

FANTÁSTICO!

2024-2025 Annual Report





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INSIDE

5
[Dear Friends of Boundless](#)

14
[The Year Ahead](#)

6
[By the Numbers](#)

16
[Financial Affairs](#)

8
[Fantástico!](#)

17
[Financial Statements](#)

12
[Menos que Fantástico](#)

20
[Friends & Contributors](#)



“The fact you
hung in and
kept working
with our son
when he believed
it was over
just proves
that you are
also the champions
of his triumphs.”

—Parent of Boundless Student

DEAR FRIENDS OF BOUNDLESS



Recently, forty South and Central American refugees graced us at Boundless, and before long, the term “*Fantástico*” was riding the wind across our 600 acres like a kite just kept soaring.

Seeing grandmothers plunge into rapids, or watching the group quickly assemble a septet of band members aged 6 to 60 who blew the roof off the Ranch—this was all utterly *fantástico*. Witnessing tears yield to laughter as families described their escapes touched everyone deeply.

Beholding this community’s youth being encircled by a loving clan, knowing they would return home as bonded as roots from the same tree, was the most *espectacular* and *estupendo* of all.

We are well beyond the pilot phase of our new approach to working with youth, where we focus on strengthening their support structures, and expanding our focus to working with young adults and families.

The stories herein tell a tale of the *fantástico* across our organization.

The boarding school kids found their voices and mastered their educations in a manner that shocked their caregivers.

Our newly formed partnerships with Stepstones for Youth, the Christie Street Refugee Centre, the Gerstein Centre, and San Lorenzo Church brought fresh oxygen to what is becoming a diverse ecosystem disguised as a simple charity.

Largely discarding our social enterprise to make room for new programs worked out beautifully, thanks to an influx of donations that replaced our forfeited revenue.

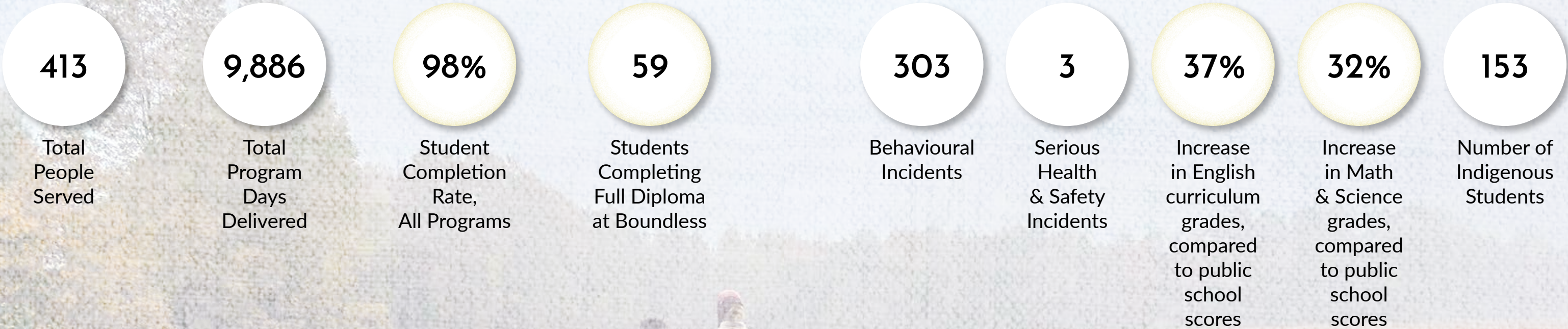
There are many people to thank for this year of the fantastic. Boundless staff were brilliant. So too were the staff our partners sent to keep a close eye on their people.

Finally, I thank the donors, all of whom sparked this innovation and made our charity stronger in these times of transition.

In sincere gratitude,

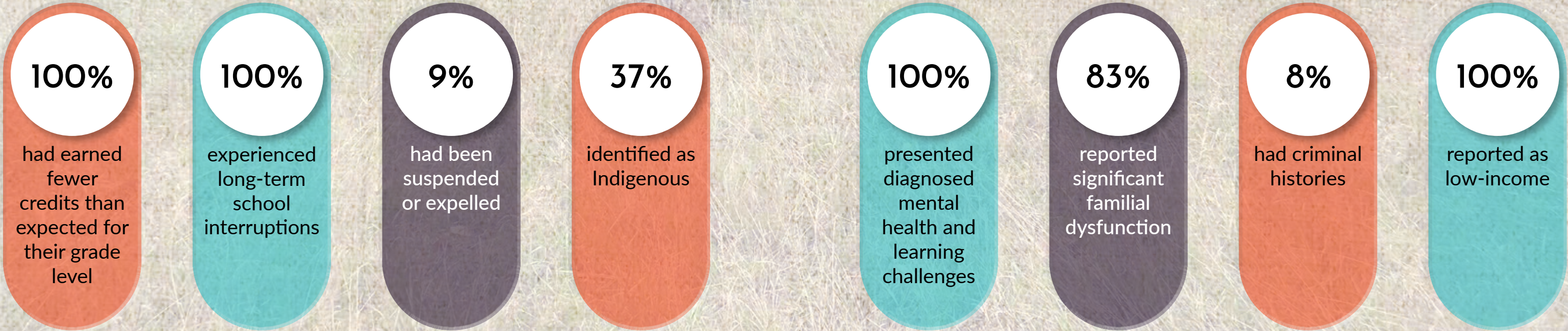
Steven Gottlieb

BY THE NUMBERS



STUDENT PROFILES

Before Arriving at Boundless



Adam's Horticulture Triumph



In 2018, Adam mastered Boundless curriculum, graduated in 2020, and just earned a degree in Horticulture from Queen's University.

Ten days felt like ten years since the ever-so-anxious Morris discovered his bowels again. The school community celebrated. He, along with our septic tank, survived the ordeal.

(AI generated photo)



Morris's Relief

Felix Goes to College



Indigenous Status confirmed. Grants unlocked. Felix is the first in his family to trade barriers for bursaries—and step into college.

Luisa officially became the youngest student in our 41-year history at 10 months old. Here she is with our Executive Director, whose ovaries burn for want of his own grandchildren.



Youngest Student Ever

Kenny, totally blind, decided to take up archery. On his 28th try, he *bullseye'd*. The target never saw it coming. We've since cancelled dodgeball.



Kenny's Bullseye

FANTÁSTICoi

Fences Down



Four generations, including those in diapers on both extremes, collaborated on an Inuukshuk.



Inuukshuk Legacy

We liberated the land from its cattle fences. Several confused students now roam much farther than intended.



Silver Ski Surprise



Our gang of rapscallions, with barely a week's training, took silver in a recent Renfrew County X-country ski race.

Wood Chip



Wonder

We dumped a bunch of wood chips in the middle of an abandoned patch of potato field. It worked. The trees are starting to grow.



Endless Bridge



Pretending to be Caesar's minions crossing the Tiber River, Boundless students built a bridge that seemingly never ended, and adopted this credo as their survival mantra.



MENOS QUE FANTÁSTICO (Less Than Fantastic)

All translate to something like: “What a headache.”
At Boundless, we’ve had a few this past year.

Persistent H.R. Woes

We’ve been patching staffing gaps with the organic equivalent of duct tape.

Selling “challenge” as a lifestyle doesn’t always align with prevailing values among young adults, who seek safe spaces, self-care, and work/life balance.

To adapt, we’ll recruit face to face. We’ll start hiring some select students. We’ll hike wages even further.

Mental Health Crises

As we deepen our work with families and young adults, we’re witnessing more explosive mental health breakdowns. These moments can feel alarming, but are more often expressions of deep trauma, especially among Indigenous, Inuit, and refugee communities.

What’s the response? More staff training. And then more. And more.

Missteps in Program Design

In a few 2024 pilot projects, we under-programmed—expecting groups to fill the space themselves. It didn’t work. Big gaps opened in the schedule, and it tarnished the quality of our programs.

We also allowed some partners to define their own substance-use policies. One trip blew up as a result.

We learned fast. Adjustments have already been made and they are working.

Has the Time Come for the Organic Garden?

A beautiful idea, but staffing it is tough, pests are relentless (darn Japanese beetles), and the economics don’t add up. Next year we are going to turn the space into a fruit orchard.

Capital Costs Can be Tough

Used pickup truck? \$60k.
Landscape equipment?
Enough to make you wince.
Replacing 25-year-old windows?
Almost \$100k.

Ay Naku!

—Tagalog

Aaniin enya!

—Anishinaabemowin

Oy vey!

—Yiddish

**We’ll get through all of the above.
One Oy Vey at a time.**





THE YEAR AHEAD

(Hint: More!)

MORE Boarding School

More students transforming their lives.

MORE Young Adults Support

New and developing programs for young adults—a shiny new tool in our backpack to address youth mental health.

MORE Family Programs

Expanding programs for families and multi-generations of Indigenous and Inuit people, refugees and newcomers.

MORE U12 Kids Served

Given our emphasis on families, we expect to serve more youth under the age of twelve.

MORE Youth School + Jobs

In Spring 2026, we shall start a new employment and school program for transitional aged youth (18-24).

MORE Trees Planted

We shall continue re-wilding Boundless. Planting trees. Slowly and surely augmenting forest regeneration.



OUR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Last year, we hoped that growing donations could replace the revenue we cast aside when we chose to wind down our social enterprise.

The plan worked.

That leap of faith also made space for something greater—the chance to serve more vulnerable youth.

We are keenly aware that a business model that relies extensively on philanthropy can be volatile, and ultimately, is an act of trust. We’re adjusting in real time with clarity and resolve.

Our balance sheet remains solid. We are setting the stage for the creation of an endowment fund, planning to root our charity in the Ottawa Valley for centuries.

The glass-half-full view?
Our financial footing is solid and projected to remain so.

The glass-half-empty?
Our planned expansion in the next three years to serving 500-600 people annually isn’t cheap. We shall need millions in operating costs.

Excerpts From Audited Financial Statements

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

theboundlesschool.com

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 862,021	\$ 1,040,874
Sales tax recoverable	23,307	19,860
Portfolio investments	929,700	311,336
Prepaid expenses and deposits	<u>9,237</u>	<u>5,771</u>
	1,824,265	1,377,841
Portfolio investments	2,574,918	2,433,727
Facilities and equipment	<u>2,869,223</u>	<u>2,925,055</u>
	<u>\$ 7,268,406</u>	<u>\$ 6,736,623</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 45,720	\$ 46,480
Government remittances payable	27,566	22,485
Deferred contributions	<u>506,000</u>	<u>336,600</u>
	579,286	405,565
Deferred contributions related to facilities and equipment	<u>400,884</u>	<u>422,517</u>
	<u>980,170</u>	<u>828,082</u>
FUND BALANCES		
General fund	4,353,375	4,155,420
Contingency fund	1,599,105	1,449,885
B.E.C.A. Environmental fund	285,756	253,236
Innovation fund	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
	6,288,236	5,908,541
	<u>\$ 7,268,406</u>	<u>\$ 6,736,623</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

	Innovation Fund	B.E.C.A Environmental Fund	Contingency Fund	General Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
Revenue						
Ontario M.C.Y.S. Program						
Youth Justice	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,810	\$ 85,810	\$ 84,000
C.R.R.F	-	-	-	-	-	7,851
Recognition of deferred M.C.Y.S. capital funding	-	-	-	1,923	1,923	2,253
C.T.Y.S. 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
C.T.Y.S. Program*	-	-	-	291,923	291,923	291,923
Donations	-	-	-	1,100,276	1,100,276	1,064,416
High school fees	-	-	-	192,513	192,513	388,860
User fees	-	-	-	117,405	117,405	141,268
Investment income	-	5,459	149,220	-	154,679	127,169
Recognition of other deferred capital funding	-	-	-	19,710	19,710	20,747
Payroll subsidy	-	-	-	15,420	15,420	28,873
Other income	-	-	-	600	600	1,025
M.C.Y.S. one-time funding	-	-	-	-	-	8,108
	-	5,459	149,220	2,048,704	2,203,383	2,389,617

*Refer to Notes 10 and 11 in the full audited Financial Statements available online

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	Innovation Fund	B.E.C.A Environmental Fund	Contingency Fund	General Fund	Total 2025	Total 2024
Expenses						
Salaries	-	-	-	1,032,426	1,032,426	1,168,408
Employer costs and benefits	-	-	-	155,090	155,090	146,791
Program expense and supplies	-	-	-	133,664	133,664	172,317
Amortization	-	-	-	116,874	116,874	118,373
Food	-	-	-	103,163	103,163	103,858
Insurance	-	-	-	70,057	70,057	69,912
Automotive and travel	-	-	-	37,885	37,885	44,356
Utilities	-	-	-	35,714	35,714	31,390
Accounting and audit	-	-	-	30,647	30,647	29,943
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	26,561	26,561	19,219
Rent - office	-	-	-	25,685	25,685	25,320
Waterworks	-	-	-	21,191	21,191	22,416
Property taxes	-	-	-	18,560	18,560	17,812
Rent - staff accommodations	-	-	-	10,631	10,631	9,978
Staff education	-	-	-	10,205	10,205	7,326
Telephone	-	-	-	9,344	9,344	9,724
Program development	-	-	-	8,383	8,383	15,471
Office and general	-	-	-	4,669	4,669	4,326
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-	105
M.C.Y.S. one-time expenses	-	-	-	-	-	8,108
	-	-	-	1,850,749	1,850,749	2,025,153
Excess of revenue over expenses before other income	-	5,459	149,220	197,955	352,634	364,464

Other income

Gain on sale of equipment	-	-	-	-	-	(20,121)
Unrealized gain on investments	-	(27,061)	-	-	(27,061)	(34,337)
	-	(27,061)	-	-	(27,061)	(54,458)
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ -	\$ 32,520	\$ 149,220	\$ 197,955	\$ 379,695	\$ 418,922

FRIENDS & CONTRIBUTORS

Individuals

Sheir Ali
Kofi Amankwah
Douglas Bradley and Mary Killoran
Victoria Anisman-Reiner
Anoosha Avni
Edward Aziz
Mike Aziz
Joan Backus
Yonge Bai
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Eileen Banerjee
Virginia Barton
Denis Battiston
Lauren Bentley
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Rebecca Boal
Dierdre Bowers
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Janet Brown
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Juliana Howes



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Daniel Wiener
Janey and Norman Young
Vivienne Young
Sarah Young
James Zhang
Plus Many Anonymous Donors!

When we give cheerfully
and accept gratefully
everyone is blessed.
—Maya Angelou

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Trisura
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Viggo Lewis Foundation
W.C. Kitchen Foundation
Wafe Consulting
Wagner Green Family Trust
Walker Wood Foundation
Wellness Natural Inc

Our Community Partners

Central Toronto Youth Services
Family and Children’s Services of Renfrew County
Garry Hurvitz Centre for Community Mental Health (Hospital for Sick Children)
Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families (Ottawa)
Madawaska Association for Community Living
Michael Garron Hospital Anxiety Clinic
Mind Forward Acquired Brain Injury Services
Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
Ottawa Children's Aid Society
Ottawa Carleton District School Board
Three Doors Shelter
Toronto District Catholic School Board
Toronto District Catholic School Board – Adult School program
Toronto District School Board – Indigenous Program



“It’s been four years since I’ve been at Boundless. The entire experience was a really positive influence on me and helped me gain a lot of confidence that I still use today.”

—Former Boundless Student

New Community Partners For 2025/2026

Christie Street Refugee Centre (Multigenerational)
Gerstein Centre (Young Adults)
San Lorenzo Church (newcomers and refugees)
Stepstones for Youth (Young Adults)





theboundlesschool.com

FANTÁSTICO!