Together, we can reach the stars!

BUILDING ABILITIES FOR LIFE
FOR 50 YEARS!
Five Counties Children's Centre

Annual Report 2025/26

Five Counties
CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Message from our CEO & Board Chair

To Our Community,

Scott Pepin, CEO

Ziyad Sidawi, Board Chair

Many of us had our eyes glued to the sky in April 2026, when the Artemis II crew captivated the world with their successful flyby of the Moon and their safe return to Earth. In looping around the far side of the Moon, the spacecraft crew went further from Earth than anyone in human history.

The Artemis II exploits bring to mind the words of Norman Vincent Peale, an author best known for popularizing the concept of positive thinking. Peale once said: **"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."**

At Five Counties Children's Centre, reaching for the stars happens every day. It's evident in our kids who work diligently with our clinical staff and their own families to build their abilities for life. Whether it's a child with physical, developmental or communication needs, Five Counties is grateful to be a launch pad of sorts. We work to help kids – like our client, Arthur, who is pictured on the cover – achieve maximum liftoff by supporting their independence, well-being and quality of life, while helping and empowering families in our region.

As you will see in this year's Annual Report, it was a busy and banner year in 2025-2026. From a record number of clients served, to gaining public recognition for our work, to launching an innovative new campaign that asks families to *Rethink Therapy*, to celebrating our 50th anniversary, it was truly a rich and rewarding 12 months.

Zimbabwean-Canadian author, philosopher and entrepreneur Matshona Dhliwayo once said: **"Gravity is no match against one who is determined to reach the stars."** Stop by our Centre and you'll see those words in action, no rocket required!

Active Kids Lindsay program.

CEO Scott races client Hamish down the hall.

The official opening of the new accessible backyard in Cobourg in June 2025.

MCCSS Minister Michael Parsa drops by to view the backyard.

Accomplishments 2025/26

- **Serving 6,574 kids/clients across the region,** the most in the Centre's 50+ year history. Total number of client visits also reached a record amount of 56,687 this past year.
- **Keeping wait times in check,** despite a 11.8% increase in client referrals to Five Counties. Only 18 more kids were added to the wait list, even as the Centre served 366 more clients year-over-year.
- Winning various awards from Chambers of Commerce in Lindsay, Peterborough and Cobourg **in recognition of the life-changing work that goes on at Five Counties**.
- **Marking the Centre's 50th anniversary** by sharing stories of the past, organizing community celebrations, and creating the new Dave Adams Legacy Award.
- **Engaging with more families** in more ways to support them.
- **Investing in staff** by enhancing compensation, promoting from within, and working to be an employer of choice.
- Partnering with Fleming College **to develop the 'Rethink Therapy' campaign** that integrates the F-Words of Child Development and encourages families to see that their child's therapy happens everywhere in everyday activities.
- **Recruiting new pediatricians and doctors** to support our kids/clients, while celebrating the legacy of Five Counties pediatrician Dr. Mary Thain, who officially retired in 2025 after almost 50 years of working for the Centre.
- **Officially opening the new accessible backyard space** at the Centre's site in Cobourg for treatment, recreation, cultural awareness and outdoor education programs.
- Securing an Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Workforce Capacity Grant to **create the Abilities in Action program** as a new treatment pathway for families with OAP funding.
- **Continuing to implement Tiered Intervention** in schools to ensure the right student gets the right care at the right time.

Arthur's Story:

'Five Counties has changed his life'

'Go Arthur go!' The words of encouragement from his therapists, Jess and Kyrie, aren't really needed as two-year-old Arthur rolls down the halls of Five Counties Children's Centre in his mobile stander (mini stand-up wheelchair). He is focused on a mission to find dinosaurs that have been carefully hidden along the Centre's hallways. Arthur laughs, as he's already spotted a dinosaur and wheels over to it. Arthur is as much at home at his treatment sessions at Five Counties as he would be if a paleontologist in Jurassic Park.

Looking on with a big grin is Arthur's guardian, Delaney, who knows all too well that smiles and laughter were in very short supply before. "I felt scared, sad, mad, and like the world has stopped," Delaney says, reflecting on some tense days in May 2024 when Arthur (then 3 months of age) was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a rare form of childhood cancer. Arthur would spend almost 100 days at a children's hospital in Toronto being treated for it. The tumour discovered in his chest had wrapped around his spine, compressing his nerves, and leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.

Arthur in his mobile stander.

Treatment time means play time for Arthur.

Arthur was referred to Five Counties for rehab from the cancer that had stolen his mobility. His positive mindset, along with occupational therapy and physiotherapy he received at the Centre, has led to a significant course correction. Five Counties staff have helped Arthur to work on his core strength, along with milestones like rolling over and sitting up by himself. They've also assisted Arthur to adjust to and become more agile in his mobile stander.

As Delaney notes: "**Five Counties has changed Arthur's life. He would not have the mobility he has today without the Centre. Five Counties staff supported us through an incredibly difficult time**."

Emberly displays her artistic flair in the Centre's recent holiday card fundraiser.

Emberly's Story:

'Without Five Counties, life would be so much more difficult for us'

Emberly has a personality as bright as her smile and a heart full of love. She adores bubbles, water, and stickers—simple joys that light up her world. But Emberly's journey hasn't been easy. Diagnosed with PURA syndrome, a rare neurodevelopmental condition, she faces challenges with muscle tone, mobility, and communication.

That's where Five Counties has become a lifeline for Emberly and her family. "**Five Counties has shown me there is so much more available for Emberly than what meets the eye!**" Amanda says. "**They've given her opportunities to participate in music groups, swimming, trick-or-treating, and so much more. Five Counties has given us a community; a family of people who see Emberly as special and unique. They've given us inclusion and endless support.**"

Laura's Story:

'Making 'a huge difference' in her life

As Five Counties marks its 50th anniversary, tales from its past—including Laura's—demonstrate how early treatment services can have lifelong impact. Laura first came to Five Counties at 20 months of age, after being diagnosed shortly after birth with a rare genetic difference. Laura's mother, Linda, credits the treatment provided by Five Counties as helping her daughter to be able to walk, talk, socialize with friends, and become more independent. As Laura herself notes: "**Five Counties helps kids with disabilities achieve more because we want them to live independently. For me, it's made a huge difference.**"

Laura with long-time (and now retired) Five Counties pediatrician Dr. Mary Thain.

Marking a golden milestone at the Family 50-Fest event in Peterborough.

Celebrating Our Stories:

Five Counties Children's Centre marked its 50th anniversary in 2025/26 with a series of festivities and flashbacks. With the Centre opening its doors in 1975, the golden anniversary provided a chance to celebrate the past, even as Five Counties continues to provide innovative, life-changing care treatment for children and youth in Peterborough, Northumberland County, Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes. Check out some of the scenes and snaps from the various 50th anniversary celebrations.

Our 50th anniversary thank you card featured original artwork by Meryn.

Building blocks (and abilities for life) at 50th festivities in Campbellford.

High-fives and fun highlight Family 50-Fest in Lindsay.

Five Counties CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Diane Pick

CEO of Five Counties (2006-2020)

#FiveCounties50

"This remarkable organization has made a significant impact on the lives of children, youth and their families. I remember a day when a little boy used his walker for the first time... and the joy he brought as he strolled the halls of Five Counties was a ray of sunshine.

Having a blast to mark 50 years.

Five Counties CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Haidyn

Mother of Five Counties client

#FiveCounties50

"Five Counties has given me the confidence in my daughter and myself to take everything that comes at us and adjust in our own way. We have been given resources I never thought I would be able to get.

Artist Pat Calvert looks at her iconic mural that graces the hallways in Peterborough.

Delivering Services & Results

Family Literacy Day in Peterborough.

Clients by Age

0-4 yrs	22%
5-12 yrs	66%
13-21 yrs	12%

56,687 Client Visits — ↑ **1,297** more than in 2024/25

↑ **11.8%** rise vs. 2024/25 — **3,921** Referrals For Service

6,574 Kids Served — ↑ **366** more than in 2024/25

↑ **0.8%** rise vs. 2024/25 — **2,204** Kids on Wait List

Neonatal Followup Clinic

844 Visits to Neonatal Follow-up Clinic

3,066 Visits to Infant Hearing Program

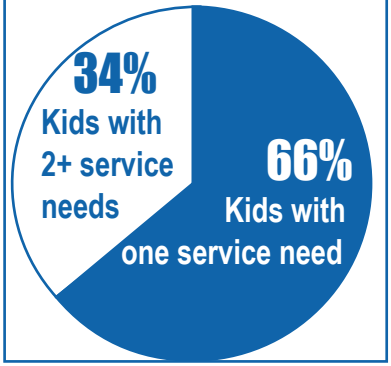
Infant Hearing Program

*Stats cover from April 1/25 to March 31/26

Clients Served by Site

Community	# of Clients	% of Clients
Peterborough City-County	2,983	45%
County of Northumberland	1,836	28%
City of Kawartha Lakes	1,471	22%
Haliburton County	297	5%

Complexity of Kids' Care



4,199
Hours of Capacity Building* with Groups

***Support & Skill Building Training** offered by staff to families, schools and child care centres

Families being asked to rethink therapy

Therapy happens everywhere, and that's the focus of a new campaign at Five Counties developed with the help of Fleming College Graphic Design students.

Rethink Therapy encourages families to work in therapy with their child in every day activities like mealtime and play. The aim is to empower parents and caregivers that therapy can happen everywhere, not just at Five Counties.

A key feature of Rethink is to promote the F-Words of Child Development to families.

3,928
Kids Getting Treatment in Schools

201 more kids vs. 2024/25

57% Occupational Therapy

Speech and Language Therapy **39%**

4% Physiotherapy Support

Attending a health fair hosted by the New Canadians Centre in Peterborough.

Summer speech camp in Peterborough.

Calling it a career

An era has ended at Five Counties, as Dr. Mary Thain officially retired from the Centre in June 2025. It marks the end of a remarkable, nearly 50-year career caring for children and families in our community. We are forever grateful to Dr. Thain for her remarkable career and contributions to the Centre.

New treatment path for families

There's a new option to get individualized therapy for kids at Five Counties, including services related to autism. Thanks to an Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Workforce Capacity Grant, the Centre has launched the **Abilities in Action** program that allows families to access services using their own funds, including OAP funding.

A warm welcome to new pediatrician

Dr. Chris Montgomery is a new addition to Five Counties. Dr. Montgomery, who is a consulting pediatrician, relocated his office to the Centre site in Cobourg site in January 2026. He is seeing his own patients, while also assisting Five Counties clients.

Lasting legacy: Dave Adams Award

A new award marks the Centre's 50th anniversary, while also honouring Dave Adams, the long-time Executive Director of the former Foundation.

The new **Dave Adam Legacy Award** is given annually to a person who reflects Dave's unwavering support, long-service and selfless actions. In 2025, the first award winner was Alex Cranfield, a long-time FCCC manager.

Alex Cranfield (right), with members of Dave Adams' family.

Winning Not-For-Profit of the Year in the Lindsay & District Chamber of Commerce's 2026 Awards of Excellence.

All-o-ween in Cobourg.

Scoring a triple win at local Chamber awards

Five Counties' work to support kids and families is being recognized. Over the past year, the Centre has won 3 awards of excellence organized by Chambers of Commerce in Lindsay, Peterborough and Cobourg. Our staff do great work, so we're grateful for the accolades.

Award presented by Peterborough chamber.

Spring into Learning series inaugural event in 2025.

Engaging with families is a key part of the services offered by Five Counties. Included are family events like Spring Into Learning, Ready For School, and All-o-ween (an accessible Halloween event).

Accepting the 2026 Health & Wellness Award presented by Northumberland Central Chamber of Commerce.

Ready for School event.

Your Support Matters

To Our Supporters, Donors and Volunteers:

This year, Five Counties Children's Centre is proud to share that an extraordinary **$747,283** was raised to support life-changing treatment for children at the Centre.

These funds have a direct and meaningful impact on the lives of children and families in our region. Your generosity allowed us to hire more therapists, helping ensure more than 500 children can access critical services without the burden of waiting. Your gifts are helping to provide specialized therapy services like speech and language support, occupational therapy, and much-needed equipment.

Every day, the kids and families we serve rely on the Centre—and on caring supporters like you—for programs and services that help build abilities for life. Your support and generosity is doing more than funding programs; it is creating opportunities, inspiring hope, and changing lives.

Official opening in June 2025 of accessible backyard space in Cobourg. Fundraising was key to completing the project.

$747,283
Total Giving in 2025/2026

Because of you, children in our community are receiving the support they need to grow, thrive, and reach their full potential. Please know how thankful we are for your belief in our work and for standing alongside the children and families who need us the most. Your care and compassion is making a lasting difference, close to home! Thank you for being an important part of their journey and success.

Kassie, Maddie, Lyn, Lisa & Linsey (currently on mat leave)

McHappy Day in Cobourg-Port Hope.

Fun in Fundraising

Little Lakers Night fundraiser also lets Centre clients meet Peterborough Lakers players.

Mixing fun, fashion and fundraising at Couture for Kids in Lindsay.

2,560
Total Donors in 2025/26

2,768
Total Donations in 2025/26

'Fun' is an important part of fundraising, as is evident at some of the events organized in support of the Centre over the past year.

Serving up smiles during Smile Cookie campaign at Tim Hortons.

Celebrating fun and family at Next Gen Game with the Peterborough Petes.

#FiveCountiesFamily

Celebrating Staff Service

(Long Service Milestones April 2025-March 2026)

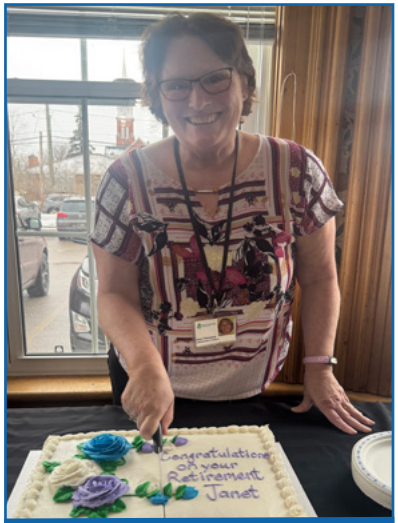
40 Years	**Karen Fisher,** Speech-Language Pathologist
35 Years	**Gina Michou,** Speech-Language Pathologist
25 Years	**Kimberly Baker,** Accounting Coordinator **Nicole Vreeswyk,** Occupational Therapist **Angela Harrison,** Physiotherapist **Wendy Nelsons,** Communicative Disorders Assistant
20 Years	**Keri Haukioja,** Occupational Therapist
15 Years	**Glenna Hemphill,** Central Intake Coordinator **Danielle Kennedy,** Program Assistant **Luke Harrison,** Equipment Clerk **Shelley Elmhurst,** Resource Consultant
10 Years	**Heather McGrath,** Social Worker **Colleen Borland,** Administrative Assistant **Krista McNulty,** Occupational/ Physiotherapist Assistant
5 Years	**Nour Moudarres,** IT Systems and Data Coordinator **Linsey Kampf,** Annual Giving Coordinator **Jennifer Bice,** Speech-Language Pathologist **Tricia Ring,** Program Assistant **Jennifer Campbell,** Program Assistant **Nicole Captain,** Program Manager **Sean Sheppard,** Building Caretaker **Melanie Smyth,** Occupational Therapist **Jennifer Camenzuli,** Program Manager **Allana Stewart,** Finance and Human Resources Administrator **Paul Henderiks,** Building Caretaker **Lisa Graham,** Donor Services Coordinator **Mackenzie McBride,** Communicative Disorders Assistant **McKenzie Sinclair,** Occupational Therapist

^Source: FCCC Staff Survey, 2025

Celebrating Pink Shirt Day, with its imporant anti-bullying message.

98.3%
of Staff Are Proud to Work at Five Counties^

Maddie Jackson was named winner of the Centre's 2025 High-Five Award.



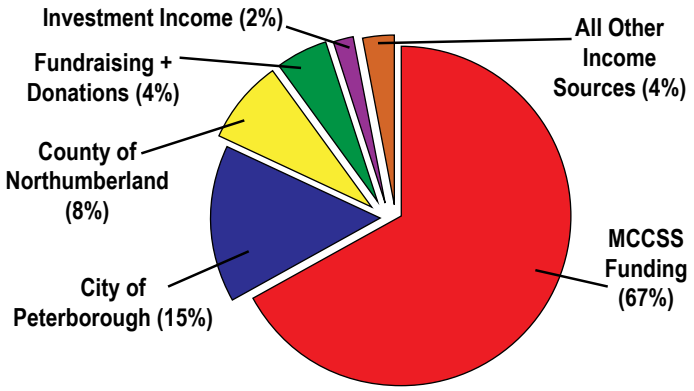
Retirements in 2025/26

- **Jennifer Mai,** Physiotherapist
- **Beckie Evans,** Capacity Building Coach
- **Janet Thompson,** Administrative Assistant
- **Cathy Pierce,** Program Manager

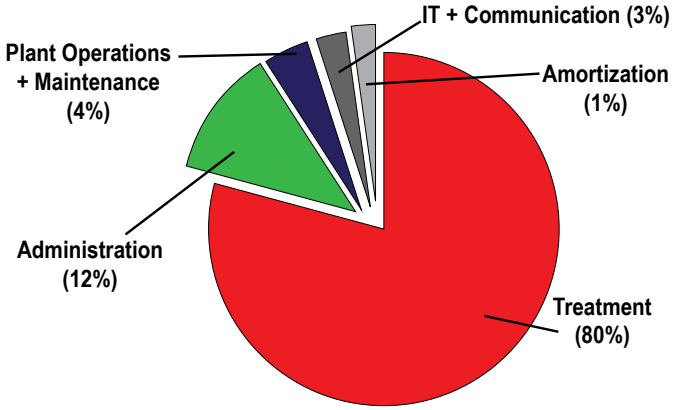
Life-changing treatment benefits kids.

97.5%
Staff Feel Their Work Matters for Kids & Families^

Statement of Operations - April 2025-March 2026*



Revenues



Expenses

Funding Source	2025/26	2024/25
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS)	$11,772,297	$11,724,075
City of Peterborough	2,682,309	2,474,130
County of Northumberland	1,381,487	1,302,760
Fundraising + Donations	747,283	2,141,073
Investment Income	363,810	379,373
Other Income	235,529	324,055
Urgent Response Program	236,442	142,754
Infant Hearing/Blind-Low Vision	107,936	103,434
Total Revenues:	**$17,527,093**	**$18,591,654**

Spending Item	2025/26	2024/25
Treatment	$13,667,735	$13,074,774
Administration	1,994,907	2,025,585
Plant Operations and Maintenance	749,462	804,318
IT + Communication	448,710	462,716
Amortization	254,708	253,754
Total Expenses:	**$17,115,522**	**$16,621,147**
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses:	**$ 411,571**	**$1,970,507**

Statement of Financial Position (as of March 31, 2026)

Assets	2025/26	2024/25
Current Assets	$9,131,409	$8,618,968
Long-Term Assets	6,811,684	6,917,600
Total Assets:	**$15,943,093**	**$15,536,568**

Liabilities + Fund Balances	2025/26	2024/25
Current Liabilities	$4,600,924	$4,544,480
Long-Term Liabilities	------	61,490
Fund Balances	11,342,169	10,930,598
Total Liabilities + Fund Balances:	**$15,943,093**	**$15,536,568**

Complete set of Financial Statements for 2025/26 may be obtained upon request to the Chief Executive Officer

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For Life
...50 Years
& counting!
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