



As we complete our 39th year, we are proud to recognize all the great accomplishments within our School Program and Community Services. Combined, we were able to impact more than 4,000 individuals in 2017/18. Efforts over the last few years to ensure that best practices and current, evidence-based research are incorporated into all program areas results in positive outcomes throughout the organization. From the feedback and evaluations we receive, we hear how much impact Foothills Academy's programs and services are on individual lives through every program and service that we offer.

We value the efforts of our senior staff to advocate for individuals with Learning Disabilities. Active leadership and participation on numerous boards and committees help Foothills Academy shine as a leader in Learning Disabilities locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.

Being a financially accessible organization is an important value to all of us at Foothills Academy. For 39 years, support from school families, staff and the broader community have enabled Foothills Academy to not turn any person away due to financial circumstances. Despite the economy, we are in a strong financial position. However, with freezes to funding, escalating costs and increased demand for bursaries, we see challenges ahead. As we embark on this anniversary year, ensuring fiscal soundness now and in the future is a priority for us.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank our co Executive Directors and our faculty and staff for their efforts and dedication in ensuring success in 2017-18. I'd also like to personally thank all of my fellow Board Members and members of the Board Committees who volunteered their time, effort and expertise on behalf of Foothills Academy over the last year.

Harold Esche

Board Chair

## Board of Governors 2017/18

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Penelope Hamilton, Governor  
Simon Williams, Executive Co-Director  
Karen MacMillan, Executive Co-Director

## Message from the Executive Co-Directors



As Executive Co-Directors, we warmly thank each and every supporter of Foothills Academy. Despite the turbulent economic challenges in Alberta, we have continued to see tremendous support for the life-changing work we do here at Foothills, in the School and in Community Services. It is a testament to the recognition of the importance of our work that we maintain such incredible supporters for our programs. Thank you all for making a difference in the lives of so many children, youth and young adults living with Learning Disabilities.

This year has seen a number of new initiatives. In October 2017, we hosted the Centre of ADHD Awareness Canada (CADDAC) annual conference with Dr.

Thomas E. Brown as the keynote speaker. The two-day event was a unique educational opportunity and was very well attended by parents, teachers, and other professionals in the Calgary area.

Our “Inside Learning Disabilities” ten-week online course was launched in January 2018. The Educator version of the course has already received outstanding feedback and has already been utilized by hundreds of teachers, including entire school staff groups, in Calgary and across Canada. The Parent version of the course will be offered free-of-charge until the end of 2018 in order to increase the accessibility of the information to families. All of this has been supported by an Anonymous Donor through the Calgary Foundation which also supported the website redesign process we are currently undertaking.

As ambassadors for the individuals with unique learning needs, we continue to support and advocate for this population at the local, provincial, and national levels. We each sit on several Boards and committees, including: Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta (LDAA); Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC); Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta (AISCA); the Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada (CADDAC); and the Calgary Regional Service Delivery Collaboration (Calgary RCSD). We are particularly proud that Foothills Academy is a backbone agency leading the Calgary Region LD & ADHD Network; a collective impact group working to help local families find appropriate supports.

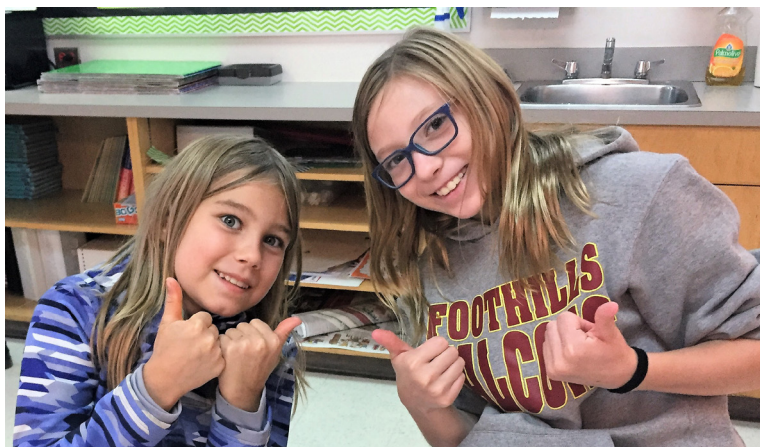
We have achieved so much since our inception in 1979 and we continue to provide much needed services and supports as envisioned by our founders, Tom Aylesworth, Gordon Bullivant, and Bill and Beth Mackesy. Without the ongoing generosity and support of the community, we would not have been able to come this far and meet the life-changing needs of so many children, youth, adults and families living and working with Learning Disabilities. So we want to thank every stakeholder, investor, supporter and champion of Foothills Academy, for being an integral part of our success.

Mr. Simon Williams  
Co-Executive Director

Dr. Karen MacMillan  
Co-Executive Director

### Our Mission

*The mission of Foothills Academy is to facilitate learning in persons, primarily youth and children, identified as having a Learning Disability by providing quality educational programs and a supportive environment for families and staff. We recognize that we are interdependent with our global community – by participating in research, public education, in-service and advocacy, through community service.*

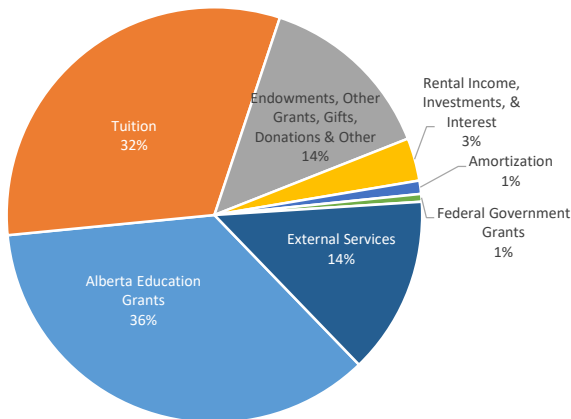




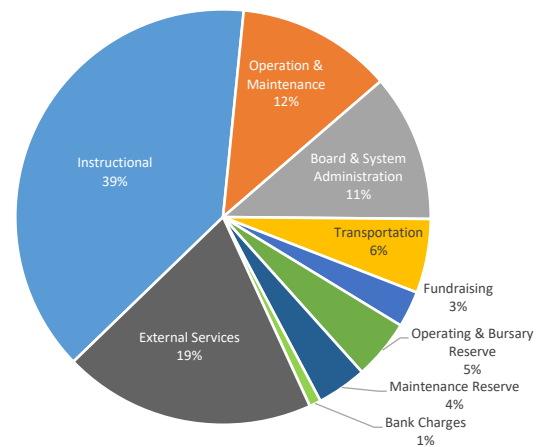
# 2017 - 18 Financial Summary

Note: Full Audited Financial Statements available upon request

Sources of Income \$10,143,565



Spending Allocations: \$10,143,565



Overall, there have been no major changes in revenue and expenses over the previous year. With the government keeping per student funding at the same rate as last year, it has essentially meant a cut in revenue for our school program as expenses such as salaries and other costs like bussing continue to climb.

One of the other demands on our budget is our commitment to having substantial Mental Health, Occupational Therapy and Speech Language Therapy services available for our students. The funding that is provided through the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD) (\$9,000 per year) does not come close to covering the true need of students at Foothills. As an organization, we have chosen to cover the costs of providing this service out of our own budget which is approximately \$150,000 per year in direct costs. If indirect costs were included, the true cost to us to provide these services to our school students is over \$250,000 per year.

Keeping an eye on preparing for the future, the board directed that \$393,000 be allocated to a building Maintenance Reserve fund as per a building life cycle review conducted by an engineering firm and that \$472,583 be allocated to an Operating & Bursary Program reserve. Capital spending included the replacement of a portion of the roof and HVAC equipment as well as replacing and upgrading technology - especially Smartboards.

Recognizing that our School Program and Community Services families are also experiencing financial strain, the board decided to keep fees for programs at the same level as last year. Trying to ensure financial accessibility while being prudent fiscal managers has been a strong focus for us as an organization. But, we are reaching a point where our surpluses which are allocated to capital and operating reserves are becoming smaller and smaller. To increase our revenue, we have had to look at alternative sources of income such as renting out our facility after school hours.

We are always grateful for the tremendous community support plus the efforts of parents, staff, board and volunteers to raise much needed funds and we were also fortunate to receive several one-time major donations this past year. Most of our fundraising efforts go toward supporting our Bursary Fund and in 2017/18, these fundraising efforts allowed us to approve all 238 bursaries that were applied for that were valued in excess of \$966,975.



## School Program



Our school program was full in 2017/18 with 289 students. Most grades have waiting lists which is a tribute to the success of our program.

Students are living in a more complex and complicated world, and it is hugely important for us to continue to support every area of these students' complex lives. We continue to support the social and emotional needs of students, in high-need areas such as anxiety (especially test anxiety), as we implement more supports upon specific professional development for staff, mindfulness in the classroom, regulation strategies and programs, and therapy dogs at high-stress times during exams and tests.

Math performance has been a focus at the provincial achievement level and internally at Foothills Academy. This past year we started using a Math Coach in the younger grades and focus upon visual learning in Math. Thanks to this, our grade 6 students bucked the Provincial trend and showed growth in Math Provincial Achievement Tests. Given this success, we will implement similar coaching in higher grades moving forwards.

It is always a pleasure to recognize our graduating class each year. In June, we were thrilled to witness a large class of 36 students cross the stage. We have students who may not necessarily have graduated elsewhere, graduating and heading off to post-secondary and the workplace. National statistics would suggest that graduation rates for students with Learning Disabilities are less than favourable and our consistently high graduation rate from Foothills is something that we celebrate; especially considering the academic, social and emotional gains that many students make. We are hopeful that we have prepared them well for their post-graduation life through programs like our Adventures Pursuing Post Secondary program,. This is a partnership initiative with SAIT to expose students to the demands of post-secondary education and provide them with skills and experiences to help with the transition after high-school. We have also invested heavily in Futures Planning starting in grade 9. For our most recent graduates, 70% had applied for and were accepted at a post-secondary institution for this coming year.

A complete school performance report and three year plan is submitted annually to Alberta Education and is available on our website.



### Donations in Action:

Bursary assistance was applied for and approved for 95 families (33% of families) for a total of \$855,000.

*"Can you imagine what it is like to have your 8 year old child run away from home and say that he didn't want to live because of how he was being treated at school?"*

*That is the situation we faced when our child was in grade 3 because he had a teacher who did not believe in our child's Learning Disability. Not unlike other parents, we wanted our child to learn to read, write and do math; to enjoy attending school; and, to not feel like he didn't belong. We didn't think that was too much to ask but apparently it was until we found Foothills. Our initial connection was through Community Services where our son started in the Read/Write program. Through the five-week program, his reading level went from grade 1 to grade 4 and his confidence in himself soared. We enrolled him in the school program and he loved going to school! We are eternally grateful for bringing out the best in our son and helping him to reach/understand his potential."*

Foothills Academy Parent of Graduating Student



## Community Services



*"This camp has so many positives for my son. He develops so many healthy relationships; he tries new things; the fighting at home decreases. This camp is the best thing to ever happen to our lives."* Camp Amicus Parent

With the long wait lists for our school program, Our ability to deliver programs and services to people beyond our school program through Community Services has become more important than ever before. **In total, we reached over 3,700 individuals in 2017/18.**

### Children and Youth Programs For children and youth, a total of 1,024 families

directly participated in one of our programs or services. Operating at or near capacity, these include our Read/Write & Math one to one instruction; psycho-educational assessments, counselling or group programs; social skills-based Camp Amicus and Amicus Recreation programs.

More important than the numbers are the success stories that come out of individuals. Children who were non-readers can now read with confidence. Children without a friend who rarely left the house now eagerly come to Amicus programs where they connect with friends and learn skills they can use in their school and homes.

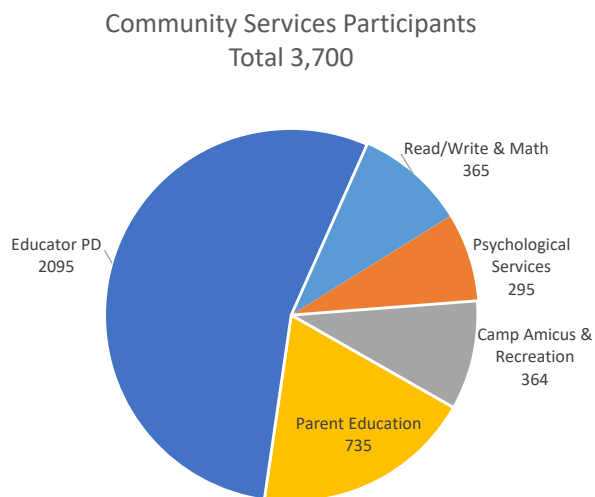
### Parent Education and Professional Development

Part of our mission is to share our knowledge of Learning Disabilities beyond our direct programs. We accomplish this through our Parent Education and Professional Development department. We also do this through monthly articles written by our staff which are posted on our website and communicated through our e-newsletter to subscribers.



### More than 700 adults joined us for our Parent Education workshops and online course.

Through these educational opportunities, they have increased their knowledge about Learning Disabilities and related conditions and increased their strategies to parent the children in their lives with Learning Disabilities and ADHD. For the parents who attend our in-person workshops, they benefit not only from the information presented by our speakers but also from the supportive environment and connections that they make with other parents facing similar circumstances. Another way to increase knowledge and understanding is through online courses.



**More than 2,000 educators participated in in-person or online professional development.** Conservatively, these educators would **impact nearly 42,000 students throughout Alberta and beyond**

with their increased knowledge and understanding of these students in their classroom. Thanks to a generous donation from an Anonymous donor at the Calgary Foundation, in 2017 – 18, we have been able to develop new content for our online courses and deliver them on a new, robust platform which will provide many opportunities for expansion.

### Donations in Action:

Bursary demand remained steady this year. In total, \$112,000 in bursaries was provided to 143 people in order for them to access the programs and services that would help them and their family.



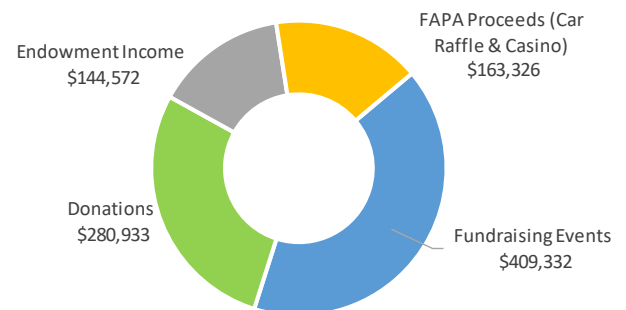
*"Thank you so much for all the hard work you put in day after day with my son for almost a full year. He is now a confident reader, so much so, that he reads bedtime stories to his little brother on a regular basis. This is amazing to watch and heart melting, to say the least. It really fills my heart with joy!"* Read/Write participant parent





Thanks to the generous donors, sponsors, parents and staff, \$998,164 (after fundraising expenses) was raised for Foothills Academy Society in 2017/18. This figure includes just under \$68,000 which was donated specifically for our Amicus programs. Compared to 2016/17, we increased fundraising by 12% which is impressive given the economy and given that there were two separate golf tournaments that were counted in 2016/17. This year we were fortunate to have additional funds raised through the Birdies for Kids program which we hope we will benefit from on an ongoing basis. We also benefitted from the one-time Mountains & Marathons event and the FAPA Casino which occurs approximately every 18 months. We are pleased to see that donations are about \$30,000 higher than last year. Our endowment funds continue to perform well and provide much needed, reliable long-term funding. Recognizing that the demand for financial assistance continues to grow, we continue to pursue a diverse mix of donors and fundraising options. Looking ahead, we will need to be creative to find a way to replace the funds raised through this year's Mountains & Marathons event and from one of our fundraising events (Family Fun Night) which, due to unforeseen circumstances, needs to be cancelled in the coming year.

### Fundraising & Donation Breakdown 2017/18 net proceeds



### Donor Spotlight: Anonymous Donor at the Calgary Foundation



An Anonymous Donor at the Calgary Foundation donated money to Foothills Academy Society to help redesign our website which will launch in late 2018. With the redesigned website, it will be easier for visitors to quickly understand the dual nature of Foothills Academy Society - a school and Community Services. It will be easier for visitors to navigate and quickly find the programs or resources they are searching for. And, for our school families, the website allows access to much more comprehensive information and resources to improve overall communication between Foothills Academy and home.

The donation also allowed for our Parent Education and Professional Development department to use state of the art software to design and manage online education aimed at both parents and educators. Because they're online, the courses can be accessed by people locally, provincially, nationally and beyond. The platform will also allow us to post webinars and other online learning tools. This donation allows us to economically reach significantly more people and provide resources to those who may live in rural or remote locations without specialized resources locally. The first course offered was Inside Learning Disabilities for Educators. In 2018/19, we will offer Inside LD for Families and introduce Inside ADHD for Educators.

The development of both our website resources and online learning courses helps us to fulfill our mission of being part of the wider community to help increase knowledge of Learning Disabilities in Calgary and beyond.



## Fundraising and Donations



### A Monumental Achievement

At our Fall Funtasia gala in November 2017, Simon Williams announced the launch of a fundraising campaign called Mountains and Marathons to coincide with the annual Charity Challenge event at the Scotiabank Calgary Marathon. Simon, in partnership with Centron Construction Group's CEO Wayne Benz sought to overcome the challenge of mountains and marathons to reflect the challenges that students with Learning Disabilities have daily. Together, they committed to bike and run 289 miles - one mile for every student who attends Foothills Academy - in one day to raise awareness of Learning Disabilities and raise money for the Bursary Fund at the same time..

On May 26th, Simon set off early in the morning and cycled from Jasper to the Saddledome in Calgary in an amazing 18 hours! After a few hours sleep, Simon returned to the Stampede Grounds Sunday morning and handed off the baton to Wayne Benz who ran his marathon in just over 4 hours. Simon stayed to cheer on the large group of Foothills Academy families and supporters who were competing in their own Calgary Marathon events. The event was covered by CTV Calgary and the Calgary Herald.



We were thrilled that in the end, the **combined Mountains and Marathons and Calgary Marathon events raised over \$150,000 for Foothills Academy Society** - approximately \$50,000 more than is usually raised through the Calgary Marathon. It took the combined efforts of Simon, Wayne and all the Foothills Academy families and staff to achieve this impressive outcome.



### Donor Spotlight: Alumni Legacy Fund



When our current Board Chair, Harold Esche's son was graduating from Foothills Academy in June 2018, Harold decided to launch the Alumni Legacy Fund by donating a full year's worth of tuition. Through this fund, graduating families can commit to continue to donate to Foothills Academy once their child has graduated from the school program. It can be a one-time donation or a commitment to an ongoing donation. Funds raised through this initiative will go into an endowment fund that will be directed to the Foothills Bursary Fund. Creating an endowment fund is a commitment by alumni parents to support the continuation of the strong bursary tradition of Foothills Academy, reduce the need for fundraising by current parents and ensure the financial stability of the Society. Going forward, graduating classes of parents will be encouraged to donate to Foothills Academy in their child's graduating year. We also hope to connect with alumni who are now at a stage of life where they are able to give back to the school that played an important place in their lives.



# Thank you to Our Generous Donors and Sponsors!

We sincerely appreciate each and every donation. Due to space limitations, we have had to limit this list to only include all contributions \$1,000 or more

## Parents and Staff

We'd like to say a special thank you to all our school parents and staff who contributed hundreds of items to, bought tickets for and purchased items at all our fundraising events and all the volunteers who donated their time to Foothills Academy Society this year!

## Individual Supporters

Aasen, Karen & Damon  
Anderson, Brent  
Anderson, Trevor  
Anonymous Donor at the Calgary Foundation  
Bell, James & Lauren  
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t Hart, John & Wilma  
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## Community Groups, Foundations,

### Granting Agencies & Partners

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Calgary Marathon Society  
Calgary South Rotary Partners  
Calgary Stampede Parade Committee  
Children's Hospital Aid Society  
The Ken and Roma Lett Foundation  
Leonard and Faigel Shapiro Family Fund

Nickle Family Foundation  
The Prosser Charitable Foundation  
Shaw Charity Classic - Birdies for Kids  
United Way Calgary and Area  
WestJetters Caring For Our Community Program

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**FOOTHILLS  
ACADEMY  
SOCIETY**

A Leader in Learning Disabilities since 1979

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