

Report to the Community 2016 - 17



The 2016-2017 school year was a remarkable one for Foothills Academy!

Foothills Academy continues to have overwhelming demand from the Calgary and area community for placements in our school. Therefore, we are striving to support the LD/ADHD in other ways through Community Services, where the demand is similarly high across all four departments: psychological services; individual one-to-one remedial instruction; Camp Amicus and recreational programming; as well as our numerous educational opportunities for parents and professionals across Canada.

With the increased demand from the community for our services, comes an increase in demand in our bursary program. With your support over the past 38 years, Foothills Academy Society has been incredibly unique in our efforts to ensure financial accessibility for all, for both our school and Community Services programs.

In the school program this past year we held our first annual *Inside/Out student conference*, for students to increase their understanding of their unique brains, as well as associated supports and strategies. This initiative built upon our underlying philosophy of fostering Self-Determination skills (such as self-knowledge and self-advocacy) to boost their long-term resilience and sense of well-being.

Our partnerships in the community continue to grow. Each year we support education and psychology students from universities across the province in practicums, internships, and research collaborations. We have also begun a unique collaboration with SAIT to provide our high school students with opportunities to have postsecondary experiences and increase the likelihood of success in their transition to adulthood.

As Co-Executive Directors we played an integral role in the advocacy of individuals with LD/ADHD by sitting on boards and committees in the Calgary and area, as well as at the provincial and national levels. In addition, Foothills Academy Society is the co-backbone agency for the Calgary and Area LD & ADHD Network which brings together numerous partners across a variety of community sectors.

And finally, we want to recognize this year's graduating class who crossed the stage in June. We are enormously proud of their accomplishments and excited to hear about their journeys through post-secondary and the workplace. Families of these recent graduates provide us with the best testimony to what we are accomplishing. Here are just two examples:

"Having our child attend Foothills was the best decision we've ever made for him. He has a bright future and has been able to reach the potential we knew he was capable of but was having difficulty achieving in his public school years."

"We are so very grateful for the teaching team at Foothills. Thank you for continuing to support and motivate those special individuals who struggle to fit into the typical student mold."

We want to thank you for your ongoing support, as we proudly enter our 39th year, making a significant difference in the lives of so many children and families.

Mr. Simon Williams
Co-Executive Director

Dr. Karen MacMillan
Co-Executive Director

Board of Governors 2016/17

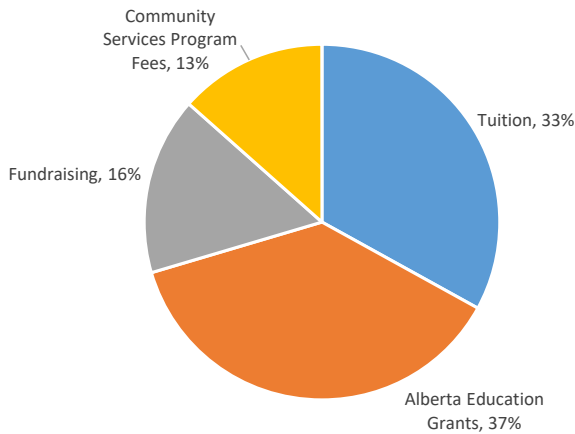
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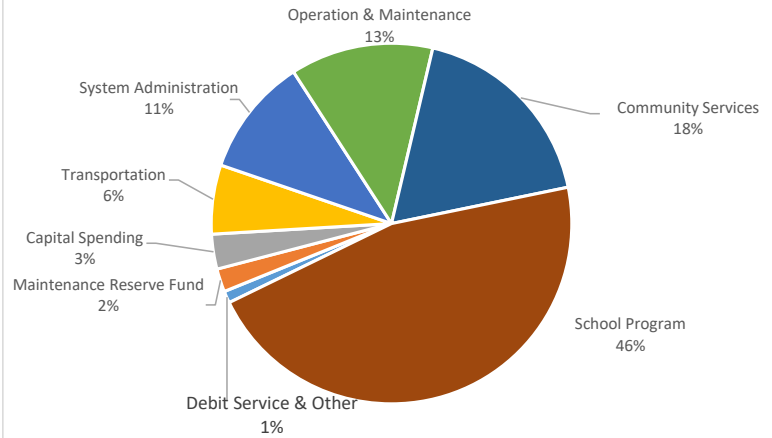
2016 - 17 Financial Summary

Note: Full Audited Financial Statements available

Sources of Income \$9,696,461



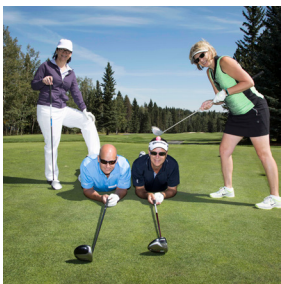
Cost of Services \$9,402,031



Thanks to conservative fiscal management, we were fortunate to have a positive year financially. Our original building is over 25 years old which is the expected lifespan of many mechanical and building envelope systems. As a private school, Foothills Academy Society is completely financially responsible for all building repairs, upkeep and maintenance. During the year, the Board of Governors internally restricted \$2 million of net financial assets for the purpose of establishing a building maintenance reserve based on the recommendations of a professional engineering building lifecycle assessment. As per the assessment, \$196,500 of the surplus was added to the reserve to fund ongoing building refurbishment. \$293,000 was spent this year on capital improvements.

One challenge facing Foothills Academy Society is the impact of the second year of per student funding coming from Alberta Education being frozen. Other costs such as staff salaries, heating, transportation, etc. have continued to increase. We were able to absorb these increased costs this year but if per pupil funding for the school program doesn't increase in the next year or two, the unfunded increase in costs will start to pose a challenge to us financially.

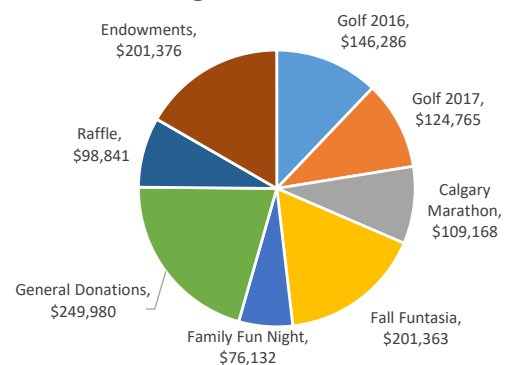
Fundraising and Donations



Thanks to the generous sponsors, donors, parents and staff, \$1,252,922 was raised for the Foothills Academy Society Bursary Fund. While our overall fundraising shows a 31% increase over 2016, this is largely because we had two golf tournaments fall within the same fiscal year which will not be the case next year. Our fundraising expenses are also proportionally higher because of the costs associated with holding two golf tournaments in one year. It is also somewhat overstated because it reflects non-cash gifts-in-kind items that were donated for our event auctions. Recognizing that the demand for financial assistance continues to grow, we continue to pursue a diverse mix of donors and fundraising options.

We provide financial assistance for all families accessing our school program or Community Services on a sliding scale basis. In 2016 – 2017, just over 100 students or 36% of our school families applied for and received some amount of bursary funding for a total of \$855,000. We have experienced a sharp increase in demand for programs through Community Services and along with it, demand for financial assistance. Bursaries for people accessing Community Services increased by 75% to 147 participants which results in a total of \$151,149 being distributed. In total, Foothills Academy Society provided \$1,006,149 in bursary assistance through both the school and community services programs.

Fundraising & Donations \$1,207,911



Fulfilling our Mission in 2016 - 17

School Program

288 students enrolled in school program. Our school program is full with waiting lists at most grades. 26 students graduated from grade 12.



Donations in Action:

Bursary assistance was applied for and approved for 102 families (36% of families) for a total of \$855,000.

"We enrolled him at Foothills Academy this year. With the unique and customized program they offer, this year his grade level average is already 3s and some 4s. In recent psychological testing, he now shows no sign of depression and has remarkably reduced anxiety. He now studies and completes his homework independently for the first time."

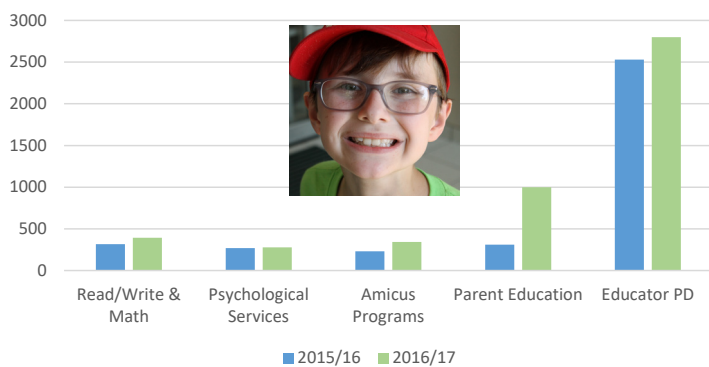


A complete school performance report and three year plan is submitted annually to Alberta Education and is available on our website.



Community Services

Enrollment in Community Services Programs



"My son tends to isolate himself at home. He wants to be more social but can't seem to initiate this contact with peers. As a result of this camp experience, he has kept contact with 3 new people and initiated a social outing. This is a first for my son."

Amicus camp enrollment was up 20% with extra campers and staff added to meet the demand. In its first full year of operations, Amicus Recreation enrollment was up 128% this year. A new teen leadership program was introduced for 16 - 18 year olds. Camp Amicus celebrated its 35th year of programs.



Donations in Action:



Bursary demand was up 75% in Community Services this year. In total, \$151,149 in bursaries was provided to 147 people in order for them to access the programs and services that would help them and their family.



The **Read/Write & Math** one-to-one tutoring program saw 393 students (24% increase from previous year). In total, 11,392 hours of personalized instruction was provided increasing not only these student's reading, writing and math abilities but also their self-esteem and confidence in themselves as learners.

"Our daughter looked forward to everyday she had in the program during the summer break. We have noticed that our daughter has started the new school year with more confidence and wanting to read books !!!!!"

Parent Education participation increased dramatically by 222% compared to the previous year. Attendees are a combination of school families and outside participants from across the city. Online workshops are accessed by people across Alberta and beyond.

In addition to the clients that our **Psychological Services** area saw for assessments, counselling and small group programs, we provided training for 15 Masters and PhD level psychology students. Psychological Services staff and students provide services for both the school program and community services.



Educator Professional Development workshops were attended by 2,800 educators in person or online. Conservatively, this benefitted 56,000 students throughout Alberta and beyond.

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.

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!

Schiller, Rick & Teresa
Shanks, Tristan
Skauge, Rick & Linda
Stanich, Melonie & Warren
Thomson, Jessica & Donald
Wallach, Zohar
Weston, Valerie
Willis, Sylvia
Willis, Colleen & Ross
Zaharia, Kelly

Individual Supporters

't Hart, John & Wilma
Bourgeois, Leah
Chisholm, Martin & Claudette
Clark, Deborah
Comeau Brunton, Colleen
Corner, Emily R.
Czechowskyj, Andy
Dalglish, Lisa & Tim
Ekkel, Debbie & Duane
Esche, Irena & Harold
Fries, James
Gilchrist, Mike
Glover, Darren & Brandie
Gorman, Rhonda
Hetlinger, Bryan
Hirji, Ameen
Hudon, Mark & Kathy
Hunt, Dr. Rob
Kelly, Shannon & Chris
Kettenbach, Mary
Lamb, Trevor & Gail
Laughy, Ira
Lukey, Olive
McCoubrey, Derek & Buffie
Moser, Duane
Moser, Trina

Community Groups, Foundations, Granting Agencies & Partners

B'nai Brith Calgary Lodge No. 816
Calgary Marathon Society
Children's Hospital Aid Society
Lily Street Foundation
Nickle Family Foundation
Raymond James Ltd.
The Hotchkiss Family Foundation
The Ken and Roma Lett Fdn
The Probus Club of Calgary
The Prosser Charitable Foundation
WestJetters Caring For Our Community Program

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**FOOTHILLS
ACADEMY
SOCIETY**

A Leader in Learning Disabilities since 1979

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