

2 0 2 2 - 2 3 A N N U A L R E P O R T

# 2023

WOMEN

YEARS



compassion  
house FOUNDATION

# M I S S I O N

Compassion House Foundation supports women who must leave their homes for cancer care.

**VISION** Compassion House Foundation strives to ease the distress of the cancer journey for women.

# V A L U E S

Compassion,  
Community,  
Respect,  
Sustainability,  
Understanding,  
Excellence.

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# CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER



Jacqueline (Jackie) Foord

Like the rest of the world, the past year was one of change for Sorrentino's Compassion House and the Compassion House Foundation.

As pandemic restrictions eased, our guests, volunteers, staff, and donors began to adapt to the changes that are now permanent while simultaneously returning to business as usual where possible. While we are still adapting, not much will return to what it was before the world changed.

What hasn't changed is that Sorrentino's Compassion House is still a vital and steady partner in women's cancer journey to Edmonton. We provide a home away from home for women, where they can receive world-class cancer treatment that simply isn't available closer to their homes.

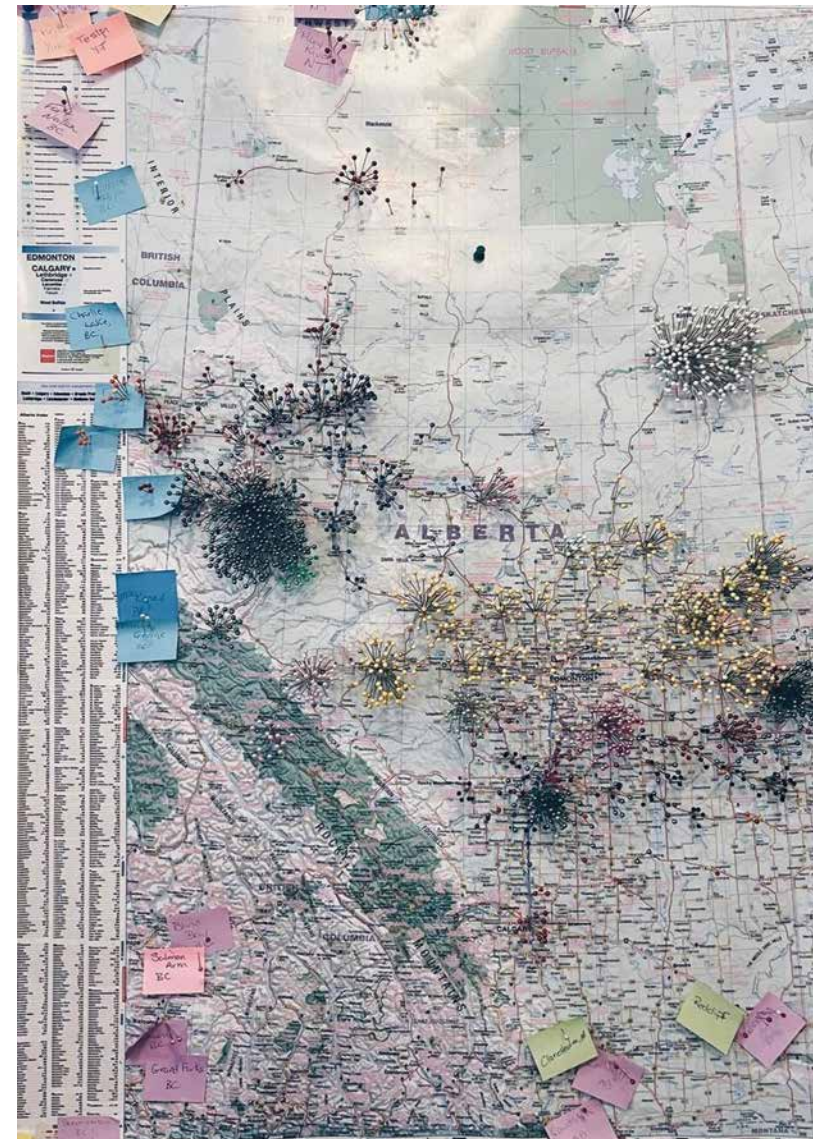
Women arrive apprehensive but quickly realize that they are among family. The sisterhood that comes with spending time with others on the same journey and the comfort and security that come from the House and our staff allow women to concentrate on healing physically and emotionally. When they leave, they tell us they are less anxious, have made lifelong connections, and that the financial burden of being away from home was lessened by staying at Sorrentino's Compassion House.

Compassion House Foundation changed this past year to ensure we have the right people and resources to lead us through the post-pandemic challenges. We have a new Board of Directors committed to holding Sorrentino's Compassion House true to its mission and values as we emerge from the pandemic. The Board works as a team, each member bringing ideas and enthusiasm. The Foundation also welcomed Jackie Foord as our new Executive Director. Jackie is a respected community leader with an extensive and diverse network who brings people and ideas together to make real change in organizations and communities. We are very happy to have her on our team.

This report tells the story of our 20th year of operations. The past few have been, by far, the most challenging, but the resilience and strength of the over 2,000 women who have been our guests at Sorrentino's Compassion House inspires us every day. We are honoured to do this work.

**Jacqueline Foord, Executive Director**  
**Jennifer Kluthe, Chair**

# LIKE THE REST OF THE WORLD, THE PAST YEAR WAS ONE OF CHANGE FOR SORRENTINO'S COMPASSION HOUSE AND THE COMPASSION HOUSE FOUNDATION.



## STAFF

Jaqueline (Jackie) Foord  
Kerry Mahood  
Sayler Reins  
Amber Blaszkievicz  
Andrew Gregory  
Linda Miller

## BOARD

Jennifer Kluthe  
Michael Chwelos  
Regan Solbak  
Karissa Anderson  
Cathy Chichak  
Greg Mittlesteadt  
Sundas Shamshad

This year's cover photo showcases a map of Alberta. Each pin on the map represents one of the 2000+ guests we've hosted over the past 20 years and the communities they've come from. It's not just a map; it's our history, illustrating two decades of support, community, and transformation.

# 2022 STATISTICS

# 290

NUMBER OF GUESTS

# 101

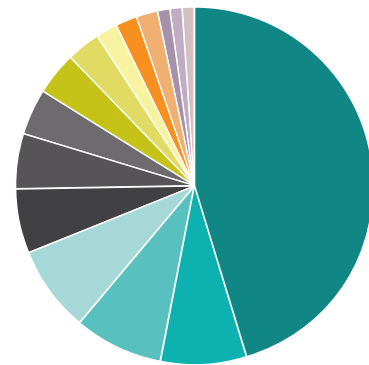
NEW GUESTS

# 189

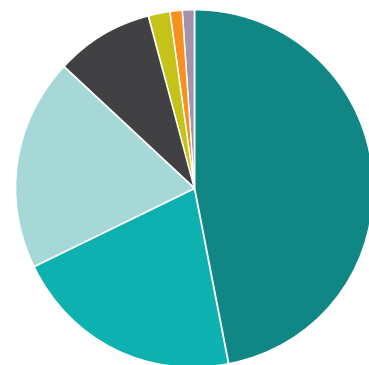
RETURNING GUESTS

# 11 DAYS

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY



- 45.5% Breast
- 7.9% Colon/Rectal/Bowel/Anal/Bladder
- 7.9% Lung
- 7.9% Uterine
- 5.9% Brain
- 5.0% Ovarian/Cervical/Vaginal
- 4.0% Neck/Throat/Tongue/Mouth/Nose
- 4.0% Other
- 3.0% Thyroid/Lymphoma
- 2.0% Bone/Arm/Hand
- 2.0% Melanoma Skin
- 2.0% Stomach
- 1.0% Leukemia
- 1.0% Liver
- 1.0% Eye



- 47.0% Central Alberta
- 21.0% North West Alberta
- 19.0% North East Alberta
- 9.0% NWT / Yukon
- 2.0% Southern Alberta
- 1.0% British Columbia
- 1.0% Saskatchewan

# E V E N T S

## WALK HER WAY 5K

From May 12-15, over 200 people laced up their shoes and stepped up for the second annual Walk Her Way 5K, presented by Syncrude operated by Suncor. Participants across Alberta and Canada raised an incredible \$124,000 for the Compassion House Foundation. Each stride and every contribution stood as a powerful demonstration of solidarity for women facing cancer. A huge thank you to everyone who walked, donated, and organized a local walk with friends and family.

Thank you also to our sponsors Syncrude operated by Suncor, Wilde Advisory Group, Pattison Outdoor Advertising, 96.3 The Breeze (Stingray), Global Edmonton, Air Canada, and Tourism Jasper. We couldn't take a step without you. Your efforts have enabled Sorrentino's Compassion House to remain a haven for women on their cancer journey.



## TINSELTOWN WINTER MARKET

In November 2022, Tinseltown Winter Market, a remarkable three-day event in Grande Prairie, attracted over 4,250 attendees supporting the Compassion House Foundation. This year, they proudly raised an impressive \$28,200, which truly makes a difference in the lives of the women we serve. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the incredible efforts of Erin Weeks, their dedicated volunteers, vendors, and sponsors, whose unwavering support made this event a resounding success. Together, they've created a positive impact that will resonate within our community and beyond. Erin and her team are already planning for the 4th annual Tinseltown Winter Market to be held on November 17-19, 2023.

## INSPIRING SPEAKER SERIES: TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS MEDICINES

The Alberta Blue Cross hosted an online event focused on traditional Indigenous medicines. Our insightful guest speakers, Heidi Davis from Alberta Health Services and Elder Sylvia Ann Fox, shared their knowledge of Indigenous medicines and introduced the tradition of creating beaded medicine protection pouches. While listening to Heidi and Elder Sylvia Ann, attendees learned how to make their own traditional medicine pouches. The over 100 participants learned the respectful practice of handling sacred plants and gained a greater appreciation of Indigenous traditions.





### WECAN WORKSHOPS

Our WeCan workshops are designed to empower women who've been touched by cancer. They provide attendees with the insight and tools to transition from merely surviving to truly thriving in their post-treatment journey.

In 2022, Compassion House had the pleasure of hosting two workshops. The first was in Grande Prairie in October, followed by another in Fort McMurray in November. Generously presented by the Butler Family Foundation, these workshops honed in on the crucial role of self-compassion and the meaningful incorporation of self-care after cancer treatment.



### THE GEORGINA BURGESS COMPASSION NETWORK

The Georgina Burgess Compassion Network is a committed group of former guests who volunteer to support women in their home communities dealing with cancer. They also act as speakers and fundraisers to promote the work of the Compassion House Foundation. These Ambassadors meet virtually every month and were instrumental in the success of the Walk Her Way 5K.

In May 2022, the Ambassadors held a retreat where they reconnected, learned and made plans to continue and grow their work. This retreat was held at Amisk Lake thanks to the generosity of one of our Compassion House Foundation Board Members.



## A MILESTONE GIFT OF HOPE BURGESS FAMILY DONATION

We were immensely proud to announce that the Compassion House Foundation received a \$1 million donation from Liam Burgess. This represents the largest donation from one individual in our history.

Liam's relationship with the Compassion House Foundation is deeply personal, born from a profound loss. His mother, Georgina, died two years ago from cancer. By a stroke of serendipity, Liam became involved with us when he heard that we needed help when our van was involved in an accident. No one was injured, but the van was out of commission. Liam stepped up, aiding in purchasing a new van, an important resource for the women who stay at Sorrentino's Compassion House.

Reflecting on his gift, Liam shared, "My mom would be extremely proud and honoured to be associated with the Compassion House Foundation through this donation. She always felt a great deal of focus was given to cancer research and prevention, yet she often asked, 'Where is the support for the people dealing with the rollercoaster ride cancer puts people through?' I have witnessed the work of Compassion House, which aligns perfectly with the kind of support my mom sought during her battle with cancer."

**My mom would be extremely proud and honoured to be associated with the Compassion House Foundation through this donation.**



In honour of his mother's memory, we renamed our Compassion Network program "The Georgina Burgess Compassion Network." We are incredibly thankful for Liam's extraordinary generosity.

# TWO DECADES OF COMPASSION



To commemorate the 20 years since we welcomed our first guest, we hosted a Wine and Chocolate event in October. Presented through the generosity of our sponsor, Belay Advisory, this intimate gathering featured specialty chocolates created by the talented Master Chocolatier Colleen Heidecker, owner of Colleen's Chocolates. With her expert guidance, our guests savoured hand-crafted chocolates paired beautifully with specially selected wines.

This event paid homage to the journey that began over 20 years ago when our founders, Betty Carlson, Debra Kerr, Elexis Schloss, and Gisele MacMillian, envisioned a sanctuary for women with breast cancer. Their dream grew to become the Compassion House Foundation, a home away from home where love, understanding, and compassion could flourish. Throughout the years, we have increased the number of suites and warmly embraced women courageously facing all forms of cancer.



Our Compassion Fund, born out of a collaboration with our generous sponsors, provides financial assistance to women who might otherwise be unable to access the treatment they need. We are not government-funded; instead, we are powered by the generosity of countless hearts that understand and resonate with our mission and vision. We've been graced with tangible kindness, from handmade quilts for every guest to the melodious strains of a baby grand piano that fills our house with music. Each gift and gesture has woven itself into the fabric of the House, making it a haven of warmth, love, and respite.



## 2000 IN 20

In our 20th year of operations, Sorrentino's Compassion House welcomed Joan Lee, our 2000th guest.

Like the 1,999 guests who came before her and those who have stayed since, Joan is part of a unique community of women who came to us at an extraordinarily difficult time in their lives. From Camrose, Joan was an active member of the Royal Purple, delivered for Meals on Wheels, loved floor curling, and travelling. When asked, Joan expressed that the gift of a handmade quilt and a wellness box she received upon arrival was deeply meaningful to her.

We were very sad to learn of Joan's passing in 2023.

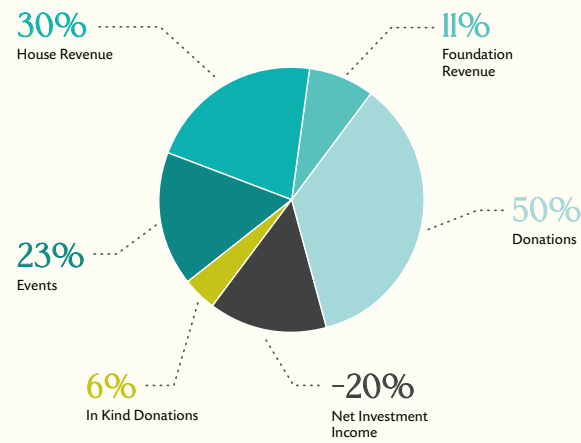
Joan's strength is forever part of our story, and we feel honoured to have played a part in hers. We send our deepest condolences to all who knew and loved her.



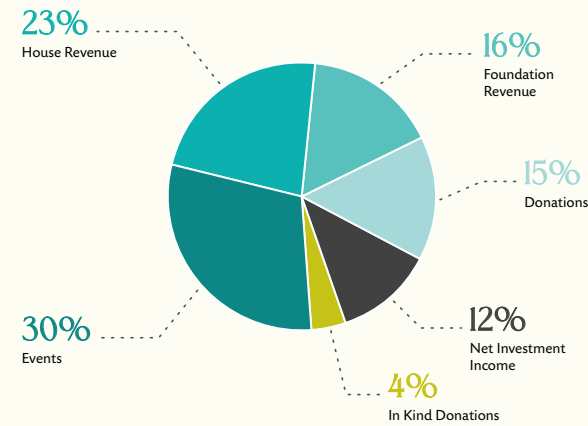
# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## REVENUE

2023  
\$859,470

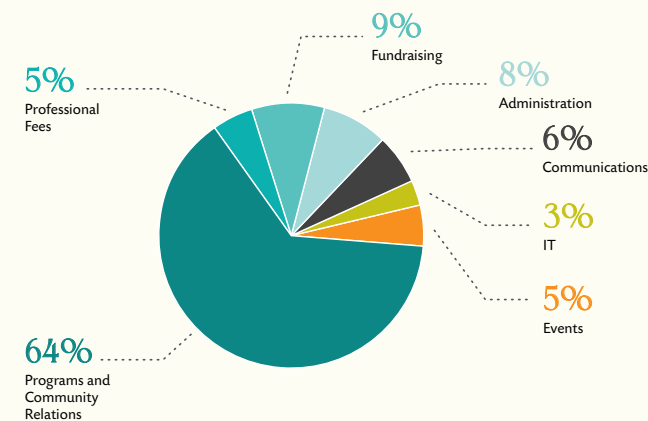


2022  
\$1,208,205

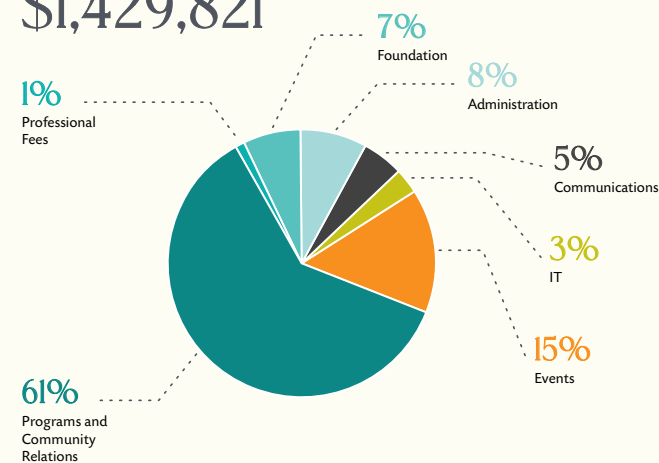


## EXPENSES

2023  
\$1,593,004



2022  
\$1,429,821



# SUMMARIZED BALANCE SHEET

## ASSETS

Cash  
Marketable Securities  
Accounts Receivable  
Goods and Services Tax Recoverable  
Prepays and Term Deposits

Tangible Capital Assets

## LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accruals  
CEBA Loan  
Deferred Contributions  
Deferred Capital Contributions

Tangible Capital Assets

## NET ASSETS

General Fund - Unrestricted  
Investment in Tangible Capital Assets  
Internally Restricted

	2023	2022
Cash	\$ 36,691	\$ 301,794
Marketable Securities	4,417,140	4,861,849
Accounts Receivable	-	2,500
Goods and Services Tax Recoverable	7,663	5,362
Prepays and Term Deposits	9,645	7,832
	<b>4,471,139</b>	<b>5,179,337</b>
Tangible Capital Assets	4,124,410	4,245,460
	<b>\$ 8,595,549</b>	<b>\$ 9,424,797</b>
Accounts Payable and Accruals	\$ 79,347	\$ 45,349
CEBA Loan	40,000	-
Deferred Contributions	208,198	241,924
Deferred Capital Contributions	2,713,965	2,809,951
	<b>3,041,510</b>	<b>3,097,224</b>
Tangible Capital Assets	-	40,000
	<b>3,041,510</b>	<b>3,137,224</b>
General Fund - Unrestricted	2,034,820	2,743,290
Investment in Tangible Capital Assets	1,410,445	1,435,509
Internally Restricted	2,108,774	2,108,774
	<b>5,554,039</b>	<b>6,287,573</b>
	<b>\$ 8,595,549</b>	<b>\$ 9,424,797</b>





HELP FUND  
THE NEXT  
20 YEARS



Compassion House Foundation



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