

THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH WE SUPPORT



CHILDREN'S
AID FOUNDATION
OF CANADA

An estimated **61,000 children and youth** in Canada are in foster care or group homes.



The average youth in care **moves between 5 foster homes and 5 schools**, disrupting their lives with each move.

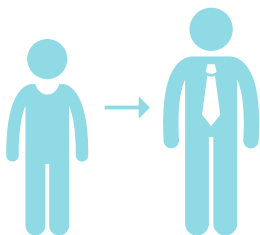


Exposure to trauma is almost universal among children and youth in the child welfare system.

An estimated **300,000 children** are identified as at risk of abuse and neglect in Canada.



46% of kids in care in Ontario **graduate from high school**, compared with 83% of their peers.



Each year, **thousands of young people** must **"age out"** of care as early as 18 years of age and transition to independent living.

Of children and youth in care, **82% have been diagnosed with special needs**. These can include physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioural, and social difficulties.



Youth leaving care are at a **greater risk of experiencing incarceration, homelessness, unemployment**, and reliance on public assistance.

Youth involved in the child welfare system are **200 times more likely to experience homelessness** than the general population.



It takes all of us to ignite a brighter future for children and youth involved with the child welfare system — communities across the country coming together for change. Your support brings us closer to a world where young people who have experienced abuse, neglect and abandonment have the strength and resilience to build a lifetime of their own unstoppable success.

Strong Families and Lifelong Connections: Many young people in care grow up without the stable, caring relationships they need. Without connection and support, they face greater challenges to their mental health, education, and employment. **OUR GOAL:** Children and youth have a caring adult in their corner - a mentor, caregiver, or ally - a steady presence that provides stability, allowing them to thrive.

Mental Health: Young people in and from care face higher rates of trauma-related mental health issues like anxiety, depression, and PTSD. Services are often hard to access, delayed, or culturally inappropriate, leaving many without the support they need. Those without strong family or community ties are especially vulnerable. **OUR GOAL:** Youth benefit from timely, accessible, and appropriate mental health care and opportunities to build well-being.

Education: For those in the child welfare system, frequent moves and a lack of support can disrupt learning and limit opportunities. We want young people to stay in school, graduate, and build the future they envision. **OUR GOAL:** Children and youth have the right supports - tutoring, equipment, and access to enrichment activities - so they can stay on track and succeed.

Employment: For young people leaving care, a job provides stability and purpose; however, many face barriers, including limited experience, weak social connections, and a lack of support. **OUR GOAL:** Young people are equipped with life and job skills to build successful, meaningful careers.