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**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

Give Kids a Chance Charity Inc. is dedicated to removing the financial barriers that prevent economically disadvantaged children from participating in healthy sport, culture and recreation activities.



**Give Kids  
a Chance  
Charity Inc.**



PHOTO CREDIT: MATT RAMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

"The Dream Broker program is amazing. We are all committed to making the most of this opportunity. It is so comforting to know that my son will never miss out on activities."

- Parent

# GIVE KIDS A CHANCE CHARITY INC.

These are just a few examples of the Give Kids A Chance Charity Inc. (GKACC) in action. Although some of its component programs, such as KidSport™ and the Dream Brokers, are better known than GKACC, our charity provides the overall structure for these organizations to operate. It was created to remove the barriers to participation in healthy sport, culture and recreation activities experienced by children living in poverty. By leveraging existing community resources, developing partnerships and securing funding, GKACC works to address these access issues, so that all children have the opportunity to lead healthy, active lives.

In 2013, GKACC dedicated a total of \$2.1 million in funding, as well as other supports, to KidSport™ Saskatchewan, Dream Brokers, Creative Kids and the Northern Community and School Coordinator Program. These programs were selected for their work in removing barriers to participation in sport, culture and recreation, so children and youth facing socio and economic barriers have the opportunity to experience meaningful sport, culture and recreation programs .

GKACC focused its efforts on raising funds through donations, grants and various fundraising initiatives. The charity also provided charitable tax receipts for donations worth at least \$20.



"This was a very positive opportunity for the students. It was a helpful and hopeful program that provided the kids with an alternative focus. What a worthwhile cause!"

- Stu Bell, grandfather of Shyanne  
2013 Saskatchewan Music Alliance  
Music Camp

2013 SMA Summer Music Camp

"I like sports and I want other kids to be able to play them. I love hockey because you work hard and you learn. I want other kids to be able to work hard and learn too. That's why I donated to KidSport™. Donating feels really good!"

- KidSport™ Donor, age 9

"My daughter looks forward to joining gymnastics each year. The little look on her face, the way she lights up when I tell her she can join again each year is all thanks to the generosity of KidSport™ . . . and businesses in the community. My daughter and I could not be more thankful. I look forward to what she learns and how happy she is each year. Thank you so much."

- KidSport™ Parent

"I've been playing soccer since I was 5. It has really become a passion of mine. I love to play! I couldn't imagine life without soccer and KidSport™ helps me with that. I like meeting new people and get to be with my new teammates all the time. Thank you so much KidSport™!"

- KidSport™ Recipient

# KIDSPORT™

## saskatchewan

Sport – its more than a game. It teaches the fundamentals of hard work, dedication, respect and goal setting. By learning these values at a young age, children and youth have a better chance at succeeding in their personal and professional lives and eventually becoming future leaders in our society.

KidSport™ Saskatchewan is a registered children's charity dedicated to helping children from families facing financial obstacles participate in sport, so all kids can play. Through our efforts, we are helping to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to share and experience the tremendous benefits that sport can provide.

In 2013, KidSport™ awarded over \$1.4 million in individual and program grants, helping over 8,900 children and youth

participate in sport, and supporting the operation of over 50 sports (including hockey, gymnastics, skating, soccer and swimming) in the province. KidSport™ also received the support of more than 650 community volunteers and over 250 volunteer local committee members, who helped manage its 45 local KidSport™ Committees and various fundraiser events.

The program's impact continues to grow, generating additional individual and corporate donations every year. KidSport™ strives to ensure that 100 percent of all donations are directed back to children and youth. This is made

possible through several local and provincial sponsorships and its corporate partnership with Sask Sport Inc., which covers all of the program's annual operating costs. Through five events alone – the SaskEnergy Saskatchewan Roughriders Calendar for KidSport™, the KidSport™ Fun & Fitness Corporate Challenge, Hyundai Hockey Helpers, KidSport™ Invitational, and the Peters and Pilon Celebrity Golf Tournament – more than \$450,000 was raised for KidSport™ in 2013.

"I love participating in sport. The best part about it is I get to have fun, meet new people and make new friends. I really look up to my coaches and my baseball coach is hilarious, nice and so friendly. I want to be just like him and coach someday when I'm older. He has taught me a lot, even if we lose a game. To me it doesn't really matter if we win, it's all about having fun and having good team spirit. I like to be competitive, but I love having fun more."

- KidSport™ Recipient





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# DREAM

## Brokers

Dream Brokers works with children and youth in targeted schools to assist them in striving for their dreams. They facilitate sport, culture and recreation opportunities using local elementary schools as the hub of activities and programs. The program originated in 2005 as a legacy of the Canada Games program in Regina. It has since grown to include Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford and Yorkton. This year there were 13 Dream Brokers, working in 23 inner city schools, who helped 2,085 children and youth experience more than 2,721 community sport, culture and recreation opportunities. This had a positive impact on approximately 1,600 Saskatchewan families.

The 2nd Annual Dream Brokers Music Camp – in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Band Association, Saskatchewan Choral Federation, Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, Saskatchewan Music Festival Association and the Saskatchewan Orchestral Association – is an excellent example of the type of work that Dream Brokers are involved. This initiative featured one week music camps in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert. Over 50 percent of all camp attendees enrolled in music lessons after the event.

Dream Broker Activity Fairs were held in Regina and Prince Albert schools to expose children

to the different sport, culture and recreation opportunities available in their communities. A six week long football camp was hosted by Dream Brokers and several Saskatchewan Roughrider players to teach basic football skills to youth. Other programs – including pottery, mask making, karate, hip-hop dance, gymnastics, drama and yoga – were also developed specifically for Dream Brokers children throughout the year.

School administrators and guardians have stated that after participating in the program, children developed greater self-esteem and confidence, leading to a more positive school environment and experience. Children in the Dream Brokers program also have a higher school attendance rate than non-participants and, according to the Ministry of Education, schools involved in the program have a three percent higher grade transition rate than other Saskatchewan schools.

In addition to funding from GKACC, the Dream Brokers receive support from Sport Canada, The Community Initiatives Fund, The Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture & Recreation, the Give Kids a Chance Charity, Sask Culture Inc., Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc., and Sask Sport Inc.

Children in the Dream Brokers program have a higher school attendance rate than non-participants and, according to the Ministry of Education, schools involved in the program have experienced higher attendance and passing grades.

# THE Dream Brokers at work

Many Saskatchewan children and youth face various social and economic challenges that prevent them from participating in extracurricular activities. The Dream Brokers program is changing that.

"We work in selected schools to connect kids and their families to sport, culture and recreational activities," said Dream Broker Laura Gessell.

The community-based program reduces barriers to participation in extracurricular activities by providing assistance with registration fees, transportation and equipment. The goal of the program is to get kids involved, no matter the barrier.

"I'll go to hockey registration with the parents if they need me to. Some of these families aren't from Canada, so our processes are confusing. I'm here to help them with that," Gessell said. "I want the kids to be comfortable telling me what they would like to do. I'm more a friend than a teacher, despite working in the school."

The Dream Brokers program is supported by Sask Sport Inc. in partnership with SaskCulture Inc. and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc., who work together to support the program throughout Saskatchewan. To do so, they work closely with sport, culture and recreation organizations to create partnerships within communities with the goal of educating service providers on the barriers that face inner city children and youth. The Dream Brokers program is supported through ten school divisions, five sport, culture and recreation districts and 23 selected schools located in Saskatoon, Regina, Yorkton, Prince Albert and North Battleford. The Dream Brokers work right in the school, focusing on children who face barriers to participation in healthy activities.

"Children living in core communities are much less likely to be physically active. We really need to give the core community access to the same activities," said Samantha Mitchell, the Community Development Consultant with the Dream Brokers program.

Success comes from not only improving the physical literacy and activity levels, or encouraging expressiveness and a sense of self through cultural development opportunities for kids, but there is a social reward too.

"We are committed to sustaining the participation of children and youth in sport, culture and recreation activities. Participation in extracurricular activities is essential to advancing life skills, improving confidence, enhancing a sense of belonging and fostering pride in their accomplishments. That's really what we're trying to do," Mitchell said.

According to Gessell, the benefits can be seen in the classroom too.

"The program is improving how these kids perform at school. They are attending more and it gives them something to be proud of," Gessell said.

The reward for Dream Brokers like Gessell, on the other hand, comes from the kids.

"Getting to see the change in the students, watching them really come out of their shell and being proud of their accomplishments. That's what really stands out," Gessell said.

Nicole Orr, Dream Broker  
Saskatoon



"When Mark\* makes music, he connects with other people. He's really good at it, and it's a huge boost to his self-esteem. Sometimes, there aren't a lot of things that kids with autism get praised for, so it's wonderful to focus on the things they are good at and enjoy."

- Amy Ewart, Mental Health Therapist,  
Child and Youth Services, Regina  
Qu'Appelle Health Region

\*Name changed for privacy reasons.



# creative kids

**Creative Kids is similar to KidSport™ Saskatchewan in its model, but it recognizes that not all children and youth enjoy playing sports but are still in need and want to participate in a healthy, creative activity. Creative Kids was established in 2010 to provide financial assistance to Saskatchewan children and youth to help cover the costs of arts and culture programs and activities.**

Through Creative Kids, more children and youth than ever before are participating in dance and music lessons, traditional First Nations art classes, art and music camps, drama programs and other cultural and creative programs and activities. The program is also opening doors to other potential careers for children and youth as grants are available for initiatives that involve creative industries and heritage activities such as fashion design, film making, paleontology, book publishing and binding, bead making, genealogy, music recording and archaeology.

SaskCulture administers the program, in partnership with the Give Kids A Chance Charity and the Saskatchewan Arts Board, and covers all of the administrative costs associated with the program, so that 100 percent of donations go towards helping kids engage in arts and culture. The program also benefits from the support of corporate sponsors, individual donors and local volunteers.

Six Creative Kids Committees – Regina, Saskatoon, the Battlefords, Lakeland, Big River and Shaunavon – help adjudicate the program by distributing grants, creating awareness and raising funds each year. The committees held several successful fundraiser events this year, including the Battlefords' Creative Kids Gala, Regina's Stand Up for Creative Kids, a BBQ fundraiser in Big River, and a raffle for 2013 Grey Cup game tickets in Shaunavon. Creative Kids also launched The Creative Kids Holiday Catalogue fundraiser in the fall, distributing catalogues province-wide to encourage individuals to purchase gifts of music, art and dance classes for their families and friends at Christmas.

Since the program was launched, 2,800 grants worth \$990,000 have been distributed in 122 communities. Some of the special events that Creative Kids provided grants for this year included workshops at the Northern Lights Bluegrass Festival; MacKenzie Art gallery art camps; acting and drama camps

at the Persephone and Globe theatres; Saskatchewan Band Association day camps in Yorkton, Regina and Saskatoon and a Junior Band Camp at the Kenosee Lake Provincial Park; a summer music camp in Big River; music lessons at the Salvation Army Beaver Creek Camp; and LEGO® building block classes designed by architects and engineers for Saskatoon's Bricks 4 Kidz program.

"We would like to thank you for funding our daughter for her music camp. It's been a huge help for us knowing that she has a passion playing a violin. She really enjoyed the camp, and it was very fulfilling. Because of the opportunity that you've given to us, my daughter would like to continue playing violin."

- Creative Kids Parent

# Northern Community & School Recreation Coordinator Program

The Northern Community & School Recreation Coordinator Program (NCSRCP) enhances the quality of life for northern Saskatchewan residents by providing community-based sport, culture and recreation programs after school, in the evening and on weekends. Community and School Recreation Coordinators (CSRC) develop and facilitate the delivery of sport, culture and recreation programs, using the schools as the gathering point in the community and working in partnership with community organizations. The program is coordinated by the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District.

This year there were 26 full-time and one part-time CSRCs working in 27 schools. These individuals assisted in delivering 886 programs – of which 29 percent involved sport, 29 percent involved culture and 42 percent involved recreation.

English River First Nation participated in NCSRCP for the first time, holding 49 sport, culture and recreation programs in the community. After-school and summer kids club, arts and crafts, traditional drum making, and youth soccer and volleyball programs were among the activities introduced in the community.

Steering committee members, CSRCs and community partners also participated in three professional development training sessions hosted by the Northern Sport, Culture & Recreation District. These sessions provided participants with information on partnership development, role identification, skills-building and increased sport, culture and recreation system awareness and linkages.



Thanks to the Northern Community & School Coordinator Program, children and youth participated in 886 sport, culture and recreation programs in 2013-2014.

## 2013

## Financials

### REVENUE

Donations	\$ 875,727
Fundraising/Sponsorship	792,256
Grants	1,857,094
Interest	11,339
	<u>\$ 3,536,416</u>

### EXPENSES

Administration	\$ 276,441
Programs	2,187,076
Fundraising	459,811
	<u>\$ 2,923,328</u>
Net Revenue	\$ 613,088
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 1,600,908
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 2,213,996</u>

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**Give kids  
a chance  
charity inc.**

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