

2019 IMPACT REPORT

Trails Youth Initiatives



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Charitable Registration No. 13505 0755 RR0001

THANK YOU FOR CHANGING LIVES

Mission

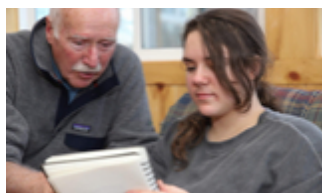
To challenge and equip vulnerable youth from at-risk areas of Toronto to become contributing members of the community.

Goals

To instill practical skills, relevant knowledge, and the self-confidence to use them.

Four Seasons, Four Years, For Life

The "Four Seasons, Four Years, For Life" programme represents experiential education at its best. Over the course of four seasons, and for four years, youth are building confidence and enhancing their well-being by facing and overcoming challenges. Through outdoor skill development, high school credits, bursaries, mentorship and job opportunities, Trails is making a difference and changing lives.





1995



2019

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: COLLIN CALEB

My name is Collin Caleb and I am a graduate and 20-year alumni of Trails Youth Initiatives. I grew up in the Lawrence Heights neighbourhood in North York, nicknamed "The Jungle" because of how dangerous it has been since the 1980s. My father was absent from my life and my mother worked full time to provide for my three siblings and myself. Living in the Jungle was not easy. I had to grow up fast and be strong. I have seen things that no child should ever witness and I have done things I'm not proud of. I was lost, looking to fit in wherever I was welcomed. I had no idea what I was going to do with my life. My future was something that was so far away I never put any thought into it.

When I was 12, I joined a program called Trails Youth Initiatives and it changed my life. It changed the way I looked at life and my perception of myself. It allowed me opportunities I didn't know existed, and showed me a world that I had only seen on TV and in magazines. I got to camp, swim in lakes, build campfires, climb high ropes courses, canoe and portage. It may not seem like a big deal, but to me, a 12-year-old boy, it was huge. I built friendships and bonds that are still strong today. I found meaning to life. I found a place I was welcomed without judgment or criticism.

Trails saved my life. I believe this with everything in me. If I didn't go to Trails and if I didn't have the opportunity to leave my neighbourhood every month for a weekend I wouldn't be here today. I would either be dead or in jail.

I learned that I am not a product of my environment but I have the ability to produce the environment I envision for myself. Trails gave me the tools I needed to think like that. I am not a 12-year-old boy anymore, but I still use those same tools on a daily basis, including problem solving, networking and team building. Trails prepared me for success. I am now a professional - a Studio Operations Manager. I oversee almost 600 staff on any given day and am currently in the process of moving an entire studio to a 44,000 square foot space at Parliament and King. I did that. Trails did that.

This past spring, I had the opportunity to go back to the Trails site and give back. I met this year's participants and it inspired me to do more. It's one thing to be a participant, graduate and live a successful, productive life but you must never forget where you came from and always give back. If it wasn't for Jim, the founder of Trails, and the adults who mentored me along the way I would have been just another statistic. But I'm not.

"During this summer, my leadership and outdoor skills have improved. Also, my emotional well-being has improved because I was nervous but now I'm not because I have made friends and I also have a family away from home."

Shanese, Year 1



"Conflict resolution can help me in school because when I'm about to get triggered about something, I can control my emotions."

Nicolas, Year 4



"After being at Trails for 5 years, I have become a strong leader in my group and I now have many strong skills like communication, self-regulation, initiative and many others. I finally feel free and encouraged to use these skills I have learned outside of Trails and have a successful life."

Kaycha, LIT



FINANCIAL UPDATE

With an Operating Budget of \$1,072,960 in 2019, Trails has diverse revenue streams and has never sought nor accepted government funding. Trails is a registered Canadian charity and raises the majority of its funds through events and donations from corporations, foundations and individuals.

Corporations

Bank of Montreal, CIBC, Just Us Contractors Inc, KPMG, LoyaltyOne, Manulife Financial, MEC, Nemar Ltd., North Newmarket Lions Club, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Raymond James, Richardson GMP, Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, Slate Asset Management LP, TD Bank Group, Telus, The Digitalist, Travel Edge, Walmart

Foundations

All One Fund, Arbonne Charitable Foundation, Arthur & Audrey Cutten Foundation, Brookfield Partners Foundation, Collombin Family Fund (Toronto Foundation), Dusan Nedelko Foundation, Gandy Charitable Foundation, Howard & Diane Taylor Family Fund (Toronto Foundation), J.P. Bickell Foundation, Jackman Foundation, Jacma Foundation, Kopas Family Foundation, Laidlaw Foundation, Lawson Foundation, MacFeeters Family Fund (Toronto Foundation), MDRT Foundation's Worldwide Grant Program, MLSE Foundation, MSIFN, Murray and Susan Armitage Foundation (Toronto Foundation), North Face Foundation, Ontario Realtor's Care Foundation, Patrick Hodgson Family Foundation, Peter Gilgan Foundation, R. Howard Webster Foundation, Raymond Chang Foundation, Regent Family Foundation, Robert Kerr Foundation, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, The Catherine & Maxwell Meighan Foundation, The Nixon Charitable Foundation, The Philip Smith Foundation, The Slight Family Foundation, Susan, Sarah and Nicholas Latremoille Fund (Toronto Foundation), Greygates Foundation (Vancouver Foundation)

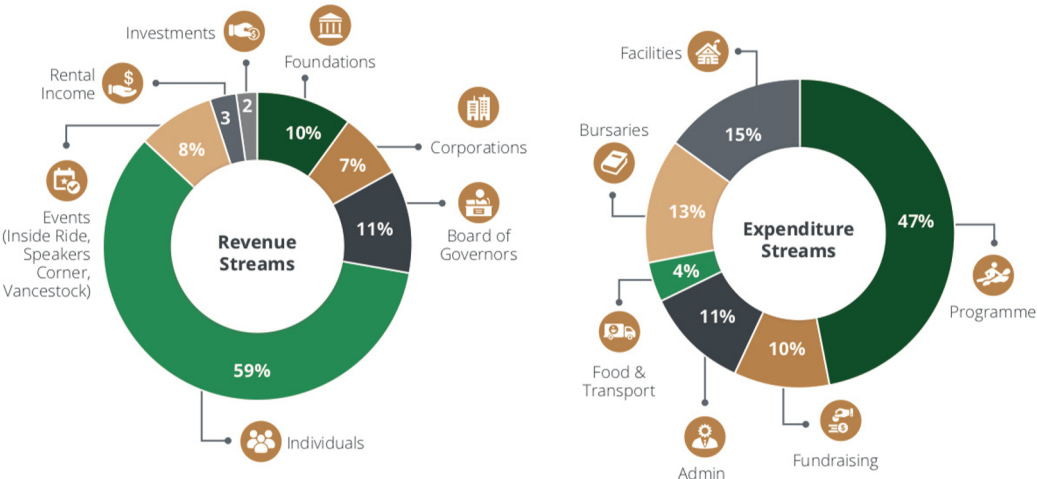
2018-2019 Events

Vancestock Cooper Mediation Music Night, Limberlost Challenge Race, Inside Ride, Sunil Thomas Charity Golf for Trails, Hurst Legacy Event

Major Gifts

Ann & Roy Gordon, Anthony Rubin, Brooke Hunter, Carolyn & Greig Clark, David Kerr, Diane Horton, Frank Convery, Ian Greenberg, Jack Cockwell, James & Jennifer Werry, Joey Walker, John McIntosh, Kevin Farrell, Lari-Ann & Mark Convery, Paul Brink, Richard Hamm, Susan Armitage, Tim Casgrain

2018 Financial Overview



- Your gift provides participants with:
- Four seasons of experiential learning at Trails' 143 acre residential site and on hiking and canoe trips.
 - Educational support to earn 3 high school credits
 - A "home away from home" with friends
 - Year-round mentorship
 - Internship and job opportunities
 - Over 100 home-cooked meals
 - Training in First Aid, CPR, Nonviolent Communication, Outdoor Leadership
 - Access to Trails Danielle Dion Bursaries
 - 40 hours of community service
 - Financial support for unique one-off situations
 - Season-appropriate clothing and equipment for all activities

PRIMARY OUTCOMES

100%

of Trails participants graduate from high school. This marks a dramatic difference from others in low-income communities across Canada, where the high school dropout rate can reach up to 50%.

95%

of participants rated improved leadership skills in the past year. In addition, participants rated a 97% improvement in both conflict resolution and communication, and a 98% improvement in both collaboration and initiative.

270

Post secondary tuitions that have been paid with Trails Danielle Dion Bursaries since the inception of this fund in 2000, including 37 students currently enrolled in College or University.

