



A brighter future
for youth with
disabilities

COMMUNITY REPORT 2024



AVEN | AGE 19
SPINAL CORD INJURY
BOWHEAD REACH

SHINE DREAMS OF 2024

Shine fulfilled 65 unique Dreams for young people aged 11-21 living with severe physical disabilities across Canada this year. These Dreams helped overcome barriers and complete goals while they provided the Dreamer with tools that fostered greater independence, a sense of purpose, and a brighter future ahead.

From Xavier's 'foodie' adventure in Edmonton to Alexy's Grand Prix race in Montreal, Shine Dreams are tailored to each individual. Laela learned from the *Cavalria* horse trainers, Elysanne received her very own keyboard, and Kaitlyn explored historical sites on the East Coast in an RV. Ajla and Keerthana received technology to support their vision loss, while Destinee received tech gear to help her graphic design business.

Many of the young people we serve face significant barriers and health challenges and are often not eligible for programs from other organizations. Most of the financial, medical, and emotional support weighs on the shoulders of their families.

Your generosity is what makes these life-changing Dreams possible. **Thank you** to our donors, referral partners, and in-kind supporters like the Straz Strong Foundation, Motion, and Bowhead. You are helping young people shine brighter every day.

JADEN'S DREAM

Jaden is a big music buff whose passion was inspired by long car rides listening to the top legends like Queen and Dolly Parton. His Shine Dream included 1:1 lessons that helped develop his skills at his own pace, preparing him for a college program in media studies as well as an opportunity to record some tracks at MetalWorks Studio.

"I originally thought I would want to meet my music icon, but then thought the equipment would be better for my career. This day was one of the best days of my life! This will be one of those core things in my life that I can look back on." - Jaden

JADEN | AGE 20
CEREBRAL PALSY
MUSIC PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

In 2024, Shine fulfilled 65 powerful, life-changing Dreams - and every one of them was made possible by the drive, heart, and belief of this community.

Together, we helped young people like Aven, Connor, Ajla, and Keerthana access groundbreaking adaptive equipment, expand their independence, and see themselves *SHINE*. Through new partnerships and bold outreach - like our CN Tower EdgeWalk challenge with Q107, and the "Our Community" segment on Accessible Media Inc. - we invited Canada to understand Shine's mission in new and unexpected ways.

We also faced real headwinds. With 61% of Shine donors giving by mail, the Canada Post strike in November and December—months that account for 1/3 of annual donations - had a major impact. But our team leaned in, hosting more events, launching Come to Sleigh: a para-ice hockey event showcasing an accessible sport, and opening up new giving channels to finish the year strong and complete the 65 unique Shine Dreams.

This is who we are: resilient, creative, and fiercely committed to empowering young people living with severe physical disabilities. Thank you for supporting us in 2024 and for helping to create futures full of possibility.



Tiffany Houston,
Chief Executive Officer



MEET OUR BOARD

Shine Foundation is governed by a volunteer-based, national Board of Directors comprised of highly regarded representatives from health care, finance, and community/public service who regularly meet to establish our strategic direction, monitor legal and financial matters, and open doors to new friends of the Foundation.

Thank you to our board members who continued to support and provide guidance in 2024:

(Pictured L to R: Michelle Saba, Lisa Gibson, Brian Flaman, Sarah Brouwer, Brian Henderson, Marco Pasqua, Jim Cassidy), Not pictured: Dr. Michelle McNeill, Subtej Nijjar, Taylor Lindsay-Noel, Dan Pompilii, and Michelle Ribout.



WHERE IMPACT SHINES BRIGHT

MARIA'S COMEDY FRIENDS

As a Trailer Park Boys superfan, Maria found comfort in their comedy - especially after losing her older brother who first introduced her to the show. During her Shine Dream, she visited the set, had an exclusive invitation to join their podcast, and was showered with props, stories, and a swag bag any fan would envy. *"I can't do everything everyone else can do... but didn't feel that way during my Dream,"* she shares after developing a friendship with the cast. Maria now feels more confident and is motivated to care for herself inside and out.

LAKSHMI AT PARLIAMENT

Lakshmi lost her vision to Retinoblastoma and is aspiring to become a lawyer or politician. She once felt her ambitions were out of reach. Through her Shine Dream, Lakshmi attended Parliament for the day, meeting with an MP and lawyers living with vision loss who shared their journeys and the obstacles they've conquered. This empowered Lakshmi with the confidence to reach for the stars and consider becoming the Prime Minister.

STORIES FROM OUR DREAMERS

TAHA'S SLAM DUNK DREAM

Taha is a sports enthusiast who watches basketball and soccer to get him through tough times like recovering from multiple surgeries. His Shine Dream to watch his favourite NBA teams: the Raptors play against the Golden State Warriors was a total VIP experience, topped by a meet-and-greet with Steph Curry. *"My face hurt from smiling all night. My Dream made me feel recognized for who I am beyond my disability. It's a day I will never forget."*

BACK ON THE BIKE TRAILS

Aven was a competitive downhill mountain biker and adrenaline junkie before an accident flipped his life upside down. Everything he poured his heart into was suddenly gone and he now needs assistance for almost everything. With Shine's help, he found adaptive equipment that would get him back on the trails, steering around rocks and trees independently again. *"I didn't believe it at first - but after it sunk it, I realized I get to bike again!"* Leaning into his disability, Aven is a social media influencer in the accessibility space.



MARIA | AGE 20
CEREBRAL PALSY
MEET THE TRAILER PARK BOYS



LAKSHMI | AGE 16
SEVERE VISION LOSS
PARLIAMENT HILL



TAHA | AGE 16
CEREBRAL PALSY
TORONTO RAPTORS GAME



AVEN | AGE 19
SPINAL CORD INJURY
BOWHEAD REACH



WE 'SLEIGHED' THE DAY COME TO SLEIGH 2024

On October 10th 2024, colleagues and individual participants brought accessibility to center ice. They teamed up alongside Shine Dreamers and hockey greats to show their commitment to DEI and accessibility in support of Shine.

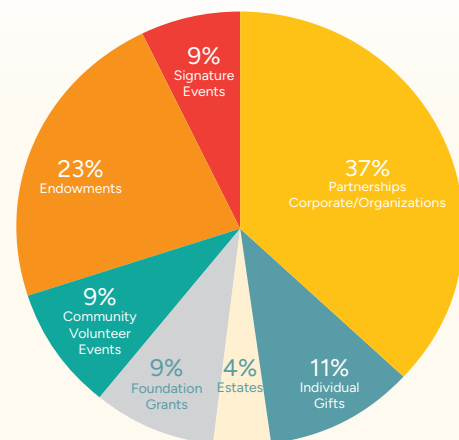
Sledge hockey is a sport that demands grit and courage - but everyone showed us that it can be so much more! Players collaborated with each other to embrace the unfamiliar and push themselves outside of their comfort zone. With the right equipment and some confidence, Paralympian Kevin Rempel and Shine ambassador Chadd kicked off the event with a Skills and Drills tutorial.

With resilience and determination, players opened their hearts and discovered a newfound love for the sport, a better understanding of para-sports, and turned their mindset from "I can't" to "I CAN!" just like our Shine Dreamers.

Thanks to the players, fans, and sponsors, *Come to Sleigh* raised over \$100,000 to make a brighter difference in the lives of young people living with severe physical disabilities.

Join us for a #SlegedaryExperience in 2025
Calgary - September 25th | Toronto - October 9th
www.cometosleigh.ca

HOW FUNDS WERE RAISED IN 2024



- Partnerships Corporate/Organizations
- Individual Gifts
- Estates
- Community Volunteer Events
- Endowments
- Foundation Grants
- Signature Events

We rely on our generous donors as Shine does not receive government support or direct funding from the United Way.

To view the audited financial statements, visit www.shinefoundation.ca

ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUP SUPPORTERS

The following partners, organizations, foundations, community events, and endowments have supported Shine between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. Thank you!

PARTNER \$50,000 - \$99,999



BUILDER \$25,000 - \$49,999



SUPPORTER \$10,000 - \$24,999



FRIEND

Gifts of \$1,000+

731607 Ontario Limited
Active Mobility Products
Advantage Physiotherapy & Sports
Injury Clinic
Air Show London
ALTA Material Handling
Altair Fund at Toronto Foundation
Arthur J. Gallagher Canada Limited
Assumption Life
Best Buy - South Store, London ON
BlueStone Properties Inc
Bruce Power
Canadian Spa Company
Carbonbike-USA
Carr's Delivery Service
Chamandy Fund at the Jewish
Community Foundation of
Greater Montreal
Chapter One
Color Street Foundation
Corporate Traveller
CSA Canada Inc.
Deloitte Canada
Delta Hotels Ottawa City Centre
Don and Hazel Williams Charitable
Foundation
eTrikes Canada
Fairmont Chateau Laurier
Fantasyland Hotel
Furnished for Change
Gary & Maxie Bluestein Charitable
Foundation
Gowling WLG

GrandBridge Energy
Greater Toronto Hockey League
Green Shield Canada
Hotel X - Toronto
iA Financial Group
IG Wealth Management
JWW-8 Family Foundation
Kinross Gold Corporation
Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg
Knights of Columbus Council Father
Nagle #5420
Kybra Kennels
Lerners LLP Barristers & Solicitors
LiUNA Local 183
Lohn Foundation
Long & McQuade Musical Instruments
Lutheran Social Services (London)
MacDonald-Pierce Foundation
Manulife - Head Office
Motion
Motion - Sudbury
Niagara Top Team
Nicolaas and Regina Veenboer
Foundation
Pitt K9
Prairie Heart Mobility
Pulse Seismic
Rand Kildare Charitable Foundation
RBC Phillips, Hager & North Investment
Counsel Inc.
Retail Council of Canada
Rotary Club of Watford

Royal Canadian Legion
Cloverdale 01-006
SA Global
SEIU 2 Branch Local 1
Southwire - Canada
SOWA Tool & Machine Co. Ltd
Spartan Sports & Fitness Inc.
St. Thomas Oddfellow Lodge 76
Stephen Smith & Dorothy Woltz
Foundation
Swans Ontario
The Bourassa Savaria Foundation
The Greygates Foundation
The Henry White Kinnear Foundation
The Henslow-Brown Foundation
The John C. and Sally Horsfall Eaton
Foundation
The Roger & Edith Davis Foundation
The Westin Harbour Castle
Toronto Zoo
United Steelworkers Local Union 2251
VersaBank
Via Rail Canada
VIP Nation
VIPAMAT
Walmart Canada Store 1018
Walmart Canada Store 1125
Walmart Canada Store 1182
Walmart Canada Store 3029
Walmart Canada Store 3115
Walmart Canada Store 3155
Wilf and Jean Bell Foundation
Windy Height Farms Inc.

LEGACY GIFTS

Bill White
Memorial Dream
Endowment Fund

County Heritage /
Stevenson Hunt
Endowment Fund

Mio / Manz
Sunshine
Endowment Fund

Estate of Dennis Dwyer
Estate of June Evelyn
Mansfield
Estate of Peter Piquette
Estate of Ronald Hill

EVENT SPONSORS

Thank you to the community fundraisers and partners who have organized events to support Shine throughout the year.

Amanda Marascio Circle of Hope
Dodgeball 4 Danny
Experior Stride and Ride
Forest City Road Races
Let's Rally for Kids Annual Car Rally
LiUNA Local 1089
Lucan District Lions Club
Moparfest
Rival Office Solutions Inc.
Sebringville Firefighters
Sudbury Comedy Gala

MEDIA SUPPORTERS

Igloo Software

Q107 Toronto

For a full list of Shine's caring family of supporters, visit shinefoundation.ca

AYESHA, AUTHOR & ADVOCATE

Ayesha's Shine Dream was to publish her children's book, "The Girl Who Flew." Writing has given Ayesha a platform to share her story and challenge assumptions about the intellect, abilities, and overall strength of people living with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. *"I go by the pen name Little Warrior Princess because I've always been a warrior, fighting to fit in."* Her children's book is about a young girl from her home country, and the "feeling of home". Ayesha looks forward to writing more stories and helping kids see themselves represented, knowing they can achieve anything.

Shine

Giving youth with severe physical disabilities opportunity to Shine.

Shine Foundation strives to help young people with physical disabilities create an engaging world of possibilities. Our goal is to build their confidence and give them the confidence needed to overcome life's challenges, so they can create a future that shines brighter.

Learn more.
ca

Shine

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AYESHA | AGE 13
CEREBRAL PALSY
PUBLISH HER CHILDREN'S BOOK

Shine

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disabilities

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Charitable Registration #129954822RR0001