

2022-23



Manitoba  
**Possible.**

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

# Our Vision

For an inclusive and accessible society

# Our Mission

Work together to eliminate barriers to full and equal participation

# Our Values

Collaboration - Diversity - Innovation

## Board of Directors

**Jennifer Lusby - Chairperson**

**Brenda Slikker - Vice-Chairperson**

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**Amanda Kozak - Director**

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**2022 was an exceptional year.** I extend my deepest gratitude to our community of supporters and partners of Manitoba Possible. Your unwavering commitment to our mission is instrumental in delivering impactful programs and services to people across Manitoba.

Of the many 'exceptional year' happenings of 2022, a few stand out. Easter Seals' 100th anniversary celebration, with buildings illuminated in red and commemorations in Ottawa. The launch of Care Possible to better connect care recipients with providers. Drop Zone made a thrilling return, raising funds by rappelling 22 stories. Sledge hockey players showcased the sport with Manitoba's politicians. Lastly, I concluded a three-year term as Chair of Easter Seals Canada CEO Committee.

As my tenure as CEO ends, I leave with great pride, knowing that Manitoba Possible is stronger than ever, positioned to lead the way in breaking down barriers. Our children's programming got a much needed boost in funding, we expanded employment services in northern and rural Manitoba, and partnered on a national initiative to define a cultural broker profession. We also enhanced business processes through refining risk management, insurance and audit requirements, implementing advanced client information and financial management systems, and improving website accessibility, including French language.

I am grateful for the strong leadership, exceptional staff, and unwavering community support that have been instrumental to my time at Manitoba Possible. I am excited to watch as this organization full of incredible people continues to lead the way, creating an inclusive and accessible society for all.



**Dana Erickson**  
CEO, Manitoba Possible

**This past year was marked by impressive accomplishments.** We successfully launched an innovative platform that revolutionized homecare, collaborated on groundbreaking nationwide projects, and made an impressive return to in-person fundraising events, just to name a few highlights. Your invaluable contributions were instrumental in making these achievements possible, and we extend our heartfelt appreciation.

Delivering programs across the entire province is a huge achievement. We express our gratitude towards the Manitoba Possible staff who deliver services with commitment and passion.

I would also like to express immense gratitude to outgoing CEO, Dana, whose visionary leadership has propelled the organization to this level of achievement. Over the past seven years we have witnessed Dana's transformative impact on Manitoba Possible. Through strategic initiatives and thought leadership, Dana has made a lasting impact that extends from the organization's staff to the wider community. We are truly thrilled about the future of Manitoba Possible and are confident in the exceptional team that Dana leaves behind.

Thank you, Dana, for your outstanding service and inspiring leadership—your legacy will continue to shape a more inclusive and accessible province.



**Jennifer Lusby**  
Chairperson, Manitoba Possible

AN INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE SOCIETY  
**IS POSSIBLE**

That's why we work together to eliminate barriers to full and equal participation for all Manitobans.

**We're here to change perspectives. We're here to show Manitobans exactly what's possible.**





Manitoba Possible is a non-profit organization offering a wide-range of programs and services. This year, **through innovation, collaboration, and diversification**, we made a significant impact on the lives of children, youth, and adults with disabilities across the province.

**14,034** MANITOBA WHEELCHAIR PROGRAM CLIENTS AS OF 2023

**2,221** NEW & REFURBISHED WHEELCHAIRS PROVIDED THIS YEAR THROUGH OUR LOAN PROGRAM

**3,022** MANUAL AND MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIRS REPAIRED IN 2022-23

**287** ADULT RECREATION AND LEISURE PROGRAMS OFFERED

**27,352** ACCESSIBLE PARKING PERMITS ISSUED

**51** FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES SERVED THROUGH JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

**473** HOURS OF ASL INSTRUCTION GIVEN TO PARENTS OF DEAF CHILDREN

**706** PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

**94** HOURS OF SLEDGE HOCKEY PLAYED

# INNOVATION

## Care Possible: The Digital Platform Revolutionizing Home Care Access in Manitoba

**We heard from many Manitobans who struggle to connect with the right care provider.**

We developed Care Possible to help mitigate those issues of safety and security, and bring about change in our community.

The digital platform is breaking new ground by changing the way Manitobans access home care. Care Possible's filters and matching algorithms lead to better search results, helping connect clients with the perfect service providers to meet their needs and care requirements.

Care Possible has proven to be vital and timely, on-boarding over 1,500 users and providing over 1,000 hours of care since launching in November 2022.



# COLLABORATION



## 100 Years with Easter Seals

Manitoba Possible marked Easter Seals' centennial anniversary by illuminating notable landmarks across the province with Easter Seals' trademark red. Additionally, we showed solidarity for accessibility and inclusion awareness on Red Shirt Day. The Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba also hosted a reception, extending invitations to past Manitoba Possible ambassadors, dedicated volunteers, program participants, and donors. The commemorative event was a testament to the profound impact Easter Seals has had on Manitoba.



**Cultural  
Brokers  
Network  
of Canada**

## Cultural Brokers Network of Canada

Cultural brokers increase the overall well-being of individuals and families by providing culturally sensitive support to help navigate various agencies and programs. This year, we started working with organizations across Canada (Laurentian University, Multicultural Health Brokers Co-Op and Umbrella Multicultural Health) on a three-year project to uncover a collective identity of core values and principles of cultural brokers in Canada.





## We continue to expand and broaden our programs to meet the diverse needs of our community.

**Financial Empowerment participants received over \$495,000 in tax refunds** in 2022 through our free income tax filing services for people with disabilities living on low income.

**Children’s Service Coordinators launched the “My Favourite Words” initiative** across rural Manitoba. This strength-based approach focuses on key areas of child development and aims to shift perspective on childhood disability. The practice is already implemented by Manitoba Possible in Winnipeg alongside our Specialized Services for Children and Youth (SSCY) partners.

**Vocational Rehabilitation helped 92 Manitobans prepare for, attain, and maintain gainful employment** through our education and training programs.

**Children’s Service Coordination and Provincial Outreach Therapy for Children received an additional \$589,000** from the Province and Manitoba’s Department of Families to help reduce wait times. Families can access these crucial services sooner, which can have a significant impact on children’s development and overall well-being.





# Bridging Culture and Language

## American Sign Language Supports Settlement in Canada

**The morning after a Winnipeg Jets playoff loss, the city is draped in disappointment. Amidst the collective frustration, a small group of Deaf newcomers take the opportunity to immerse themselves in Canadian culture.**

As they break from their American Sign Language (ASL) and English lesson to grab a coffee, a student asks, "What is a Whiteout?"

One of the classes' teachers, Bob, dives into a story of how the now-legendary Winnipeg ritual of wearing all-white started 36 years ago.

"It's beneficial to talk about what's happening in our community, like with the Jets or the upcoming election. We can explain culturally specific things that are relevant to their lives," he says.

"It's a very safe place to get together," adds his colleague, Judith, who also teaches the class.

The focus is language, but Manitoba Possible's ASL for Newcomers class also serves as a bridge for immigrants and refugees to Canadian values.

"When I came, I had to learn so much. It was very overwhelming and a little bit disorienting," says Yousef, who arrived in Canada from Syria alongside his older brother Anas in 2016.

After break, the group spills out into every corner of the small classroom. Judith works with students on an English assignment. In the far corner, Bob's imaginative storytelling captivates Yousef as he shares a vivid account of a terrifying tiger encounter.

"Bob is the king of making people feel comfortable," says Judith.

Both Bob and Judith have taught English and ASL with Manitoba Possible for close to 35 years, beginning their careers in the pre-school program and reuniting in the ASL for Newcomers class five years ago. Their friendship and experience have them working as a seamless team, understanding students' needs and goals and meeting them where they're at. For many, entering the class as adults is their first opportunity to access education and learn an official language.

"School in the Philippines, I didn't have access to it. I wasn't learning until I was 24," says April Joy, who immigrated from the Philippines three years ago.

The program—funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada—empowers newcomers to pursue education and employment opportunities.

"The other day Yousef stood up and he started explaining a complex scenario in the most beautiful ASL," explains Judith. "Developing not only one but two languages as an adult, when, all your life, you've only used gestures is a slow process. When you see such incredible progress, it brings tears to your eyes."

Supporting settlement is crucial in welcoming newcomers, and building a stronger more inclusive society.

"We want them to know how to go out in the world," adds Bob. "We want to create successful life for them and language is the key to success."

# A Safe Space To Explore

## A New Fence Becomes a Gateway to Summer Fun

Six-year old Marshall is making big plans for his backyard this summer - endless somersaults on the trampoline, splashing in a pool on hot days, and being able to camp for the first time with his family.

Three years ago, Marshall had a brain aneurysm. While he was recovering, additional concerns regarding his development were noted, and he was diagnosed with Global Developmental Delay with Autistic Features. Marshall loves playing outdoors, exploring and being chased, but his sense of adventure could cause him to flee at any moment. A new fence has opened a world of possibility for the family, creating a safe, relaxing space where they can experience those summer plans.

"We now have a space to ground ourselves and say 'look at all the hard things we went through, now it's time to enjoy'," says Marshall's mom, Cheryl.

**"Marshall and his brother can now be outside together and have that bonding time. That simple piece, which is just a fence for some, is a whole other area of space for us to be connected with nature."**



Through a family-centred approach focused on strengths, needs and goals, Marshall's Manitoba Possible children's service coordinator worked with the family on navigating programs available in their small Manitoba community.

Giving Marshall the opportunity to run and play by securing Easter Seals funding for a fence is one of the many ways Manitoba Possible supports his family.

"They've been a really good cheerleader for us, providing me with things I never ever would think to ask for," says Cheryl. "As a parent, when something like this happens to your child, you don't even know what to ask for."

Manitoba Possible's supports families in breaking down barriers for children with disabilities. For Marshall and his family, a fence has provided a safe space where they can enjoy summer without worry.





# From Unhoused to Thriving

## Amanda's Journey with Vocational Rehabilitation

**A**manda first learned about Manitoba Possible when she was fighting to get her life back. She was living in an unsafe home and had a life-changing injury.

The former restaurant manager had sustained a serious injury that made her unable to work in hospitality. Tracey, Amanda's Manitoba Possible vocational rehabilitation counsellor, helped her enroll in Manitoba Possible's Vocational Rehabilitation program and Employment Preparation Centre.

**"It wasn't until I walked in that I discovered just how much opportunity there was," Amanda says.**

The Vocational Rehabilitation program assists adults with disabilities to plan, attain, and maintain gainful employment. The Employment Preparation Centre provides assessment services and employment support, like resume development, interview preparation and on-the-job training. Both programs are funded by the Manitoba Government.

As Amanda got started on attaining employment, she became unhoused and unable to find affordable and accessible housing. It took years for Amanda to find a safe space to be ready to go back to school and find employment.

Amanda landed a job as an assistant manager at Don's Photo. She wanted to ensure she could do a full day of work before pursuing her desired career in social media.

"[Don's Photo] was 100% willing to work with my disability. They understood my limitations and were fabulous about it. Even so, the first nine months were really difficult. I had hoped that I could go back to work, and everything would be okay. I'm not very good at recognizing my own limitations. And if it hadn't been for the staff there, I would have hurt myself again. But everyone helped. I gained the realization that all I had to do was disclose my disability and people would actually help me," she says.

The team at the Employment Preparation Centre helped Amanda craft how she could disclose her symptoms in a way that made her feel confident. Even though it was hard, it was worth it.

"You should always disclose because if the position and the people that you're working with are worth it, they will support you and will always be there to help you or back you up."

Besides disclosing a disability, Amanda has one more piece of advice aimed at Manitobans who want to be more inclusive and accessible: "Never assume. You can't see my disability. Don't ever make assumptions about a person's ability."



# With Gratitude

In 2022-23, we made a thrilling return to in-person events! We are grateful for the unwavering support of our generous community.

Our supporters rappelled down Manitoba Hydro Place, showed solidarity on Easter Seals' Red Shirt Day, organized community fundraisers, left legacies through planned giving, and stayed committed to creating an accessible and inclusive society for all.



**Thank you  
Manitoba Possible  
Ambassadors  
Alex and Téo,  
who have spent  
two years making  
disability issues  
heard across the  
province!**





# Your Impact

## Accessible Sport

We strongly believe in the transformative power of sport. We also believe every child, youth, and adult should have equal access to play and participate. With your support, we are able to provide a diverse range of accessible sports, including sledge hockey, power wheelchair hockey, wheelchair curling, and more!

## Recreation and Leisure

Your donations helped ignite imaginations at robotics camp, hone culinary skills through cooking clubs, showcase creativity in music therapy, and access endless other recreation opportunities. Every Manitoba Possible program teaches valuable life skills, social skills, and most importantly, is a welcoming place to have fun!

## Accessible Technology

We all use technology to work, connect, play and access resources we need to thrive. Accessible technologies enable people with disabilities to live independent, healthy, dignified lives. With your support, Manitobans can access essential tools like mobility aids, home modifications, adaptive electronics, and hearing aids.



# Golfing to Give Back **CENTURY 21.** Bachman & Associates



Century 21 Bachman & Associates hosted their annual Gary Bachman Classic on June 29, 2022 at Rossmere Golf and Country Club. One hundred golfers raised over \$40,000 for Manitobans with disabilities.

As a long-time supporter of Easter Seals Manitoba, Century 21's partnership empowers more children to attend inclusive summer camps, gain independence through assistive technology, and participate in their communities.

## Rappelling For Possible



Forty-six brave souls harnessed up for Easter Seals Drop Zone, rappelling off the edge of Manitoba Hydro Place to raise over \$70,000 for Manitoba Possible. This year marked the first in-person Drop Zone in three years and we were thrilled to welcome the community back to the event.

Easter Seals Nova Scotia first hosted the event in Halifax in 2005, and it has since been adopted by provincial organizations across Canada.

## **CENTURY 21.** Curling for a Cause Westman Realty Ltd.

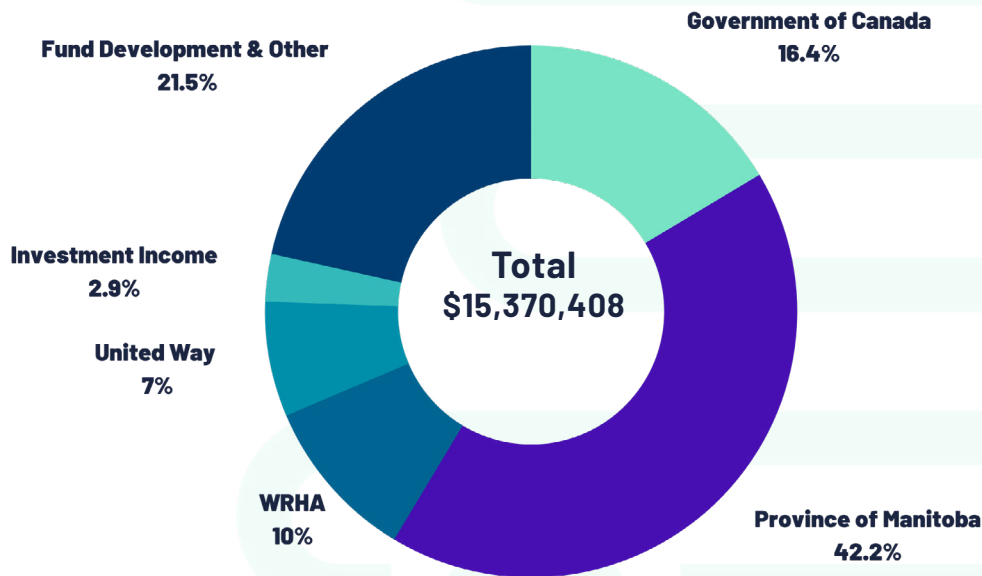


The dedicated team at Century 21 Westman Realty raised an impressive \$11,000 at this winter's Easter Seals Bonspiel.

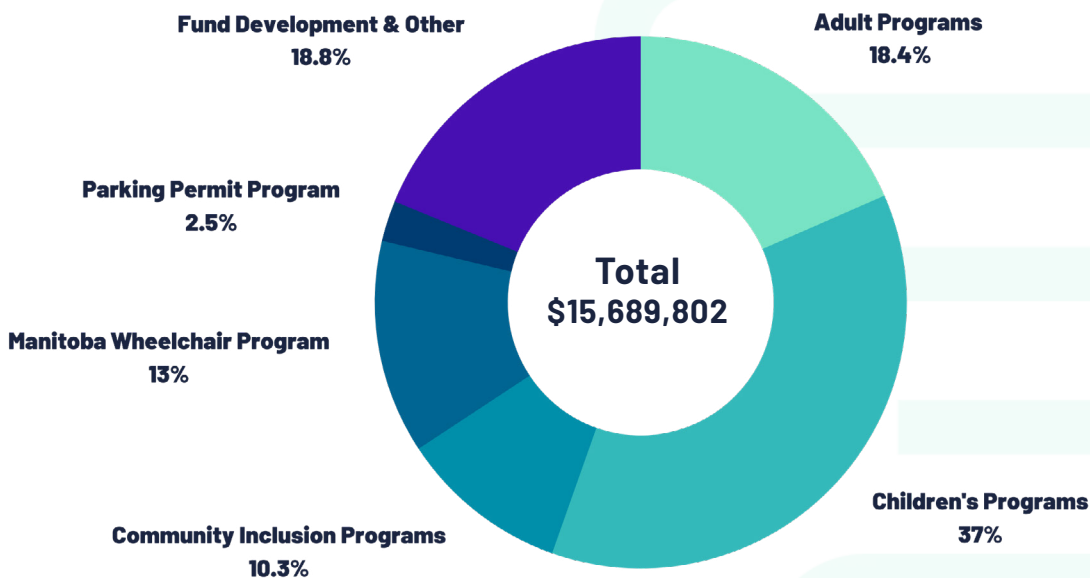
The Easter Seals Bonspiel has become a treasured tradition for Century 21 Westman Realty. Over the past 12 years, their efforts have raised an incredible \$134,000. The funds raised at the event play a crucial role in supporting Manitoba Possible programs and services in the Westman Region of Manitoba.



## Revenues



## Expenditures



Thank you to the Province of Manitoba, Government of Canada, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA), United Way Winnipeg, United Way Brandon, and generous donors for their commitment to creating an inclusive society for all.

*The summarized information is taken from our annual audited financial statements. Complete audited financial statements are available on our website [manitobapossible.ca](http://manitobapossible.ca).*

# Thank you to our generous Donors

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**Together, we can  
create an inclusive  
and accessible  
society for all.**

