Amortization of deferred contributions	-	15,526	16,777
Interest	-	7,352	9,864
Other	-	229	121
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>3,002,351</b>	<b>3,207,357</b>	<b>4,232,746</b>
<b>Direct expenditures</b>			
Salaries, wages and benefits	2,025,994	1,989,720	1,981,523
Transportation	87,000	94,624	81,024
Amortization	62,800	91,971	73,456
Donation (Note 14)	-	30,000	-
Utilities	23,000	27,562	22,660
Programming and supplies	47,500	26,802	55,274
Fundraising	33,420	18,963	26,315
Rental	17,150	17,148	17,148
Service contracts	20,500	16,897	11,830
Professional development	31,800	9,273	1,984
Interest on term debt	10,300	7,033	9,123
Advertising	6,000	5,583	5,667
Bad debts	-	2,334	3,201
Dues and memberships	5,150	745	2,331
<b>Total direct expenditures</b>	<b>2,370,614</b>	<b>2,338,655</b>	<b>2,291,536</b>
<b>Administrative expenditures</b>			
Salaries, wages and benefits	458,055	487,366	449,884
Technical services	34,000	43,486	34,672
Professional fees	25,500	38,074	46,586
Janitorial wages and supplies	33,250	32,195	31,333
Office	32,725	30,655	30,182
Bookkeeping services	25,000	27,788	24,473
Insurance	19,750	23,313	16,482
WCB	23,420	22,247	16,185
Repairs and maintenance	16,000	13,251	36,837
Interest and bank charges	7,000	7,104	11,163
Telephone	6,200	4,523	4,239
<b>Total administrative expenditures</b>	<b>680,900</b>	<b>730,002</b>	<b>702,036</b>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>3,051,514</b>	<b>3,068,657</b>	<b>2,993,572</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures before other items</b>	<b>(49,163)</b>	<b>138,700</b>	<b>1,239,174</b>
<b>Gain on disposal of capital assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,961</b>	<b>1,342</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures</b>	<b>(49,163)</b>	<b>141,661</b>	<b>1,240,516</b>



# THE ASPIRE COMMUNITY

At Aspire, everything we do is for families and we are fortunate to have a wonderful team – from Board members to staff to volunteers – all working together to help local children with special needs.

## Board of Directors

Edwards Thomson,  
Michelle – Chairperson  
Gukert, Cathy – Vice  
Chairperson  
Armitage, Robin – Past  
Chairperson  
Clark, Lance

Field, Max  
Janes, Austin  
Johnson, Tera  
Kosola, Erin  
Nelson, Jamie  
Peters, Lisa

## Aspire Staff

Adam, Amy  
Austin, Stephanie  
Barrameda-Paul, Jimma  
Benson, Janine  
Boone, Ramona  
Brand, Tamara  
Burden, Lisa  
Cochrane, Jenn  
Cramm, Amanda  
Crawford, Karen  
Daneault, Maurie  
Rodewald  
Davies, Kaylin  
DeMaere, Kirra  
Deminchuk, Christina  
Deutscher, Kara Lynn  
Dziepak, Madeline  
Dziepak, Trina  
Earl, Brittany  
Etsell, Monica  
Galisky, Twyla  
Girard, Emily  
Glover, Jocelyn  
Goodwin, Victoria  
Greenberg, Danielle  
Halverson, Angela  
Hayden, JoAnne  
Helland, Hayley  
Hogan, Courtney  
Holbein, Connie  
Hovelkamp, Tanza  
Jackman, Karen  
Jepson, Kyla  
Johnson, Shelly  
Johnston, Chris  
Kirby, Karla  
Kotylak, Cheyenne  
LaBrash, Lindsay  
LaBuc, Michelle  
Lee, Wonhee  
Lorentzen, Tanya

Luu, Jessica  
MacDonald, Jordan  
Mayall, Amy  
McIvor, Janessa  
Meyers, Carla  
Milgate, Ken  
Mishra, Anushka  
Muirhead, Stephanie  
Nickoriuk, Jaquie  
Oshchepkov, Andrea  
Parker, Maddyson  
Paterson, Sarah  
Penner, Val  
Perich, Courtney  
Reese, Jana  
Remillard, Amber  
Richardson, Raeshel  
Rogers, Nicole  
Rutherford, Julia  
Schneider, Krista  
Schultz, Cara  
Shaw, Laura  
Skinner, Amanda  
Smillie, Sara  
Smith, Linda  
Stanvick, Taleasha  
Sulzle, Sharleen  
Suntjens, Riel  
Sutton, Diana  
Swanson, Alene  
Talma, Emily  
Thompson, Jaime  
Underwood, Ralph  
Unti, Erin  
Vajda, Laura  
Vine, Melissa  
White, Fiona  
Yakiwchuk, Krista  
Young, Adrienne  
Zimmer, Gemma

## Volunteers

Alton, Meghan  
Armitage, Robin  
Barnabe, Guy  
Bauer, Frank  
Beal, Melissa  
Best Buy Canada  
Bingham, Candi  
Bingham, Christy  
Bishop, Tara  
Bollinger, Erin  
Bradley, Donna  
Brownlee, Judy  
Brus, Amy  
Bunch, Christine  
Bysterveld, Rachel  
Cameron, Caleb Daniel  
Carritt, Debbie  
Charlton, Jan  
Chin, Christopher  
Clark, Jennifer  
Cochrane, Dale  
Cochrane, Jenn  
Cochrane, Melodie  
Cook, Breana  
Corbett, Amy  
Crawford, Karen  
Cresswell-Clough,  
Derrick  
Crum Primrose, Serena  
Daines, Brooklyn  
Dennis, Jody  
Dezaree Anderson  
Photography  
Douglas, Loreen  
Dubois, Monique  
Edwards Thomson,  
Michelle  
Edwards, Kristine  
Engelhardt, Betty Lou  
Faulkner, Terry  
Field, Mandy  
Field, Max  
Fitzgerald, Ted  
Fitzpatrick, Bre  
Foster, Marian  
Friestadt, Sherryll  
Galisky, Twyla  
Gascon, Estelle  
Girard, Emily  
Glover, Craig

Glover, Jocelyn  
Gramlich, Diane  
Grimson, Tracey  
Hadland, Amanda  
Hadland, Chelsea  
Hansen, Kylene  
Hayton, Celia  
Hernandez, Nena  
Hiebert, Edie  
Hoffman, Cindy  
Holbein, Connie  
Homwe, Jennilee  
Hovelkamp, Darren  
Hovelkamp, Jordan  
Hovelkamp, Tanza  
Jackman, Karen  
Jackman, Kevin  
Jackman, Sawyer  
Johnson Controls LP  
Johnson, Anita Jane  
Johnson, Shelly  
Johnston, Chris  
Johnston, Cyndal  
Kenny, Kay  
Knudson, Chad  
Kopp, Sheree & Floyd  
Koster, Melissa  
Krauss, Rebecca May  
Lacey, Peter & Kathy  
Lamoureux, Marty  
Leblanc, Judy  
Leenstra, Bonny  
Lendi, Denise  
Lewis, Suzie  
Lorrain, Nicole  
Lowe, Alicia  
MacDonald, Jordan  
MacFarland, Chelsey  
Mack, Amber  
Macleod, Jennifer  
Maracle, Diana  
Maracle, Michael  
Marshall, Sheila  
Mast, Marianne  
Matechuk, Sandy  
McGill, Darlene  
McKean, Kaleigh  
McKean, Shauna  
McLaughlin, Penny

McMahon, Marni & Addi  
Menezes, Carol Ann  
Meyers, Carla  
Moore, David &  
Christine  
Moore, Michelle  
Moore, Pat  
Mortimer, Kim  
Murphy, Cody  
Nickoriuk, Jaquie  
Nielsen, Kendra  
Olesen, Chris  
Olson, Gayle  
Osler, Matt  
Packer, Haleigh  
Parker, Maddyson  
Parker, Michelle  
Paterson, Sarah  
Peden, Erin  
Peters, Irina  
Phillips, BettyAnn  
Pickering, Lynn  
Pragnell, Patti  
Prodaniuk, Nickole  
Quartly, Herb & Tracey  
Red Deer Polytechnic  
Nursing Students  
Red Deer Firefighters  
Children's Charity  
Reed, Diana  
Remillard, Amber  
Remillard, Josh  
Richardson, Raeshel  
Richert, Gina  
Ross, Bonita  
Rutherford, Julia  
Saunders, Katherine  
Shelke, Shelley  
Smillie, Sara  
Smith, Christine  
Smith, Linda  
Stanvick, Taleasha  
Sulzle, Sharleen  
Sutton, Cassie  
Sutton, Diana  
Swan, Caitlin  
Sydorko, Janet  
Tarini, Maria  
Teffot, Marie

# ASPIRE COMMUNITY

Telus Community  
Ambassadors of Red Deer  
Thompson, Jaime  
Thomsen, Anna  
Thornhill, Cody  
Tisdale, Betty

Tisdale, Glen  
Tomalty, Lane  
Tumanut, B.J.  
Tuton, Angela  
Vajda, Laura  
Van Gelderen, Valerie

Van Larr, Lynn  
Vine, Melissa  
Wagner, Charlotte  
Wattenbarger, Marilyn  
Weir, Alison  
Wheeler, Debora

White, Fiona  
Wilson, Christine  
Xue, Sophie  
Yakiwchuk, Krista  
Zimmer, Gemma  
Zuccatto, Aysha-Marie

## Thank you to all of our valued volunteers!

It is with your help that we are able to hold our programs and events. We have made our best efforts to include all volunteers within the last year. If there has been an oversight we humbly apologize and ask that you notify us immediately.

# GENEROUS DONORS

Thank you to our donors; you are all an integral part of fulfilling Aspire's mission. Beyond the names listed here there have been hundreds of additional individual donors, who have contributed to the lives of the children and families we serve. In an effort to ensure the privacy of individuals these names have not been released.

2085386 AB Ltd.  
2165321 Alberta Ltd. Lodge 43  
Abbey Centre  
Alair Homes  
Alberta Sports Hall of Fame & Museum  
Allard Foundation Ltd.  
Artemis Jewellers  
AvaRose Designs  
Best Buy Canada  
Bethany Sylvan Lake  
Blackfalds Bulldogs Foundation  
Brian Scott MacNairn Barrister, Solicitor,  
Notary Public  
Cakes and Doe  
Calendar Club  
Canada Helps  
Canada Post Community Foundation  
Canadian On Line Giving (The Benevity  
Community Impact Fund)  
Canadian Western Bank

Carnival Cinemas  
Central Alberta Co-op Ltd.  
Charities Aid Foundation of Canada  
Chillabongs Bar & Grill  
Cilantro and Chive  
City Of Red Deer - Mayor Ken Johnston  
Color Me Mine  
Copper Lane Hair Studio  
Costco Wholesale  
Develop Yo'self  
Donna C. Purcell Professional Corporation  
Eastview IGA  
Emissions Reduction Alberta  
Fire and Flood Emergency Services  
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Gibson Energy  
Gifted Community  
GroupSource  
Happy Hippo

Heritage Lanes  
Home Depot of Canada  
Integrated Financial Services Inc.  
Kimmotion Family Day Home Ltd.  
Kinsmen Club of Innisfail  
Kinsmen Club of Lacombe  
Lacombe & District 4-H Beef Committee  
Lacombe County  
Lakstone Insurance Brokers Ltd.  
Las Palmeras Restaurant  
Little Jon's Portable Toilet Services  
Lotsa Tots Early Childhood Society  
Mackenzie Investments  
Michaels  
Motion Red Deer  
Mr. Suds Inc.  
Northside Construction Partnership  
Nutri-Lawn of Red Deer  
NXL Technologies Inc.



Rambo Run



Cilantro & Chive



Sylvan Lake & District Lions Club

# GENEROUS DONORS

Parkland Nurseries and Garden Centre  
 PayPal Giving Fund Canada  
 Peavey Mart  
 Pembina Pipeline Corporation  
 Piper Creek Optimist Club of Red Deer  
 Premier Academy Cheerleading & Tumbling  
 Queen Bees Ltd.  
 Red Deer Polytechnic Nursing Students  
 Red Deer & District Community Foundation  
 Red Deer Advocate  
 Red Deer County  
 Red Deer Eye Care  
 Red Deer OJS Ltd. (Original Joe's)  
 Red Deer Regional Airport Authority  
 Ridgewood Women's Institute  
 Rimbey Guardian Drug Mart  
 Rocky Mountain Soap Co.  
 RSM Canada  
 RSM US Foundation  
 Servus Credit Union Ltd.  
 Servus Wealth Strategies  
 Shardo Ventures  
 Sherwin-Williams Paint Store #8903  
 Shoppers Drug Mart Highland Green  
 SMS Equipment Inc.  
 Southside Dodge Chrysler Jeep  
 Sparrow Glassworks  
 Spirit Creek Golf & RV

Sport Chek  
 Stems Flowers & Cafe  
 Stingray Radio/Real Country 95.5 FM  
 Sweet Capone's Italian Bakery and Cannoli Shop  
 Sylvan Lake Lions Club  
 TD Bank Group  
 The Alberta Knights of Columbus Charitable Foundation  
 The Co-operators - Murdoch D'Mello Insurance & Financial Solutions Inc.  
 The Co-operators Lacombe Advantage Insurance Group  
 The Coverall Shop  
 The Ed Stelmach Community Foundation  
 The Eye Studio Optometry Clinic  
 The Kinette Club of Innisfail  
 The Kinsmen Club of Red Deer  
 The Math Shack Education Centre  
 The Mutual Fire Insurance Company of British Columbia  
 The Red Deer Mechanics  
 The Tasty Bakery  
 Three Broke Sisters  
 Town of Sylvan Lake  
 Trail Appliances Ltd  
 Tsunami Water Solutions  
 United Way of Calgary and Area  
 United Way of Central Alberta  
 Whitecap Resources Inc.  
 Wild Brewing Co.

For any oversights, please accept our apologies and contact Melissa Vine at [mvine@aspireneeds.ca](mailto:mvine@aspireneeds.ca)



The Coverall Shop



Red Deer & District Community Foundation



Gifted Community



Servus Credit Union



RSM



Piper Creek Optimists



Lacombe & District 4-H Club