



water for
life gala
CHEFS FOR UNICEF

Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala Impact Report

A Message from David Morley, President & CEO

Dear Halifax Gala Supporters,

For the past 30 years, the annual Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Halifax has brought remarkable change to children. Thanks to the commitment of volunteers over the past three decades, we have supported life-changing water initiatives that are helping thousands of children around the world to live and grow up healthy. We sincerely thank you for your work and compassion.

World events over the past two years are having deep and lasting effects on children at a global scale. Decades of advances in children's rights have unfortunately seen heavy setbacks. Your ongoing dedication helps UNICEF to be able to continue providing for children through these challenges.

During the 2022 Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Halifax, we surpassed \$3.912 million in cumulative donations raised by the Gala since 1993. It is not an understatement to say that this impressive achievement would simply not be possible without you.

As you join us in reflecting on the extraordinary milestones that have taken place over the past 30 years, we hope that you will feel a sense of pride in supporting the greatest needs of children around the world, and in knowing what has been accomplished.

We greatly appreciate your time and commitment to helping children around the world survive, thrive and reach their full potential.

With gratitude,



David Morley, CM
President & CEO
UNICEF Canada



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Celebrating the volunteers who have made the Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Halifax possible for the past 30 years

The year 2022 marked the 30th anniversary of the Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Halifax. Over the last three decades we have accomplished so much together: raising over \$3.912 million and impacting thousands of children and their families around the world by supporting life-changing water initiatives.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the more than 1,604 volunteers who have helped make this fundraising event happen year after year since 1993. These volunteers include our talented Chefs, our diligent Patrons Council, our supportive sponsors, our enthusiastic event volunteers, and our devoted Committee. Several volunteers have supported the Gala for 10 years, some for more than 20 years, and some right from the beginning.

All the contributions from our volunteers, whether longstanding or recent, have led to the yearly success of the Gala in Halifax. From securing items for our auctions, selling tickets, doing media relations, arranging the chefs, or helping with decor at the event venue, all the work our volunteers do is important to the success of the Gala and sincerely appreciated by UNICEF Canada.

This report is a token of gratitude for all our volunteers and a celebration of what we have accomplished together during the past 30 years. We hope that you enjoy looking at some of our favourite memories of the Gala, as well as getting to know some of the several volunteers who have been part of this successful annual fundraising event. We are very grateful for all of our volunteers' contributions and their commitment to advancing children's rights.

GETTING TO KNOW

Some of the volunteers of the Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Halifax

Why are you involved with the Gala?

I am involved in UNICEF because of my strongly held belief that 'Children are our greatest Treasure!'. They are our tomorrow, the planet's tomorrow and they need and deserve the same opportunity to live and grow and contribute to the magic of life that all living beings do...I grew up in poverty but in a world where basic human rights included access to clean water, education, health care and community were available. I can't imagine, although I have witnessed it first hand in my travels in Africa and the Middle East, a world where these basic needs are not a given of our society and world order.



Colin MacDonald – Honorary Chair, Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala

Patrons Council

Each year my commitment to the UNICEF Water for Life Gala grows as I feel the importance of making a positive difference for many I will never know. I am proud to support UNICEF in its life-saving work to provide one of the most basic needs - clean water.



Jeannine Bakeeff – Chair, UNICEF Water for Life Gala

It's a great event benefitting an even greater cause. Being involved with an organization that makes a quantifiable impact on improving the lives of children around the world is important to me as a mother.



Natasha Benigno Chandler – Vice President, Benigno Group of Companies

I am happy to be involved and support the UNICEF Water for Life Gala because it contributes to the areas of greatest need in the world by providing life-giving and sustaining access to water.



Troy Calder – President, Charm Diamond Centres

Not only is the Gala one of the best events of the year, supporting UNICEF is giving every child the right to survive and thrive.

Mark Faddoul – Senior Private Banker, BMO Private Wealth



For the delicious food of course! And it's a great cause for which Halifax, through this event, has been a fabulous contributor. I'm proud to be a part of it.

Andrew Inch – Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Cresco



Because no child should go without essential needs such as water, food, education, and a safe shelter.

Kim Day – President & COO, Steele Auto Group



I have been involved in supporting the annual Halifax Chefs for UNICEF Gala since day one. The Gala is one of Halifax's premiere fundraising events, features some of Nova Scotia's top culinary talent and, most importantly, supports UNICEF's critical work around the World.

Jamie Berryman – Vice President, National Sales, Sysco Canada Inc.



I want to make a difference in children's lives. Helping UNICEF raise funds helps children in need.

Christine Pound – Partner, Stewart McKelvey



A look back...

30 years supporting children's rights through the Chefs for UNICEF Water for life Gala

1993

The first Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala is held at Chateau Halifax with 300 guests in attendance raising \$40,000.



1996

The Gala is hosted at the World Trade & Convention Centre for the first time.



2006

Cumulative revenue raised by the Gala surpasses \$1 million.



2010

Thanks to the Gala, 12,000 bed nets are provided to families in Liberia and Rwanda, protecting them from the transmission of malaria for five years.



2011

Nova Scotia musicians Bruce & Dylan Guthro perform at the 19th Annual Gala. The revenue raised by the Gala supported 24,000 people living in 19 remote villages in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to gain improved access to safe drinking water and live in a cholera-free environment.



2012

Thanks to the Gala, safe and clean school environments that help improve learning outcomes are created in Namibia, benefitting 22,500 students in 45 schools, and providing 34 water tanks, 8,000 jerry cans, and water purification tablets for 9,000 families.



2013

The Gala raises over \$200,000 and the Patrons Council is formed to raise awareness of UNICEF and to fundraise for the Gala. The Gala contributes to water purification for over 16 million people across Syria, and water chlorination and waste management to reduce the number of cholera cases in South Sudan.



2014

Cumulative revenue raised by the Gala surpasses \$2 million. The funds raised by the Gala provide 10 pre-schools in a remote province in Cambodia with water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, benefitting 22,000 people.



2015

The revenue collected through the Gala supports water facilities in 21 health centres in Ghana, creating sanitary conditions for healthcare workers and reducing maternal and newborn deaths.



2016

Electronic bidding is used for the first time for the auction and the Gala raises \$223,000. Thanks to the Gala, boreholes are constructed and water pumps installed in Chad, bringing clean water to schools, health centres and communities. The Gala also supported water resilience measures in the hardest to reach areas of Mongolia, ensuring access to safe drinking water for 20,000 school children.



2017

The Gala celebrates its 25th Anniversary supporting children and raises over \$268,000.



2018

The Gala is hosted at the newly constructed Halifax Convention Centre for the first time and the cumulative revenue raised by the Gala surpasses \$3 million.



2019

The 27th Annual Gala, with 500 guests in attendance, sells 46 life-saving water pumps and 323 life-changing water for life bundles. It raises a total of \$300,000 towards our UNdaunted campaign in Uganda, which provided 210,000 girls access to safe water and latrines so they could stay in school.



2020 & 2021

The Gala transitions to an online auction amidst pandemic restrictions, raising over \$212,500 in 2020 and 2021 combined, allowing more than 2,250 people in Uganda to have access to safe water.



2022

The Gala celebrates its 30th Anniversary, cumulatively raises over \$3.912 million, and continues to support life-changing water initiatives that are helping thousands of children around the world to live and grow up healthy.



GETTING TO KNOW

Some of the volunteers of the Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Halifax

Why are you involved with the Gala?

Volunteer Committee

UNICEF is making a meaningful and long-lasting impact on the lives of so many around the world. It's really great to volunteer for an organization and to work with an amazing team that can make such a difference.

Mathieu Ouellette



I volunteered with the UNICEF Water for Life Gala event for over 10 years because I believe in the important work that UNICEF does to provide safe and clean water for communities.

Daisy Cobden



I'm involved with the Gala because access to water, sanitation and hygiene are basic human rights. By coming together as a community in Halifax to raise awareness and funds, we are supporting necessary global WASH programming.

Alannah Delahunty-Pike



It is truly an honour to be involved with this incredible event. When I was asked to come on as the Décor Lead, my immediate response was an emphatic yes! UNICEF has a beautifully rich history of delivering funds where they matter most, and as a mother and citizen of the world; it is a privilege to be in a position to help. I'm very excited to see the impact our Halifax community continues to make.

Tiffany Cox



Every child has the right to safe, clean water. A simple, but probably universally agreed upon statement. Ensuring those rights in our complex world is the difficult bit - one that I believe UNICEF is best at addressing. Its work changes children's lives, which is why I volunteer for the Water for Life Gala.

**Laura Maynard – Auction Co-Chair,
Chefs for UNICEF Water for Life Gala**



I'm proud to volunteer for the Gala because I have seen first-hand UNICEF's life-changing impact on boys and girls experiencing poverty, conflict and natural disasters. Now more than ever, UNICEF is defending the rights of children in the most difficult of circumstances and I'm delighted to be part of this effort to bring safe water and sanitation to those who need it most.

Joanna Shackleton



To help create positive change and to support one of the most vulnerable groups in the world.

Matthew Orrell



A Note to the Gala Volunteers:

What would we do without you?

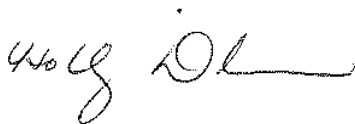
What we have achieved thanks to you in the past 30 years of Galas in Halifax is very impressive: the speakers and performers confirmed, the number of tickets sold, and the items we have secured for the auctions, but what is more impressive for us is your commitment to making of all this happen. The Galas would not exist without you.

We have witnessed the evolution of the Gala in Halifax. From 300 guests in 1993 to 500 in 2022. From raising \$40,000 during the first Gala to surpassing \$3.912 million of cumulative donations throughout the past 30 years. It has been a very special journey for us, and we are grateful to have shared it with you. We have enjoyed working together with a remarkable group of dedicated people.

Our favourite memories from the Halifax Gala include the move to the newly constructed Halifax Convention Centre, the participation of Rick Mercer in 2010, the food stations with cuisines from different places of the world, seeing people bid on items at the auction, and to be able to provide the Halifax community with an opportunity to support children's rights in a fun way. We know that the Gala is a special event that our attendees look forward to every year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have made it a unique event. Congratulations on all your hard work. We look forward to the next 30 years of Galas and fundraising for children.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Sincerely,



Holly Davidson
Manager, National Events
UNICEF Canada



Nicole Wyering
Officer, National Events &
Community Engagement
UNICEF Canada



Cover photo: A group of young women share a light moment as they head to fetch water from the community water tap in Kamacharikol, Kaabong District, Uganda.

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