



Impact Report



2022



"Trails always challenges my own preconceived notions and I feel like I get just as much learnings and growth out of it as the kids."

Staff Facilitator

Thank you for being part of the Trails story!

Since 1992, Trails has been making a difference and changing lives. And with your support, this year was no different. Our mission for 30 years has been to challenge and equip vulnerable youth from at-risk areas to become contributing members of the community.

Our commitment to our youth and alumni, as well as their families, is stronger than ever. Your trust and partnership allows us to make decisions that are best for them *in the moment*, but it also allows us to plan for the future and have a big vision for Trails. We are so grateful for this gift.

Here's how YOU made a difference this year:



Four Seasons, Four Years, For Life: Back on Track

Following two years of interrupted programs and intake due to the pandemic, we are excited that this spring and summer at Trails looked "normal." We resumed recruitment and welcomed 40 new participants to the program this summer, where everyone was able to participate in-person and our Year 3, 4 and LIT participants all had the opportunity to explore northern Ontario on their back-country canoe trips.



Boost Camp

This spring, we created a week-long training opportunity for alumni and others who have similar lived experiences as our youth, to provide certifications and hands-on experience that equipped them for careers in the outdoor community. 10 of the 12 Boost Camp participants were Trails alumni and 100% of the Boost Camp graduates are now working as Program Facilitators at Trails!



For Life Program

We're excited about the progress that has been made in the For Life program as we're able to support our alumni better than ever. This year's For Life program included post-secondary bursaries and mentorship, A.I.M. (alumni-in-mentorship), FORward resources, Career Connections and our 30th Anniversary Alumni Reunion.

"Through the generosity of Trails, I was able to receive support even after I graduated from the program. Mentorship helped me to mature and develop life skills and the Bursary from Trails allowed me to alleviate the financial burden of university, which meant I could spend more time focusing on my studies and being an active member of my community."

Trails Alumnus & Bursary Recipient





"I have learned how to express my feelings at Trails. Now when I go home I feel safer and more open to express how I really feel instead of keeping it in. Trails also taught me to express my feelings in a respectful way, a way that doesn't hurt other people's feelings."

Year 2 Participant

Your Impact in Numbers

\$1.8M

Funds raised through private funding

9

Post-secondary Trails Bursary graduates, including 5 bachelors degrees, 2 college diplomas and 2 doctorate degrees

\$18.20

Every \$1 donated to Trails generates \$18.20 in social impact value to program participants and society over their lifetime

39

Students who received Trails Bursary and mentorship for post-secondary

128

Participants in the Four Seasons, Four Years, For Life program this year

45

Alumni involved with mentorship through the A.I.M. program

99%

of our youth graduate high school (compared to a 50% drop out rate of peers)

31

Year 4 + LIT Participants graduated in June

90%

of participants said that Trails has improved their self-confidence

40

New Year 1 & 2 Participants started in July

95%

of participants said what they learned at Trails will help them at home

88%

of participants who said what they learned at Trails will help them at school

"Before Trails, I was shy, insecure, inactive and barely had any friends. Thanks to Trails, I am a lot more confident in who I am and it's easy for me to create relationships and communicate with lots of different people."

Year 5 Leader-in-Training



Legacy Giving: Impact that Lasts a Lifetime

Greig & Carolyn Clark share why they've chosen to leave a gift to Trails in their Will

The Starfish Story was a favourite analogy shared by our friend, Hurst, the founder of Trails. Have you heard it? As the story goes, there are thousands of starfish stranded on a sandy beach just after a storm. In the distance, a person throws one back, takes a few steps, and throws another one back - one by one, into the ocean. Another person walks up and says, "What are you doing? You can't save them all. What difference can this possibly make?" The person on the beach picks up another starfish, and throws it back into the ocean, saying, "it makes a difference to that one."

We are proud to support Trails today, and see the impact of our giving on the lives of young people - one life at a time. We also made the decision to leave a gift in our Will, because we want to make sure that Trails is always here for young people who have great potential but are facing barriers.

Trails aligns with our goals for giving. As a family, we support organizations that help level the playing field and give youth a chance. It also matters to us that we support charities where we have a connection and can trust how the money is spent. We've both seen for ourselves what a crucial difference Trails makes--and it's very inspiring. We are confident that our support gives someone a chance at a different path and a better life. What could be more important?

- Greig and Carolyn

To learn more about leaving a gift to Trails in your Will:

Visit www.trails.ca/legacy or email Janelle at janelle@trails.ca

Contact Us



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