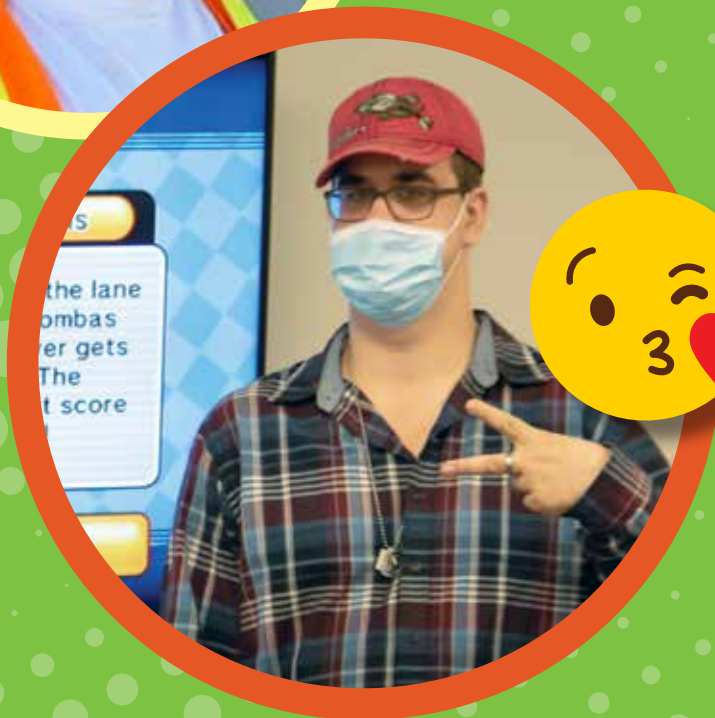




SaskAbilities

2020 ANNUAL REPORT





VISION

Working together to build inclusive communities for people of all abilities.

.....

MISSION

SaskAbilities supports people experiencing disability with programs and services to enhance their lives.

.....

VALUES

We treat people with respect, honesty and compassion.

Our programs and services are client-centred, goal-oriented and accountable.

We value teamwork, excellence and innovation.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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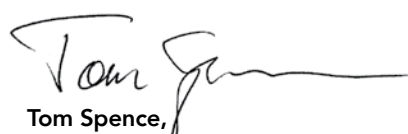


A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The year 2020 began with SaskAbilities reflecting on 70 years of service to children and adults experiencing disability in Saskatchewan. Over those seven decades, Board and staff members have continued to innovate to meet the needs of the community. Perhaps never before has that ability to grow and adapt been more relevant than during 2020. With the declaration of a worldwide pandemic in early March, Board and staff members immediately began to implement SaskAbilities' pandemic plan. The Board of Directors established three priorities for decision making: to continue to support individuals experiencing disability and to do so safely, to keep staff members safe and, as long as SaskAbilities has the capacity to do so, protect pay and benefits for staff members, and to be part of the community response to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep people safe.

The 2020 members-only virtual Annual General Meeting looked very different from previous years, but it allowed SaskAbilities to conduct its required business in a safe way. This was only one of the many innovations during 2020. To support individuals experiencing disability and to keep people safe, programs were adapted to be delivered in different formats, including virtual and in-person options where possible. Management coordinated daily responses to the pandemic. Where practical, staff members began working from home. The Board met frequently to review the pandemic response and provide support to staff members. These measures continued throughout the year, guided by orders from public health authorities.

We have never been so proud to be a part of SaskAbilities. The dedication and commitment of Board and staff members to the vision and mission is truly remarkable. All of you have demonstrated so much compassion and resilience while leading us to new opportunities to support clients and community. Our funders, donors, and supporters have continued to believe in the work we do – in these challenging times we appreciate your contributions even more. Thank you and all the best for 2021.


Tom Spence,
President


Ian Wilkinson,
Executive Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Tom Spence
President
Saskatoon



Michelle Hunter
Vice President
Regina



Andy Livingston
Past President
Saskatoon



Bruce Acton
Saskatoon



Brenda Bancescu
Regina



Paul Blackstock
Saskatoon



Kyle Chriest
Saskatoon



Bruno Konecsni
Saskatoon



Stan Lautsch
Swift Current



Lori Meyer
Moose Jaw



Brad Mitchell
Saskatoon



Sandra Ruff
Yorkton



Bill Schwarz
Regina



Grant Wilson
Saskatoon

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL



Ian Wilkinson
Executive Director



John Denysek
Yorkton Branch



Kimi Duzan
Swift Current Branch



Corey Hadden
Regina Branch



Carrie McComber
Director of
Rehabilitation Services



Karen Moore
Director of
Provincial Services





SASKATOON BRANCH

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Saskatoon Branch experienced a great deal of change in 2020, much of which was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Programs and services became increasingly diverse and innovative as the Branch sought new ways to engage safely with clients. Clients were provided with additional choices in the delivery of programs and services – staying connected through remote resources like Microsoft Teams and other video software, as well as individual one-to-one in-person meetings instead of the more typical group formats.

Clients and staff adapted to these changes quickly and successfully as the increased flexibility of program offerings and delivery were well received. The Training Centre remained operational throughout the pandemic. With help and support from across the Branch, customer products were manufactured and delivered on time. The Sewing Department answered the community's call for personal protective equipment by manufacturing face masks.

Additional changes included the creation and launch of the Respite Program which focuses on providing additional supports to caregivers and individuals experiencing disability. In late 2020, the Saskatoon Branch was awarded two new day programs which increased capacity and additional services for adults experiencing intellectual disability.

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought immense uncertainty and change, the Saskatoon Branch reflects on the continued support of the many members with such gratitude. It is with the support of the clients, staff members and management, Board of Directors and funders that the Saskatoon Branch was able to move forward in this unusual time. 🙏



THE NUMBERS

116

vocational evaluations
in 2020

101

clients in Quality of Life

452

jobs for clients found
through Partners in
Employment programs

22,400,000

containers processed at
SARCAN Saskatoon

29

families and caregivers
supported through the
Saskatoon Branch Respite
Program

LEAPS OF PROGRESS WITH ABI COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Rachel is a woman of many talents. A client in the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Community Support Program at SaskAbilities, she uses her story as a platform to spread awareness about the importance of wearing helmets to students and youth. Rachel is also proud of her involvement with the Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) Program. She is also the mother of two beautiful daughters, a friend to many and now, an avid horseback rider at Equilibrium Therapeutic Riding thanks in part to SaskAbilities. "The ABI Community Support program aims to improve the quality of life of clients and their families by providing them with meaningful experiences and opportunities through client-centred services. Individuals in ABI Community Support take the lead in their lives. They set their own goals, engage in meaningful activities, experience greater independence, and ultimately become more dynamically involved in the community. Rachel represents this community so well; she is confident, happy, optimistic and her success has been achieved through her own hard work and personal resilience," explains Amanda Phillpot, ABI Community Support Supervisor.

Recalling the accident that left her with an acquired brain injury in 2009, Rachel remembers the day as being a fun-filled one with family over the Thanksgiving weekend. "It was an absolutely beautiful fall day so we decided we wanted to go quadding around the acreage. The BIG mistake I made was not taking the extra two seconds to put on a helmet. I just jumped on and rode out," explains Rachel. After riding around for a few hours, the crew

was racing down a hill with Rachel leading the pack; the quad hit a bump and she flew off.

"The first memory I have after that was hearing my girlfriends singing to me happy birthday and Christmas songs in the hospital," says Rachel. The incident left her in a coma for four months and in the hospital for more than a year.

Since the accident Rachel has worked hard to move forward with her life. A big part of that is the healing and recovery process, physically and emotionally. She dedicates her time to ensuring that youth understand the importance of wearing a helmet. "If I can impact one kid to just take that extra couple of seconds to put their helmet on before they go out on a quad or motor bike – even a street bike, then it's so worth it to me," she says.

Perhaps the highlight of her calendar, aside from spending time with her daughters, is Rachel's time with Smoke. Rachel travels to Equilibrium Therapeutic Riding every Friday to ride her favourite horse who is appropriately dubbed the 'Richard Gere' of stallions by staff. "When I first started going, I was in a wheelchair, but now I'm walking with a quad-cane, walker and by myself and Smoke has helped me with all of those accomplishments," explains Rachel. "The first time I was able to stand up on my own from my wheelchair and give my daughters a hug – that felt like a million dollars," she says with a big smile.

In Rachel's eyes, SaskAbilities has provided her with much more than just access to activities and resources, "It's always great to have positive people in your corner, no matter what corner you're in." ❧



THE NUMBERS

2,831

metric tonnes diverted from the landfill by RecyclAbility Enterprises

77

new jobs found by Partners in Employment

15

transitioning Youth to Employment clients

40

Partners in Employment clients

12

Youth Employment Skills Strategy clients

YORKTON BRANCH

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Communication and collaboration was the primary focus of the Yorkton Branch as many challenges were faced and overcome to ensure the safety of clients, staff and the community during this past year. The Branch was adaptive in reinventing work and client spaces to accommodate public health orders and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Working closely with the City of Yorkton, the Branch was quick to ensure Transit and Recycling services continued operations during the initial lockdown. Yorkton Branch also assisted the local SARCAN with its province-wide pandemic response. This year also saw the expansion of Partners in Mental Health and Well-Being services to include virtual programming and one-on-one support in the community which was essential in keeping communication with clients open and fluid. Utilizing and embracing technology in a big way, the Branch implemented a new client booking system for services and introduced MyCompass

new software as a case management and communication tool. The Yorkton Branch also secured federal funding to launch the Youth Job Connections program to unemployed youth in the community.

The global pandemic was an invitation to improve relationships with caregivers, increase marketing of services to community partners and citizens, strengthen connection with local schools, families and the City of Yorkton. In the third quarter of 2020, the Branch was proud to have offered over 400 hours of respite support in the community. Despite the challenges and uncertainty, the Yorkton Branch moved forward with a strong commitment to strengthen connections to ensure the health and safety of staff, clients and community members. 🧡



THIS IS WHAT RESILIENCE IS ALL ABOUT



Resilience is something everyone is talking about lately. It means “the capacity to adapt and recover in the face of adversity.” It would be an understatement to say our resilience has been tested over the last months.

From the day the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic, to March 18 when the Province of Saskatchewan declared a State of Emergency and closed all non-essential services — including SaskAbilities programs — through the many ups and downs since then, we have all been asked to demonstrate our resilience.

This is especially true for SaskAbilities participants, whose daily routines have been turned upside down thanks to COVID-19.

“We worried about the impact on clients,” says Aleks Hoeber, Program Manager at the Yorkton Branch. “Staff redoubled efforts to find new, innovative ways to support clients through one of the most challenging, chaotic and confusing of times. They used phone calls, texts and emails to stay connected to clients and their families, and to make adaptations to programming.”

Wendy Haberman, a support worker at the day program, discovered that a number of women in the program seemed motivated to stay connected and were also comfortable using technology. That gave her an idea.

“We thought exercise would be a great way to keep the women motivated and engaged in programming, but we wondered how to do that when we’re all staying at home,” Wendy says. “That’s when we came up with the idea of FaceTime aerobics.”

Other gyms and fitness centres were organizing virtual classes, so SaskAbilities staff decided to adapt the idea. The women FaceTime each other twice a week from their own homes and work through a 20 to 30-minute exercise routine. The exercise helps them maintain physical and mental well-being, while also providing a much-needed social connection.

“Even after staff left the virtual meeting, the women would stay on and visit with one another,”

Wendy says. “They kept each other accountable. If other duties kept staff from being there on days they planned to work out, one of the participants would take the initiative and call the others or ask a caregiver to help them out.”

FaceTime aerobics created a bond of friendship that helped the women cope with the loneliness of observing the COVID-19 restrictions. It also had a positive physical impact. When the group started, most could do 10 to 12 reps of each exercise; the more they met, the more they pushed themselves. Over the weeks, staff observed noticeable improvements in function.

The day program was allowed to re-open in July with strict new cleaning protocols, reduced attendance and physical distancing guidelines. “We divided the day program into three different physical spaces, as opposed to our usual two. Support workers introduced ‘themes’ with corresponding activities, crafts, games, handouts and videos,” Hoeber says. “It wasn’t always easy for participants to adapt to the new routines, but the women from the FaceTime aerobics group were able to adjust and thrive in the new environment.”

The women banded together to make the best of the new situation. They spent their days learning about camping, fishing, horses, trees, bugs and butterflies. They learned to draw and create pottery masterpieces, and they supported one another by taking turns reading, offering answers to quizzes and sharing personal stories.

“One of the best things was that staff and participants were able to continue the aerobics and healthy living plan once we got back in the building,” Aleks says. “Twice a week at the same time, the women would go to the Sensory Gym, where there was more space and everyone could physically distance.”

As the world continues to navigate through the pandemic, it is wonderful to hear the sounds of laughter filling the Yorkton Branch once again. Every day, our clients demonstrate resilience, perhaps none more so than this group of women, whose bond of friendship has inspired us all. 🌟

REHABILITATION SERVICES

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Thriving in the face of adversity and adapting to change is nothing new for Rehabilitation Services. This dynamic area of SaskAbilities includes Special Needs Equipment, Orthopaedics, Adaptive Technology and the Accessible Parking Program.

Each year these programs serve thousands of unique clients, some with extremely complex needs and 2020 was no exception. Despite the presence of a global pandemic, there was no shortage of clients who faced challenges due to medical crises including heart attacks and strokes, disabling accidents, and families needing to care for their ailing loved ones.

Rehabilitation Services continued to provide support to meet the individual needs of clients while adapting to new safety protocols and procedures. Whether it was a new piece of equipment or simply a repair to maintain an existing device, the care and attention provided by Rehabilitation Services team to improve health, enhance independence and enrich quality of life for people in Saskatchewan continued to be the primary focus during this most unique year. 🎮



THE NUMBERS

9,347

clients served in
Orthopaedics

19,363

permits issued for
the Accessible Parking
Program

77

clients served in
Adaptive Technology

34,106

pieces of equipment
issued in Special Needs
Equipment

25,981

pieces of equipment
returned in Special Needs
Equipment

FACILITATING CONNECTION THROUGH ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Anyone who has ever met Nicolas Vaagen would easily describe him as an intelligent young man with a quick wit and vibrant personality. Nic enjoys video games, socializing with friends and giving his parents a hard time with a slight grin on his face. His optimism and outlook on life, unlike most, has been shaped by a serious car accident that found him hospitalized in Saskatoon for nearly six months.

Late in the afternoon on August 19, 2019, traveling on Highway 11 back to Saskatoon from Warman, Nic was t-boned by a truck at a high rate of speed. With off-duty first responders in a nearby vehicle, he was lucky to receive medical attention right away. Nicolas would spend the next three weeks in an induced coma at the Royal University Hospital with his parents by his side. With doctors initially asking parents Carla and Russ to consider the possibility of their son not making it, Nic began squeezing their hands on his left side – he was communicating. From there, Carla and Russ decided to change Nic's course.

The couple knew it would be a long journey but Nic would fight through it – which is exactly what he did. "I guess it was a real promising sign when I had enough agency to pull out the feeding tube," laughs Nic, "I didn't want a feeding tube, I didn't need a feeding tube, I wanted out of this – I wanted to go home." Noting Nic could be a "full-time job" at times in the hospital, Carla and Russ would see vast improvements in their son over the following months.

"My personality, from what I can tell and what I'm aware of, has not changed in any meaningful way. It's changed in the way that my life circumstances have very much changed," explains Nic who, prior to the accident, was a Computer Science student at the University of Saskatchewan. While Nic's personality and sense of humour is still very much intact, the accident has made it difficult for him to do some of his favourite things, like gaming. Cue

Adaptive Technology and Andrew Baenziger, the Electronics Technologist on staff at SaskAbilities who took a personal interest in this project. "As a regular PC gamer, getting someone back into the hobby they love is a real opportunity. A project like this requires creativity and improvising. With Nic and his family having such open minds and thoughtful ideas, it made this a fun, collaborative project for me," explains Andrew.

Since returning home January 28, 2020 the world has changed and not just for the Vaagens. With a global pandemic making it hard to communicate and visit with friends, gaming is not just a form of entertainment and cognitive stimulation, it is a way for Nic to socialize. "Since the accident and with COVID-19 it has been difficult for Nic to reconnect with his friends and be social. We know a big part of gaming is the interaction he has with his buddies and we just want him to have that without the physical barriers and dexterity issues. He probably doesn't want us around all the time trying to 'help' him too," joke parents, Carla and Russ.

Having never undertaken such a project before, Andrew spent many hours tweaking the system with some additional help. "Nic and his family have been a pleasure to work with from day one. Because of COVID-19 and the delays we saw as a result, I got to see Nic numerous times over the course of several months. In that time, I saw some staggering improvements on his part, and each time we met there were new options, new ideas and lots to discuss. Because everything about a gaming setup is going to be custom, I was able to collaborate with our Paediatric Wooden Equipment and Special Needs Equipment departments, which really made it a unique opportunity," said Andrew of this one-of-a-kind project. With the gaming system in the final stages of completion, both Nic and Andrew are very excited to be so close to the finish line. For Nic, his big plans for the future include playing *Halo: Combat Evolved* without help from mom or dad. 🎮



THE NUMBERS

399

Open Future Learning
modules completed
by staff

747

hours of virtual
programming provided
to participants in
Quality of Life

142

community connection
opportunities for
participants in
Quality of Life

2,931

gowns manufactured

4,990

masks manufactured



REGINA BRANCH

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The focus for the Regina Branch in 2020 was in two very defined strategic directions: serving clients and community with excellence, and organizational sustainability. Despite many challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the year, SaskAbilities' vision was mobilized through attainable goals, adapting to change and of course, teamwork.

Regina Branch program offerings were optimized through the launch of a web-based, person-centred case management system called *MyCompass* in early 2020. This allowed staff to interactively develop participant profiles, capturing their essence through pictures, personal stories, and meaningful support notes unique to each individual. While strengthening relationships with stakeholders and partners was a major focus of 2020, the Branch saw first-hand the evidence of these important connections as the pandemic was declared. These relationships allowed staff members to seamlessly transition and adapt service delivery in a timely manner. The pandemic also fostered new relationships such as with Carmichael Outreach which allowed for hundreds of

meals to be prepared for individuals in need using the Branch's commercial kitchen facility.

Regina Branch took the opportunity during Disability Employment Awareness Month to highlight businesses in Regina and Moose Jaw which continue to hire and retain Partners in Employment job seekers.

Regional Director, Corey Hadden, is pleased to have been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC) and Special Olympics Saskatchewan.

Much collaboration and interaction was had with staff members throughout the year around organizational sustainability as a strategic initiative. This included the goal of creating a culture of mutual ownership where people are put before systems as well as encouraging and facilitating group and self-directed learning opportunities. Increased focus was also placed on mental health awareness and the psychological well-being of staff members and participants as COVID-19 elevated its importance.

Additional training investments were made this year in the proper use of personal protective equipment in residential services and CPR/First Aid.

Making organizational effectiveness a top priority, considerable time and thought was put into developing a job hazard analysis for each position given the global pandemic. The Branch also utilized and adapted already developed systems including safety activity cards, to further empower staff in creating consistency of approach and use critical thinking in times of adversity. While this year was unlike any other, the Regina Branch has been most grateful for the collaborations and relationships strengthened. 🌱



BUILDING CONFIDENCE THROUGH PURPOSE

Watching clients grow in their confidence and reach their goals has been such a highlight at SaskAbilities in 2020. With a lot of self determination and hard work, Stefan Anderson is a client turned employee who is an integral part of Regina's Wood Products department. Diagnosed on the autism spectrum, the 27-year-old loves his job and has found much purpose in his work. "Stefan has grown into the man he is today because he believes in himself. He knows the world isn't perfect, but he is willing to grow as a person to better himself and others around him. That is what has helped him get where he is today. Make a mistake, fix it, note it and move on," explains Tony Thompson, Supervisor in Regina's Wood Products department.

Arriving at SaskAbilities in 2012, Stefan admits he had a lot of growing up to do. After leaving and returning as a client in the Partners in Employment's New Opportunities for Work (NOW) program, Stefan transitioned to an employee with the help and mentorship of his supervisor, Tony. "Without Tony I wouldn't be where I am today. Honestly, he and John [Dong] have helped me out a lot in my maturity, productivity and just being a better person," says Stefan, who credits his professional growth in helping him expand in his personal independence.

Stefan lives on his own, something he never thought he would do. Reflecting back on his first taste of adult independence, Stefan remembers taking the bus for the first time on his own; something his mom encouraged him to do. "Stefan becoming more independent was definitely a progression. I honestly believe when you show your children you have faith in them, it gives them more drive," says mom, Gizelle Pinel. Also noting how much employment has brought purpose into her son's life, Gizelle is quick to offer gratitude for the staff members at SaskAbilities, "You don't get supervisors like the ones Stefan has very often – they have made a huge impact on him,

contributed to his growth and independence and I can't say enough about that."

Stefan's appreciation for his job has grown since the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Seeing people struggle and lose their jobs across the country made a real impact on him. "Because we build essential goods, I wasn't away from work too long after the first lockdown. It made me feel good that I could build crates, pallets and other things our customers needed. It gave me a lot of purpose," explains Stefan. Equally as appreciative for Stefan's hard work, Tony has watched him evolve in his care and attention on the job. "A real positive thing about Stefan is that he cares about the process and making good on the work being done.

He takes in the advice given and tries to put it into his day. He is willing to speak up if things don't look right or I have missed a nail," says Tony.

Talking about his future, Stefan hopes to move from casual to permanent part time. While he has tried working in other departments at SaskAbilities, Wood Products is his absolute favourite. "I am always excited to come to work. It makes it easy that I'm getting paid to do what I love. I really enjoy working with my hands and seeing the results of my hard work at the end of the day," reflects a very proud Stefan. ❧



THE NUMBERS

125

people participated
in our virtual fundraiser
*Superhero Bowl:
Walk, Wheel, Run*

52%

increase in Quality of Life
clients served

85

community-hosted virtual
tours for Quality of Life
programs

90%

increase in SARCAN
Drop & Go customers

SWIFT CURRENT BRANCH

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Although unpredictable and unprecedented, 2020 has truly been the year of the superhero. The Swift Current Branch wishes to recognize the teams who worked tirelessly throughout the province-wide, pandemic-related closures including the Swift Current Recycle Depot, Special Needs Equipment Depot, Commercial Sewing, and Transit teams. Thank you for your efforts in maintaining service delivery throughout the past year; your dedication truly makes you the superheroes. Community recognition was also felt as students of Swift Current's O.M. Irwin School sent a note to transit staff for bus driver appreciation week on November 23: "Thanks to the best bus driver, we like how you roll!"

The year also saw the Branch's program team power through a transition into virtual programming with both staff and clients stepping up as superheroes in adjusting to using technology as a means of connecting. Quality of Life programs for youth and adults were able to extend into rural communities across southwest Saskatchewan, making a meaningful impact while furthering reach.

Partners in Employment in Swift Current continued to support job seekers through remote employment classes, safe on-site job

coaching, and resume services. Disability Employment Awareness Month was officially proclaimed in the City of Swift Current in October highlighting support from the local Canadian Tire, which has made inclusive employment a top priority.

Despite the cancellation of Ability Bowl, superheroes were still celebrated through the introduction of an alternative event, the Superhero Bowl: Walk, Wheel, Run. Active living, fresh air and safe fundraising were encouraged with many walkers, cyclists and runners partaking in the late summer event including top fundraiser and wheelchair racer, Madison Lawrence who raised nearly \$3,000. Special thanks to the Swift Current Municipal RCMP for their efforts, running in 24-degree heat around the local high school track after raising \$1,100.

The SARCAN depot was recognized at the 2020 virtual Swift Current and District Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence (SCBEX) Awards this fall. The hardworking and dedicated team was celebrated for their heroic success in the



"Employer of Persons with Disabilities" category and even received a congratulatory letter from Swift Current MLA and the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health, Everett Hindley.

To summarize the perseverance and dedication of SaskAbilities Swift Current clients and staff members in 2020, a quote by the original Superman, Christopher Reeve, comes to mind, "A hero is someone who, in spite of weakness, doubt or not always knowing the answers, goes ahead and overcomes anyway." 🦹



SOCIAL LEISURE YOUTH PROGRAM RETURNS WITH BIG IMPACT

The Swift Current Branch relaunched their youth program, SLYP-Out, in January 2020 with much support from the community. The program experienced rapid growth and interest grew as the COVID-19 pandemic forced many changes for families. With initial activities in person, the program transitioned virtually which allowed for youth from surrounding communities in the southwest to join including those from Gull Lake, Wiseton, Kyle and Eston.

Sixteen-year-old Anonyo (Anu) Ragib of Swift Current, is no stranger to SaskAbilities programming. He has participated in Summer Fun activities and was a regular face at the re-launched SLYP-Out program. "They [SaskAbilities] are always keeping him engaged and Anu really wants to be participating in all the activities offered. Anytime we hear of something new going on, we ask Anu if he wants to join, and he is always eager to go," explains Anu's mom, Kakoli.

Originally from Bangladesh, Zakir and Kakoli moved to Canada when Anu was one year old. The family then moved to Germany for a few years and returned to Canada, living in Ontario and New Brunswick before

making their way to Saskatchewan. With Anu now a teenager and diagnosed on the autism spectrum, the family is happily calling Swift Current home for the next while. Anu's diagnosis has meant he struggles with initiating engagement and verbal skills but loves to be around people and feel included in activities. He is also Kakoli's sous chef in the kitchen and master Lego builder with a collection worthy of being displayed in their home.

The global pandemic was a change for the family; Anu, like most kids, became bored and at times sad. SLYP-Out and Summer Fun virtual programming was a welcome opportunity for positive social connection. Activity kits were sent out to all 43 participants, including Anu. "I had the opportunity to support Anu through the Summer Fun program. It was a new experience for everyone doing remote programming. Anu was shy at first but always came prepared. He soon warmed up and began speaking up in activities and became a group leader. He was always so encouraging and helping of other participants. It was great to have him involved," described Allison, a support worker for Summer Fun programming at SaskAbilities. For mom and dad, Zakir and Kakoli, they are just happy to see

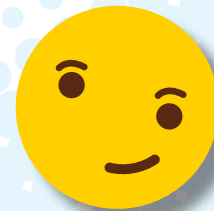
their son enjoying connecting with other youth, making friends and creating lots of positive memories.

The Swift Current Branch would also like to extend a warm *thank you* to the many community partners who volunteered and offered support throughout 2020 including the staff and management at RBC. "We at RBC feel privileged to collaborate with SaskAbilities in support of the important work they do across Saskatchewan," expressed Jamal Habib, RBC's Community Manager of Southwest Saskatchewan.

"Inspired by the tireless Board of Directors, employees, and volunteers of SaskAbilities, we at RBC have experienced first-hand the importance of giving the gift of time back to this tremendous organization and their vibrant youth programming," continued Habib. "We also have benefitted from the many rewards that come with working closely with the remarkable youth this organization serves. Together, our two organizations share in the values of diversity and inclusion and recognize that we all have a role to play in advocating for belonging for people experiencing disability." 🌟



CAMP EASTER SEAL



A YEAR IN REVIEW

The beginning of 2020 held much promise for an exciting camping season. A new registration process was created through camp management software called CampBrain, allowing for a seamless online experience for campers and their families. In early 2020 a review of Camp Easter Seal with Prairie Wild Consulting began, resulting in a report that included useful data and stories, peer reviews of other Easter Seal camps across the country, research on best practices and recommendations to be shared with stakeholders.

With the consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic, a difficult decision was made by the SaskAbilities' Board of Directors to pause the in-person camping season for 2020. True to form, whether in fair or stormy weather, Camp Easter Seal stayed together – through virtual programming. While not quite the same, campers and families understood and offered their support for the consideration of everyone's health and safety. During the months of July and August Camp Easter Seal delivered online programming to the camper community

across Saskatchewan by engaging campers and keeping them connected during the year's most uncertain times.

Without the hustle and bustle of campers much work was done in the way of maintenance and upgrades over the summer months. Staff members were kept busy from May to October with seasonal work, overseeing delivery of online programming and making significant updates to facility maintenance plans and projects. Through funds accessed by Canada Summer Jobs federal grant, seasonal staff were hired to work at Camp Easter Seal.

Completed facility projects included major renovations to the pool and aquatics building, clean out of old camp building and storage areas, as well as inspection and maintenance of all heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. Camp vehicles and equipment received much needed TLC and we are sad to report the famous wagon, that carried hundreds of campers on outings, had to be retired. Upgrades to the

Chalet and Dining Hall began in August including exterior stonework, new roofing and new windows. New power pole infrastructure was installed due to damage caused by high winds in June.

Camp Easter Seal would like to extend a very warm thank you to the Village of Manitou Beach for their continued support during the summer months through participation in virtual tours, warm messages of missing the energy of campers and staff in the community. We are also grateful for the invaluable relationship built throughout many years with the Draggins Rod & Custom Car Club. Their support continued into 2020 despite the cancellation of the annual Draggins Rod & Custom Car Show and we thank them for their major contribution to the renovation of Camp's aquatic centre.

In 2020, Camp Easter Seal remained a community of belonging even though physically apart. 🏠

THE NUMBERS

165

165 registered and occasional drop-in guests

34

different communities across SASK were represented at Camp

50%+

of registered campers were 29 years of age or younger

7

weeks online Camp programming

3

times per week plus Wednesday evening campfires

CAMP EASTER SEAL CREATES POSSIBILITY



Mohammad Abdullah has a smile so infectious it lights up the room! The 17-year-old Marion M. Graham Collegiate student living in Saskatoon immigrated to Canada from Pakistan nine years ago with his parents and four siblings. The family of seven are big supporters of Camp Easter Seal. It has had a positive impact on Mohammad, and on two of his sisters Sara and Khadija who attended in the past.

Diagnosed with a very rare genetic disorder called Morquio Syndrome, Mohammad's parents were uncertain how it would impact his development and quality of life. The genetic condition is degenerative with no known cure. It impacts the bones, spine and organs which directly affects physical growth and mobility, among many other developmental issues. Mohammad requires the use of a wheelchair as well as hearing aids and special lenses for visibility. "We felt really comfortable with him attending Camp Easter Seal. Keeping in mind his abilities, it makes us incredibly happy to see him participating, smiling and feeling included. We are grateful for these programs that give Mohammad the opportunity to explore himself and meet friends who also have their own stories and conditions," says parents Mohammad and Shazia.



While Camp Easter Seal looked much different in 2020, Mohammad was still excited to reconnect with his camper friends from across Saskatchewan. Reflecting on previous years Mohammad admits his favourite times at Camp are the parties. "I love the night before we go home. We eat, dance and party – it's a really good time," says Mohammad with a grin from ear to ear. Not letting COVID-19 impact his social calendar, Mohammad took part in Camp Easter Seal programming online and additional SaskAbilities virtual activities through Summer Fun and SLYP-Out. "Before attending Camp and other SaskAbilities programs, Mohammad was very shy. We have seen an incredibly positive change in his life as his confidence grows," express his parents. Mohammad's favourite virtual Camp activity: "the online bonfires and just seeing my friends again," he says.

"As parents we have thought in the past about how is he going to move forward in his future. He is very motivated now to talk to his friends and make those connections. We see lots of possibilities for him and his future. We are very proud of him," says Mohammad's father. Like many parents, the couple is looking forward to supporting their son in the milestones that lie ahead including graduating from high school and finding employment. For Mohammad, he is most excited to continue to build the relationships he has made with fellow campers, and, of course, when he and his friends can all meet in person on the grounds of Camp Easter Seal again. 🌟

FUND DEVELOPMENT

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Fund Development generates revenue through direct appeal, delivery of special events, third-party fundraising activities, and planned giving. Our team fosters new donor relationships while maintaining rooted connections. We raise funds through events that are not solely orchestrated by SaskAbilities but also through third-party investment as well as through direct appeal campaigns. We look for immediate funding as well as future possibilities, such as legacy giving. Our ultimate purpose is to ensure that SaskAbilities continues to sustain under-funded and unfunded programs and services for people experiencing disability in Saskatchewan.

In 2020, the Fund Development team experienced a lot of change during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we had to cancel many events that involved in-person contact, we were overwhelmed by everyone's support through third-party initiatives, increased giving from direct appeals, and response to social media.

The Saskatchewan Automobile Dealers Association, Century 21 Fusion, Century 21 Dome, Brainsport, and Easter Seals Charity Golf were some of our local partners that came up with creative ways to continue fundraising throughout 2020 and achieved great results.

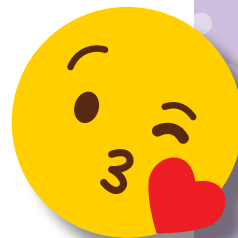
Our flagship special events are Drop Zone in Regina, Snowarama in Yorkton, and Ability Bowl in Swift Current. Yorkton started 2020 off with a successful Snowarama event in February. This marked the 43rd year that riders from all over the Yorkton area and beyond have supported this event. There's a lot of love in Yorkton and they worked hard to achieve a result of over \$92,000! A big shout-out to their top fundraiser, Kenn Propp, who raised over \$20,000!

Swift Current dealt with a number of challenges that COVID-19 presented for Ability Bowl as it is traditionally a large gathering of participants at Frontier Lanes Bowling Alley. The team worked together to reinvent Ability Bowl for 2020 and generated just over \$67,000 through a 50/50 lottery and a wrap-up event called Walk, Wheel, Run that engaged participants and the community in a safe way.

We continue to experience many acts of kindness from our supporters and we are very grateful to have such strong community connections that make our programs and services possible. Thank you, everyone, for your contributions and for helping to improve the quality of life of individuals experiencing disability in Saskatchewan. 🙏



PARTNERS



SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION CENTRES

SaskAbilities is a proud member of SARC and operates three recycling depots under franchise from SARC, a non-profit association representing community-based organizations that provide residential, development and employment supports and services to thousands of individuals with disabilities.

EASTER SEALS™ CANADA

SaskAbilities is a member of Easter Seals™ Canada and owns the rights to Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan. The national organization is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life, self-esteem and self-determination of individuals with disabilities in Canada.

SASKATCHEWAN PREVENTION INSTITUTE

SaskAbilities is a key funding partner of the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute, a non-profit organization whose focus is reducing the occurrence of disabling conditions in children using primary prevention methods.



BEQUESTS

It is with deep gratitude that we honour and recognize the following individuals who remembered SaskAbilities in their wills.

Estate of Joan Evelyn Hughes

Estate of Brenda L. Kramer

Estate of Siegfried Kunstel

Estate of Glenn Murray Lemchuk

Estate of Patricia Shirley Parnell

Estate of Lorna Jean Pinkerton

Estate of Olive Sitler

Estate of Bernadette Weinkauff

Estate of Kuenna Zsoka

TRUSTS

Estate of Peter J. Dyck

Estate of William Wallace McDonald

ENDOWMENTS

SaskAbilities' endowments are held in perpetuity. The principal remains intact and only the income earned is used to support the programs and services of SaskAbilities.

Arthur, Ella, and Connie Tillman Endowment Fund
\$132,558.58

Spirit of Independence Fund
\$241,879.18

Feingertz Research Fund
\$169,233.29

Every year we are grateful and humbled by the generous support of individuals, businesses and organizations who donate to SaskAbilities. We thank all of our donors for their contributions in 2020 – your support plays a pivotal role in helping children and adults experiencing disability reach their goals and achieve success!



FUND DEVELOPMENT

2020 MEMBER LEADERS

SaskAbilities is a member-based organization. Those who make an annual minimum gift of \$150 during the membership year are recognized as Member Leaders.



Donor names are recognized with permission.

Donor information is carefully reviewed for accuracy. We sincerely apologize if there are errors or omissions and ask that you contact our Fund Development office at 306.374.4448 if you note any inaccuracies.

Don Abrahamson
Brian Anderson
Dr. Sue Ashburner
Connie Asmundson
Rino Bacchetto
Russ Bainbridge
Phyllis Baker
Paul Blackstock
Garry D. Bratt
Randall and Doreen Chapman
Keith Chaytor and Jamie Untereiner
Kyle L. Chriest
Brian and Darlene Cocks
Mr. Pat and Mrs. Pat Cooper
Vicki Corbin
Brian and Linda Davis
Marcie and Bill Delday
John Denysek
Kimi M. Duzan
Paul and Kathie Dyck
Dwayne and Karen Fettes

Ernest and Ruth Geisbauer
Genesis Holdings Ltd.
Jeanne F. Gosselin Paul
Elizabeth V. Guest
L. Jean Halliday
Victor Hamilton
Conrad P. Hammer
Byron and Lorraine Harvie
C. Jane Horner
Harold Horvey
Mr. A. J. Jacek
Linda Klein
Bruno and Marjorie Konecsni
Romeo and Janice Lacelle
Graham and Anita Langford
Stanley Lautsch and Marilyn
Mudry-Lautsch
Carl and Diane Lind
Eveleen M. Long
Ewen MacLeod
Sarah Maskell

Ken and Rhoda McCallen
Murray McMillan
Dr. Isabelle M. Mills
Ron and Cheryl Minke
Karen Moore
Dr. Ulla Nielsen
Joan Page
Murray and Adele Pask
Lyle Phillips
Helen Pranke
John Prietchuk
Heather Rasmussen
Rayner Agencies Ltd.
Reg Ronyk
Dr. Lila M. Rudachyk
Don and Jackie Schaitel
Thresa Schreiner
Gerald Schroeder
Dr. Songul A. Serafi
Ms. Elizabeth Sexton
Dr. James N. Smart

Charles and Marjorie Smith
Peter and Corinne Smith
Tom and Darlene Spence
Lorraine Stewart and Edward Blouin
Colleen P. Stueck
John D. and Elizabeth Thompson
Trawin Farms Ltd.
Elsie Voegeli
Irene G. Wiebe
Ian and Kirsten Wilkinson
Don and Dorothy Zopf

2020 COMPANION CLUB

Individuals are recognized as Companion Club donors if they contribute regular monthly gifts, making a world of difference throughout the year in support of SaskAbilities and Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan.

Jim Achtymichuk
Corey Adam
Erika O. Altwasser
Cameron Anton
Phyllis Baker
Mary Ann Beavis
Edwin E. Beland
Jeff and Lara Bergen
Ronald and Sandra Bland
Randy Boyko
Sandy Braun
Joylene Campbell
Joseph and Sylvia Chorney
Wayne and Margaret Clarke
Rita Coghill
Vicki Corbin
Brian and Linda Davis
Steven and Stella Devenney
Richard Keith Downey
Marilyn Drever
Bev Engstrom
Lyanne Engstrom
Eberhard Fass
Keith and Jennifer Fillingner
Aime and Raymonde Forcier
Linda Forzley
Andrea Gareau
Sylvia Gent
Carl and Joan Gillis
Jeanne F. Gosselin Paul
Helen Gress
Lawrence and Elaine Gusta
Dr. Corey Hadden
George and Shirley Haines
James Hall
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Julie Harder
Katherine Hayduk
Gail Hetherington
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Higgins

Stan Holcomb
Susan Hone
Nora Horan
Dr. Mel Hosain
Joyce Huber
Kathy James
Derek Kelln
Marcus Koeberlin
Donna Kolenowski
David and Carla Lammers
Tavia Langenkamp
Mary Lee
Leonard Lewko
Verona MacDonald
Marie Mahan
Gladys McCarthy
Meredith McKague
Karen Moore
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Mary Parchewsky
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Dean and Verna Pederson
Harvey and Ellen Penner
Lyle Phillips
Helen Pranke
Jim Pratt
John Prietchuk
Linda Redekop
A. James Reid
Paul M. Robinson
Janice Robson
Reg Ronyk
Albert Running
Janice Rutherford
Diane Ryalls
Blaine Scott
Mrs. Pauline Semenuik
Peggy Simenson
Gail Sinnett
Dr. James N. Smart
Cobus and Lize-Marie Smith
Jennifer Smith
Karen Smith

Lorraine Stewart and Edward Blouin
Tanika Transport
Hailey Thirsk
Janice Thomas
Alphonse Ulriksen
Kristine Urmson
Jodi Utke
Eleanor Vesey
Dr. Mark and Mrs. Tracy Wahba
Donna Waselyshen
Susanne Welechenko
Milaura Whitta
Ian and Kirsten Wilkinson
Debora Wotherspoon



FUNDERS



MAJOR GIFTS

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their generous cash donations.

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Jamieson | Ms. Wendy Oberle | Haunted town of Lil-Sur-Mur



\$10,000 – \$24,999

Dr. Ulla Nielsen | Ms. Jade Skinner - Alice Grace Fundraising Golf Tournament



\$25,000 – \$49,999



\$50,000+

Katherine J. Leshko in honour of her son, Daryl Leshko



LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION

In 2020, SaskAbilities recognized the following staff members for their dedicated service.

.....

40 YEARS

Carol Duerksen

30 YEARS

Lyle Cassidy

25 YEARS

Patricia Bell
Glen Bessette
Crystal Ho

20 Years

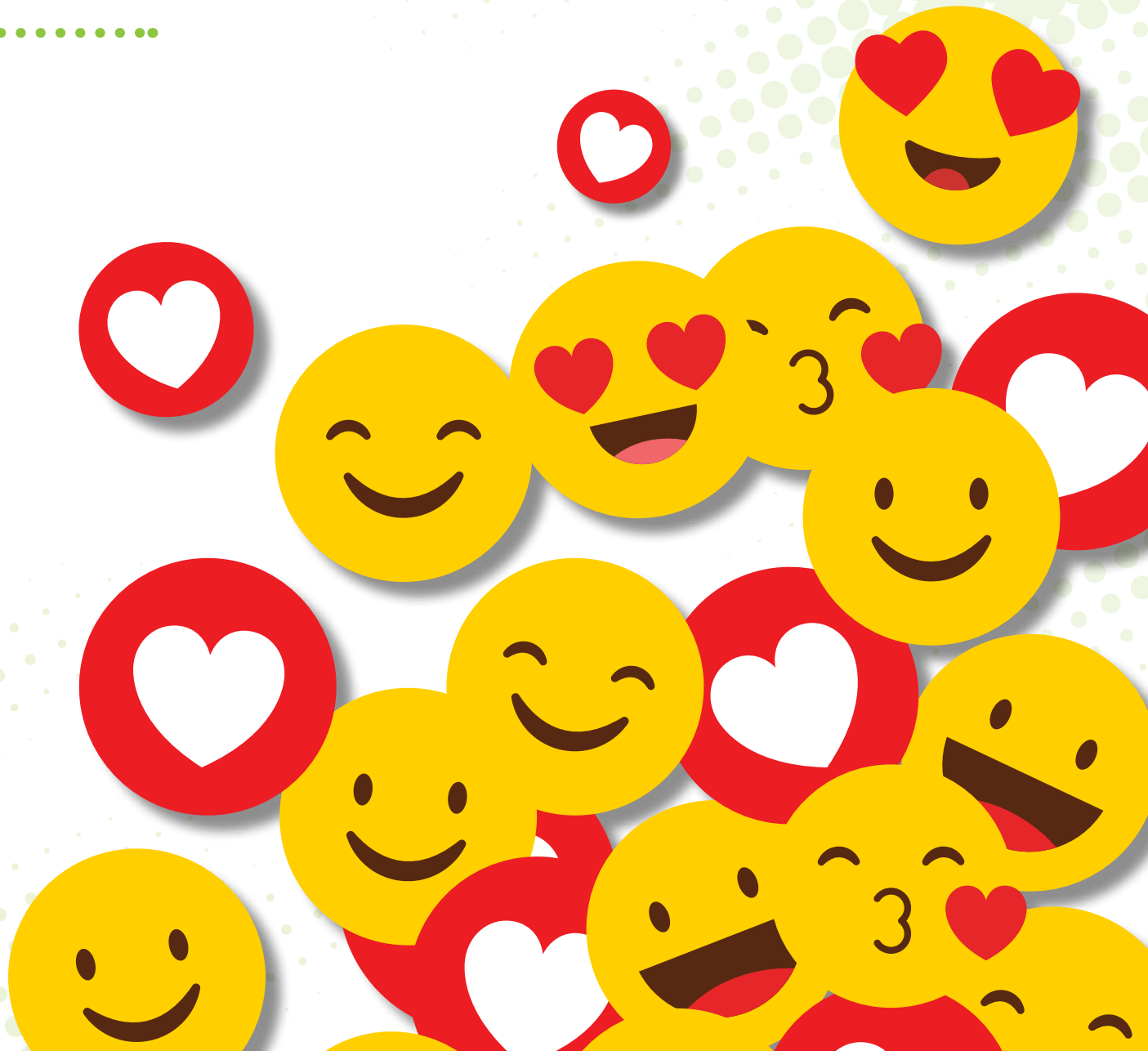
Lori-Lynn Rust
Beverly Schrader

15 Years

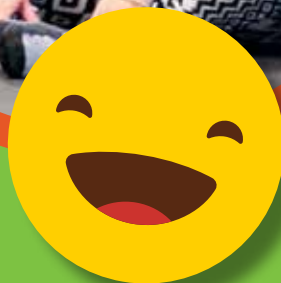
Raelynne Doka
Erin Elsasser
Shauna Hunchak
Christopher Perrett
Lynn Peterson
Roberta Peterson
Jacqueline Powell
Anthony Thompson

10 Years

Tracy Beaudry
Kirk Heidecker
Gareth Idler
Lance Krienke
John Kuva
Alan Lepage
Lisa May
Cheryl McKechney
Donald Reddekop
Keith Rieger
Shannon Saemann
Shelly Sandherr
Stefan Schilling
Bryan Stupak
Terri Thompson
Ian Wilkins
Tracy Wright







FINANCIALS



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	2020	2019
REVENUE		
Regina Branch	\$ 7,350,854	\$ 7,699,936
Saskatoon Branch	8,771,224	8,390,118
Swift Current Branch	3,070,052	2,872,481
Yorkton Branch	5,687,947	5,633,588
Camp Easter Seal	234,495	755,238
Rehabilitation Services	12,543,330	13,296,633
Provincial Administration	1,742,929	1,927,166
	39,400,831	40,575,160
EXPENSES		
Regina Branch	7,395,604	7,774,842
Saskatoon Branch	8,706,351	8,612,360
Swift Current Branch	3,066,861	2,946,470
Yorkton Branch	5,773,152	5,942,609
Camp Easter Seal	810,514	1,354,711
Rehabilitation Services	12,871,435	13,101,891
Provincial Administration	337,343	523,783
	38,961,260	40,256,666
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	439,571	318,494
OTHER REVENUE	1,143,708	-
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 1,583,279	\$ 318,494

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020

	2020	2019
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 6,590,627	\$ 3,209,297
Investments	520,853	-
Accounts receivable	1,808,686	1,693,917
Inventories	1,152,708	1,153,281
Prepaid expenses	268,352	295,007
	10,341,226	6,351,502
DESIGNATED INVESTMENTS	853,660	1,000,731
CAPITAL ASSETS	10,315,483	9,168,089
	\$ 21,510,369	\$ 16,520,322
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 3,685,302	\$ 3,886,073
Deferred grants	2,051,166	1,602,997
Other liability	2,708,064	-
Scheduled repayments of callable debt	30,212	30,212
Current portion of long term debt	7,199	7,236
	8,481,943	5,526,518
Callable debt	215,666	245,878
	8,697,609	5,772,396
LONG TERM DEBT	75,565	82,764
DEFERRED DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS	59,989	179,325
UNAMORTIZED CAPITAL ASSET FUNDING	3,347,333	2,628,270
	12,180,496	8,662,755
NET ASSETS		
Net assets restricted for endowment purposes	543,671	539,089
Internally restricted net assets invested in capital assets	6,808,902	6,320,050
Internally restricted net assets - other	250,000	282,317
Unrestricted net assets	1,727,300	716,111
	9,329,873	7,857,567
	\$ 21,510,369	\$ 16,520,322



Please see
our website
saskabilities.ca
for the complete
audited financial
statements and
notes.



STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Internally Restricted			Externally Restricted for Endowment Purposes	Unrestricted	2020 Total	2019 Total
	Invested in Capital Assets	Other	Total				
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 6,320,050	\$ 282,317	\$ 6,602,367	\$ 539,089	\$ 716,111	\$ 7,857,567	\$ 7,565,243
Excess of revenue over expenses	-	-	-	-	1,583,279	1,583,279	318,494
Employee future benefits remeasurements and other items	-	-	-	-	(115,555)	(115,555)	(37,000)
Transfers	-	(32,317)	(32,317)	-	32,317	-	-
Amortization of capital assets	(710,608)	-	(710,608)	-	710,608	-	-
Capital asset funding recognized	227,550	-	227,550	-	(227,550)	-	-
Capital asset funding deferred	(946,613)	-	(946,613)	-	946,613	-	-
Purchase of capital assets	1,860,738	-	1,860,738	-	(1,860,738)	-	-
Gain on disposal of capital assets	20,337	-	20,337	-	(20,337)	-	-
Repayment of callable debt	30,212	-	30,212	-	(30,212)	-	-
long term debt	7,236	-	7,236	-	(7,236)	-	-
Interest income earned on endowment funds	-	-	-	4,582	-	4,582	10,830
Balance, end of year	\$ 6,808,902	\$ 250,000	\$ 7,058,902	\$ 543,671	\$ 1,727,300	\$ 9,329,873	\$ 7,857,567

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	2020	2019
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 1,583,279	\$ 318,494
Interest income earned on endowment funds	4,582	10,830
Employee future benefits remeasurements and other items	(115,555)	(37,000)
Adjustments for		
Amortization of capital assets	710,608	683,933
Capital asset funding recognized	(227,550)	(219,047)
Deferred donor designated funds recognized	(1,280)	(11,000)
Gain on disposal of capital assets	(20,337)	(8,657)
Loss of disposal of investments	8,913	-
Changes in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	(114,769)	128,378
Inventories	573	(120,775)
Prepaid expenses	26,655	(87,908)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(200,770)	278,415
Deferred grants	448,169	(73,832)
Other liability	2,708,064	-
	4,810,582	861,831
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Capital asset additions	(1,860,738)	(1,482,541)
Proceeds on disposal of capital assets	23,073	22,432
Purchase of investments	(1,550,466)	-
Proceeds on disposal of investments	1,020,699	-
Designated investments, net	147,071	10,550
	(2,220,361)	(1,449,559)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from long term debt	-	90,000
Repayment of callable debt	(30,212)	(30,212)
Repayment of long term debt	(7,236)	-
Receipt of donor designated funds	828,557	743,398
	791,109	803,186
NET INCREASE IN CASH	3,381,330	215,458
CASH POSITION, BEGINNING OF YEAR	3,209,297	2,993,839
CASH POSITION, END OF YEAR	\$ 6,590,627	\$ 3,209,297



Please see
our website
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for the complete
audited financial
statements and
notes.



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