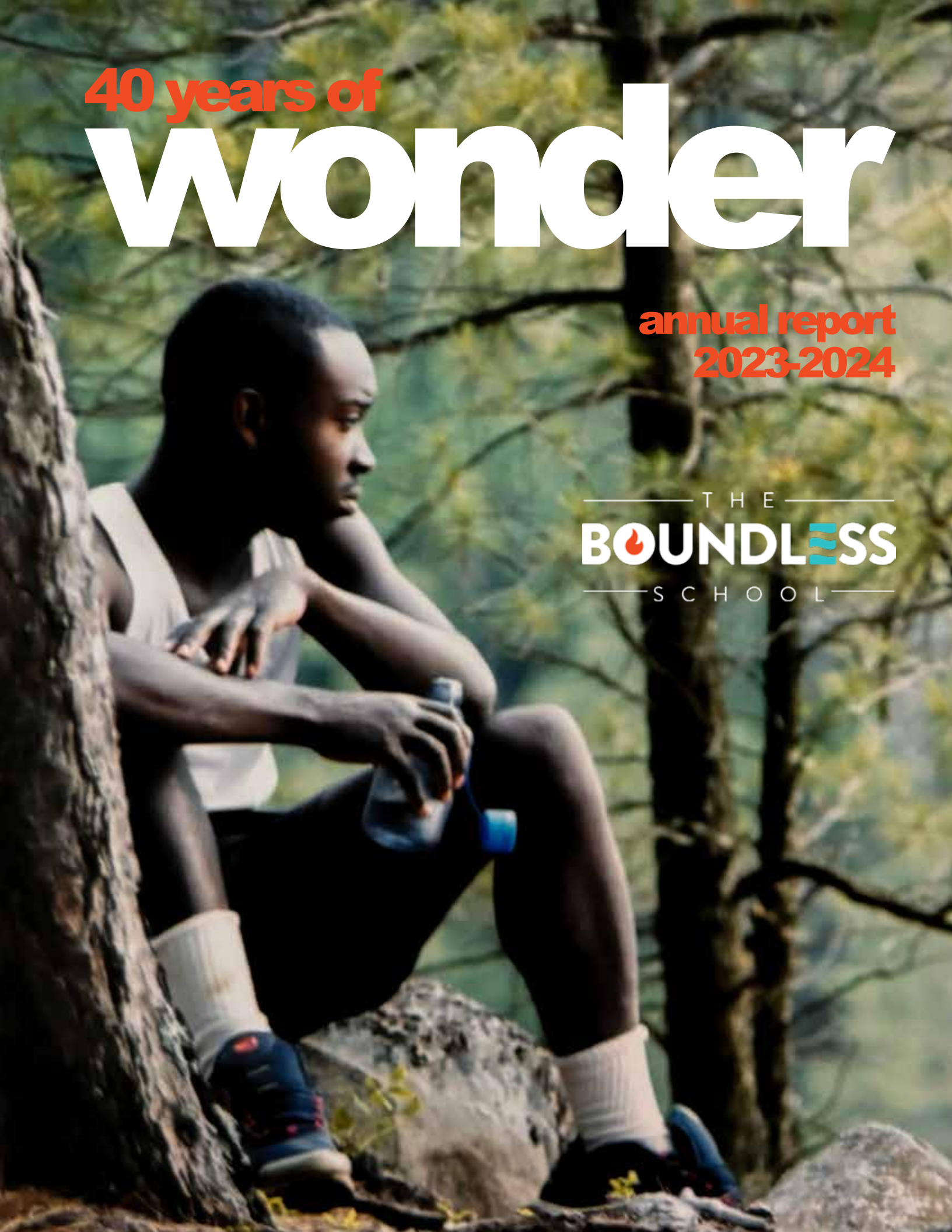


40 years of

wonder

annual report
2023-2024

— THE —
BOUNDLESS
— SCHOOL —





40th anniversary

board of directors

tom robson, chair
dr. erin brennan, secretary
ben gardent, treasurer
james nunes, director
sarah frasca, director
jill bennett, director
julie meawasige (pending)

annual report 2023-2024

The Boundless School
7513 River Road, RR#1
Palmer Rapids, ON
K0J 2E0

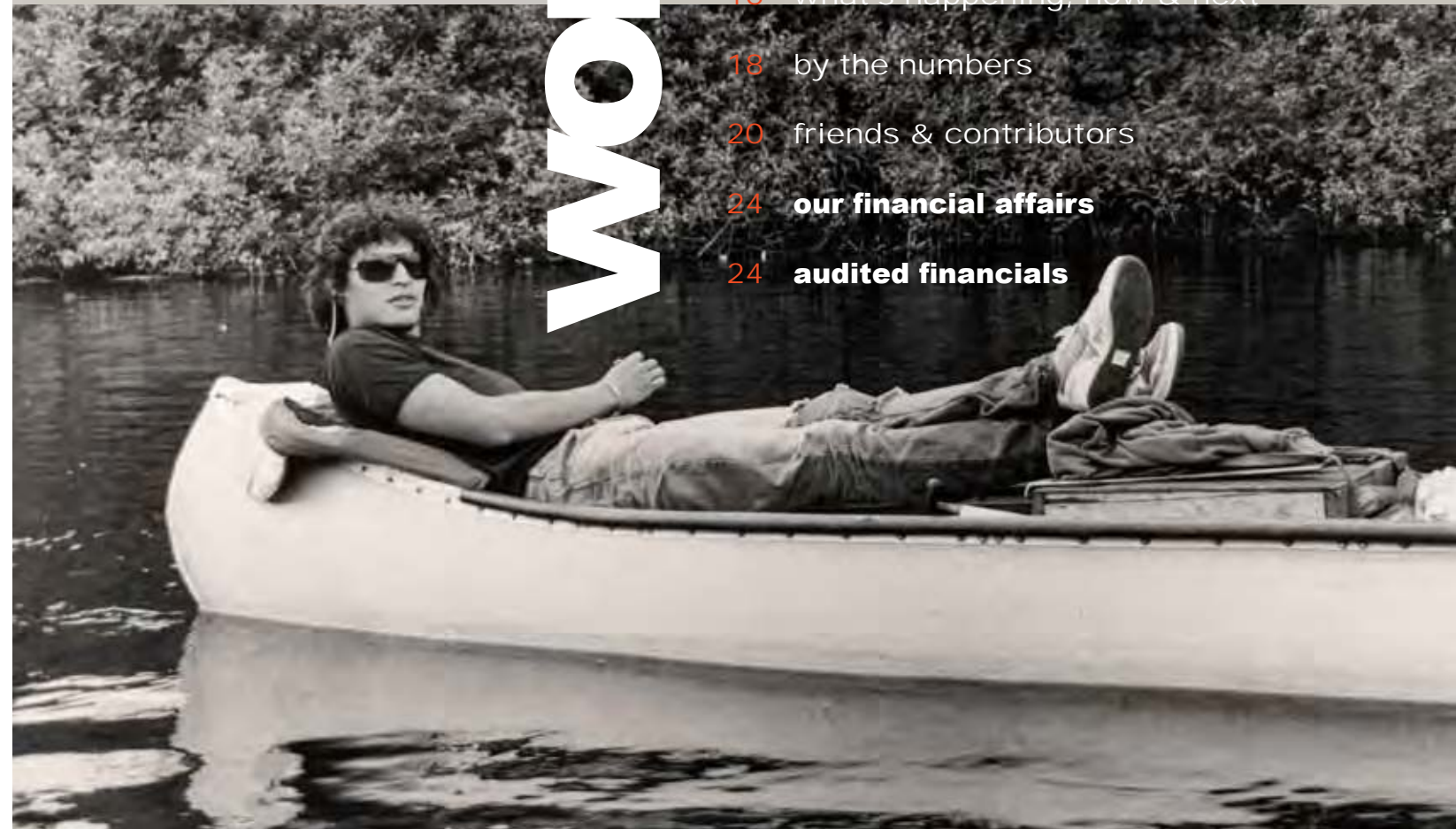
Phone: 613-758-2702

97 Kendal Avenue
Toronto, ON
M5R 1L8

Phone: 416-951-7059

Email: office@theboundlesschool.com

Charity Registration: 124225855RR0001



wonder

features

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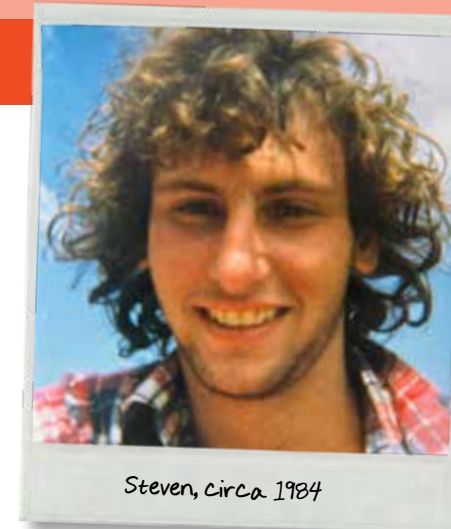
Dear Boundless Friends,

When I started Boundless back in '84, there were draconian terms like "retarded" and "delinquent." Two-thirds of our students smoked like chimneys. Many had spent time in boot camps and almost half were institutionalized. There were more school drop-outs, including me.

Back then we could fit all the kids' meds in a small gift box as opposed to the half a duffle bag we need today. Teens were fitter in the 80's and 90's. There was less suicide and anxiety disorders. We didn't suffocate kids with labels nor inundate them with therapy.

Are youth any better off in 2024 than in 1984?

Whether teens grew up listening to Michael Jackson or Drake, I believe their needs have never really changed. To be connected. To adapt. Providing this has been Boundless' secret sauce since the day I had hair. Since inception, we have taught 26,000 participants



Steven, circa 1984

how to conjure initiative and how not to be so alone.

This annual report is a much too quick summary of this forty-year wondrous voyage.

It is also a tale of gratitude for the sheer privilege of

having the chance to ply the wilderness trade. Of building a school for kids who never fit anywhere else. Of rallying a community of givers to invest their souls and their chequebooks in the cause. It's a story of dreams that came true. For our charity, and for our kids.

I bend my artificial knees in appreciation,

Steven Gottlieb,
Executive Director

an origin story: paddle up my where?

by steven gottlieb

One late afternoon in June 1984, I was paddling a set of rapids on the Madawaska River with 16-year old Olivia, a client referred by Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS). Up to that point, she had been compliant, slow to trust and a tad smirky. Like Mona Lisa in a life jacket.

We were about to smash into a rock. I screamed, "Draw hard!" She did. We plopped safely into a placid eddy.

But it was far from calm. Olivia shot me a wicked glance.

"If you ever talk to me that way again I am going to take my paddle and shove it up your ass."

The other kids were far less concerning. Ten in total, they were joined by two CTYS social workers and an ill-qualified Boundless crew composed of four ignorant

rookies, me chief among them. This was my first professional trip.

I was wowed by this eclectic group, headlined by an Indigenous boy named Dennis, whom we nicknamed the Ojibwa Mongoose for his speed and agility.

He spent his first 17 years in eleven foster and group homes. He was a serial car thief, which was really an alternative housing strategy. He spent half his adolescence in detention centres. Dennis showed up yearning to be twelve again, a period in his life which was literally arrested.

There was another boy named Lawrence who smuggled in a six-inch blade. We anointed him "The Slash", which massaged his ego just enough for him to surrender his knife without a fuss.

Alas, Olivia remained on the fence. When she threatened me with her paddle, I was on eggshells.

Our job together was to be a safety boat, helping others in case they flipped in the whitewater.

As we waited for the next canoe, I said to her, "I didn't mean to disrespect you Olivia. Dennis' boat is coming and we have to focus. Let's talk when we get to the campsite." She accepted this.

We ended up rescuing two canoes. Olivia adored the job. It's not every day that you get to save people. Two hours later, we sat overlooking the river, and I began with an apology.

"I am a new leader and got scared. I shouldn't have raised my voice. Sorry to have freaked you out."

"It's okay." she said.

Then I rolled the dice. "Olivia, what's life like back at home?"

She told me that her dad got drunk and stabbed her mom. Grabbing the same knife, she went after her dad and stabbed him in his thigh.

"You aimed for his thigh?"

"Ya, I did." There was a long pause. "I got put into the system and that was that."

We high-fived and then trod back to the fire. Olivia took charge of the kitchen and made down-river donuts for everyone.

Olivia taught me all that would ever matter about Boundless—that making connections would always be our prime directive.



June 1984

vignettes of versatility



Dwight

In late December 2015, when Dwight fled an intolerable situation in Jamaica, his aunt forgot to pick him up at the airport. An angel, disguised as a police officer, took charge and brought him to Boundless ten days later. In the midst of an emotional crisis, Dwight wondered what the heck he was doing in the winter boreal forest. He punched a hole in his bedroom wall.

Rudy, our maintenance man, taught him how to repair it. Two years later, he graduated with a full diploma. He became a full time drywaller and a loving father.



Mason

In 1992, when Mason was 18, he experienced a psychotic episode and leapt out of a vehicle while it was going 80kph. He spent nine months in hospital and suffered from an acquired brain injury (ABI). His long-term memory was almost wiped out.

While doing the dishes in the Boundless kitchen, he heard the GUESS WHO song *Share the Land*. He knew every word.

He was anointed with the nickname “Guess Who.” Impervious to the pun, Guess Who became the life of the party, and established friendships that he maintains to this day.

Wallace

In his late teens, a social worker from the Clarke Institute (now CAMH) referred Wallace to Boundless, hoping a week here would pull him out of his funk. He arrived somewhat listless, but when he mastered Crooked Rapids, something stirred inside. He realized he was capable.

Upon returning home, he enrolled in a Law Clerk’s course. Two years later, he was off social assistance. Ten years later, he became a Family Lawyer.



vignettes of versatility



Izzy

In the 19th century, Izzy's great-great grandfather was the target of a RCMP manhunt. An icon for defiance in the Metis community, Izzy inherited his fierceness, and when she showed up to Boundless the first day of boarding school, 8 days after signing her mothers' death certificate, she alienated almost anyone who came in her way.

Treating her like a squeamish but curious cat, we wooed her carefully and patiently. She softened. She spent three years with us, mastering curriculum and learning people were not always out to get her. In 2020, Izzy became an OPP officer.

Darya

In 1998, Darya arrived at Boundless a few months after she fled Iran with her three children under five years old. Hers was one of the first families to join our new Young Family Program. Isolated, impoverished and anxious, Darya arrived with an almost empty duffle bag of clothes.



But she brought her scissors. The other moms would queue themselves and their kids for haircuts. After spending almost two years in our urban support program, she became a sought-after hairstylist. Her husband joined her six years later, and the family has thrived ever since.





Never invite a Ministry of Health inspector the same day you send home an entire group of teenagers for smoking crack on the dock, like we did in '98.



Always eat with teenagers because they never eat salad, leaving a bountiful supply for vegan teachers, who are the most vegetative cohort in the history of human resources.



We were unable to remove all the rocks from the river, despite the earnest request of one senior in our 1994 Golden Age Program.



We have never forgiven ourselves, or Dennis, for test-driving a top-of-the-line rescue canoe and trashing it within 15 seconds.

(mostly meaningless)
reflections on humanity
 reflections on humanity
spanning four boundless decades

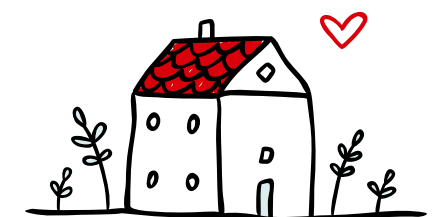


We haven't quite recovered from the loss of premium coffee donations in 2017.



Always invite a donor whose last name is Kitchen when you badly need to upgrade the Lodge Kitchen.

A member of the Kitchen family visited in 2017, had a quick look at the wreckage, and wrote a cheque for forty thousand on the spot. We still call it the "Kitchen kitchen."



We received 14,679.5 requests to go home..... only 233.25 really meant it.



When a Government official screams out of his office, "We have no money!" like he did in '84—you know you have scored your first Government grant.



Never let Bill, on social assistance, buy ice cream for the entire group behind our backs, despite his protest in 1986, "Hey, everyone was so nice to me."

research
results:
our impact
on student's
mental health

by laura ziliotto

Here are a few choice quotes from the research we conducted on the efficacy of our program on student's mental health.



“The Boundless School’s model was effective for the students as its rigorous and active routine challenged them to live healthier lives and motivated, supported and taught them the basics of how to be a **friend**, how to be a **learner** and how to feel more **confident** as a person.”

“The **uniqueness** of the Boundless School’s location, amenities, staffing model and educational framework has transformed the students by giving them hope for their futures and **positive strategies and skills** to move forward.”

“...these youth, who had little or no routine or structure before coming to the Boundless School **adjusted and adapted quickly** to the rigorous routine at the Boundless School...”

“...allowed me to enjoy things, **felt happiness**, gained hope for the future, gained a positive attitude, **increased motivation**.”

“...its ability to continue to be **effective** for a student population with such debilitating mental health disorders is **very promising**.”



“...the trust and support that Boundless School staff have given the students has **changed their outlook** on getting support in the future.”

“...(Boundless) **motivated** and **inspired** (students) to do well in school and hope for an educational future.”

“...successfully learned how to make friends and **build relationships**, learned how to meet people, enjoyed friendships with other Boundless School students...”



what's happening now, and next

Last week, we had a group of young people with developmental delays enjoy a week of bliss for the community they formed together at Boundless. This week an aboriginal bereavement group will arrive to commune and cry together. Next week, Aboriginal Head Start shall arrive in droves.

This diversity is keeping us on our toes and compels us to be chameleons. We are clumsy sometimes, but our efforts are being well received.

This could never have happened without us closing our social enterprise, creating precious space for these new initiatives. More participants, numbering in the hundreds, and now thriving at Boundless.

The year ahead will see more expansion. More marginalized groups. More partners defining what Boundless shall become.

All the while, young people, whose odds were stacked so mercilessly against them, shall be graduating high school at Boundless in our boarding school.



challenges ahead

HR challenges continue

For example, our program manager is pregnant and we lose her for one year. Who is there to replace her? There are moments we feel our staff model is held together by duct tape.

must do more for the kids

The recent research findings tell us we must do more to prepare the kids for their lives post Boundless.

BECA \$\$\$

Re-wilding our conservation area is far more expensive than we reckoned. We don't have enough funding to pursue our lofty goals.



By The Numbers

95%

Student Completion Rate,
All Programs

8,814

Total Student Days Delivered

277

Behavioural Incidents

0

Serious Health &
Safety Incidents

64

Students
Completing
Full Diploma at
Boundless

364

Students Served

131

Number of
Indigenous Students

29%

Increase in English
grades compared
to public school
scores

44%

Increase in Math
& Science grades
compared to
public school
scores

friends & contributors

individuals

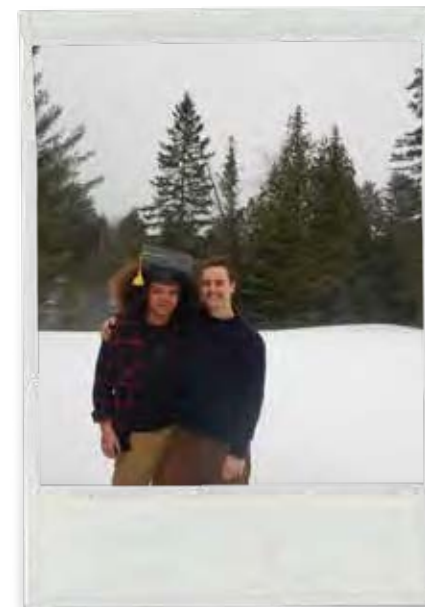
Mary Abramson
 Sydney Acott
 Carolyn Adamic
 Yosur Al Bazzaz
 Sydney Alcott
 Drew Allin
 Kofi Amankwah
 Samuel Artuso
 Zion Au
 Edward Aziz
 Joan Backus
 Yonge Bai
 Susan Bailey
 Virginia Barton
 Lauren Bentley
 Dina Bernardo
 Paul and Maureen Bernier
 Andrew Beshay
 Gretchen Bingham *and the Estate of John W. Bingham III*
 Rebecca Boal
 Erin Boltom
 Kiva Bottero
 Douglas Bradley and Mary Killoran
 Neli Brum
 Christopher Butler
 Annie Cai
 Darren Chadwick
 Anthony Chen
 Vincenta Cheng
 Nancy Chernin
 Brian Chi Kit Lo
 Matthew Chou
 Jonathan Chow
 Elyse Clement
 Peter and Joyce Cook
 Jackson Cowie
 Tom Cronin
 William Daeuber
 Lauren D'Angelo
 Joanne de Boehmler
 Joseph De Fazio
 Stephanie Deakin

Melissa Dean
 Christopher Deans
 Michael Dejak
 Johanna Delroy
 Kimberly Dobo
 Dillion Douglas
 Isaac Duarte
 Guy Dufour
 Albert Dukacz
 Patricia Duncan
 Nina D'Urzo
 Joanne Ebbutt
 Shawn Eghterafi
 Nelson Eng
 Scott Eng
 Victoria Enge
 Juan Fajardo
 John Faris
 Marlene Fine
 Amanda Finlayson
 Alison Fletcher
 Jane Fletcher
 Ann Forrest
 Neil Foster
 Ian Frensch
 Benjamin Fuller
 Caitlin Furtado
 Benjamin Gardent
 Siavash Gharenkhani

Sandra Giantomasso
 Lili Gillespie
 Vince Gismondi
 Stephanie Gower
 Prem Grainger
 Green Light Artist Management Inc
 Anita Guistini
 Jack Gustafson
 William Habkirk
 Cathy Haley
 Lynne Hardwick
 Pam Harris
 Jean and Frank Hassard
 Donna Hatton
 Cheryl Hechter
 Isabel Henniger
 Maria-Lucia Hergovich
 Susan Hillery
 Ashok Hingorani
 Max Hniebergall
 Wendy Houlberg
 Heidi and David Howell
 Juliana Howes
 Michael Hughes
 Teresa Iacobelli
 Ujjwal Jain
 Jon Jonsson
 Shreenath Kargutkar
 Michelle Kassel
 Udu Kaul
 Sharon Kelly
 Timothy Kennedy
 Ali Kiafar
 Steven King
 Yat Min Kong
 Mary Kuracina
 Kevin Lagdameo
 Patricia Laurich
 John Leadbetter
 Stephanie Lebaron
 Kate Lee
 Sun Young Lee
 Josh Leonard



Edith Leung
 Naomi Levine
 Mike Levinthal
 Susan Lieberman
 Susan Lipchak
 Winifred Lloyd-Smith
 Paul Lowndes
 David and Susan Lucas
 Leonard Machler
 Ryan Malcho
 Ruth Mann
 Bhushan Marathe
 Joe Marotta
 David Marshall
 Pamela Maten
 Deborah and Philip McDowell
 Michelle McBride
 Rianna McBride
 Andrew McGuffin
 Susan McLeod
 Vishal Mehrotra
 Allison Miller
 Max Miller
 Ethan Miller
 Timothy Mills
 Matt and Karine Moody
 Marc Morriset
 Anne Morrisette
 Sandra Nelson
 Rema Nestereiczkyk





Sierra Shiels
 Sandra Simpson
 Anna Sonser
 Kim Soojin
 Kevin Southgate
 Jacqueline Specht
 Dr. Catherine Steele
 Erin Stevens
 Mark Stevenson
 Daniel Stiplosek
 Robin Sutherland-Harris
 Tiana Tam

Jason Neudorf
 Trinh Nguyen
 Fiona Nugent
 Carly Nurmsoo
 Steve Onisto
 Carolyn Padbury
 Cory Pelletier
 Ron Perreault
 Christine Petch
 Scott Peterson
 Theresa Pham
 Dave Pidduck
 Linda Prussick
 Marnie Rabinovitch Giving Fund
 Ibad Raees
 Ram Raju
 John Reid
 Gordon Reid
 Kasra Rezaee
 Laura Riley
 Heinz Rimmele
 Stephen Risk
 Joan and Bob Robson
 Stuart Rowles
 Jordan Ryan
 Nora Sanders
 Jack Schoenmakers
 Rebecca Scott
 Matthew Secaur
 Rajeswari Selvaraj

Loren Thorburn
 Tim Tisdall
 Roz Tobias
 Tim Topper
 Elizabeth Tripp
 Justin Tse
 Lou Turchetti
 Frank Van Der Werfhorst
 Marcus Van Dijk
 Talin Vartanian
 Jim Vice
 Martina Vuksinic
 Stella Wanyu Hsu
 Don Weaver
 Robin Weaver
 Jordan Weitman-Soet
 Christian Wen
 Jeremy Wiebe
 Daniel Wiener
 Christian Wiens
 Sukyong Yang
 Norman and Janey Young
 Dawn Yurchuk
 137 Anonymous Individuals

organizations

AHA
 Airlee Foundation
 Ardea Foundation
 Arthur J. Gallagher Canada Limited
 Averbach Family Foundation
 Barrick Gold
 Bealight Foundation
 Blair Family Foundation
 Blistex Corporation
 BMO
 C&C Family Foundation
 C.B. Powell Foundation
 Cadillac Fairview
 Career/Life Skill Resources Inc
 Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation
 Chisholm Thomson Family Foundation
 Christelle Holdings
 Crabtree Foundation
 D.H. Gordon Foundation
 Definity Insurance Foundation
 Dr. Lou and Mae Lukenda Charitable Foundation
 Dunlop Roofing
 F.K. Morrow Foundation
 Frederick and Douglas Dickson Memorial Foundation



General Motors
 Great Memories
 —*Professional Book Design*
 Hallward Fund
 —*Mary and Graham Hallward*
 Halo Fund
 Harry E. Foster Foundation
 Henry and Berenice Kauffman Foundation
 Hobgoblin Foundation
 Hodgson Family Foundation
 Horn Family Fund
 Ironwood Foundation
 Ivori - Healthy Steps
 J.P. Bickell Foundation
 Jackman Foundation
 Jacma Foundation
 Jeffrey Kimmel and Family
 Jobber (AKA Octopus APP)
 Mackenzie Foundation
 MFS Investments
 Michael Haines Push Corp
 Neil Andrews Fund
 Ottawa Community Foundation
 Otto & Marie Pick Foundation
 Pacific Life Foundation
 Paddle.ca
 Potruff Family Foundation
 R. Dowling Fund
 RBC Foundation
 Robert and Pauline Waller Foundation
 Robert Bell Family Foundation
 Silverorange Inc.
 Somers Semple Foundation
 Stacey Family Aurora Fund
 Tachane Family Foundation
 TD Bank
 Telus
 Temerty Foundation
 The Bedolfe Foundation
 The Bickle-Wilder Foundation
 The Young Fund
 Throop Family Foundation
 Trisura Insurance

Viggo Lewis Foundation
 W.C. Kitchen Foundation
 Wafe Consulting
 Wagner Green Family Trust

Walker Wood Foundation
 13 Anonymous Organizations



our financial affairs

Our financial affairs are a contradiction. Our balance sheet is growing and our cash flow is diminishing.

Are we rich or poor?

A quick look at our audited financials herein will reveal a healthy cash reserve that will be the foundation of a future endowment fund. Its purpose shall be to keep Boundless solvent for centuries. In doing so, we can guarantee free access by marginalized people forever.

Our income, however, is shrinking significantly this current year. We have reduced our summer social enterprise for affluent families by ninety per cent. We made this hard choice because it frees up space for hundreds more underserved people to enjoy Boundless. We are shrinking and growing at the same time.

To make this oxymoron work, we depend on donations more than ever before.

excerpts from
audited
financial
statements

to view our full
audited financial
statements, please
visit our website:

[theboundlesschool.com](http://theboundlessschool.com)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2024

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,040,874	\$ 939,526
Accounts receivable	19,860	16,235
Portfolio investments	311,336	503,599
Prepaid expenses and deposits	<u>5,771</u>	<u>10,110</u>
	1,377,841	1,469,470
Portfolio investments	680,606	316,241
Internally restricted assets	1,753,121	1,591,615
Facilities and equipment	<u>2,925,055</u>	<u>2,998,533</u>
	<u>\$ 6,736,623</u>	<u>\$ 6,375,859</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 46,480	\$ 64,241
Government remittances payable	22,485	21,362
Deferred revenue	<u>336,600</u>	<u>355,120</u>
	405,565	440,723
Deferred contributions related to facilities and equipment	<u>422,517</u>	<u>445,517</u>
	<u>828,082</u>	<u>886,240</u>
FUND BALANCES		
General fund	4,155,420	3,898,004
Contingency fund	1,449,885	1,327,755
B.E.C.A. Environmental fund	253,236	213,860
Innovation fund	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
	5,908,541	5,489,619
	<u>\$ 6,736,623</u>	<u>\$ 6,375,859</u>

Approved on behalf of the board



Steven Gottlieb
Executive Director



Tom Robson
President of the Board

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

	Innovation Fund	B.E.C.A Environmental Fund	Contingency Fund	General Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
Revenue						
Ontario MCCSS Program						
Youth Justice	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 84,000	84,000	\$ 84,000
C.R.R.F	-	-	-	7,851	7,851	18,223
Recognition of deferred MCCSS capital funding	-	-	-	2,253	2,253	2,699
CTYS Program*						
Intensive Treatment Services	-	-	-	200,224	200,224	200,224
Coordinated Access and Intake	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Service Coordination	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Waterworks	-	-	-	20,900	20,900	20,900
CTYS Program*	-	-	-	291,923	291,923	291,923
M.C.C.S.S. one-time funding	-	-	-	8,108	8,108	-
User fees	-	-	-	141,268	141,268	127,919
Payroll subsidy	-	-	-	28,873	28,873	23,372
Donations	-	-	-	1,064,416	1,064,416	998,349
High school fees	-	-	-	388,860	388,860	542,672
Recognition of other deferred capital funding	-	-	-	20,747	20,747	21,839
Investment income	-	5,039	122,130	-	127,169	79,278
Other income	-	-	-	1,025	1,025	460
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,039</u>	<u>122,130</u>	<u>2,262,448</u>	<u>2,389,617</u>	<u>2,413,858</u>

*Refer to Notes 11 and 12 in the full audited Financial Statements available online

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

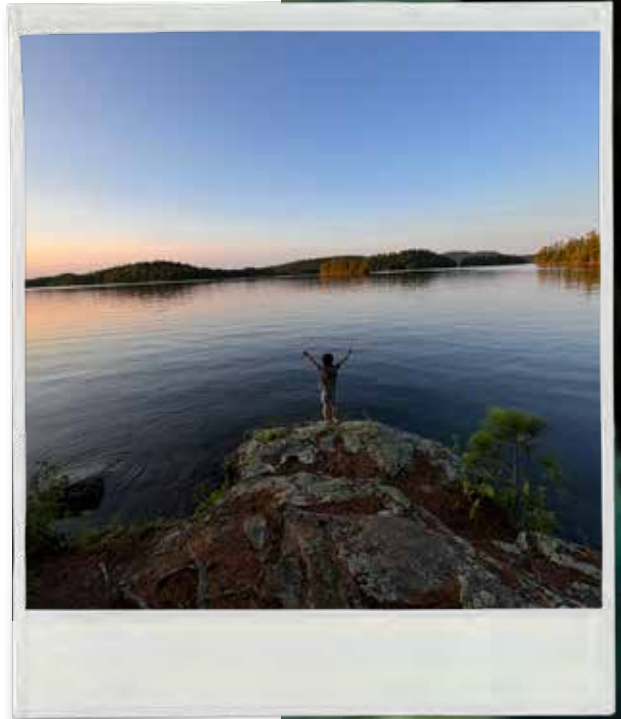
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024

	Innovation Fund	B.E.C.A Environmental Fund	Contingency Fund	General Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
Expenses						
Salaries	-	-	-	1,168,408	1,168,408	1,114,090
Program expense and supplies	-	-	-	172,317	172,317	150,784
Employer costs and benefits	-	-	-	146,791	146,791	112,763
Amortization	-	-	-	118,373	118,373	125,262
Food	-	-	-	103,858	103,858	118,916
Insurance	-	-	-	69,912	69,912	70,776
Automotive and travel	-	-	-	44,356	44,356	33,619
Utilities	-	-	-	31,390	31,390	33,232
Accounting and audit	-	-	-	29,943	29,943	29,092
Rent - office	-	-	-	25,320	25,320	23,624
Waterworks	-	-	-	22,416	22,416	21,140
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	19,219	19,219	29,100
Property taxes	-	-	-	17,812	17,812	17,467
Program development	-	-	-	15,741	15,471	20,760
Rent - staff accommodations	-	-	-	9,978	9,978	9,335
Telephone	-	-	-	9,724	9,724	9,319
M.C.C.S.S. one-time expenses	-	-	-	8,108	8,108	-
Staff education	-	-	-	7,326	7,326	8,835
Office and general	-	-	-	4,326	4,326	4,183
Bank charges	-	-	-	105	105	155
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,025,153</u>	<u>2,025,153</u>	<u>1,932,472</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,039</u>	<u>122,130</u>	<u>237,295</u>	<u>364,464</u>	<u>481,386</u>

Other (income) expenses

Gain on sale of equipment	-	-	-	(20,121)	(20,121)	-
Unrealized (gain) loss on portfolio investments	-	(34,337)	-	-	(34,337)	5,965
	<u>-</u>	<u>(34,337)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,121)</u>	<u>(54,458)</u>	<u>5,965</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ -	\$ 39,376	122,130	257,416	418,922	475,421

THE
BOUNDLESS
SCHOOL



theboundlesschool.com

40 years of
Wonder