

# New Heights School & Learning Services

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New Heights School & Learning Services is a registered charitable organization and a Designated Special Education Private School. We opened our doors in 1999 to 12 students in our preschool and early intervention programs, with the simple goal of giving families a safe and friendly community to support their needs and build their capacity. Motivated by families who believed there could be more for their children, we expanded into our school program in 2006 and grew to offer programming that ranges from early childhood into adulthood.

**VISION:**

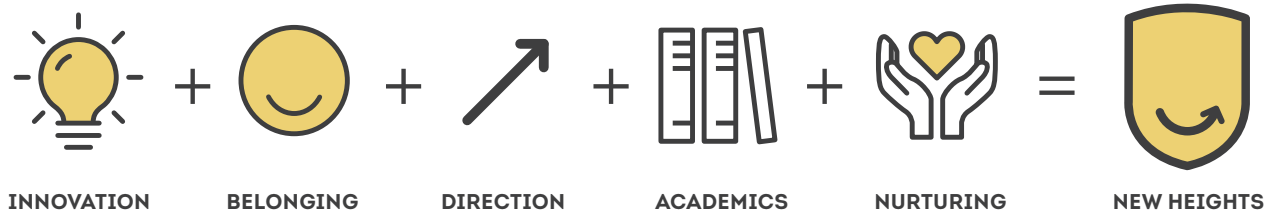
A community dedicated to pioneering a bright future for individuals on the autism spectrum to live independent, confident, and purposeful lives.

**MISSION:**

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

**CORE VALUES:**

- Collaboration
- Commitment
- Growth
- Strong Relationships





## Message from the Campaign Chair

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I believe helping lay the right foundation for our children is the greatest thing we can do to pave the way for a bright future. New Heights is doing an incredible job at providing opportunities for both learning and life experiences to help children and youth with autism spectrum disorder 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 extremely proud to lead this campaign knowing that New Heights is building a future where autism spectrum disorder is not a diagnosis but an opportunity to thrive.

Your support will help prepare our kids for the community and the community for our kids. As a New Heights donor, you will join an extraordinary group of philanthropists who share a vision of a brighter future for those on the autism spectrum to live confident, independent, and purposeful lives.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Vickers', with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

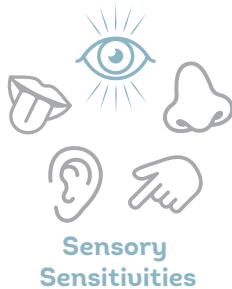
Gary Vickers  
Campaign Chair and Board Member

# What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

*“A different cognitive style and a different way of processing information within the social, communication and sensory domains, which significantly affects an individual's way of interpreting and experiencing the world.”*

*- Dr. Luke Beardon*

Autism spectrum disorder is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition that impacts not only the individual on the spectrum, but also their families, caregivers, and communities. Children and young adults on the spectrum each have different strengths and challenges. 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 with autism spectrum disorder at the age of three, it was an extremely traumatic and challenging 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 and personalized educational environment that meets each student where they are. 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 Alumni Parent & Board Member*



## What New Heights Offers

The comprehensive programming offered by New Heights supports children and youth on the autism spectrum and their families. Our programs are designed to support our population through the varying stages of their lives, from early childhood and into adulthood.



***“New Heights has allowed our family to see, explore, and realize more possibilities for our children than we ever could have imagined. Thank you!”***

***– New Heights Parent***



### **Home & Community Support Program**

A play-based program that addresses developmental goals for children aged 2.5 to 7.



### **Preschool & Kindergarten Program**

Focuses on each child's specific educational needs and provides the basis for intervention strategies for children aged 3 to 6.



### **School Program (Grades 1 to 12)**

Helps students between 6 and 20 years of age overcome emotional challenges, develop positive peer relationships, and achieve academic success.



### **Transitional Support Programs**

Supports young adults in developing the skills required to live independent, confident, and purposeful lives.





**1 in 66** children in Canada are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder<sup>1</sup>

**4x**



more males are diagnosed than females<sup>1</sup>

Since 2008, the prevalence rate of autism has increased by

**33%**<sup>2</sup>

**50,000**

teens with autism become adults and lose school-based autism services each year<sup>3</sup>





## The Growing Need

In a 2018 report commissioned by Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, autism spectrum disorder was identified as the fastest growing and most commonly diagnosed neurological disorder in Canada. We have seen this trend reflected in our growing waitlists. Over 65 students are waiting for a spot in our School Program, and 48 for our Home & Community Program.

As families manage the physical, emotional, and financial challenges of their situations, our society must also find ways to mitigate the potential costs of the rising number of cases. When you partner with New Heights, you join the staff, students, and families as a team member committed to creating a better future for children and youth on the autism spectrum. Your support will enhance programs and services for the nearly 100 children, students, and young adults currently enrolled at New Heights. You will also help us to maintain a full range of supports focused on individual needs and goals.

### CURRENT WAITLISTS



School Program

**65+ Students**



Home & Community Program

**48 Families**

***"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 restored our optimism about his future. It has changed our world."***

***- New Heights Parent***



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

**August 2018**  
Campaign Start

**July 2020**  
Move into New Building

**August 2021**  
\$2 Million Raised

## Funding Priorities

### 1. PROGRAM INITIATIVES FUND – FUNDRAISING GOAL OF \$1 MILLION

#### Transition to Adulthood Program



Most government services and support for individuals on the autism spectrum end at the age of 18. This 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, have a tough time finding and maintaining employment, and struggle to build relationships.

#### Your donation will support students with their:

- Employment
- Independent living
- Post-secondary education
- Social environments
- Self-advocacy

#### Employment Program



A staggering 75% of individuals with autism spectrum disorder struggle to find and maintain employment.<sup>1</sup> Our dream is that every New Heights student will secure a job while they are still at New Heights and will receive the coaching they need to keep that job or find meaningful employment after graduating.

#### Your donation will support:

- Equipping New Heights high school students for employment
- Educating employers in Calgary about autism spectrum disorder
- Encouraging workplaces in Calgary to be inclusive of individuals with autism spectrum disorder





## 2. BUILDING FUND - FUNDRAISING GOAL OF \$700,000



In March 2017, we agreed to purchase the building adjacent to us, which will enable us to expand our student enrollment by 60% over the next three years. As the diagnosis rate of autism spectrum disorder rises, our existing space is already at capacity. There are 71 students enrolled for the 2019/20 school year with more than 65 students on the waitlist. Before expanding into the new space in July 2020, it requires the purchase of additional furniture and resources to ensure students get the education and support they need.

### Your donation will be invested in:

- Furnishing classrooms and activity rooms
- Building a new life-skills room
- Developing a collaborative workspace and library
- Purchasing updated technology for teaching and learning

## 3. TUITION SUPPORT FUND - FUNDRAISING GOAL OF \$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 \$12,000. Approximately 1 in 5 New Heights families cannot afford their child's tuition and require assistance.

### Your donation will:

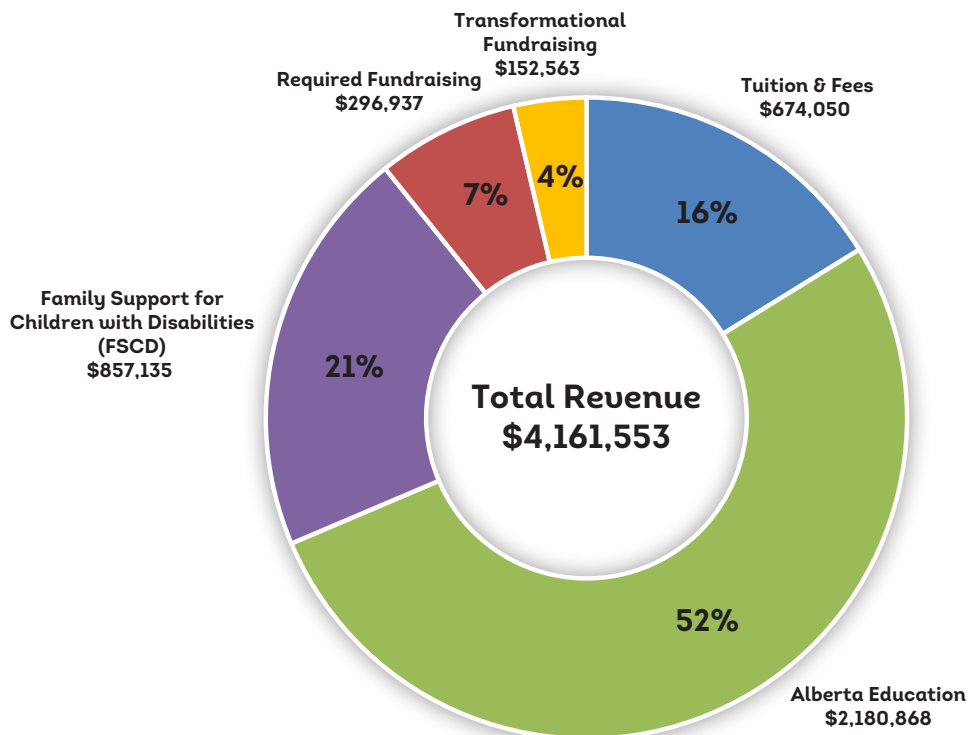
- Ensure finances are not a barrier to high-quality education
- Extend financial support to those in need of New Heights programs and services



## Sustainability in Action

Our revenue goal for fiscal 2019/20 is \$4,161,553. In order for New Heights to grow while remaining fiscally responsible, we need to continue to fundraise for 7% of this revenue. As we look to expand our programming and increase our service offerings, we require an additional 4% to achieve this transformational growth. **You are an integral part of our ability to achieve this goal.**

### Revenue Breakdown



\*Operating expenses for fiscal 2019/20 are \$4,008,990





## Be Part of Our Community

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A strong and supportive community is crucial to pioneering a bright future for individuals on the autism spectrum to live independent, confident, and purposeful lives. Your partnership will ensure New Heights can continue to provide high-value support and programming as we journey with families and students up to and beyond their graduation. You will be helping to prepare our kids for the community and the community for our kids. **Together, we can make a difference.**

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

**Amy Ansell**

Director of Development

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***“To help children with autism, we don’t need to change them or fix them. We need to work to understand them, and then change what we do.”***

**– Barry M. Prizant**





# New Heights

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We are a registered charity, Business Number 888945722RR0001.