

Accessibility  
Renovations for  
Kids

# Annual Report 2018-2020





# Contents

- 4 Introduction
- 6 Letter from the Board
- 8 Spotlight on the Year: 2018-2019
- 10 Spotlight on the Year: 2019-2020
- 12 Our Work
- 17 Nominations
- 18 Our Financials
- 20 Our Supporters
- 24 Our Volunteers
- 26 Looking Ahead...

*This is our first annual report and covers details for two financial years, year ending May 31, 2019 and May 31, 2020. We invite you to join with us to celebrate the volunteers and supporters who have contributed to Reshaping Their World!*





# Introduction

ARK started with the simple idea of easing the lives of children who struggle with mobility in their own homes. Home should mean safety and comfort. Yet for many of these children that is not the case. They struggle with accessibility around the house and to simply perform basic daily tasks. Sue & Cindy sought to build a team that could Reshape Their Worlds and with that, ARK was created.

ARK, a 100% volunteer-based organization, is thrilled to have already eased the daily challenges of ARK Kids Caleb & Jaydon. None of this is possible without our amazing volunteers and the generous support of tradepeoples and suppliers in the construction and renovation industry. So many donate their time or materials, and we are proud to have reached our goal of having at least 50% of the

cost of each renovation be covered by 'in-kind' donations. The remaining 50% is funded in a variety of ways, such as support from individual donors and the friends of ARK who attend events and fundraisers which support the organization. We are truly grateful for all of this support as ARK could not Reshape Their Worlds without it!



## Our Mission

To ease the daily life of children with mobility challenges by providing modifications or renovations to their family home.



## Our Values

We value honesty, integrity, reliability and openness. We work collaboratively with volunteers, community partners and our project recipients to create a safe, vibrant and accessible home where a child and their family can live with ease despite mobility challenges.



## Our Vision

A community where no child has to struggle unduly with accessibility in their own home.

Reshape Their World

# Letter from the Board

In just a few short years, ARK has grown from an idea into a registered charity with over 35 volunteers who dedicate their time and skills to make a difference in the lives of children with mobility issues and their families. There are so many challenges to renovating a home to make it more accessible, and we are thrilled to have volunteers willing to do all that is needed. ARK has completed two large renovation projects to date. We are excited to have helped ease the lives of Caleb and Jaydon and their families, and we look forward to doing the same for other children.

Our 2019-2020 financial year has been a busy one for ARK, with a focus on building the team. When we worked on Caleb's Project, many of our volunteers were wearing several different hats and we quickly realized that we needed more hands to accomplish all that we hoped. It has been exciting for both of us to watch ARK grow with such an amazing team of enthusiastic and talented volunteers.

This past year, support from

trades and partnerships made a world of difference by enabling ARK to Reshape Jaydon's World. Calgary Children's Foundation and the McBride Group's contributions made it possible for ARK to build an outdoor wheelchair ramp for Jaydon. Griffin and Josh of Shift Accessibility have become close friends and partners of ARK. Their effort to create an accessible bathroom for Jaydon and to support ARK with their advice and their dedication is deeply appreciated.

The financial year 2020-2021 will be a bit of a challenge with the current COVID-19 pandemic, but we are adapting and continuing to grow. There is still hope that we will be able to start an ARK Accessible Home Renovation in the fall. The search is on for our next ARK Kid! Nominations are continuing to come in and we will be reviewing them over the next few months with an eye to beginning construction as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we are pouring our energies into developing a multitude of ideas and we are excited to see what comes of them!



Cindy Eberth  
Co-Chair



Sue Trefry  
Co-Chair

Our fundraising events have been put on hold for now, but we have gotten creative and are excited about developing another type of event. We conceptualized the ARK Speaker Series as a way to allow members of the community to access experts with information regarding accessibility challenges and renovations while connecting as families who share those challenges. Due to the pandemic, this in-person event has been retooled into a webinar. Griffin Simony from Shift Accessibility, our premiere guest speaker, will be discussing how an accessible home can be functional yet stylish. He will also be providing a few simple DIY's that can help with accessibility at home. We look forward to our inaugural webinar on July 22nd and are already connecting with other guest speakers for future events in the series. We plan to record the Speaker Series events and make them accessible online as a reference source for anyone interested in home accessibility issues.

At ARK, we know that gratitude and recognition are vital components of maintaining community support. That is why we are creating the Purple Seal program. The Purple Seal is

intended to recognize those in the trades and the construction industry who donate their time, materials or money to support construction focused charities and their communities. These talented folks enable ARK to do what we do, and we want to tell the world! Eventually we hope to expand this recognition program to other charities, and we hope one day that the Purple Seal will be a well known emblem of charitable community engagement. Watch for upcoming news on this new program!

It has been an exciting year of growth for ARK and the coming year looks just as exciting, albeit a bit challenging with Covid-19. Despite this changing world, we will continue to do what we can to help and support children and their families who struggle with accessibility at home. Thank you to everyone who has been part of ARK's early years, you brought our idea to life. ARK couldn't have helped Caleb and Jaydon without you and we look forward to working together to helping more children with mobility issues by Reshaping Their Worlds for many years to come!

Cindy Eberth & Sue Trefry  
Chairs, ARK Society

## Board of Directors:

Cindy Eberth  
Co-Chair

Sue Trefry  
Co-Chair

EJ Schiiler  
Treasurer

Glynis Carling  
Secretary

Athena Cooper  
Director

Bridgit Kong  
Director

Heather Petrao Rasiah  
Director



# Spotlight on the Year: 2018-2019

## March: Scotch Tasting Fundraiser Event

Paul Van Ginkel's gallery in Inglewood was a wonderful setting for ARK's Scotch Tasting event. With authentic Scottish entertainment, a guided scotch tasting, a silent auction, and some great company, the event was both enjoyable and successful in raising money towards Caleb's project.



## November: Wreaths and Wine

ARK's Wreaths and Wine event provided an opportunity to do some early holiday shopping with some top-rate vendors and at our silent auction. With wine and cheese and some wonderful live jazz, it was a great way to support ARK's work.



## May Milestone:

ARK Becomes a Registered Charity!



## Project: Caleb's Reno

Caleb's Renovation started in July and consisted of the update of his home's original bathroom with one that supports Caleb's needs. See pages I2-I3 for more information.





# Spotlight on the Year: 2019-2020



**FUNDRAISERS**

**March: Highfield by Wine Collective Partnership**

Thanks to Highfield Liquor for featuring ARK in their March 2019 Fundraiser & Charity Sale..



**Ongoing: Skip the Depot**

ARK is registered with Skip the Depot, which allows Calgarians to put their bottles and cans to work to support ARK from the comfort of their homes. Visit <https://app.skipthedepot.com/arks> to sign up.



**November: Murder Mystery Masquerade**

ARK's Murder Mystery Masquerade put the "fun" in fundraiser as participants had the opportunity to solve a mystery at the same time as they enjoyed some good food, wine and company. Thanks to all who supported this successful event!



**Project: Jaydon's Reno**

Jaydon's Renovation started out with the building of a ramp in October and continued with the construction of an accessible bathroom. See pages 14-15 for more details.





# Our Work

ARK exists to identify, plan, raise money for and complete renovation projects that make homes more accessible for families of children or youth who have mobility issues.

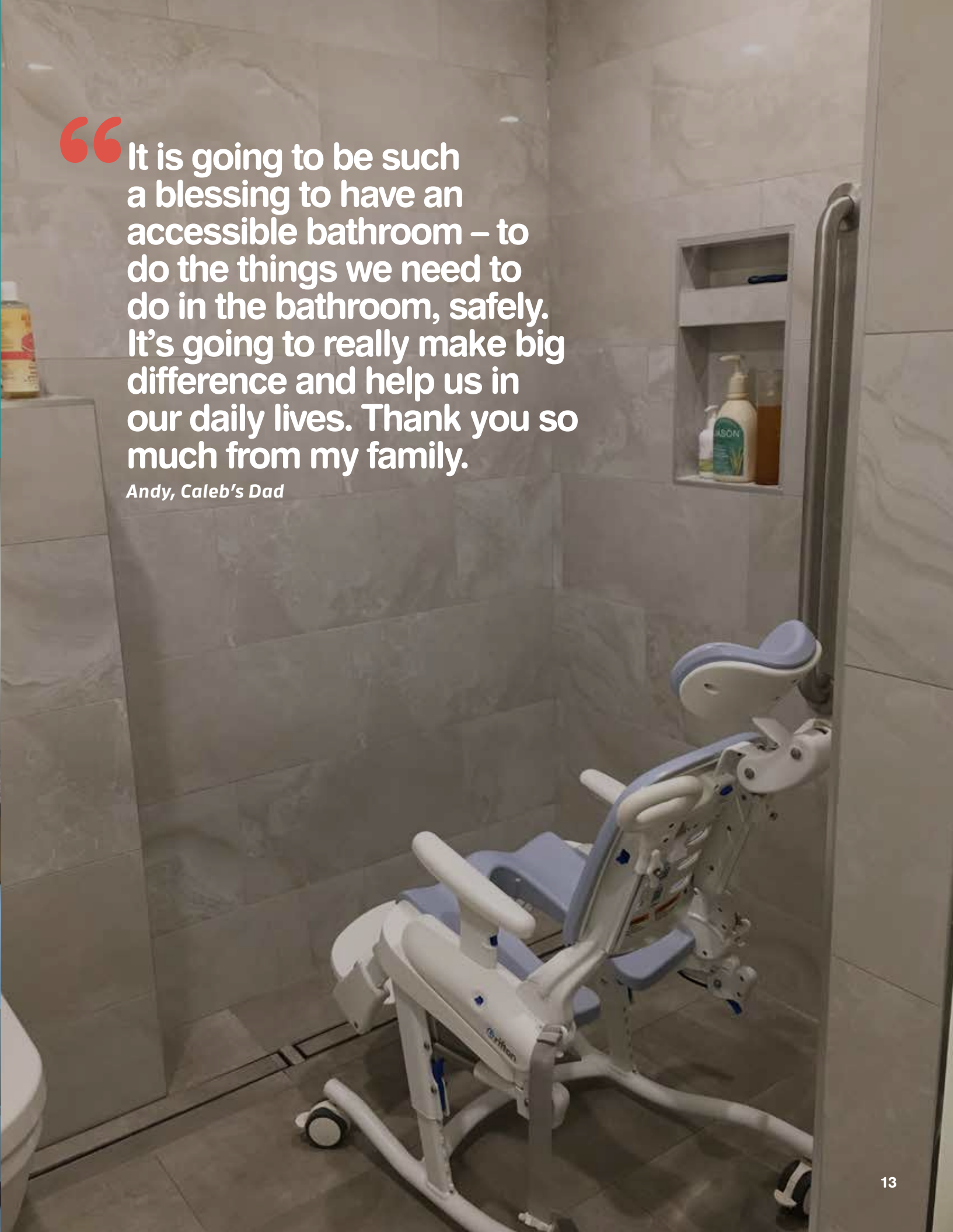
## Caleb's Renovation

Our inaugural project was Caleb's Project, which was a bathroom renovation for the family of Caleb, a happy and spirited boy who was born with polymicrogyria, a neurological disorder. Caleb was 8 years old at the time that the renovation was completed in Fall 2018. The updated bathroom has a fully accessible shower and features like grab bars. The new bathroom reshapes life for Caleb and his family.

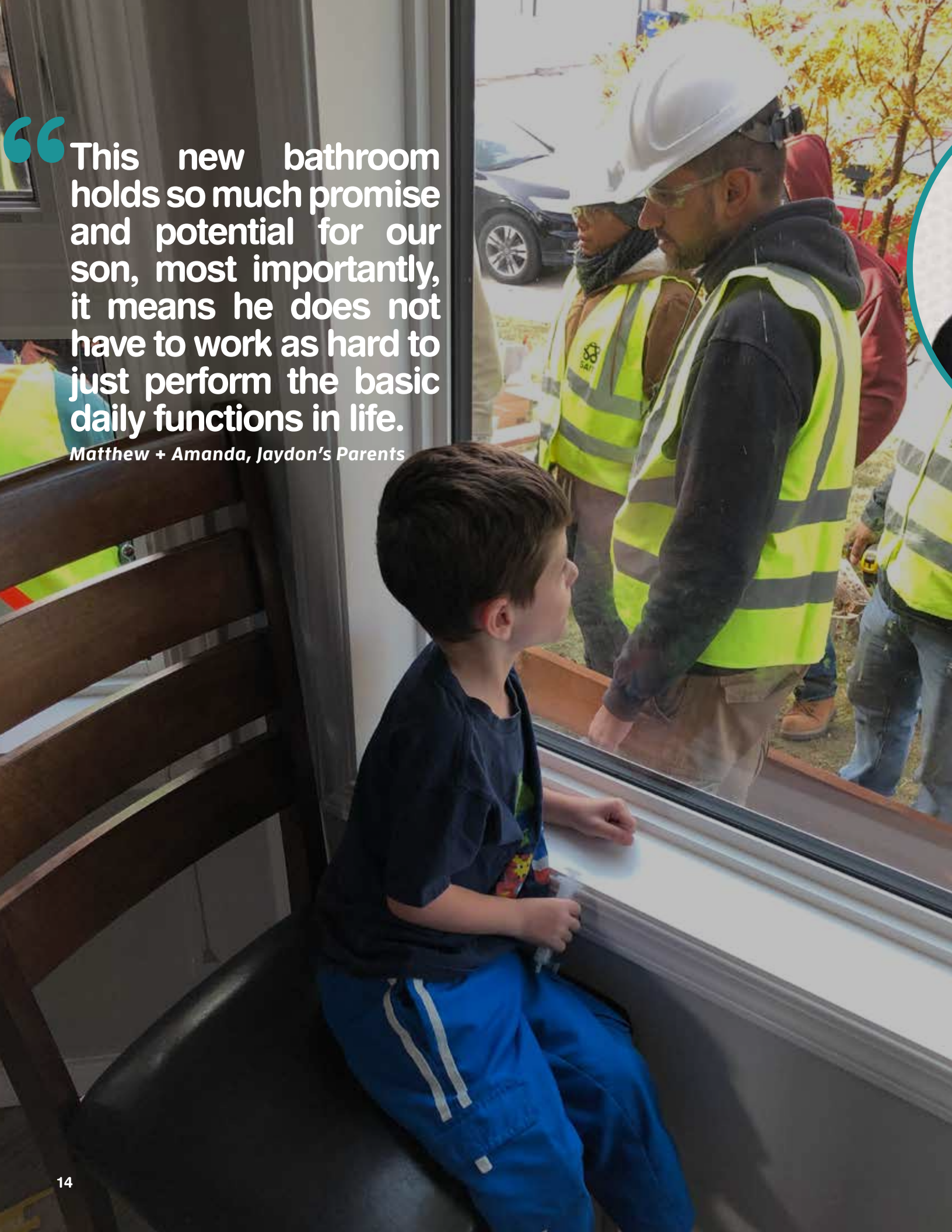


“It is going to be such a blessing to have an accessible bathroom – to do the things we need to do in the bathroom, safely. It’s going to really make big difference and help us in our daily lives. Thank you so much from my family.

Andy, Caleb's Dad







“This new bathroom holds so much promise and potential for our son, most importantly, it means he does not have to work as hard to just perform the basic daily functions in life.

*Matthew + Amanda, Jaydon's Parents*



## Jaydon's Renovation

Our second project was Jaydon's Project, which was actually a series of mini-projects for the family of Jaydon, a beautiful 5-year-old boy who is living with Cerebral Palsy. We started by building a ramp to make it easier to access the home. The ramp was installed in Fall 2019. The second phase

was the construction of a new and accessible bathroom, which was completed in Spring 2020. The final stage is the installation of a stair lift, to be completed in Summer 2020. This trio of mini-projects reshapes life for Jaydon and his family.



Jaydon proudly proclaims the new bathroom in the basement as “my bat-room.” It is awesome that he has a space of his own that is made just for him. This bathroom enables him to make a giant leap towards independence.

*Matthew + Amanda, Jaydon's Parents*







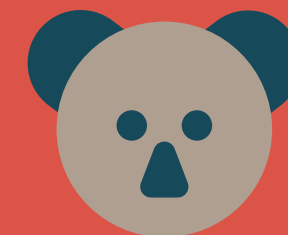
## Nominations

***Do you know a child with mobility issues who could benefit from an accessibility renovation?***

Families in Calgary can be nominated at any time to be considered for an ARK project. Once selected for a renovation, ARK works with the recipient family and with design specialists to plan the renovation and reaches out to the Calgary community for financial support and for the donation of materials. Going forward, ARK aims to complete two renovation projects per year.

Visit our website to learn more and fill out the easy application!

**[www.arksociety.ca/nominate/](http://www.arksociety.ca/nominate/)**



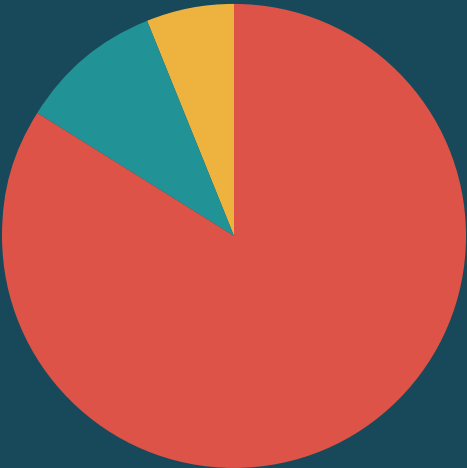
**“We could not have imagined that we would be the selected family. We were sure that this is only the kind of fairy tale story we would see on TV ...**

***Matthew + Amanda, Jaydon's Parents***



# Our Financials

The financial statements and data published are for the financial years ended May 31, 2018-2020. Financial statements were reviewed and audited in accordance with good practice and with ARK Society's bylaws



**Breakdown of expenses:**  
**84%** Projects (\$25,430)  
**10%** Fundraising (\$2,976)  
**6%** Administration (\$1,700)

Year ending May 31  
**2019**  
**6.1%**      **10.8%**

**Administration Costs**  
Total administration costs divided by its total revenues less investment income  
Admin expense = \$1,700  
Total revenue = \$27,450

**Total Fundraising Costs**  
Presented as a percent of donations plus special events revenue  
Fundraising costs = \$2,976  
Total revenue = \$27,450



**Breakdown of expenses:**  
**83%** Projects (\$43,450)  
**12%** Fundraising (\$6,209)  
**5%** Administration (\$2,843)

Year ending May 31  
**2020**  
**4.2%**      **9.3%**

**Administration Costs**  
Total administration costs divided by its total revenues less investment income  
Admin expense = \$2,843  
Total revenue = \$66,886

**Total Fundraising Costs**  
Presented as a percent of donations plus special events revenue  
Fundraising costs = \$6,206  
Total revenue = \$66,886

Year Ending May 31:	2020	2019	2018
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Donations	32,221	17,161	6,188
Grants	4,756	5,809	11,620
In-Kind (project)	26,427	4,480	-
In-Kind (non-project)	3,482	-	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>66,886</b>	<b>27,450</b>	<b>17,808</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>			
Insurance	996	950	950
IT + Website	929	232	384
Payment processing fees	438	-	-
Volunteer events	275	-	-
Rental	135	-	-
Office expense	70	303	-
Board strategy meeting	-	152	-
Dues and subscriptions	-	63	50
Bank charges	-	-	61
Incorporation expense	-	-	170
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>2,843</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,615</b>
<b>FUNDRAISING EVENT EXPENSES</b>			
Fundraising Event Costs	2,724	2,976	2,313
Fundraising In-Kind Costs	2,865	-	-
Silent Auction In-Kind Costs	617	-	-
<b>Total Fundraising Event Expenses</b>	<b>6,206</b>	<b>2,976</b>	<b>2,313</b>
<b>PROJECT EXPENSES - Caleb Project - July 2018</b>			
Materials	26,427	4,480	-
In-Kind	13,023	18,770	-
Labour	4,000	2,180	-
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>43,450</b>	<b>25,430</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>52,499</b>	<b>30,106</b>	<b>3,928</b>
<b>Other Income - Interest</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>(Deficiency) Excess of Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>14,395</b>	<b>(2,656)</b>	<b>13,880</b>



# Our Supporters

We are immensely grateful for the dedication and passion exhibited by our donors, sponsors, and volunteers. Collectively, we are making positive changes to the lives of children and their families to Reshape Their World.

As a registered charity run entirely by volunteers, ARK relies on generous support from our community members to deliver high quality, life-changing home renovations to increase the independence of children with mobility issues and their families. Due to the nature of our work, we access a wide variety of skills and resources from our community. From the trades supplying workers, materials, or funds, to skilled administrators to help with marketing, communications, IT, and finance. What we all have in common is a desire to share our love of accessibility and easing the lives of children and their families.



Supporting ARK is special. The passion, commitment, and efficiency of the core team at ARK is notable. Taking a hands on, one project at a time approach towards supporting families that have real needs, right now, creates measurable results. Building safe ways to support children and families, so they can focus on the joys of living and growing together is gratifying. ARK can't solve all the accessibility challenges in our community but they make a difference to those they touch. That is why we support ARK.

**Greg Snider**  
**Assante Financial Management**

## Thank you to our sponsors for Jaydon's Reno!

- 4-Star Electric
- Allan Forrest Sales
- Calgary Children's Foundation
- daltile
- Florians Renovations
- Godden & Sons Drywall Ltd.
- Jennifer Carr Painting
- Kadin Sales
- Lindsay O. Creative Interior Design Inc.
- McBride Career Group
- SHIFT Accessibility Contractors Ltd.
- Shoemaker Drywall Supplies
- Sirs Plumbing & Heating
- The Home Improvement Warehouse
- TimberTown Building Centre Limited
- Wolseley Studio



Jaydon was thrilled when the McBride Career Group team used his shoes to add his indelible mark to the project!



The Calgary Children's Foundation loves the work ARK does in our community. They perfectly define "grassroots initiative" in an efficient and meaningful way. ARK knows the importance of not only creating a great story for kids with limited mobility but also sharing those stories.

**Betty Jo Kaiser**  
**Calgary Children's Foundation**







It's been an absolute pleasure providing interior design services and drafting services to ARK Society these past few years. I have struggled to find a meaningful place to donate my time where I could use my professional expertise to make a difference. ARK Society is a great fit! I believe that functional design should be available to everyone especially those requiring a bit more customization. Getting to meet these wonderful families and listening to their wish list, and then to be able to provide them with re-designed spaces that will greatly improve their daily lives is such a reward! I look forward to working with many more families in the coming years.

**Lindsay Wilder,  
Lindsay O Creative**



Working with ARK has been an absolute pleasure from day 1! We met at an industry event and the timing was perfect as I wanted to volunteer and give back to the community in some way but wasn't sure how and when. Everyone involved with ARK is professional, kind and committed to the goal of helping families in need. I picked the right charity to get involved with and I'm so proud of the work we completed together!

**Jennifer Carr,  
Jennifer Carr Painting**



Upon discovery of ARK we knew this was an organization we had to work with. Completing projects that enable a young boy or girl to grow up comfortably and safely in their home is the reason we are in this business. ARK makes this all possible, organizing the phenomenal volunteers, sponsors and vendors. Working with ARK was an experience that we cannot replace and hope to be a part of for years to come.

**Griffin Simony,  
Shift Accessibility Contractors Ltd.**



**Thank you to our sponsors for  
Caleb's Reno!**

Co-op Federated Co-operatives Ltd.  
Jennifer Carr Painting  
Kern Industries on behalf of Kohler  
Lindsay O. Creative Interior Design Inc.  
Marvel Cabinetry  
Midnapore Benjamin Moore  
Pacific Stone Fabrication  
Smart-Site  
SSBea Drywall Services Inc.  
Strathmore Building Supplies Inc.  
Tile + Stone Source  
TimberTown Building Centre Ltd.



# Our Volunteers

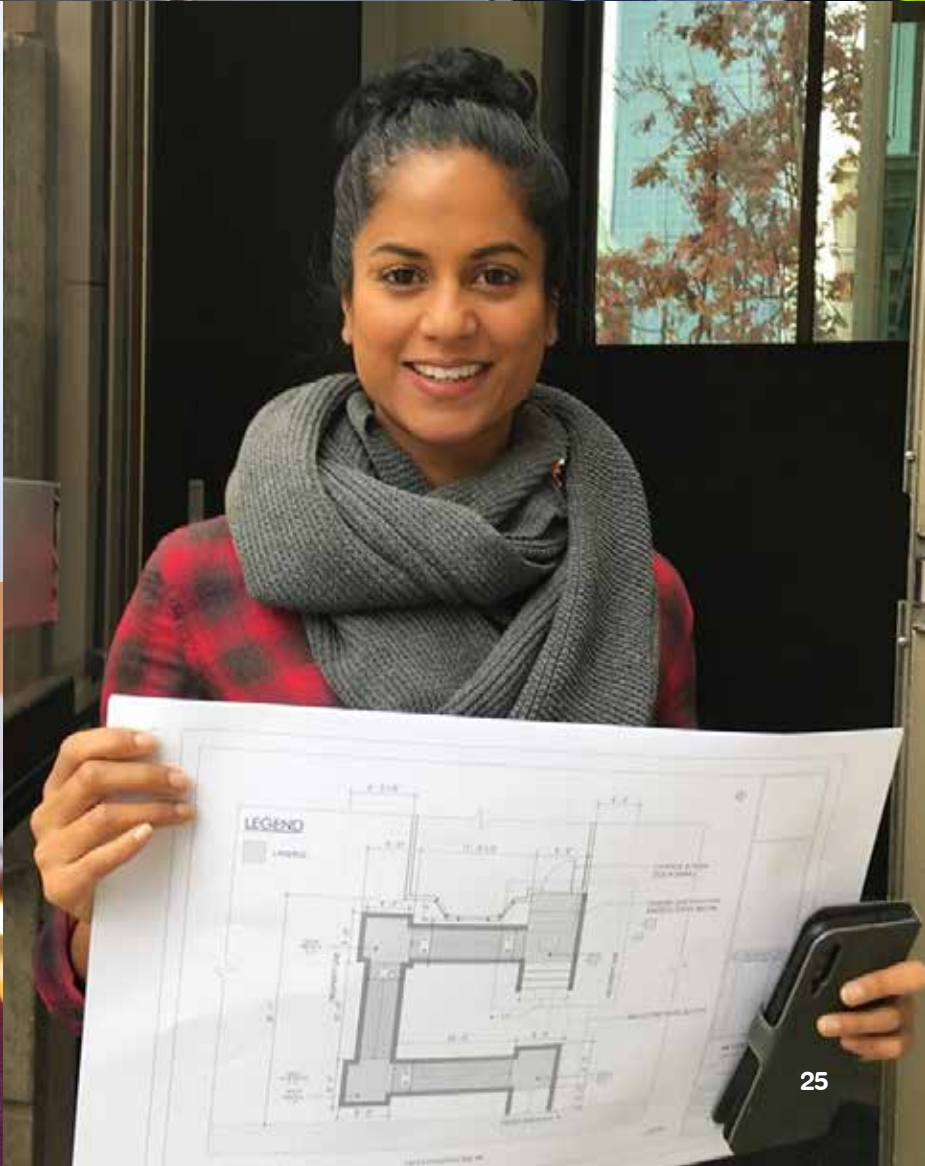
ARK is completely driven by volunteers. The power of our mission to ease the daily life of children with mobility challenges resonates with many people, and this has gone a long way towards attracting motivated individuals. Due to the nature of our work, we access a wide variety of skills and resources from our community. People who have contributed their time and talents to take ARK from concept to thriving team with two completed projects under our belt and lots of ideas for the future.

There is something for everyone as an ARK volunteer. Volunteers plan and execute projects. They make the projects possible by imagining and hosting fundraising

events. They manage ARK's finances. They communicate internally and to supporters and Calgarians at large through social and traditional media. They make ARK's IT systems work. And they direct and oversee the organization as Board members. What we all have in common is a desire to share our love of accessibility and easing the lives of children with mobility issues and their families.

We thank all our current volunteers and recommend that those who might be interested have a look at our website for current opportunities to join the ARK team.

**We are delighted to see our volunteer numbers grow every year as more amazing people join our team!**





# Looking Ahead...

## 2020 and Beyond...

While the pandemic altered the way we interact with each other and the wider world, ARK has adapted to take advantage of unexpected opportunities along the way.

While people watched their lives go topsy-turvy, many have chosen to take this opportunity to give back. ARK's team of volunteers has expanded exponentially, and we are creating a powerhouse dedicated to bringing about ARK's vision of a world where no child struggles with accessibility in their own home.

Also, our reimaging of our Speaker Series provides an excellent example of this adaptability. While an in-person gathering would engender a greater sense of community, the webinar format allows us to expand our audience as well as archive these information sessions for public reference.

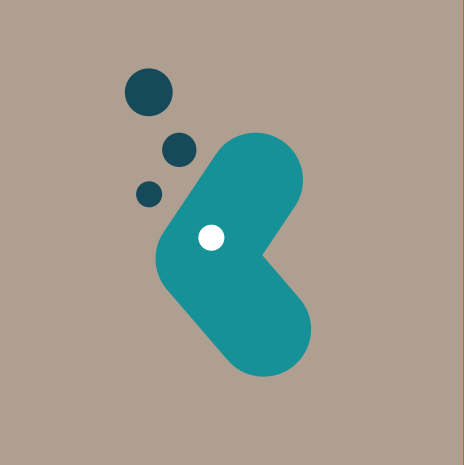
ARK is continuing our mission to improve the quality of life of children with mobility issues and their families, by persevering

with the selection of our next ARK Kid. The pandemic will create additional logistical and safety challenges during the Accessible Home Renovation. However, our team is confident that we will be able to execute our designs while maintaining procedures created for the comfort and safety of the family and our onsite supporters.

In these ways, and many others, ARK continues to strengthen our ability to Reshape Their World. We are confident that we will reach our short term goal of completing two Accessible Home Renovations in the same year in the near future.



We are so excited to continue our work with families in Calgary and to be able to Reshape Their World for years to come!



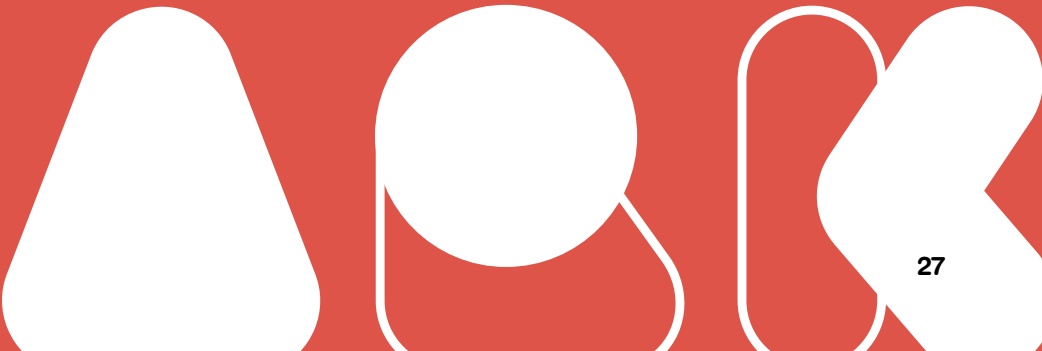
### How can you help Reshape Their World?

**Donate** – Contact us to make an in-kind donation. Make a financial contribution (one-time or recurring) at [arksociety.ca/donate/](https://arksociety.ca/donate/)

**Volunteer** – Join the ARK volunteer team at [arksociety.ca/volunteer/](https://arksociety.ca/volunteer/)

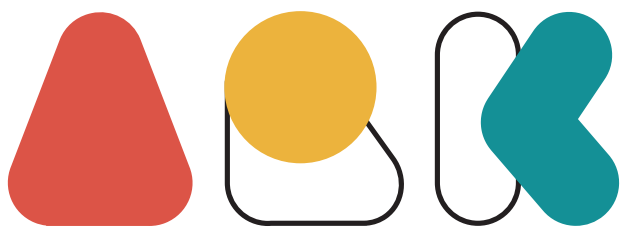
**Sponsor** – Contact us to discuss sponsorship opportunities at [arksociety.ca/sponsor/](https://arksociety.ca/sponsor/)

**Nominate** – Spread the word or nominate the next ARK Kid at [arksociety.ca/nominate/](https://arksociety.ca/nominate/)





# Reshape Their World



**Accessibility  
Renovations for  
Kids**

 @ARKcalgary

 @ARKcalgary

 @ARKcalgary

[www.arksociety.ca](http://www.arksociety.ca)