



2022

# Impact Report

Thank you to all of our incredible sponsors, partners, volunteers, donors and charites for allowing us to make a positive impact in our community again this year.



## **2022 was a great year for us at The Mavericks!**

The majority of our events went forward as we collectively navigated the end of covid. Events included our annual golf tournament at Country Hills, our High River Chuckwagon races, our Walk-a-thon to support PREP program and the return of The Big Hearted Cowboys event in fall 2022.

## **About the Big Hearted Mavericks Foundation**

The Big Hearted Mavericks Foundation was set-up in 2011 as an amalgamation between the Mavericks and The Big Hearted Cowboys. The mandate was and remains to actively support Calgary and area children-focused not-for-profit agencies and individuals needs. To date, we have raised over \$5 million to fulfill this purpose.

We are a group of 25 local businessmen with an entrepreneurial bent who believe in giving back and volunteer to that purpose. We have no salaried employees, and our administration costs remain among the lowest of any foundation in Alberta.

## **The charities are chosen according to the following criteria;**

- 1** Interested parties fill out a funding application package which includes their own mandates, goals and visions; detailed information on their charities including financials and as specific uses for the money as possible.
- 2** Once an application package is accepted then we carefully review the applications for good strategic fits. Charities must fit our mandate described above; we especially like not for profits who do not receive significant government funding and those with an entrepreneurial bent as well.

The Mavericks also have an annual \$25,000 Families in Crisis Fund, administered by our Society, where we contribute directly to families in need that fit our mandate but aren't directly served by the charities we support. Examples have included helping families cope with the untimely death of a child and extreme financial hardship attributed to a child being diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Our chosen not-for-profits for 2022 included Community Kitchen, PREP Reading Program, Alberta Adolescent Recovery Center, Between Friends, The Calgary Dolphins Swim Club, Rowan House, Food for Thought and Kid Sport.

Attached you will find information on the programs that we have supported within the charities. We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions that you may have.

We thank you for your continued support of the Big Hearted Mavericks and our incredible charity partners.

Sincerely,

**Brent Hansen**

President

**Big Hearted Mavericks Society**

**Tim Arnett**

President

**Big Hearted Mavericks Foundation**



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

Between Friends Camp Bonaventure is the only summer day camp within the city limits that provides outdoor activities for children and youth with disabilities. Children and youth thrive at Camp Bonaventure where they are encouraged to challenge and develop their abilities through activities and adventures, both big and small. Campers are welcomed into a safe and supportive environment where they experience self-discovery and a sense of belonging. In 2022, we doubled the fun by expanding Camp to two locations in the City of Calgary to ensure that as many people as possible could experience the fun.



Thanks to the support from our donors, like the Big Hearted Mavericks Foundation, in 2022, we are estimating subsidizing Camp Bonaventure by \$134,092 to make it more affordable to the 282 families who registered and offered an additional \$31,257 to 63 individuals who required additional fee assistance during these difficult financial times. Without your generous support we would not be able to offer these life changing programs.

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**Thank you so much for this really fun and inclusive experience for my son. He enjoyed it so much. He learn[ed] a lot and experience[d] a lot of things [for the] first time... Please continue doing this for other kids with disabilities. It will help them a lot. I believe my son has more confidence now to play with other kids and enjoy playing with company. We will miss you guys. Till next Summer!**

# PREP

**PREP is a unique place where families who have a child with Down syndrome find expert advice, innovative therapeutic and educational services, and most of all hope for their child's future.**

Through the generous support of the Big Hearted Mavericks over the past years, PREP has been able to offer a unique literacy program for children with Down syndrome in Calgary. This has been one of our most popular programs and has truly made an incredible difference in the lives of children with Down syndrome. Through this one-of-a-kind literacy program, children and teens with Down syndrome receive individualized weekly or bi-weekly sessions in a one-to-one or small group setting from a certified educator. Each session is individually prepared based on the student's interest and skill level to provide the best opportunity possible for reading and comprehension skill development. Literacy is such a critical lifelong skill for our members, and it provides them with a real opportunity to engage with their peers and become an active and included member of their communities.



Because of the high success rate we have seen from our students we continue to see an increase in demand for this service, and this coming school year we are excited to announce that we are providing sessions for over 55 students with Down syndrome. It is anticipated that this program will continue to grow in the years to come, and our goal is to provide access to this program for up to 70 students in the next 5 years. This growth would not be possible without the support of groups like the Big Hearted Mavericks, and PREP truly appreciates the opportunity to continue providing this critical service to its members for many years to come.

*Curtis Slater*

**Executive Director**

# Community Kitchen

**Thank you again to Big Hearted Mavericks for your support towards the Souper Stars Program. As you know, our program is created to serve children and teach them in a fun way how to remember the importance of nutrition.**



## **Souper Stars is our program that brings education into the classroom for children in grades 4 and 5.**

Currently Souper Stars is active in 25 schools per year, located in low income areas of the city. Last year we taught 4,384 students how to make healthy choices, food and kitchen safety, the importance of hygiene, how to read food labels, internet and stranger safety, how to grocery shop on a budget and the understanding of etiquette; with the Souper Stars program we provided a total of 11,770 healthy snacks. This year we plan to teach even more children and visit more schools (especially those that have not yet had the program).

The future of Souper Stars is bright and exciting! We have great plans to continue to expand the program in ways that will benefit every child that we have the honor to teach.

We will be able to advance the Souper Stars Program with the donations given and we thank you again for your generosity and your help towards Souper Stars. Kids are the future and we hope to have made it a little brighter with the confidence they have in the kitchen and the knowledge and the benefits of healthy choices. Thank you again!

## **Tummy Tamers program was modified in 2020 during COVID-19 in order to serve families impacted by this challenging time.**

We have created this special program to provide food relief and educate about the importance of healthy eating during the summer months in partnership with schools, city of Calgary social workers, and community support workers that referred families who can participate in the program.

Thanks to the Big Hearted Mavericks, on the summer of 2022 we were able to serve 1,939 kids and handed out 748 hampers to families in need. We anticipate with the escalating cost of food, there will be an overwhelming demand for our program this 2023 summer. With your financial support, we will be able to continue this worthwhile initiative to provide an essential basic need for nutritious food—a need many of us take for granted. Without the assistance of community sponsors children are at a greater risk of hunger. Thank you so much again for your support towards the Tummy Tamers program to continue to help children in need.



Alexandria Cavalier – Recipient of the Tummy Tamers 2022 hamper

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**As a family, we packed our life in 10 suitcases and we traveled 6,354 kilometers from Colombia to Canada looking for, equality and integration and well-being for our little son with special needs.** We believe that God is the one who determines our steps and who put wonderful people and organizations in our way that opened doors for us and helped us to supply our daily food. With all my heart I appreciate the great help and support you provide to my son and my family. Thank you very much for all your work!

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# Alberta Adolescent Recovery Centre (AARC)

**The Mavericks are proud to sponsor the Mavericks Fitness Program at AARC.**

**The Alberta Adolescent Recovery Centre (AARC) is an accredited non-profit, long-term family treatment centre for chemically-addicted adolescents aged 12 - 21.**

Since its inception in 1992, AARC has graduated over 640 clients and approximately 2,500 additional family members.

Every day, AARC sees the devastating impact of drug and alcohol addiction on young people and their families. Addiction does not play favourites; it impacts youth and families from all walks of life, income levels and demographics. Access to treatment at AARC is based on need; fees are based on ability to pay. No one requiring this intensive program is turned away based on their inability to cover the costs.

The generous support from the Big Hearted Mavericks has enabled AARC to offer life-saving addiction treatment to adolescents and their families who are desperate for help and hope. AARC is truly grateful for this support, one hundred percent of which goes towards treatment fee subsidies for families in need of financial support.



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**As a child, I was a confident, proud, quiet, energetic, and positive kid. I had a good upbringing and was very close with my family. At the age of 14, I started drinking alcohol and I also started to experiment with marijuana. By the time I was 16, I was abusing cough syrup, smoking weed and drinking almost every day. On January 23rd, 2019, I came into AARC. I was terrified, angry, sad and miserable. Treatment, in the beginning, was incredibly difficult for me. Eventually, however, I slowly started to grasp what this program had to offer. I have experienced many ups and downs, but today I am sober and grateful for a second chance at life.**

Spencer A., AARC Graduate #623

Big Hearted  
Mavericks

pacekids.ca

# Pace Kids

Founded in 1994, Pacekids Programs is a charitable organization that has grown to serving over 600 children with special needs and their families annually.

Through therapy-based educational programs delivered in a family's home, a Pacekids classroom, or in the Calgary community, Pacekids works to ensure every child is set up for success.



**We know we can't do what we do alone and rely on the generosity and support of caring community partners like the Big Hearted Mavericks.**

From equipping our school with a sensory movement gym that provides sensory regulation and supports learning, to providing a specialized outdoor play-space where children can work towards their goals in a fun and engaging environment, the Big Hearted Mavericks have been there for our kiddos every step of the way, ensuring they have what they need to thrive.

The Pacekids van that was made possible by the Big Hearted Mavericks helps support over 200 children who receive transportation services each year. Providing door-to-door transportation removes significant barriers for families and ensures that children can access critical early intervention programming here at Pacekids.

No matter the project, this group of incredible men have put their whole heart into ensuring Calgary children with special needs can thrive. Thank you, Big Heart Mavericks! You are changing lives.

Big Hearted  
Mavericks

calgarydolphins.ca

# Calgary Dolphins Swim Club

**The Calgary Dolphins Swim Club is a swim club for youths and young adults with Down syndrome.**

Established in 2005, the Calgary Dolphins Swim Club is a club that fosters both competition and spirit. The swimming program increases mobility, endurance, and overall fitness levels, improving quality of life for those involved. The club is designed to teach proficiency in the four basic skills.



“ On behalf of everyone at the Dolphins, I just want to say thank you so much to the Big Hearted

**Mavericks for your continued support. We know that there are many worthy groups out there and the fact you have chosen to support us is so greatly appreciated. It is an amazing club with amazing athletes.**

Another amazing group... the Big Hearted Mavericks! Your continued support of young people with Down Syndrome is incredible. With that in mind, the Dolphins would like to do something to recognize your support over the years.

You heard us talk about the importance of "Lane One" to the Dolphins... Also known as "the learn to swim lane". It is a very special place for parents and swimmers when they first get to the club. For many, it is one of the first times that their kids have participated in a sport of any kind. You heard Matt's story about his journey from "Lane One to Portugal" and without Lane One, competing in Portugal would never have happened. For other kids, it's a place where they learn a sport/skill that they will have the rest of their lives. We have always called it Lane One and everyone knows it well.

With the Big Hearted Mavericks engagement and permission, we would like to rename "Lane One" to the "Big Hearted Mavericks' Learn to Swim Lane" aka the "Mavericks' Lane" for short (easier for the kids and kind of catchy!). We would like to invite some of the Big Hearted Mavericks to join us on the pool deck at a practice to celebrate this and meet some of the kids/coaches.

**Thank you once again for all you do for our club – and the community.**

*Calgary Dolphins  
Swim Club*