



A Child's World

Annual Report



2024



344 Avon Street
Welland, Ontario
L3B 6E5

Phone: 905-735-1162

Website: www.acw.on.ca



Mission

To provide quality early learning and child care.



Vision

Creating an enriched foundation for children and families.

Mandate

- To provide a respectful, nurturing, intellectually stimulating, pro social atmosphere.
- To assist children in school readiness through the enhancement of the child's physical health and well being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, communication skills and general knowledge.
- To provide programs and services to the community to implement and foster the mission of the corporation and the objectives of its members.
- To provide leadership within the early learning and child care community in Niagara.
- To advocate for support and recognition of the value of early learning.
- To raise awareness and support for the fundraising efforts of the Foundation for Quality Child Care.
- To ensure ongoing staff development.
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation.
- To support parents and families with information, resources and referrals.



Message from Kim Cole -ACW Executive Director & Matt Greenfield -ACW Board of Directors Chair



Child care plays a vital role in a child’s early years, shaping their development, fostering a lifelong love for learning, and encouraging curiosity and discovery. In 2024, the landscape of early childhood education at A Child’s World continued to evolve, guided by innovation and, most importantly, the dedication of our passionate Educators. Their unwavering commitment to providing high-quality care has enriched the lives of the children and families we serve. Our vision remains clear: to provide quality early learning and child care that nurtures and supports the growth and development of every child in our care. This year, we were proud to enroll an additional 80 children, allowing us to serve more families in need of quality child care. However, like many in the sector, we continue to face challenges due to a shortage of child care spaces and Educators. With more qualified Educators, we could open additional spaces and welcome even more children into our centres. To help address this challenge, we have committed to supporting 10 non-qualified Educators through the Professional Advancement of Careers in Early Childhood Education (PACE) Program. This initiative will enable them to achieve their Early Childhood Education diploma, strengthening our team and enhancing the care we provide. Best of luck to all who have applied to this wonderful opportunity!

Key Highlights

- Commitment to Quality Care** – Providing exceptional early learning experiences remained at the heart of everything we did.
- A Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience** – Children, families, and Educators had the extraordinary opportunity to witness a total solar eclipse together, inspiring curiosity and wonder.
- Investing in Our Educators** – Our Educators participated in a Professional Development Day, gaining valuable insights into supporting the emotional well-being of young children. With access to up-to-date resources and tools, they are bringing new skills into their playrooms to enhance children’s learning and development.

A Personal Note of Gratitude

In November 2024, I announced my intention to retire from A Child’s World in July 2025. As we move through this transition, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation.

To every **ACW Educator**—thank you for the incredible work you do each day. Your dedication, passion, and care make a lasting impact on the lives of young learners. Continue to grow, learn, and inspire.

To the **Administration team**—you are an exceptional group of individuals. Your hard work, commitment, and teamwork have helped shape A Child’s World into the outstanding organization it is today. It truly takes a village, and your contributions have been invaluable.

To the **Board of Directors**—your generosity and leadership ensure that ACW remains in good hands. I am deeply grateful for your guidance and unwavering support.

As we look ahead, our mission remains the same—overcoming challenges, expanding access, and ensuring that every child receives the quality care and education they deserve.



A handwritten signature of Kim Cole in black ink.

RECE, AECEO.C, Executive Director

With appreciation!



A handwritten signature of Matt Greenfield in black ink.

Chair, Board of Directors



2024 *BOARD OF DIRECTORS*



Matt Greenfield
Chair



Stephanie Piniak
Vice Chair



Chris Steele
Treasurer



Kristie Mucciante
Secretary



Andrea Wheaton
Director



Sherrie Vittie
Director



Erin Amirault
Director





2024 Program Coordinators Update

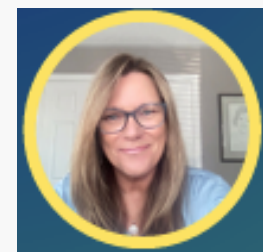


ACW-Country Kids opened in its new location in September 2024 offering infant, toddler, preschool, kinder and schoolage care. The total licensed capacity of the Centre is 120. At the end of 2024 the Centre had a total enrollment of 64 children & growing! The families in the Wainfleet community are thrilled to have expanded child care services to meet their needs. In September 2024, all ACW Centres received Foundation dollars in order to purchase new toys and equipment. The primary focus was on Science, Sensory, Gross motor and Multicultural activities. In November 2024, the Niagara Region Children's Services offered a grant in the amount of \$1000 for each childcare centre to purchase materials that support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. With this grant ACW was able to purchase a variety of age appropriate puzzles, books, puppets, dolls and games for each centre. The Educators were very excited to receive new toys and equipment in order to enhance the programming being offered to the children.

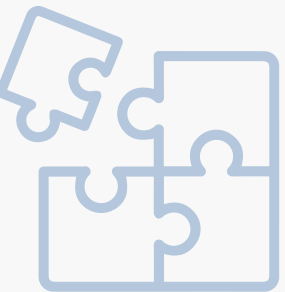
ACW Centres were closed for two days in 2024 in order to participate in two Region wide Professional Development sessions. The first was a virtual session held on April 8, 2024 – the solar eclipse day. The topic of the keynote was: Discovering our Unconscious Biases presented by Natalie Royer. Educators then had the opportunity to attend two different breakout sessions. The second was in person at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre on December 11, 2024. The topic for the day was Infant and Early Years Mental Health Deep Dive Learning Day. We were so excited to have Dr. Jean Clinton and Lorrie McGee Baird RECE as the presenters for the day! Both of these days offered Educators opportunities to reflect on their practice and bring new and exciting ideas back to the centre.



Dr. Jean Clinton



Lorrie McGee Baird, RECE





**268
DEDICATED
EDUCATORS**



**1,025
FAMILIES
SERVED**



**1,425
CHILDREN
CARED
FOR**





2024 A CHILD'S WORLD CENTRES



NIAGARA
REGION

NIAGARA FALLS

ACW - Cherrywood Acres
4635 Pettit Avenue L2E 6L4
289-697-5678
Ages 3.8 -the end of grade 5.

ACW - Sacred Heart
8450 Oliver Street L2G 6Z2
(905-359-7686)
Ages 3.8 -the end of grade 5.

ACW - Princess Margaret
6624 Culp Street L2G 2C4
(905-357-5244) Ages 18 months-the end of grade 5.

ACW - Forestview
8406 Forestview Blvd. L2H 0B9
(905-354-4010) Ages Infant -the end of grade 5.

PORT COLBORNE

ACW - McKay
320 Fielden Avenue L3K 4T7
(905-380-5306) Ages 3.8 -the end of grade 5.

ACW -St. John Bosco
191 Highland Avenue L3K 3S7
(905-414-6791) Ages 3.8 -the end of grade 5.

ACW - First Friends
211 Elgin Street L3K 3K4
(905-835-5666) Ages Infant - the end of grade 5.

WAINFLEET

ACW - Country Kids
31950 Sugarloaf Street LOS 1VO
(365-473-9505) Ages Infant--the end of grade 5.

VINELAND

ACW - Twenty Valley
4057 Victoria Ave. North L0R 2C0
(905-933-8558) Ages 3.8-the end of grade 5.

WELLAND

ACW - Kids World
150 Plymouth Road L3B 3C7
(905-735-8312) Ages Infant-the end of grade 5.

ACW - Ross
358 Niagara Street L3C 1K9
(905-732-0888) Ages 18 months -the end of grade 5.

ACW - St. Andrew
16 St. Andrews Avenue L3B 1L1
(905-380-6394) Ages 3.8 -the end of grade 5.

ACW - Woodlawn
300 Woodlawn Road L3C 7L3
(905-714-7849) Ages Infant -the end of grade 5.

RIDGEWAY

ACW - John Brant
143 Ridge Road North L0S 1N0
(905-894-1999) Ages 18 months-the end of grade 5.

ST. CATHARINES

ACW - Tiny Travellers
301 St. Paul Street L2R 3M 8 (Entrance - 150 King Street)
(905-704-2323) Ages Infant - 5 years

ACW - Ferndale
35 Ferndale Avenue L2P 1V8
(905-964-8512) Ages 3.8 -the end of grade 5.

ACW - North Court
111 Church Street L2R 3C9
(905-684-8735) Ages 18 months—3.8 years

ACW - Fairview
184 Scott Street L2N 1H1
(905-228-1080) Ages Infant - the end of grade 5.

FONTHILL

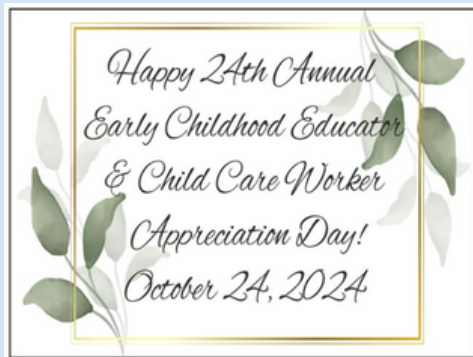
ACW - Lookout Ridge
1505 Lookout Street LOS 1E5
(905-228-3644) Ages Infants - the end of grade 5.

2024 ACW HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE



A Child's World was honored to be invited to Niagara College to connect with future Early Childhood Educators and share exciting career opportunities within our Agency. We created a video highlighting the many benefits of joining our team, followed by an engaging in-class presentation to the graduating ECE class. We are proud to support and inspire the next generation of early learning professionals.

The Human Resource Coordinator continues to serve on the Program Advisory Committee for Niagara College, providing industry insight, curriculum feedback, and strategic recommendations to ensure programs remain aligned with current workforce demands and emerging trends.



Thursday, October 24, 2024 marked the 24th Annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation day.

ACW proudly hosted its Annual Organizational Educator Meeting on this special day at the beautiful Welland International Flatwater Centre. The evening began with a warm welcome and a delicious meal, shared among colleagues and friends. Laughter, conversation, and fun filled the room as everyone gathered to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the future. One of the highlights was the recognition of our long-serving Educators. Years of Service pins were proudly presented to Educators marking milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and an incredible 30 years with ACW. Their ongoing commitment, passion, and contributions to children, families, and communities are what make our organization strong.

We also had the privilege of presenting two of ACW's most prestigious awards:
The Barb Sockovie Award of Excellence was awarded to Melissa Murdoch, recognizing her outstanding professionalism, leadership, and dedication to the field of early learning and care.
The Steve Noyes Award was presented to Isabel Plett, celebrating her exceptional commitment to quality, innovation, and making a lasting impact through her work.

Congratulations to Melissa Murdoch & Isabel Plett, and to all of our honourees!
Your passion and excellence truly embody the values of ACW.
Events like this remind us of the strength, commitment, and heart that each of our Educators brings to their work every day.
We look forward to many more years of growing, learning, and celebrating together.



2024 Barb Sockovie
Award of Excellence
recipient
Melissa Murdoch



2024 Steve Noyes
Award recipient
Isabel Plett

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Courtney Jorritsma
Anna Talving

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Eilea Smith
Cherri Dobbie
Jane Taylor
Xiaoqing Zhu
Bobbi Caddick

**15 YEARS OF
SERVICE**

Andrea Perrella

**2024
ACW
YEARS
OF
SERVICE**

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kathleen Kiss
Anna Zouganelis-Warren
Barbara Dykstra

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Chris McIntosh
Ramona Cronkwright

**30 YEARS OF
SERVICE**

Tara Delvecchio



2024
Barb Sockovie
Award of Excellence
recipient
Melissa Murdoch

2024
Steve Noyes
Award
recipient
Isabel Plett



HEALTH & SAFETY



HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2024



- Water testing was completed at all centres, and water flushing is being carried out in accordance with legislative requirements.
- ACW's 12th Annual Health and Wellness Day was held on Thursday, May 23, 2024. In celebration of health & wellness, A Child's World gifted each centre a Lucky Bamboo plant. Centres also organized special activities for both employees and children to mark the occasion.



- The ACW Digibot Employee Portal has replaced our previous online ACW Staff Portal. The ACW Digibot portal provides our Educators with convenient online access to Health and Safety and Human Resources policies, forms, training materials, and more.
 - We are happy to report that our Employee incidents have decreased compared to the previous year.
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The Foundation For Quality Child Care



The Foundation for Quality Child Care proudly serves as the fundraising arm of A Child's World, dedicated to supporting our Mission and Vision.

The Foundation develops and leads fundraising initiatives that directly benefit our children and enhances the quality of our Early Learning Environments.

We are committed to continuous improvement, recognizing the ongoing need to enrich our programs and upgrade our centres. Every dollar raised through the Foundation is reinvested directly into our child care centres, helping to create nurturing, engaging spaces where children can learn and thrive.

For the year ended August 31, 2024, The Foundation for Quality Child Care raised \$ 17,520 through the Fresh From the Farm Fundraising Campaign, Educator payroll deductions, community donations, and family events.

We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our families, staff, and community partners.





ACW “Days Of Giving” 2024



A Child’s World Centres, Families, Educators and the Administration office all participated in collecting donations during the month of November to be given to local charities of their choice for the Holiday Season.

Some of the charities that ACW donated to were Birchway Niagara, The Niagara Falls soup kitchen, Pelham Cares, The Hope Centre, Port Cares, The Crystal Ridge Dream Centre and Gillians Place.

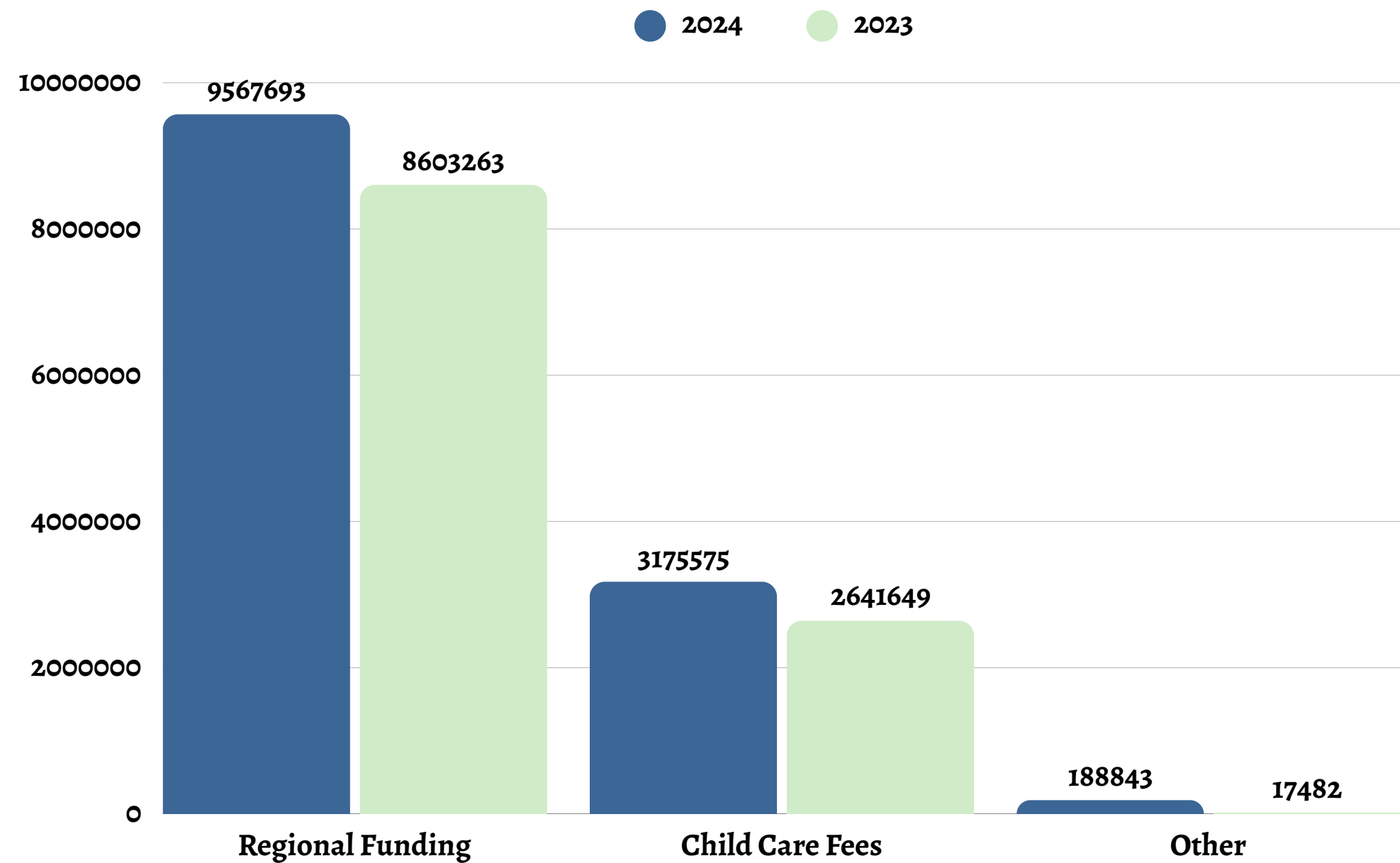
The organizations that received our donations were beyond grateful to receive these donations to help those in need.

Words could not express how grateful we are to everyone for their generous donations and support for our greater community!



FINANCIAL OPERATING RESULTS DECEMBER 31, 2024

Revenue

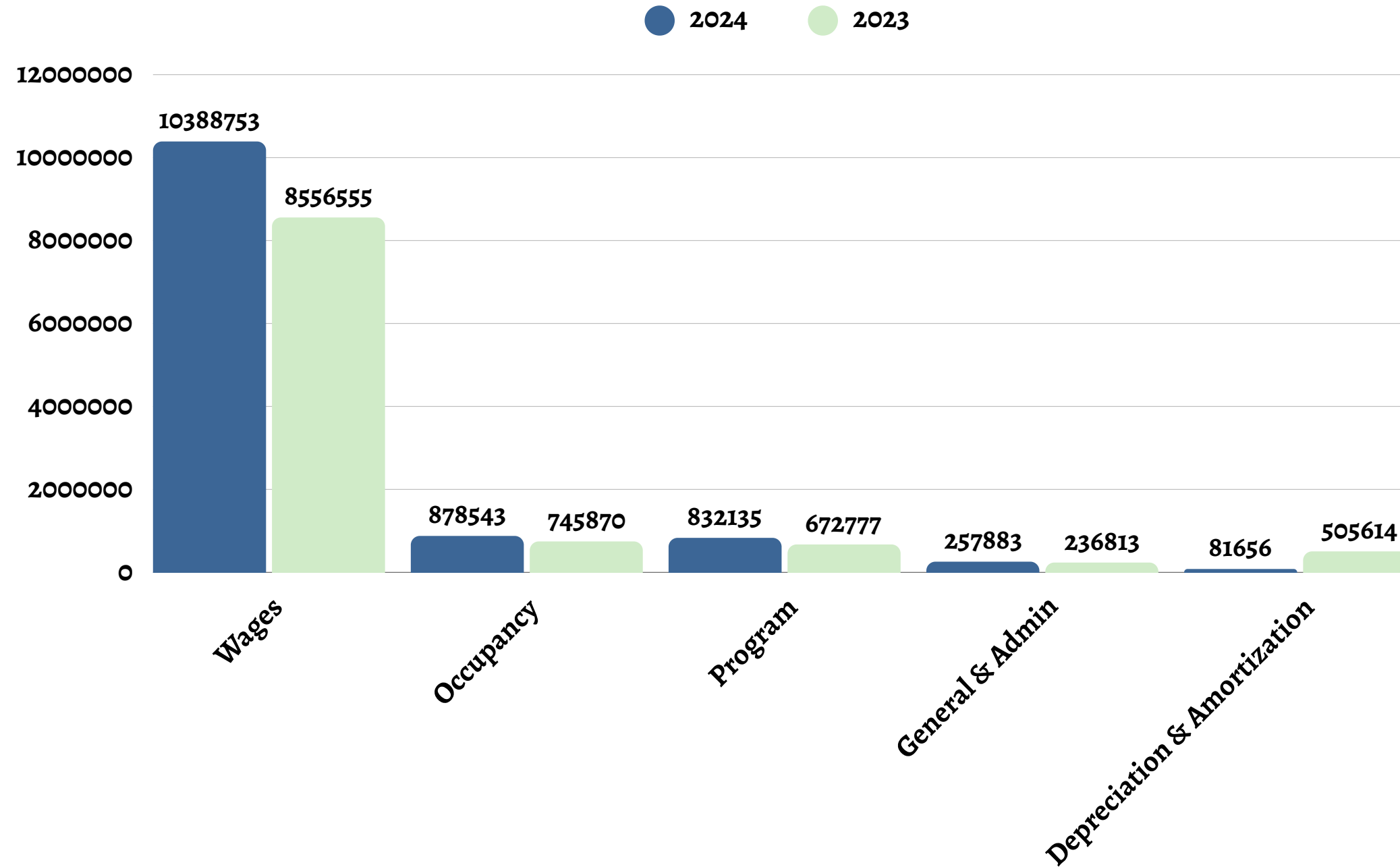


TOTAL REVENUE \$ 12,932,111



FINANCIAL OPERATING RESULTS DECEMBER 31, 2024

Expenses



TOTAL EXPENSES \$12,438,970



A Child's World has grown and flourished over the past four decades, becoming a trusted name in early learning and child care across Niagara.

At the heart of our organization are our exceptional Educators. Their passion and commitment create nurturing environments where children feel safe, valued, and inspired to learn.

Each day, our Educators go beyond teaching—they foster curiosity, build confidence, and support the social, emotional, and cognitive development of every child.

Their work extends to families as well, forming strong partnerships that support their child's success.

Over the years, we've adapted and evolved to meet the changing needs of our communities. The past few years have presented unexpected challenges, but through resilience, teamwork, and unwavering dedication, we have continued to provide exceptional care and education to the families we serve.

As we look to the future, we do so with optimism and a renewed sense of purpose. We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and remain committed to innovation, inclusion, and excellence in Early Childhood Education.

Together, we will continue to grow, lead, and inspire - as Niagara's Premier Child Care Organization.

