



water  
for life  
gala

# UNICEF Water for Life Gala Impact Report

# A Message from David Morley, President & CEO

**Dear Calgary Gala Supporters,**

For the past 30 years, the annual UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Calgary has brought remarkable change to children. Thanks to the commitment of volunteers over the past three decades, we have supported life-changing 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 UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Calgary, we surpassed \$18 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





© UNICEF/UN/240153

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

The year 2022 marked the 30th anniversary of the UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Calgary. Over the last three decades we have accomplished so much together: raising over \$18 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 2,935 volunteers who have helped make this fundraising event happen year after year since 1993. These volunteers include 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 Calgary. From securing items for our auctions, selling tickets, doing media relations, 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 UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Calgary

# Why are you involved with the Gala?

### Honorary Chair

To witness the passion from the volunteers and UNICEF staff to making a difference in this world is incredible. The Calgary Gala provides a humbling experience to work alongside such a dedicated and passionate team.

**Brett Herman - President & CEO, Lucero Energy Corp.**



### Patrons Council

Three words my father always encouraged me to follow: Learn, Earn and Return. To return and to give back, my focus of philanthropy has been education. UNICEF works around the world to support quality learning for children, especially those in greatest danger of being left behind. This is my main reason for getting involved as a Patron and Volunteer. With the money raised, UNICEF can direct resources for projects like education and safe water.

**Mike Shaikh – Philanthropist & Community Leader**



I'm honoured to be able to play a small role in helping to advance the health and education of children through access to safe water. Safe water is essential for life – it should not be a privilege – especially for children. Enhancing the wellness of children enables them to reach their potential as adults and leads to a better and more equitable future for us all.

**John Kousinioris – President & CEO, TransAlta**



I have been involved as a Patron for UNICEF for quite a few years now as I see how much of a difference it truly makes to children around the world. Our particular focus on supplying "Water for Life" is changing the lives of these children and enabling more opportunities for them to attend school, have better sanitation and live safely, which is all the reason I need to continue to support this great organization.

**Reynold Tetzlaff – National Energy Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP**



I am incredibly honoured to be a member of the Patrons Council for UNICEF. It is a chance to support many children globally - a chance to make a difference. As a mother of two young boys my heart is dedicated to helping in any way that I can. Through UNICEF I feel empowered and that is a great gift, a gift we can ALL be a part of at the Water for Life Gala.

**Camille Devine McCreath – Actor, Host & Community Leader**



I share the belief that combined together, small gestures can make a real difference. I have been honoured that for over ten years I have played the role of a supporter of the UNICEF Gala. Its proceeds help bring fresh water to communities in Africa or support young women to remain in school, thereby having a wider range of options for their future.

**Peter Wallis – President & CEO, Peter Wallis Consulting**





# A look back...

## 30 years supporting children's rights through the UNICEF Water for Life Gala

**1993**

The first Chefs for UNICEF Gala is held at The Westin with 300 guests in attendance, raising \$125,000.



**1999**

The event moves to the Sheraton Eau Claire and the Gala cumulatively raises almost \$1M.



**2000**

Veronica Tennant participates as the first guest speaker and this year the event raises \$150,000.



**2001**

The Gala moves to the Hyatt Regency Calgary, and Honorary Chair Jim Gray forms the first Patrons Council to help sell tables and ensure the long-term success of the event.



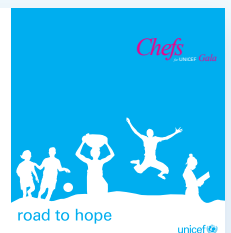
**2003**



UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Sir Roger Moore attends the Gala as the guest speaker and the event raises almost \$300,000 for girls' education, early childhood development, immunization, HIV/AIDS and child protection.

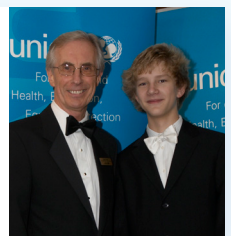
**2005**

The Gala receives a \$250,000 matching donation with over \$900,000 raised for children affected by HIV/AIDS in Mozambique.



**2009**

The Gala raises \$670,000 to improve the nutrition and health of tens of thousands of Guatemalan children.



2011



Chefs for UNICEF becomes UNICEF Water for Life Gala and Chantal Kreviazuk performs at the event. The \$770,000 raised during 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.

2017



Sarah McLachlan performs at the 25th Anniversary of the UNICEF Water for Life Gala celebrating 25 years of Calgary support for children, with \$13M+ raised.

2012



Clay Aiken introduces the sale of water pumps at the 20th anniversary of the Gala, selling 169 pumps in 10 minutes. The Gala raises \$845,000 to create safe, clean school environments that help improve learning outcomes. This project helped 22,500 students in 45 schools, and provided 34 water tanks, 8,000 jerry cans, and water purification tablets for 9,000 families.

2020

The Gala shifts to an online auction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, raising \$77,300.



2021

A Virtual Gala & Online Auction take place, bringing the 29-year cumulative fundraising total to more than \$16 million.



2015

The Gala raised \$968,000, out of which \$185,000 was raised using electronic bidding for the first time. These funds supported water facilities in 21 health centres in Ghana, creating sanitary conditions for healthcare workers and reducing maternal and newborn deaths.



2022

The UNICEF Water for Life Gala is hosted in person again, celebrating its 30th anniversary and the impact the Calgary community has had in the lives of children, raising over \$18M since 1993.



## GETTING TO KNOW

Some of the volunteers of the UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Calgary

# Why are you involved with the Gala?

### Volunteer Committee

To give more than you take is a philosophy I stand by - and the children of this world are so deserving. To share this philosophy with like-minded people has enriched my life beyond measure.

**Andrea Gerencser – Gala Co-Chair**

.....



I'm so proud to be a volunteer with UNICEF Canada, and more specifically the UNICEF Calgary community. It's an incredible group of talented, diverse, and generous human beings all working together to improve the lives of children around the world. I've also been able to see firsthand how UNICEF funds literally change the trajectory of a child's life when I travelled to Uganda.

**Susanne Fox – Gala Co-Chair**

.....



I truly believe in the UNICEF Water for Life mission to advocate for the protection of children's rights, help meet their basic needs of safe water and sanitation, and champion quality education for all children. It fills my heart with so much joy to see the wonderful people of my hometown be brought together because of their common interest in helping children around the world reach their full potential.

**Lauren Dougherty**

.....



I wanted to be involved with an organization that has the ability to make a difference. UNICEF makes a significant and positive difference in the lives of the world's children, and the lives of their families.

**Nancy McCurdy**

.....



I am involved with the Water for Life Gala because I feel like the work that I'm doing in Calgary truly makes an impact on the lives of children thousands of miles away. I also found a wonderful community of kind and passionate people!

**Jacynthe Jagger**

.....



It has always been a passion of mine to help ensure others have equal opportunity. As a long term volunteer of over 10 years and a proud member of the UNICEF committee, I am dedicated to seeing this organization flourish.

**Christina Giuffre**

.....



It's a win-win situation - a great cause and a ton of fun!

**Kerrie Hale**

.....



I believe the more the children feel safe and valued, the more peaceful the world would be. The Gala relentlessly supports the next generation to have better opportunities to grow, and prosper in life, and I am proud to be part of it!

**Banafsheh Mehrzama**





## GETTING TO KNOW

Some of the volunteers of the UNICEF Water for Life Gala in Calgary

# Why are you involved with the Gala?

### Volunteer Committee

I began volunteering when my mom, Holly, started working for UNICEF. I've met so many amazing people and have made some great friends over the years. It has been a great experience and I've had the opportunity to help make a difference for children.



**Diane Davidson**

I am involved with the UNICEF Gala because I strongly believe that every child should have access to the basic necessities of life, including an education. As a person who grew up in a middle-income country, I have seen first hand how by educating children, they are able to have a better life and how their children succeeded in their lives as well.



**Jennifer Sande**

Being a part of the Water for Life Gala, and knowing that our work has a lasting impact around the world, is a privilege and a constant reminder of the importance of community both near and far. Having the opportunity to work with people from all walks of life to achieve a common goal is rewarding and fulfilling in ways that can only truly be appreciated after successfully witnessing an event come together from start to finish.



**Melissa Baylin**

I am involved with the Gala because UNICEF impacts lives in a positive way and provides hope in the world....I want to be a part of that!



**Heather Jarman**

I am involved with UNICEF because I love seeing the end result of the Gala and the support we receive from our community. It is very satisfying and humbling knowing that our volunteer efforts are supporting access to water for children around the world.



**Natalie Gillespie**

I volunteer with UNICEF Canada because I truly feel that my work has a positive impact on children around the world.



**Jessica Mokos**

It's a privilege to be involved with a positive, proactive team to support the children of the world and provide them the basic necessities of life.



**John Conley**

Living in Republic of the Congo and witnessing the devastating impact of extreme poverty, particularly upon the individuals within the community in the most disadvantaged situations is an experience I will never forget. Thank you UNICEF Canada for giving me this opportunity to continue to fundraise, advocate for and contribute to impacting the lives of these individuals.



**Cecile Dash**



# A Note to the Gala Volunteers:

## What would we do without you?

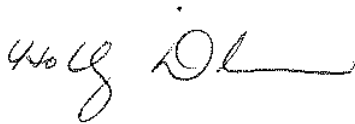
What we have achieved thanks to you in the past 30 years of Galas in Calgary is very impressive: the speakers and performers confirmed, the number of tickets sold, and the items we have secured for the auctions, but what is more impressive for us is your commitment to making of all this happen. The Galas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

We have witnessed the evolution of the Gala in Calgary. From 300 guests in 1993 to 610 in 2022. From raising \$125,000 during the first Gala to surpassing \$18 million in 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 Calgary Gala include the participation of UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Sir Roger Moore as our guest speaker, Sarah McLachlan's performance at our 25th anniversary Gala, the transition to electronic bidding, seeing the excitement of people bidding on items at the auctions, and the opportunity to provide the Calgary community with an event that supports 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 Wyeing  
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.

*UNICEF Water for Life Gala Impact Report*  
© UNICEF Canada 2022

**UNICEF Canada**

**National Office**

90 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 400  
Toronto, ON M4P 2Y3  
1 800 567 4483 | 416 482 4444

**Montréal Office**

400-4060, rue Sainte-Catherine O,  
Westmount QC H3Z 2Z3  
514 288 5134

**Calgary Office**

B001, 1716 – 16 Avenue NW,  
Calgary, AB T2M 0L7  
403 270 2857

[unicef.ca](https://unicef.ca)

 [UNICEF-Canada](https://www.facebook.com/UNICEF-Canada)

 [@UNICEFCanada](https://twitter.com/UNICEFCanada)

 [unicefcanada](https://www.instagram.com/unicefcanada)

 [UNICEF Canada](https://www.youtube.com/UNICEFCanada)

UNICEF Canada is an accredited member of Imagine Canada's Standards Program – one of only 263 charities with this designation in the country. Imagine Canada is the national umbrella for the Canadian charitable sector. With this accreditation, you can be assured that UNICEF Canada has met the highest standards for charities in transparency, board governance, staff management, and volunteer involvement.

Charitable Registration No. 122680572 RR0001

