



Big Hearted
Mavericks

bigheartedmavericks.com



2023

Impact Report

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



Letter to our stakeholders

2023 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 2023.

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 2023 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

Between Friends offers inclusive and accessible programs that create unique opportunities for individuals with disabilities to engage in social interactions with both peers who may or may not have a disability.

Camp Bonaventure, nestled within the city limits, stands as the exclusive summer day camp offering outdoor experiences tailored for children and youth with disabilities. At Camp Bonaventure, young campers are encouraged to explore and develop their skills through various adventures, both big and small. They find a safe and supportive environment that fosters self-discovery and a strong sense of belonging. In 2022, we expanded Camp Bonaventure to two locations within Calgary, ensuring that more people could enjoy the camp's offerings.



Big Hearted Mavericks Funding Highlights:

\$10,555 in additional fee assistance supported 27 low-income families to attend Camp Bonaventure, North.

\$4,500 to cover the rental space for Camp Bonaventure, North site (Cambrian Heights Community Association)

\$8,050 in Staff and Volunteer development, including screening costs, internal training costs and recognition costs for 6 summer staff. Staff received training in Crisis Prevention Intervention, Medication Administration, Lifts & Transfer, Physical Literacy, Programming Planning and Customer Service.

\$14,000 in Programming expenses for 136 campers to attend activities like: Accessible Sailing at the Glenmore Reservoir, Admission to Granary Road and Telus Spark as well as hiring subcontractors on-site like the Mad Scientist and Butterfield Acres Corral.

\$3,175 in Transportation costs to transport the campers, staff and volunteers to off-site activities.

\$9,720 covered Between Friends' portion of the Canada Summer Jobs funding for the 6 summer staff.

We thank you for your support of Camp Bonaventure in 2023. Your invaluable contributions have made a significant impact on our mission and the lives of those we serve. Thank you for being a vital part of our journey and for helping us bring positive change to our community. Your commitment is truly appreciated, and we are excited to continue this journey together.



My son is on the spectrum, which leaves me with a level of uncertainty leaving him. This past week at camp Bonaventure has relieved me of this uncertainty. The staff were amazing, so caring and loving. My son skipped the whole way to camp in the morning and was full of smiles when I picked him up. I couldn't be happier with the whole experience.

Camp Bonaventure Parent

PREP

Thanks to the generous support of the Big Hearted Mavericks, PREP has been able to provide a unique literacy program specifically designed for children with Down syndrome in Calgary.

This program has become one of our most popular offerings and has had a profound impact on the lives of our students.

Literacy is a crucial lifelong skill for our students, fostering engagement with peers and promoting active inclusion within their communities. Through this special literacy program, children and teens with Down syndrome receive personalized weekly or bi-weekly sessions either one-on-one or in small groups, totaling between 18-36 sessions throughout the school year. Every 45-minute session is individually tailored to each student's interests and skill level and includes a comprehensive reading package with activities and reading materials to work on at home between sessions. This in-depth approach provides the greatest opportunity for reading and comprehension skill development, which our students demonstrate each and every day.



The remarkable success seen amongst our students has continuously led to an increased demand for this service. This past year PREP had its highest enrollment ever with 55 students participating in the Mavericks Reading Program. We anticipate this growth will continue in the coming years as demand remains high and more families are hearing about the tremendous success students are having. Offering this incredible program to our PREP families is a big undertaking and costs the organization approximately \$120,000/year to run, with the vast majority of these costs being graciously covered by the Big Hearted Mavericks.

The growth and success of this program would not be possible without the steadfast support of the Big Hearted Mavericks, and PREP is sincerely grateful for the opportunity to deliver this vital service to children with Down syndrome so they can live active and included lives in their communities. Thank you to all of the Big Hearted Mavericks for believing in these children and giving them the opportunity to succeed.

Curtis Slater

Executive Director

Community Kitchen

We are grateful to The Big Hearted Mavericks who have continued to be huge supporters of our Souper Stars Program, one of our four fundamental programs here at Community Kitchen Program of Calgary.

In 2023, our Souper Stars Facilitators held **228 classes** for children between grades three and five. These children are being schooled mainly in lower income areas of our city. Last year we taught **6098 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. Throughout this eight-week program, we were also able to provide the students with a total of **19,203 healthy snacks**. These snacks consisted of a yogurt, granola bar and piece of fruit and cost \$2.50 each. The total for the snacks came to around **\$48,000** for the year. With the generous donation of around **\$120,000** from the **Big Hearted Mavericks**, we were able to purchase the snacks and we were also able to employ two full time facilitators in this program. Lucy Trevino and Wendy Mendoza are the heart behind this program and have the biggest impact directly on these children. This next year allows us the opportunity to positively impact the lives of even more children and their families by being able to be in more schools and classrooms. We could not begin to do any of this without the support of partners like the **Big Hearted Mavericks**.



The Big Hearted Maverick's also supports our children's summer program Tummy Tamers.

This program works to bridge the gap during the summer months when school is out, by providing children with healthy snacks and fresh fruit. These kids rely on the schools throughout the rest of the year to be feed during the day. Tummy Tamers ensures this continues to happen throughout the summertime.

Our facilitators worked closely with the Mustard Seed and the NE Libraries this past year to ensure the kids that needed support in these organizations, got it! Last year our program feed and **supported 1160 children**. With the pandemic we had to adapt this program and we continue to find the best way to care for these children. With the generosity of donors like the Big Hearted Mavericks, we are able to continue to positively impact children throughout the summer months.

“ 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! ”

Alexandria Cavalier – Recipient of the Tummy Tamers hamper

Alberta Adolescent Recovery Centre (AARC)

The Alberta Adolescent Recovery Centre (AARC) is an accredited and licensed non-profit, long term family treatment centre for adolescents and their families suffering from the disease of alcoholism and/or drug addiction.

Since its inception in 1992, AARC has graduated over 660 clients and an additional 2500 family members. Treatment fee subsidies are available to all families that require them. No one requiring this intensive program is turned away based on their ability to cover the costs.



Given the devastating effects that substance addiction can have on the physical health of youth and young adults, a key indicator of success at the Alberta Adolescent Recovery Centre (AARC) is our clients' physical wellness.

Thanks to funding support for our fitness program from the Big Hearted Mavericks, AARC's clients participate in onsite fitness sessions twice a week with a personal trainer, ensuring clients can safely perform workouts according to their needs, interests, and fitness levels.

In addition, all clients, family members and graduates of AARC have access to a workout room equipped with strength training machines, treadmills, elliptical trainers, stationary bicycles, yoga equipment, free weights, an outdoor sport court, and an outdoor hockey rink.



AARC's Client Fitness program allows kids like Mataya to rediscover their passion for physical activity:

“ Growing up I was very adventurous; I loved animals and tried every type of sports. As I got older, I started struggling with mental health and started to feel different from everyone else. I eventually found drugs and immediately felt like I fit in. Everything progressed so fast, instead of just using weed and alcohol, I started to use amphetamines and psychedelics. Drugs were my purpose. I continuously ran away, acted out violently, felt hopeless, and relied on drugs and alcohol to get me through the days. I lost all my relationships and had nowhere to go. No one knew what to do with me, until I got sent to AARC. When I came in, I was stubborn and so lost, I didn't know who I was. Going through AARC made me see the reality. I felt I belonged, I started finding who I really was and seeing a purpose. AARC brought me back to life, I'm so grateful for another chance.

Mataya C., Graduate #665



KidSport

KidSport supports children who need financial assistance with sport registration fees and no cost equipment through our Calgary Flames Sports Bank. We believe the power of sport participation promotes the development of children's social, mental and physical well-being.

With over 10,000 qualified (low-income) kids assisted with sport registration fee assistance and no cost equipment last year, demand is on the rise.



Over \$85,000 was donated to KidSport Calgary & Area and the Calgary Flames Sports Bank from the Big Hearted Mavericks through our inclusion in the 2024 Maverick Cup, alongside our long-standing involvement with the Big Hearted Cowboys championed by Monte, Ron, and the Scott family. The impact of this contribution translates into hundreds of local kids getting to experience the gift of sport.

Through the Mavericks unwavering commitment to philanthropy and community service, we have been able to expand our reach and impact, ensuring that more children have access to the transformative power of sports. Our organization is funded by the community for the community, without the work of partners like the Big Hearted Mavericks and their commitment to the Calgary community, it would be unsustainable to continue our mission with the exponential increase in demand.

Big Hearted Mavericks generosity has made a world of difference in our efforts to level the playing field and ensure that every kid gets a shot at experiencing the magic of sports. Your contributions have been game-changers for hundreds of families in our community.

KidSport Calgary would like to thank Big Hearted Mavericks for being an incredible supporter. The unwavering support and belief in our mission has lead to a partnership that has been instrumental in helping us make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless children in our community.

“ If it wasn’t for KidSport my son Jax would not be in any sport. He is now in Taekwondo and loving it. With what’s going on in our home with Cancer and his dad this is a good outlet for him. Financially we are in no position for anything, so this has made such an impact on our family. Thank you KidSport.

– KidSport Parent

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 swim club for children and young adults with Down syndrome. Swimmers learn and refine the strokes, improving fitness levels and endurance. Thanks to the Big Hearted Mavericks contribution we can continue to provide swimmers with amazing coaching and opportunities to compete and grow in the sport they love.



The Calgary Dolphins Swim Club is so appreciative of the funding received from the Mavericks. The "Big Hearted Mavericks Learn to Swim Lane" has been growing, accommodating additional swimmers, overtime. This program is essential for new swimmers learning how to swim. Over the past season the club is very proud of two new swimmers from the "Big Hearted Mavericks Learn to Swim Lane; they arrived at the Dolphins Swim Club with little swimming ability and have made great progress. The program builds self-confidence for all swimmers and allows camaraderie amongst the participants.

The need for the Dolphins Swim Club has grown substantially in the last couple of years with a long waitlist of young individuals wanting to learn how to swim.

With the support of partners like the Big Hearted Mavericks, the club can continue to expand its reach and make a positive impact on even more young lives in the community.

On behalf of the Dolphins Swim Club, thank you for your continued support!

*Calgary Dolphins
Swim Club*