



Expand. Extend. Empower.



New Heights
school & learning services

OUR HISTORY

In 1999, a group of parents were concerned that their sons and daughters were slipping between the cracks. Each of their children had been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, and the available programs and services were ill-equipped to meet their children's needs. This small, dedicated community of parents set out to make a difference, and together, they established the early-intervention preschool and kindergarten program that would later become **New Heights School & Learning Services Society.**



INNOVATION

+



BELONGING

+



DIRECTION

+



ACADEMICS

+



NURTURING

=



NEW HEIGHTS

Message from the Campaign Chair



Gary Vickers
Campaign Chair and Board Member

I believe helping lay the right foundation for our children is the greatest thing we can do to set them up for a bright future. This is particularly important for children and young adults on the autism spectrum. New Heights School & Learning Services is doing an incredible job at providing opportunities for learning and life experiences that help children on the spectrum develop and grow.

As the father of a child with autism, I feel privileged to be a part of the “New Heights Family.” I am optimistic about the future, knowing that we are just discovering what is possible for our families, students, and alumni. From pre-school through adulthood, New Heights is genuinely engaged in the success of our children and families. I am extremely proud to be a part of this campaign and know that New Heights is building a future where autism spectrum disorder is not a diagnosis, but an opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for considering a donation to New Heights. Your support will help prepare our kids for the community, and the community for our kids. Together, we will help families thrive and empower youth on the autism spectrum to live independent, confident, and purposeful lives.



What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism spectrum disorder is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition that impacts not only the individual on the spectrum, but also their families, caregivers, and communities. Characterized by varying challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviours, and communication, the range of abilities, deficits, and severity, are what makes autism a “spectrum” disorder. Children and young adults on the spectrum each have different strengths and challenges, but with the right support to learn and grow, they can become more engaged and active members of the community.



“When our son Nicholas was first diagnosed at the age of three, it was a very traumatic time for our family. We went through a number of schools before finding New Heights, a school where the focus was not only on the problems but the possibilities ahead for Nicholas.

New Heights is a nurturing and caring organization that offers a unique educational environment. The time that Nicholas spent at New Heights had a profound impact on his life. He learned many valuable skills and gained the confidence that has enabled him to live more independently.”

- Debbie Lemke

“New Heights is truly like family to us. All of the staff are the most welcoming, warm, and sincere group of professionals we have ever met.”

- New Heights Parent



New Heights School & Learning Services

Vision:

A community dedicated to pioneering a bright future for individuals on the autism spectrum to live independent, confident, and purposeful lives.

Mission:

Preparing our kids for the community, and the community for our kids.

Core Values:

- Collaboration
- Commitment
- Growth
- Strong Relationships

New Heights is a Designated Special Education Private School and a leader in education and support for children on the autism spectrum. From home and community-based early intervention work, through high school graduation and beyond, we partner with students and their families every step of the way – empowering them to reach their potential.

A strong and supportive community is crucial to the success of our vision. When you partner with New Heights, you join the staff, students, and families as a team member committed to helping create a better future for youth and young adults on the autism spectrum. You will be enhancing the welcoming and accessible programs and services that provide a full range of support focused on individual needs and goals.

Your support is critical to the success of the nearly 100 children, students, and young adults currently enrolled in New Heights programs, and the success of every future individual that enrolls in our programs or school.



1 in 66

children in Canada are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder¹

4x

more males are diagnosed than females¹

Since 2008, the prevalence rate of autism has increased²

33%

¹ *Autism Spectrum Disorder among Children and Youth in Canada 2018* A Report of the National Autism Spectrum Disorder Surveillance System

² Estimated by comparing CDC data from 2008 (www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/data.html) with data from *Autism Spectrum Disorder among Children and Youth in Canada 2018*

The Growing Need

According to a 2018 report commissioned by Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, autism spectrum disorder is the fastest growing, and most commonly diagnosed neurological disorder in Canada, with 1 out of every 66 children being diagnosed. As families manage the physical, emotional, and financial challenges of their individual situations, our society must also find ways to mitigate the potential costs of a rising number of cases. With these increasing challenges, New Heights' upcoming move into our new building in July and August of 2020 - and the resulting expansion in our enrollment capacity - becomes a top priority.

Your partnership will ensure New Heights is there to help families and communities respond to the risks of these added challenges. You will provide high-value support and programming as we journey with students up to and beyond their graduation. With your help, families will experience reduced stress and students will be empowered to reach their potential.

We are grateful to our current funding partners for their investment in the success of our students. However, as the need continues to grow, we need your support to help equip our students for more independent living. Together, we can improve the lives of those on the autism spectrum and create a stronger community for all.

Our goal is to raise \$2 million by August 2021.

Help us create a better future for youth on the autism spectrum by investing in our three priority areas:

1. BUILDING FUND

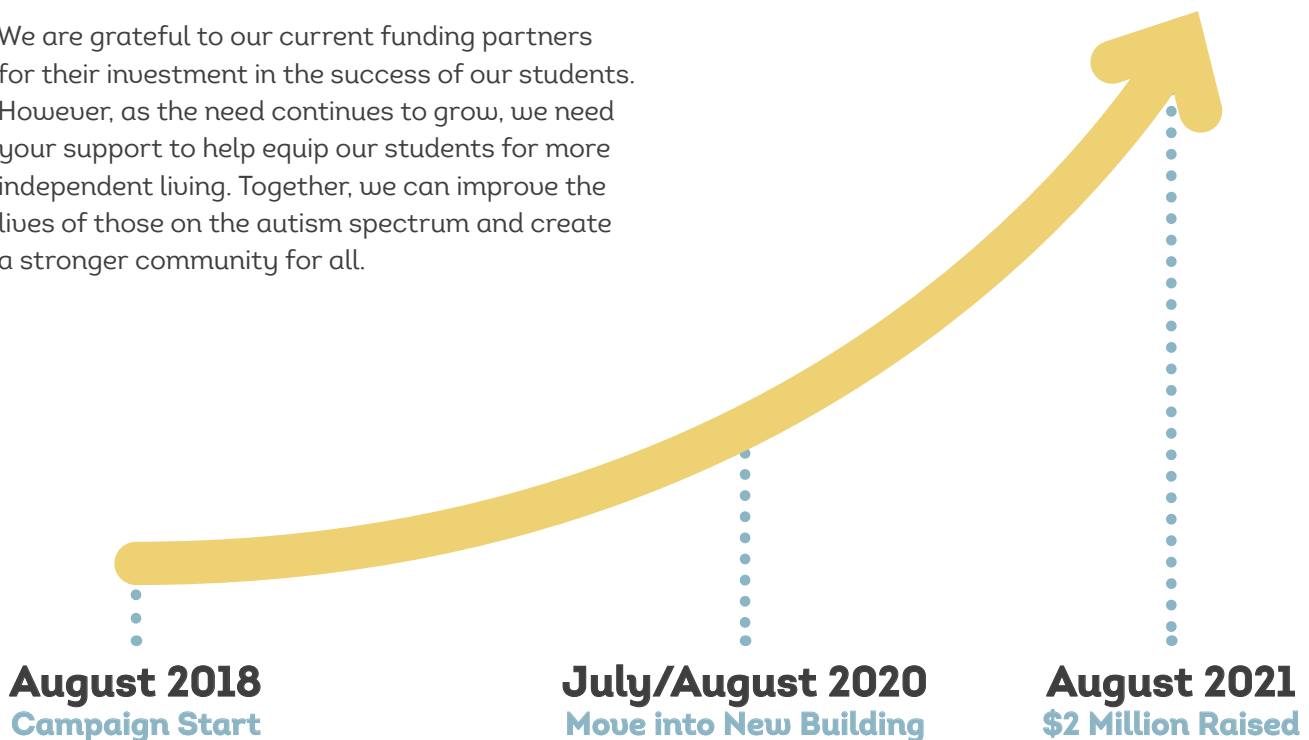
Fundraising Goal: \$1.2 Million

2. TUITION SUPPORT FUND

Fundraising Goal: \$300,000

3. TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD FUND

Fundraising Goal: \$500,000



Funding Priorities

1. BUILDING FUND

Fundraising Goal: \$1.2 Million



Our current building lacks the appropriate space needed to welcome more students. As the diagnosis rate of autism spectrum disorder rises, the need for expansion is more important than ever. In March 2017, we purchased the building adjacent to us, which will enable us to double our enrollment capacity, but it needs to be enhanced before it is completely suitable for our programs.

Your donation will furnish the building with specialized learning equipment, life-skills rooms, classrooms, a library, and activity rooms to meet the educational and developmental needs of our students.

2. TUITION SUPPORT FUND

Fundraising Goal: \$300,000



The average cost of education for a student with special needs in Alberta is \$40,000 per year. There is funding that covers some of that cost, but families still pay an annual tuition fee of about \$12,000. Approximately 30% of New Heights families cannot afford their child's tuition and require assistance.

Your donation will ensure finances are not a barrier to high-quality education. You will help extend financial support to those in need, ensuring our programs and services remain accessible.

3. TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD FUND

Fundraising Goal: \$500,000



Most government services and support for individuals on the autism spectrum end at the age of 18, which means as students graduate they also age-out of other programs. Without help to move from school into adulthood, most students do not achieve independence from parents and family. Fewer than 5% of individuals with autism complete post-secondary education¹ and a staggering 75% of individuals with autism spectrum disorder struggle to find and maintain employment.²

Your donation will provide support focused on employment, independent living, post-secondary education, social environments, and self-advocacy opportunities. This will help empower high school students to continue moving forward after graduation.

¹ *Describing Heterogeneity of Unmet Needs among Adults with a Developmental Disability: An Examination of the 2012 Canadian Survey on Disability*. Research in Developmental Disabilities, volume 65, 2017

² *What Do We Know About Improving Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder?* University of Calgary School of Public Policy Research Papers, volume 8, issue 32, 2015

“Our son’s move to New Heights has restored his enthusiasm for school. It has provided him with growing confidence in his social abilities, and has restored our optimism about his future. It has changed our world.”

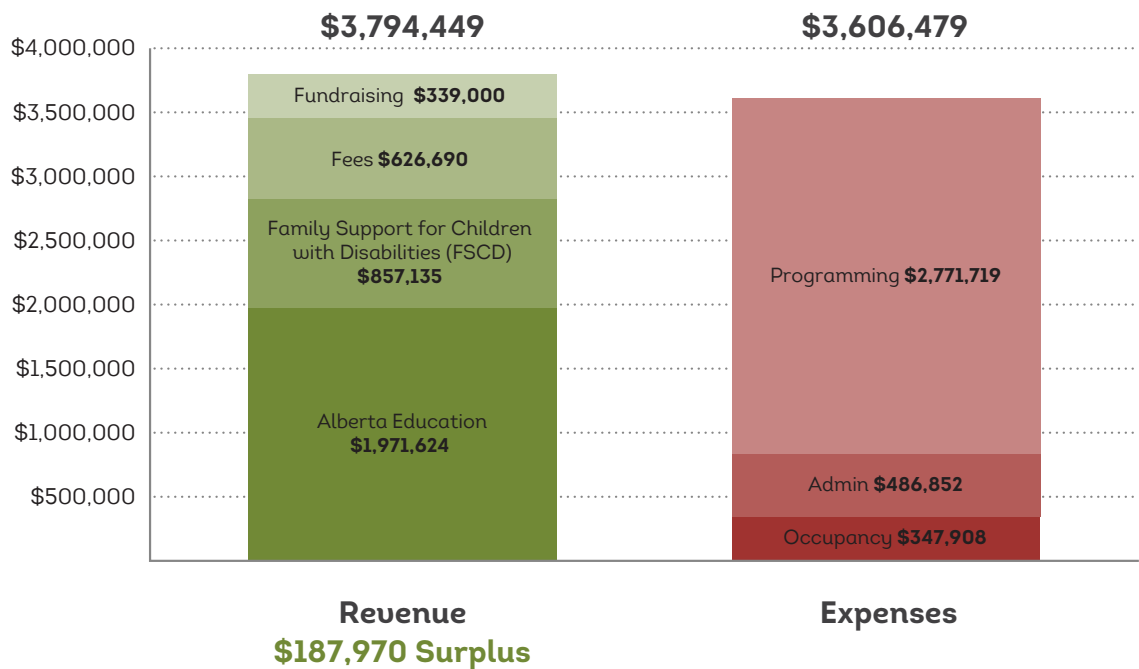
- New Heights Parent



Sustainability in Action

This snapshot of our 2018-2019 Budget shows our revenue sources and how we are stewarding our assets.

New Heights made the purchase of our new school building from a strong equity position and with a solid financial model for debt repayment. We will pay off the mortgage with help from our capital campaign and through increased operating revenue generated by growing student enrollment over the next three years.





Be Part of Our Community

Together, we can make a difference. As the diagnosis rate of autism spectrum disorder continues to rise, your support is essential. It will help families thrive and empower youth on the autism spectrum to positively contribute to their communities and live confident and purposeful lives.

To learn more about New Heights, or to donate, please contact:

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“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

– Margaret J. Wheatley



“New Heights has been the constant support that helped our family go from just surviving to thriving.”

- New Heights Parent





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We are a registered charity, Business Number 888945722RR0001.