



MARCH 31, 2025

FINAL PROGRAM REPORT, APRIL 1, 2024 – MARCH 31, 2025

FLIRTATIONS WITH DANGER

One night early on in our school year, over a cozy evening campfire, our students heard a shark-attack tale where the unlikely survivor swam towards a Great White instead of trying to flee. The story stuck. It became a mantra. The kids willingly summoned the dangers in their lives and relationships. They flirted with difficulty and were relentless.

It worked. The youth made the best of every moment here. Their lives stabilized. They fell in love with learning. They came back to their families safe and innervated.

The dangers were mostly internal. Anxiety. Depression. Self-harm. Staggeringly delayed social skills. They were among the biggest victims of a mass mental health event taking place all around them. Not anymore. One youth told us recently, “My fake confidence has turned real.”

Our students’ success in the boarding school was only part of the story the past year.

Experiments with multi-generational programming also took the spotlight. We invested in a community approach - where youth and young adults are encircled with the care of their families and elders. We had some hiccups. Every one taught us to be better. Our community partners are clamouring for more of these programs. They are already reporting how this initiative is binding their people together.

It was a largely safe year. A couple of minor bone breaks. One torn ACL. Behaviourally, the kids kept us on our toes. But the unmistakable and remarkable connection between staff and kids inspired one graduating student to remark as he stepped on the bus to leave us forever, “This place was my family.”

Our property is re-wilding with a little help from our students. So many seeds sprung. Newly planted trees adorn our landscape. Our kids ate organic.

The HR woes lingered. But we managed. Prospects for seeing our way through this mire are brightening.

BY THE NUMBERS

	<u>2022/2023</u>	<u>2023/2024</u>	<u>2024/2025</u>
Total People served	317	364	413
Total Program Days Delivered	7728	8814	9,886
Student Completion Rate All Programs	96%	95%	98%
Behavioural Incidents	243	277	303
Serious Health and Safety Incidents	2	0	3
Students Completing Full Diploma at Boundless	63	64	59
Increase in English curriculum grades compared to public school scores	31%	29%	37%
Increase in Math and Science grades compared to public school scores	41%	44%	32%
Number of Indigenous Students	122	131	153
Budget Surplus exclusive to Youth Programming	\$84,000	\$30,000	\$48,000

PROFILES OF OUR STUDENTS BEFORE ARRIVING AT BOUNDLESS

- 100% of our students had achieved credits below their grade level
- 100% experienced long-term school interruptions
- 9% had been suspended or expelled
- 37% identified as Indigenous
- 100% presented diagnosed mental health and learning challenges
- 83% reported significant familial dysfunction
- 8% had criminal histories
- 100% reported as low-income

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- 1) Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
- 2) Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- 3) Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families
- 4) Toronto District Catholic School board
- 5) Toronto District Catholic School Board – Adult School program
- 6) Toronto District School Board – Indigenous Program
- 7) Family and Children’s Services of Renfrew County
- 8) Central Toronto Youth Services
- 9) Michael Garron Hospital Anxiety Clinic
- 10) Ottawa Children’s Aid Society
- 11) Ottawa Carleton District School Board
- 12) Mind Forward Acquired Brain Injury Services
- 13) Madawaska Association for Community Living
- 14) Garry Hurvitz Centre for Community Mental Health (Hospital for Sick Children)
- 15) Three Doors Shelter



Our motley crew of X-country superheroes took home silver for Renfrew County

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

- All participants returned home in one piece. Knock on Madawaska Valley wood
- The academic scores of students across compulsory subjects dramatically improved. As did social skills, confirmed by the evaluations of social workers, family members and caregivers
- The efficacy of next-steps planning - where we help kids plan the next stages of their lives - was identified as a shortcoming in our most recent program evaluation. We invested many resources in improving this crucial element of our curriculum. We know we improved the outcomes a lot – the students said so - but we can't quite prove that just yet. No formal evaluation has been undertaken
- It appears we shall be exceeding our service targets for our pilot multigenerational program by close to fifty per cent. Five programs took place last summer. The favourable feedback from community partners was overwhelmingly positive. They are planning to double or triple their referrals in 2025
- We were pleasantly surprised about that our community partners chose to refer refugees, newcomers and young parents to the multigenerational program. Their choices revealed their internal priorities and present a huge opportunity for expansion in the coming few years
- Our partners, and the students themselves, reported a stunning improvement in social and life skills. Many used the term "awakening"
- Re-wilding projects improved soil conditions. Tree planting and forest pruning and cattle fence-removal provided our students with a steady focus on taking care of the land. And that 3kms of ugly cattle fence shall be gone forever in a matter of weeks
- While H.R. woes persist, our management team has double-downed their commitment to stay at Boundless for "years to come." . What a blessing. The gift brings a source of stability in the present, and enables growth for the future. We are now better equipped to ride out the H.R. storm
- We took a chance on the budget this year because we willingly shrank our social enterprise to focus more attention on serving socially vulnerable communities. We needed donors to make up the revenue shortfall. They did. The plan is working. So far.

LOWLIGHTS

- An important premise behind our efforts to serve multigenerational communities was to let these groups define their own policies and programming. One group of bereaved and Indigenous young adults deemed it essential that they use “green medicine”. The results were quite unpleasant. Motivation levels plummeted. We won’t try that again
- Our first two Multigenerational programs were under-programmed. Keeping a group gelling smoothly with age ranges of two to eighty-five years old is challenging. We let loose the reins too much on programming resulting in fragmenting “flow”. We pivoted quickly for the last three projects. Understanding how to keep groups engaged without being too controlling is one heck of a Zen riddle.
- H.R. challenges are widespread. One close organizational cousin furloughed 90 per cent of its staff recently. Our partners have struggles filling their own staff rosters. Some of those community staff that do end up at Boundless are as traumatized as their clients. We are working closely with these partners to better prepare their staff for the Boundless experience
- There are moments when we feel our prime directive of challenging people is incompatible with society’s focus on accommodation. In a world of unlimited assignment extensions, no-zero grading policies, over-labelling, over-medicating, emphasizing safe-spaces over resiliency, is Boundless becoming out of sync with today’s trends for educating youth?
- The capital costs of running a 600-acre wilderness school keep ballooning. Pick-up trucks, lawn mower tractors, windows, washing machines, road maintenance top an almost endless list of needs. We are keeping pace, but for how long?
- In good times, donations make Boundless business strategy brilliant. What about tough times, like those we may be on the cusp of? Our reliance on donations makes us vulnerable
- Donations towards youth and young adult programming have been good. Not so much so with conservation initiatives. We have just a few donors. This must grow so we stay true to our environmental mandate.

OUR PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

- Expand multigenerational programming, with a focus on Indigenous groups, to 200 people in 2025, and if all goes well, to 300 people in 2026
- Deliver exclusive programming for young adults, a constituency that our community partners have identified as most in need. We'll serve fifty people in 2025, and plan to double this by 2026
- Four new partners are coming on board in 2025. The Christie Street Refugee Welcome Centre; the Gerstein Centre; Stepstones for Youth; San Lorenzo Anglican Church (focussing on Latin American young-adult newcomers)
- We reintroduced programs for people with intellectual disabilities in 2024 and plan to continue this in the future, along with an expanded roster of young adults with acquired brain injuries
- Running the best darn boarding school in the country
- More planted trees. More land remediation. More nature based curriculum
- Continuing the resuscitation of our whitewater program. Just a year ago, that activity barely had a pulse. The situation improved in 2024, and with the recent hiring of two whitewater experts, we plan to continue its vibrant growth
- Plans are underway for the introduction of an employment training programs for young adults in 2026. Stay tuned.



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 12 MONTH EDUCATION PROGRAM
ENDING MARCH 31, 2024

EXPENSES EXCLUSIVE TO OUR YOUTH PROGRAM

	Year Ending March 31, 2023	Year Ending March 31, 2024	Year Ending March 31, 2025
Teachers and Staff	1,314,000	1,270,000	1,238,000
Travel	39,000	37,000	41,000
Insurance	77,000	79,000	81,000
Program/Educational Expenses	380,000	359,000	425,000
Admin	25,000	23,000	25,000
Total	1,835,000	1,768,000	1,810,000

REVENUE

	Year Ending March 31, 2023	Year Ending March 31, 2024	Year Ending March 31, 2025
Donations to youth program	812,000	970,000	1,203,000
Revenue from Boundless Social Enterprise	592,000	313,000	140,000
Central Toronto Youth Service Contract	515,000	515,000	515,000
TOTAL	1,919,000	1,798,000	1,858,000
Surplus (Deficit)	84,000	30,000	48,000

SERVICE TARGETS

	2023/2024 (Actual)	2024/2025 (Actual)	2025/2026 (Target)
Total People Served	364	413	450
Total Program Days Delivered	8814	9886	10,000
Indigenous Participants	131	153	170
Indigenous Program Days Delivered	2860	3290	3570