

2019 TRAILS YOUTH INITIATIVES ANNUAL REPORT



FOUR SEASONS - FOUR YEARS - FOR LIFE

HOME

It was spring 2016 when I came home to Toronto for a visit while living in Australia. I met Hurst. I visited Trails. I met the staff and then the kids. I had an instant sense of place, a unique feeling of belonging and wholeness. I knew this place was special. I knew I needed to stay. Trails has been my home ever since.

It is such a privilege to work with our team to create a home-away-from-home, a safe haven. We are midway through the process of expansion and we now accept 40 new kids each year. Each child, a branch on our family tree.

I watch our LITs and Year 4s work with the younger participants – teaching, playing and sometimes "putting them in their place." I watch alumni in their 30s return – committed to paying forward what Trails did for them, and I see them connect with the kids.

Each year a group of Trailers graduate knowing they always have a home here. We are there along the way, celebrating together as they surpass all societal expectations. They no longer carry a "vulnerable" or "at-risk" label. But they will always remain Trailers.

Happy Trails,

Mel

Melissa Millward
President

Trails is a place where...

...your group becomes your second family

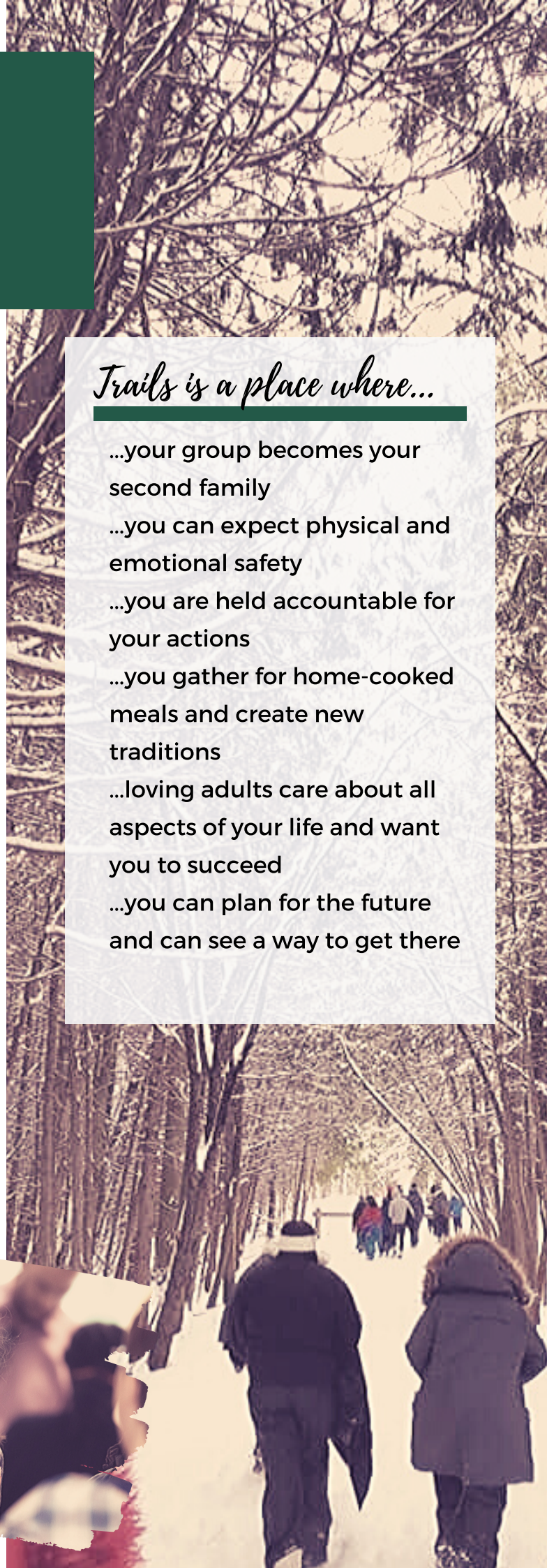
...you can expect physical and emotional safety

...you are held accountable for your actions

...you gather for home-cooked meals and create new traditions

...loving adults care about all aspects of your life and want you to succeed

...you can plan for the future and can see a way to get there



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Jim "Hurst" Hayhurst, Sr., Founder & Chair

When siblngs were taken from their mother by CAS, and sent to two different foster families, the only home they shared was Trails. They would anxiously await the other's arrival to see each other on the weekends.

When I questioned a 13-year-old Trailer about his dinner table manners, he just looked at me, "dinner table?" And I realized what an insensitive question I had asked. "I sit on my bed, with a bowl. My brother sits on a stool in front of the TV. Mom tries to get home between jobs."

When one of our 15-year-olds asked me to get a latch lock for her bedroom door, so she could lock it from the inside, I asked why, "So I can lock my bedroom door at night to keep my mother's boyfriends out of my room."

Home. Safe, secure, warm feelings – not always. We often learn that Trailers call Trails their second home. We are proud of that. Our kids feel safe, welcome and they trust us. Trails is not just a summer or weekend escape. It is a place where they can relax, and learn and play with friends who become like family. Trails is Four Seasons, Four Years, For Life. A second home.

Hugs,

J-Hurst



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On September 22, 2019, over 150 guests gathered at Trails Lakeside for a celebration of the incredible contributions Hurst has made to the community for over 27 years. Trails alumnus, Warren Clarke, PhD was honored with the inaugural Hurst Legacy Award for his embodiment of the Trails mission

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HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Chantelle Johnson



CHANTELLE JOHNSON, TRAILS ALUMNUS
DISCO FEVER COHORT: 1994 - 1998

At the age of seven my family fell on hard times and had to relocate to a government housing neighbourhood on the upper west side of Toronto. This is where I would call home until I was 18. Between the violence and drugs that permeated our neighbourhood, my sisters and I had to learn to toughen up, and quickly. Our family had little money to get by, and at times it was hard to keep up with the most basic everyday necessities.

I stepped foot on the soil of Trails for the first time when I was 12 years old, and had no clue that moment would be a pivotal turning point in my life. Trails was the catalyst and facilitator of my dreams.



It lent me a calm, peaceful place, outside of the chaos of my city neighborhood, to think with a clear mind. A year-round engagement. *A home away from home.* Through obstacle courses, belaying, rock climbing, canoeing, swimming, camping for several days in the beautiful Canadian wilderness, winter activities and portaging — a word I had no idea existed until I had to do it — Trails pushed my limits and dared me to be unafraid.

For the first time in my life, I was able to speak about what life was like back home without judgment. Our group session talks made me face my innermost feelings that had been buried for so long. This was by far one of the most integral parts of my healing process. It allowed me to not be afraid or ashamed of my past but empowered and inspired by it.

I dreamt bigger because of Trails. Trails offered a bursary so I could attend the University of Toronto, giving me an overwhelming sense of security and the feeling that someone apart from my family loved me enough to see the best in me. I have always had a passion and outlet in music. While at U of T, I received an offer to sing in China with a band. For four years, I lived and worked in China, Indonesia, Thailand, Dubai and Oman.

During my travels, I met my husband and now we have two amazing sons. We raise them to be kind, grateful and hardworking contributors to their community. Trails has instilled and reinforced these qualities in me and now I can pass them down. They are amazed at all the things I have accomplished in life and I owe a lot of that to Trails. When asked what Trails means to me, if I had to choose a single word, the preeminent one that surfaces above all is *"family."*

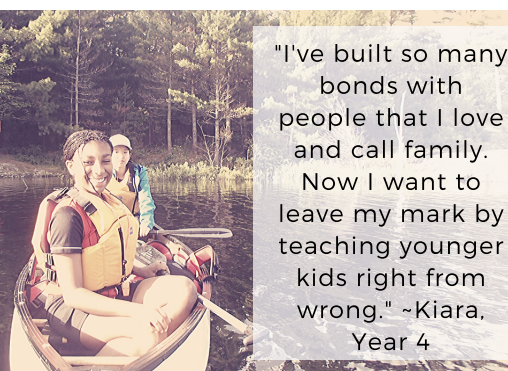


**98% of participants
rated an
improvement in
both collaboration
and initiative.**

"Trails has given me a family and enabled me to grow into a confident, thoughtful leader. I challenge myself to do new things and am more aware and considerate of other's feelings."
~Andy, LIT Graduate



**100% of Trails participants graduate from
high school**



"I've built so many bonds with people that I love and call family. Now I want to leave my mark by teaching younger kids right from wrong." ~Kiara, Year 4



**97% of participants rated improved conflict resolution
and communication skills**

"My leadership and outdoor skills have improved, as well as my emotional well-being. 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



YOUR GIFT - YOUR IMPACT

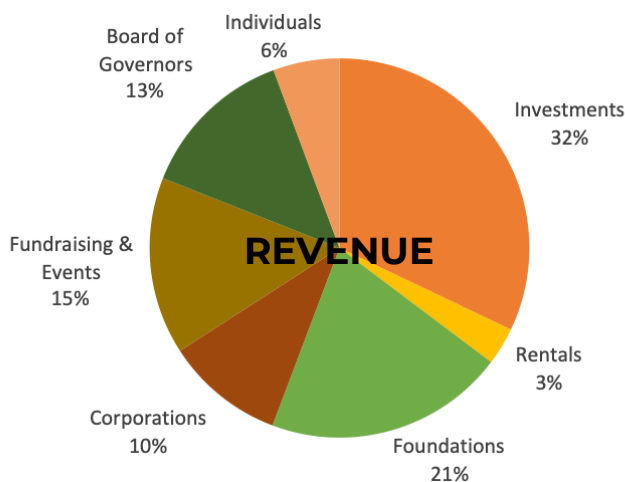
2019 Financial Update

Revenue: \$1,488,152

Expenses: \$1,322,204

Reserves Fund: \$1,094,333

The Reserves Fund reflects increased fundraising efforts for Expansion. Doubling the amount of vulnerable youth served will more than double the Trails impact. We are midway through expansion and will continue striving to secure funding to finance the increase (from 88 participants in 2017 to 176 by 2022).



RECOGNIZED AS A TOP CHARITY IN CANADA

Published by *Maclean's*, Trails ranked 2nd in the youth category and 4th overall of Canada's Best Charities. The Canada's Best Charities 2020 list helps Canadians evaluate where to allocate charitable contributions. Our inclusion on this highly respected list validates Trails' impact with a 95% grade. The Charity Intelligence assessment investigates financial metrics and transparency, rewarding those with the most effective use of donations.

TO DATE, 270 POST-SECONDARY TUITIONS HAVE BEEN PAID WITH THE TRAILS DANIELLE DION BURSARIES. 37 STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

IMPACT GENOME PROJECT

Trails was rated with a 100% efficacy rate for Social and Emotional Skills on the Impact Genome Scorecard. The industry benchmark is 82%.

39 HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS WERE EARNED AT TRAILS LAST YEAR. CURRENTLY, 58 STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN CREDIT COURSES AND ON TRACK FOR JUNE COMPLETION.

2019 CONTRIBUTORS



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED TRAILS PROVIDE A HOME FOR OUR PARTICIPANTS IN 2019.

INDIVIDUALS

\$1000+

Ann & Roy Gordon
Anthony Rubin
Brooke Hunter
Carolyn & Greig Clark
Christopher Hickman
Clive Caldwell
David Kerr
Diane Horton
Frank Convery
Geoff & Suzanne MacPherson
Greg Ryan
Ian Greenberg
Jack Cockwell
Peter Cockwell
James & Jennifer Werry
Jim Hayhurst
Jennifer Egsgard
Joey Walker
John Hague
John McIntosh
John Willet
Kevin Farrell
Kirk Roberts
Lari-Ann & Mark Convery
Lincoln Caylor
Lisa Stevenson
Melissa Millward
Mike Wilson
Nicholas Avis
Paul Brink
Paul Chu
Peter Cook & Janis Duncan
Richard Hamm
Regan Cooper
Susan Armitage
Susan Thompson
Terry Jackson
Terry Maynard
Trish Fonberg

CORPORATIONS

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KPMG
Limerlost Challenge
LoyaltyOne
Mackenzie Investments
Manulife Financial
MEC
Muskoka Yoga Festival
Network Reporting & Mediation
Nemar Ltd.
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Raymond James
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Scotiabank
Slate Asset Management
TD Bank Group
Travel Edge
Walmart

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Brookfield Partners Foundation
Cadillac Fairview Corporation
Collombin Family Fund (Toronto Foundation)
Dusan Nedelko Foundation
Gandy Charitable Foundation

Howard & Diane Taylor Family Fund (Toronto Foundation)
Intact Foundation
J.P. Bickell Foundation
Jackman Foundation
Jacma Foundation
Kololial Foundation
Kopas Family Foundation
Laidlaw Foundation
Lawson Foundation
MacFeeters Family Fund (Toronto Foundation)
MDRT Foundation
MLSE Foundation
MSIFN
Murray and Susan Armitage Foundation (Toronto Foundation)
North Face Foundation
Ontario Realtor's Care Foundation
Peter Gilgan Foundation
Quadreal Property Group
Raymond Chang Foundation
R. Howard Webster Foundation
RBC Foundation
Regent Family 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 Latremaille Fund (Toronto Foundation)
Greystates Foundation (Vancouver Foundation)

CORPORATE VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Desjardins, JLT, RBC, Telus, Mackenzie Investments, Scotiabank, LoyaltyOne, Turner Construction

WHAT'S NEXT

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE

CONTINUED EXPANSION

In 2020 we will welcome our third cohort of 40 participants, nearing the completion of our expansion and our goal to double the impact of the Four Seasons, Four Years, For Life programme. Plans are underway for our Summer 2020 programming, including an adventure to the Missinaibi River in Northern Ontario for our Leaders-in-Training.

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

We are looking forward to a number of unique events that will bring our community together in support of Trails. We hope to see you at the Inside Ride, Speaker's Corner, Vancestock and Golf Tournament in 2020. As we grow, so does our need for passionate staff and volunteers. Please spread the word about Trails.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

CONTACT TRAILS:

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13505 0755 RR0001

Find us on social:



@trailsyouth



@trailsyouthinitiatives



OUR MISSION IS TO CHALLENGE AND EQUIP VULNERABLE YOUTH TO
BECOME CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.
