



ANNUAL REPORT

Navigating a Bright Start to Lasting Impact



2025-2026

Charitable Registration # 12353 8050 RR 001

Executive SUMMARY



It's been another year of doing what we love most at BrightStart Caledon - supporting parents and caregivers as they undertake the most important job in the world: raising young children. This year we welcomed close to 5,000 children, parents, and caregivers, with families participating in nearly 32,000 visits across Caledon. Together, we engaged with families through both everyday moments and more complex challenges, with a strong focus on supporting children, families, and the community through responsive, inclusive, and high-quality programming.

Our EarlyON program continues to demonstrate broad reach, strong engagement, and family-centred support. Enriching play-based learning and parenting supports offer families with children from birth to six years meaningful opportunities to explore and grow in a nurturing and inclusive environment.

We saw increased participation in our targeted family support programs, reflecting a growing demand for responsive and tailored supports for vulnerable and at-risk populations. These programs provide valuable opportunities for community connection, skill-building, and engagement, supporting both child development and caregiver confidence.

Thanks to an Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed Grant we developed and piloted BrightStart Caledon Connections, a new integrated intake, information and referral service intentionally designed to improve how Caledon families access and connect to community services and supports. This project reflects our commitment to innovation, collaboration and removing barriers for families birth to age 9.

As the 2025-26 fiscal year ended, we saw the first phase of our multi-year Strategic Plan draw to completion, accomplishing important organizational initiatives. We engaged with diverse stakeholder groups and community partners across Caledon to increase awareness and connection to our mission, while delivering on actions to innovate programs, extend our reach and strengthen organizational infrastructure and capacity. While embarking on these priorities, we rolled out a refreshed strategy – one that builds on existing momentum. We also undertook a comprehensive fund development review working to cultivate new donor and partner relationships.

Our vision for BrightStart Caledon's future, Family Hub 2037, presents a well-defined and actionable strategy aimed at strengthening our role as the trusted family hub in Caledon for children aged 0-12 years and their families. This plan was designed in response to changing economic and philanthropic conditions, and represents both a renewal and a reaffirmation of our vision. It ensures that every family in Caledon has a place to connect, learn, and grow.

As we look to the year ahead, we will continue to build on this year's learning by strengthening systems, supporting staff, and enhancing the quality and consistency of our programs. We remain committed to responsive, community-informed service delivery that evolves alongside the needs of families.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our funders and donors, community partners, and our wonderful team – Board, staff and volunteers – for showing up for Caledon children and families each day. Your unwavering support makes our journey possible, illuminating the path ahead, giving us the clarity, confidence and direction to achieve our mission. Thank you for being our guiding light.



CARINE STRONG
Board Chair



TERESA COLASANTI
Executive Director

Governance and Leadership

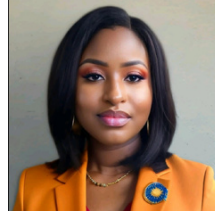
OUR BOARD



CARINE STRONG
Chair



LYNN BAKER
Vice Chair



ABIDEMI OLANIYAN
Treasurer



JO-ANNE FIORE
Secretary



FAIZAN BARI
Director



MANPREET BANGA
Director



JOHN HEUER
Director



ARNO ILIC
Director



DIANA MOLLICONE
Director



LISA SAROLI
Director

OUR STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

We pride ourselves on a strong organizational culture that embraces diversity, equity and inclusion. Our qualified and caring frontline staff team love serving the families of Caledon. They actively enhance their skills through participation in continuous learning opportunities based on research and evidence-based practice.



BrightStart Caledon volunteers help support our staff on the front line. Behind the scenes, they offer leadership, sit on numerous committees and support fundraising. Community volunteers support toy drives, donate hand made items for families and much more. Our volunteers are one of our most valuable resources, helping us enrich the lives of the families and children we serve. We are proud to celebrate their caring spirit and honour the positive impact of their contributions.

Guided by OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



Vision

To provide a safe and engaging space to connect, learn and grow.

Mission

Where children are nurtured and families flourish.

Values

Accountability

Belonging

Collaboration

Dedication

Testimonial

“ The BrightStart Caledon programs have played a vital role in the early years for my kids, and still do for my 2 year old daughter. My 6 year old son was a very picky eater, it wasn't until my son did the Food and Nutrition program at Southfields that he actually opened up his palette. The program really helped him try different food. These centres have been so helpful for my kids and I. The staff is amazing and having been so kind over the past year.

Describing in one word or phrase BrightStart Caledon Family Centre: A second home for my kids.



Positioning for the future

STRATEGIC PLAN

During our recent Strategic Plan refresh, one message emerged consistently: the community desires BrightStart Caledon to remain grounded in its unique strengths - connection, belonging, and support - while also adapting to the swiftly changing needs of Caledon. This resulting plan represents both a renewal and a reaffirmation of our vision, ensuring that every family in Caledon has a place to connect, learn, and grow.

By concentrating on what truly matters, Family Hub 2037 brings the organization together around four essential pillars: Position, Partner, and Pilot supported by a strong foundation we call Prosper for long-term sustainability to operationalize our vision for children aged 0–12 years and their families. Each initiative is designed to align with Family Hub 2037's core values of inclusion, equity, and excellence, ensuring that all families, regardless of their child's age, have access to meaningful, high-quality supports.

POSITION



Strengthen our position as Caledon's trusted family hub

Build visibility as a thought leader for inclusive family well-being

Deepen organizational capacity and sustainability to ensure equitable access to supports

PARTNER



Build high-impact partnerships that serve diverse families and communities

Co-create responsive, inclusive initiatives that reflect local needs

Strengthen sustainability and advocacy for equitable opportunities across Caledon

PILOT



Foster innovation that enhances accessibility and inclusion

Test, learn and scale what works for all families

Build a learning organizational culture rooted in equity, respect and belonging

PROSPER



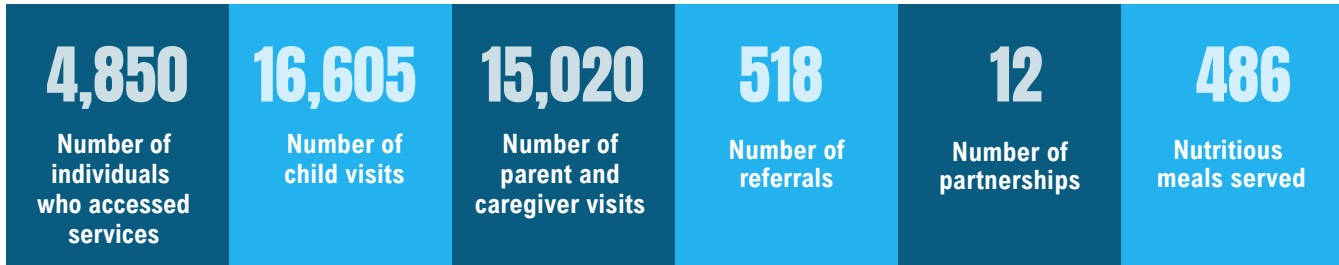
Renewable revenue through major gifts, grants and micro-campaigns

Strong HR capacity, modern systems and a positive, inclusive culture

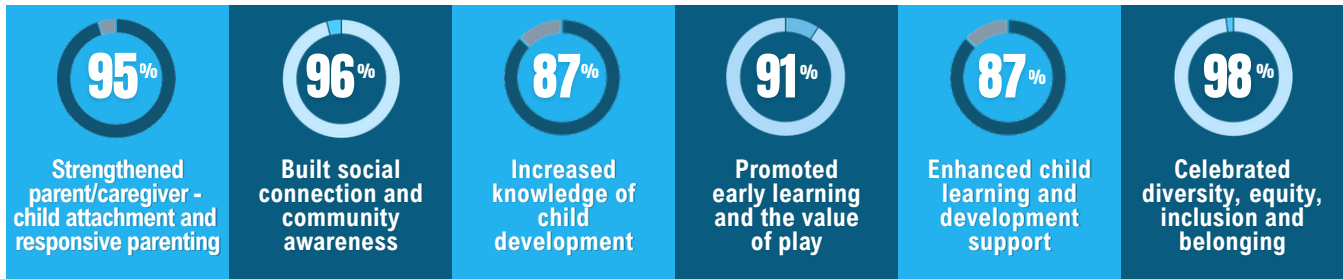
Evidence-based decisions, prudent risk-taking and long-term investment

A Year In Review

PROGRAM METRICS



Percentage of families who agreed or strongly agreed that programs supported the following outcomes:



Our Families Speak

FEEDBACK

What did your family find most beneficial about our programs?

Infant Programs



"The songs, conversations, ice breakers to be able to talk to the other parents and share similar feelings. I loved that we could express ourselves and talk about our mom experiences and talk about our day."

Toddler Programs



"Knowledgeable and friendly staff sharing ideas. They are also very caring to the children."

All Ages Programs



"We loved this class, getting to learn and make community connections has been so amazing."

Preschool/School Here I Come Programs



"Getting my daughter ready for school. She's never been away from me before so I was nervous about just sending her straight to school but this program has really prepared us."

Financial SUMMARY

2025/2026

Statement of Revenues & Expenditures

Statement of Financial Position

Revenues	2025/2026	2024/2025	Assets	2025/2026	2024/2025
Government Funding	\$ 1,427,507	\$ 1,476,427	<i>Current</i>		
Non-Government Funding or			Cash & Cash equivalents	\$ 528,176	\$ 573,144
Revenue from other Sources	\$ 56,976	\$ 46,056	Accounts Receivable	\$ 6,612	\$ 7,013
Donations/Sponsorships/Fundraising	\$ 88,037	\$ 24,344	Harmonized Sales Tax		
			Recoverable	\$ 20,138	\$ 17,831
			Prepaid expenses	\$ 18,531	\$ 20,191
Total	\$ 1,572,520	\$ 1,546,827	Total	\$ 573,457	\$ 618,179
Expenses	2025/2026	2024/2025	Liabilities & Net Assets	2025/2026	2024/2025
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 1,112,736	\$ 1,084,816	<i>Current</i>		
Occupancy Expenses	\$ 258,634	\$ 255,767	Accounts Payable	\$ 36,305	\$ 20,859
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 187,120	\$ 214,838	Wages and employee		
			deductions payable	\$ 23,020	\$ 64,695
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 10,829	\$ 4,359	Funding Repayment	\$ 16,296	\$ 25,005
			Deferred funding	\$ 30,100	\$ 43,085
			NET ASSETS		
			General Fund	\$ 232,577	\$ 229,376
Total	\$ 1,569,319	\$ 1,559,780	Internally Restricted	\$ 235,159	\$ 235,159
Revenues over Expenses	\$ 3,201	-\$12,953	Total	\$ 573,457	\$ 618,179

Donors

- A&G Road Cleaners
- Alex Ihnatowycz
- Ann Smith
- Arno Ilic
- Bolton Honda
- Caledon Community Inc.
on behalf of Mayor Groves Community Gala
- Coffee Time Bolton
- Cobs Bolton Country Market
- Eco-Depot Environmental
- Entera Utility Contractors
- Fines Ford Lincoln Sales and Service
- Gallagher Benefit Services (Canada Group) Inc.
- Gary & Maxie Bluestein Foundation
- Kin Club of Bolton
- Nancy Yates
- NVS Connect
- Praphbreet Hundai
- Rotary Club of Bolton
- Silcotech North America Inc.
- Valleywood Community Events

Contact US



905-857-0090



info@brightstartcaledon.com



www.brightstartcaledon.com



150 Queen St. S., Bolton, ON L7E 1E3



Thank
YOU!