



“Where Kids Come First”

About The Foundation

A Child's Voice Foundation™ is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating and managing programs that tangibly support and enhance, the physical and emotional well being of financially disadvantaged children in Canada who are facing an illness or disability.

Since the doors opened in 1995, the foundation has worked to improve the lives of children across the country through its signature programs, **Angel Hair for Kids™**, **Kids Life-Line** and **Kids Life Skills Club**. These unique programs provide children with necessary products and services not otherwise provided by health care plans, levels of government or other organizations.

By working directly with health and social care professionals the foundation is able to reach children who are falling between the cracks and have no where else to turn. The financial challenges that arise when caring for a sick or disabled child can be overwhelming and A Child's Voice Foundation is determined to provide the necessary care and support when all other doors have closed. Our focus is to provide assistance that will enhance the quality of a child's life and have a lasting, long term effect. All applications received are assessed on an individual basis and the child is placed into the program that will best fit their need.

Our Mission

To support and enhance the physical and emotional well-being of disadvantaged children by providing products and services not otherwise provided by levels of government, insurance or other organizations. We strive to fill in the cracks, bridge the gap and open a door when all others have closed.

Our Vision

Our vision is for every child in Canada to receive the tangible support that they need to improve their quality of life.

Our Values

We are committed to conduct ourselves with compassion, integrity and respect working in harmony with our community to fulfill our mission and vision.



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History

A Child's Voice Foundation™ began with the vision of one woman who wanted to make a difference in the lives of children in Canada who were facing an illness or disability and whose families and caregivers could not afford necessary products and services to care for them.

Through first hand experiences and extensive research, Executive Director, Roslyn Yearwood, was shocked to find that there were many children falling between the cracks and in need of healthcare products and services not provided by levels of government, insurance plans or other organizations. It was in 1995, that she made a commitment to those children and created A Child's Voice Foundation™, a place where “Kids Come First”.

In the foundations humble beginnings, Roslyn established a small office in Mississauga, Ontario and began working each day to reach and support children in communities across the country while driving a local school bus to fund the foundations outreach. As part of her efforts to develop the foundation, Roslyn and a team of volunteers helped to implement the breakfast and life skills program the largest social housing development in the Region of Peel. This allowed her to connect with children in need, and learn more about the conditions they were facing, Her commitment to the children and the program led Roslyn to joining the housing development committee, representing A Child's Voice Foundation™ as a community resource for the children and their families. This experience confirmed that there were many families that could not afford, and did not have access to, vital products and services required for specialized care. She felt if this was just one community in Canada that there must be an even greater need across the country in many communities. This realization drove her to reach out to health and social care professionals to help reach these children.

It wasn't long before the requests for support from doctors, social workers and other health care professionals came pouring in. The foundation is proud to work with these professionals in communities across Canada through hospitals, private practices and community outreach programs; they have become the foundations direct connection to the children who need our support. With their help the foundation hopes to reach every child and to provide help when there was no where else to turn.

Realizing the diversity of requests from hair loss to medical equipment to transportation it was decided that it would be most effective to create programs within the foundation that would best fulfill the varying needs. From there the foundations three specialized and unique programs, **Angel Hair for Kids™**, **Kids Life-Line** and **Kids Life Skills Club** were created.

The foundation continues to be guided by its beginnings as a grass roots, community based charity while operating nationally to reach every child in need of its support. We are focused on managing comprehensive programs and community solutions that make a real difference. As long as there are children in need, A Child's Voice Foundation™ will be there to help.



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Foundation Facts

Who We Help

The foundation helps financially disadvantaged children facing and illness or disability in need of support that will enhance their emotional and physical well-being.

Why We Help

Child and Family Poverty

In the most recent reports on child and family poverty in Canada it has shown that **637,000 children are living in poverty**, a number that has barely changed in two decades. The faces of these children are diverse and many come from families with at least one parent working full time. These families are struggling to provide their children with basic needs and care to increase their opportunities and life chances.

- **1 in 10 Canadian children live in poverty. In First Nation's Communities 1 in 4 children live in poverty.**
- **40% of low-income children live in families where at least one parent works full-time year round.**
- **Child poverty is persistent across Canada, in most provinces rates are in the double digits.**
- **Low-income two-parent families, on average, would need an additional \$9,400 a year just to reach the poverty line.**
- **Along with other groups, children with disabilities are at greater risk of living in poverty.**
- **Canada spends less money on social programs, benefits for families and the unemployed than 24 other countries.**

Information provided by Statistics Canada and Campaign 2000 "2009 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada"

Children's Health and Well Being

The foundation has received hundreds of requests from children suffering from different medical conditions and disabilities such as cancer, autism, alopecia, burns, scoliosis, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and many other medical and physical disabilities and conditions. While the numbers of children living with illness and disability are not statistically defined we are clearly seeing an immense need for a variety of services and support.

How We Help

Our Programs

A Child's Voice Foundation™ developed and operates three programs to meet the diverse needs of the requests it receives, **Angel Hair for Kids™**, **Kids Life-Line** and **Kids Life Skills Club**. The foundation is proud to have helped over 500 children across Canada.

Health and Social Care Professionals

The foundation relies on the knowledge and expertise of health and social care professionals to submit in-take requests on behalf of children in need. The foundation communicates regularly with community support workers and health care professionals to learn about the conditions children are facing and how best to meet their needs. We look to these professionals for information and insight to effectively develop the foundations programs and services.

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Quick Fact Sheet

- A Child's Voice Foundation™ is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating and managing programs that tangibly support and enhance the physical and emotional well being of financially disadvantaged children in Canada who are facing an illness or disability.
- Since its inception in 1995, a Child's Voice Foundation™ has worked to improve the lives of children across Canada through its programs, **Angel Hair for Kids™**, **Kids Life-Line** and **Kids Life Skills Club**. The foundation is proud to have fulfilled the requests of hundreds of children across Canada.
- **637,000 children in Canada are living in poverty.** The faces of these children are diverse and many come from families with at least one earner working full time. These families are struggling to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter and the goods and services needed for increasing their opportunities and life chances.
- A Child's Voice Foundation™ works directly with health and social care professionals to reach children who are falling between the cracks.
- **Angel Hair for Kids™** is a program of a Child's Voice Foundation that provides wigs and hair loss solutions to financially disadvantaged children who have lost their hair due to a medical condition or treatment. Using hair that is generously donated to the program, wigs and hair systems are created and provided to children in need at no cost to their families.
- The **Kids Life-Line** program provides a sick or disabled child with an immediate, essential and sometimes critical need. Through this program the foundation has provided medications, small medical equipment, special transportation and much more.
- **Kids Life Skills Club** is the newest program of A Child's Voice Foundation™ designed to meet the growing requests for life skills development support for financially disadvantaged children, many who have faced, or are facing an illness or disability. This important program will help provide funding for specialized programs, therapies or other related care that will enhance their quality of life and is necessary to improve their long term life skills.
- Currently, the foundation and its programs rely solely on the generosity of public and corporate donors and the fundraiser it holds annually. We do not receive any funding from the government or any other charitable organization.



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Angel Hair for Kids Program

Angel Hair for Kids™ is a program of A Child's Voice Foundation™ that provides wigs and hair loss solutions to financially disadvantaged children in Canada who have lost their hair due to a medical condition or treatment. Using hair that is generously donated to the program, the foundation can create wigs and hair systems and provide them at no cost to the child's family. It takes 10-12 donated ponytails to make one hair prosthesis and \$800 to \$1000 is budgeted by the foundation to cover manufacturing and related costs.

Every year many children in Canada will lose their hair due to conditions such as cancer treatments, alopecia and even burns. We believe that providing a wig or hair loss solution will increase a child's self esteem and improve their self image, during a difficult and sometimes painful time in their lives. We hope to help them face their condition and daily life with a greater confidence. Since the program's inception only three years ago we are proud to say that we have helped over 150 children, and the demand is steadily increasing.

This special program is unlike any other and is the only one of its kind in Canada. Every Angel Hair for Kids recipient is given a personal appointment at a salon that specializes in wigs and hair loss. These salons have been pre selected by the foundation due to their experience, ability and desire to work with children in need. With care and compassion the experts walk the child and their family through the process of selecting a wig or hair loss solution that meets their needs. Once selected, the hair prosthesis is fitted and styled especially for that child, making it their very own. In addition, the child will receive a kit that includes a wig stand, shampoo, hair brush and care instructions. If a child is too ill to come in to the salon the foundation will arrange for a salon professional to come to them.

A Child's Voice Foundation™ is committed to understanding the needs of children and celebrating their diversity. Research is conducting regularly to better understand hair loss conditions and the children affected by it. We hope to continue to gain a greater understanding of how best to help these children and their families.



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Kids Life-Line Program

Kids Life-Line is a vital program of A Child's Voice Foundation that extends a helping hand when all other resources have been exhausted and there is no where else to turn. This unique program strives to provide a one time fulfillment, of a necessary product or service that will enhance a child's quality of life and is not otherwise provided by healthcare plans, levels of government or other organizations. The purpose of this program is to fulfill an immediate, essential and sometimes critical need for a child that will have a lasting long term affect on their physical and emotional well-being. We understand that caring for a sick or disabled child can be financially challenging and sometimes life can take unexpected turns. This program is here to extend that much needed “life-line”.

Kids Life-Line program is able to provide children and families with necessary support and assistance that improves that child's health and well-being. Some of the requests we have answered include and are not limited to:

- *Small medical equipment and supplies*
- *Limited in-home nursing care or therapy*
- *Required short term therapies*
- *Transportation to and from medical appointments*
- *Parking permits for hospital visits*
- *Medication not covered by government or insurance*
- *Dental procedures not covered by government or insurance*
- *Specialized or needed furniture and equipment*

It is the foundation goal to work with its community partners to fulfill every request submitted to the Kids Life-Line program. We understand that many of the requests can be very costly and exceed our funding limits. In these cases A Child's Voice Foundation is happy to partner with other organizations through the Kids Life-Line to help fulfill a request for a child in need. Many times the foundation has contributed partial funds along with other organizations in order for the total request can be met. We do not want to turn one child away.



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Kids Life-Skills Club

Kids Life Skills Club is the newest program of A Child's Voice Foundation designed to provide life skills development support for financially disadvantaged children, many who have faced, or are facing an illness or disability. This important program will help provide funding for specialized programs, therapies or other related care that will enhance their quality of life and is necessary to improve their long term life skills.

Life skills are vital to a child's success and well being, the development of these skills can be challenging when a child is at a financial disadvantage and possibly facing an illness or disability. Through growing requests, A Child's Voice Foundation has found that there are many children who are in need of specialized support that went beyond immediate medical care and equipment. Some applications have included dance classes and swimming to build strength and confidence for a severely abused little girl who was cognitively and physically delayed. Other have been for short term therapies, specialized camps and programming for children who are ill or living with a disability. We feel that this program will provide the necessary support for the unique number of requests we have been receiving.

There are many definitions of "life skills" and taking all of these into consideration as they apply to a child's mental and physical well-being the foundation is able to define those needs as physical and/or psychological development that is necessary for their future success.

It is our hope that a future part of this program will include the creation of subsidized Life Skills Programs where youth can apply and enroll in unique programs that will develop their long term life skills. Such as meal preparation, healthy eating habits, table manners, shopping and money management skills, communication and team work through sport and camp, specialized technology education and more. . It is our vision to work in partnership with community centers across Canada to implement these subsidized programs.

Education is the key to success and we look forward to continually listen to the needs of the children to effectively develop this program. or more information on the development of this program or to help support the foundation please contact us.