

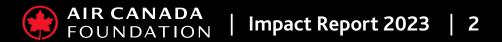
# **Impact Report** 2023

Helping kids spread their wings





This report highlights the impact the Air Canada Foundation made across communities in 2023, including through its partnerships, fundraising and employee engagement initiatives.



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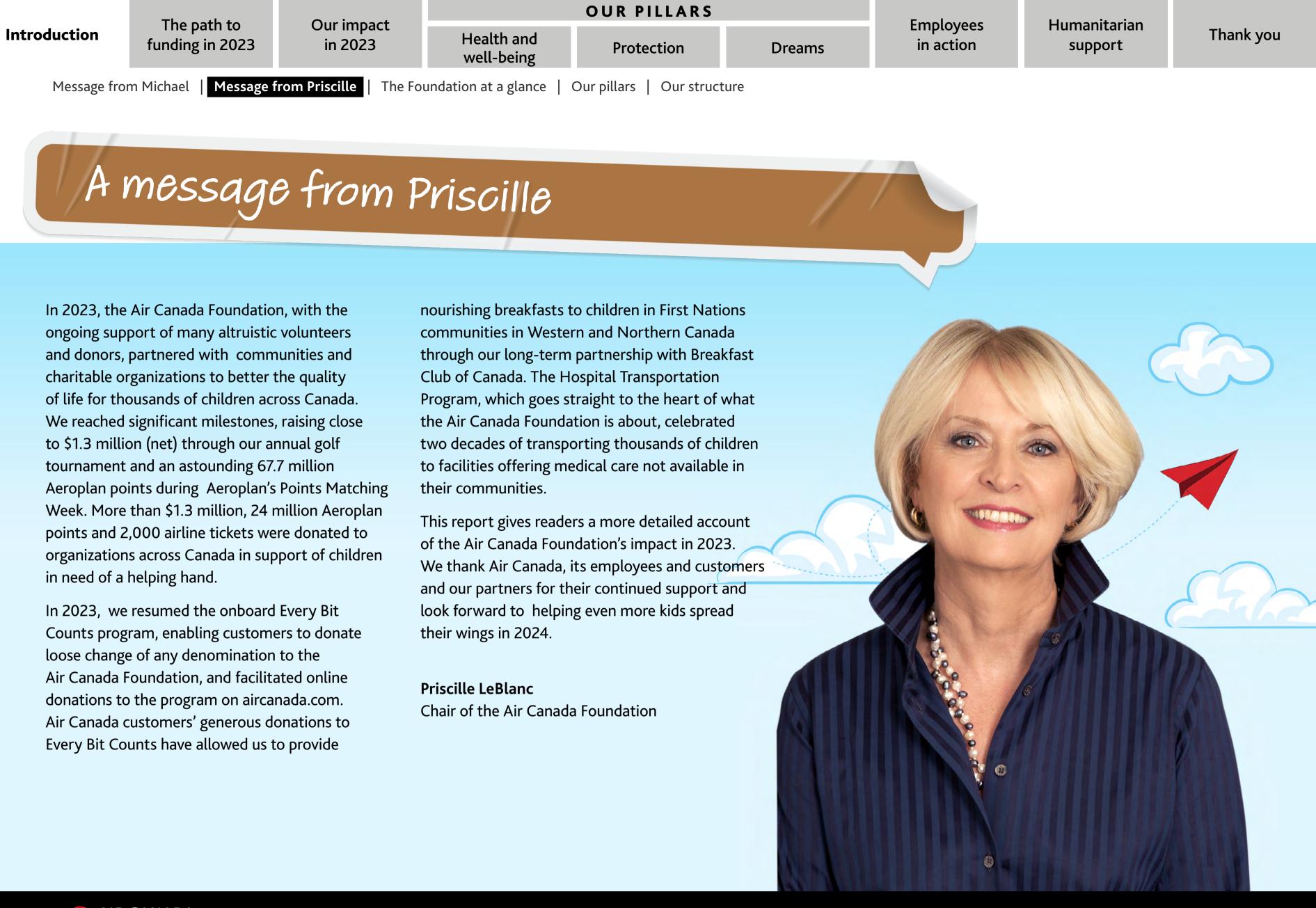
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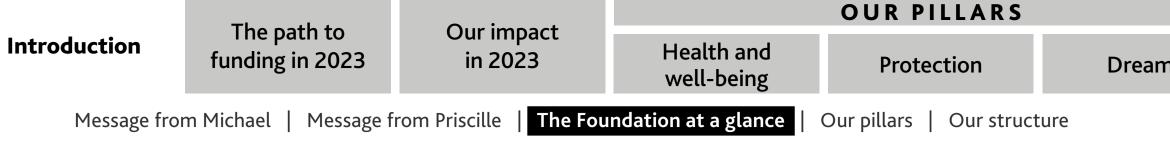
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#### THANK YOU!



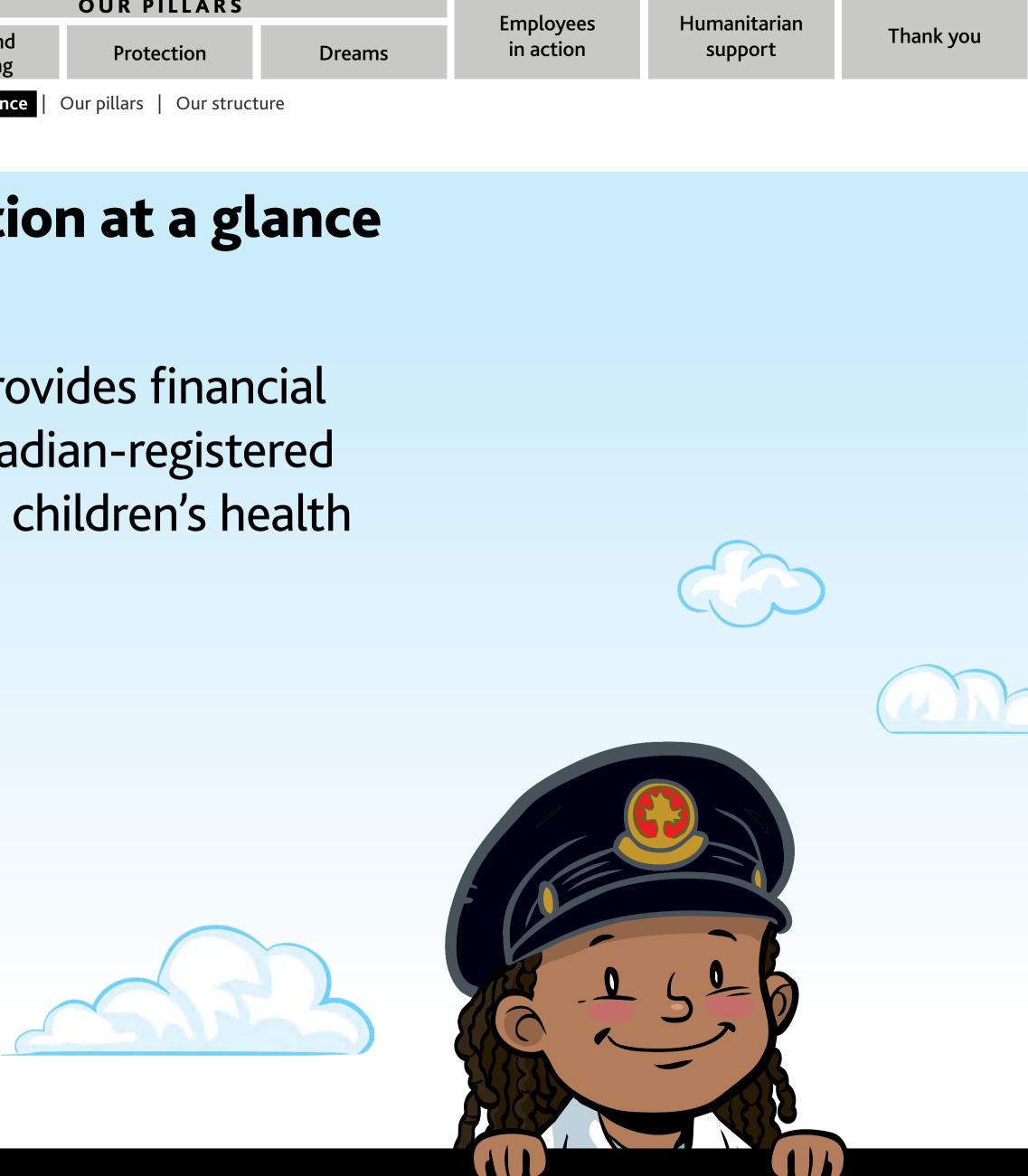




## The Air Canada Foundation at a glance

**Our mission** 

The Air Canada Foundation provides financial or fundraising support to Canadian-registered charities that seek to improve children's health and well-being.





## **Our pillars**

We help kids spread their wings through:







#### Health

Supporting pediatric hospitals, health organizations, medical transportation and treatment.

#### **Protection**

Supporting food security, child reunification, human trafficking survivors and humanitarian aid organizations and working against poverty.

Humanitarian support

Thank you

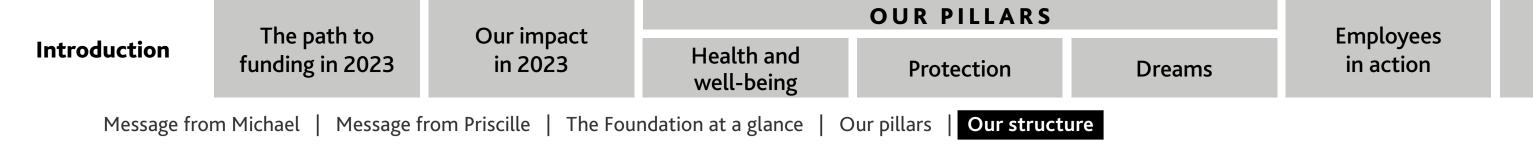






#### Dreams

Supporting programs that provide hope and resiliency for seriously ill, impoverished children and persons with disabilities.



## **Our structure**

#### About us

The Air Canada Foundation was conceived to extend the commitment Air Canada employees, customers and stakeholders have for children and youth, humanitarian relief and health causes. It is composed of qualified Air Canada employees and collaborates with various Air Canada departments and committees to offer employees opportunities to contribute to the Foundation's mission. These initiatives include volunteering, feedback activities and humanitarian relief.

#### The Air Canada Foundation is guided by Our Board of Directors that provides guidance and support to the team as it carries out the Foundation's mission.



Priscille LeBlanc





Arielle Meloul-Wechsler













Louise-Hélène Sénécal



Panagiota (Peggy) Zafiris





Introduction		Ourimpact	OUR PILLARS			
		Our impact in 2023	Health and well-being	Protection	Dreams	
Funding the	<b>Foundation</b>   Air Cana	ida Foundation Golf Tou	rnament   Aeroplan Po	oints Matching Week		

## **Funding the Foundation**

As an independent charitable organization, the Air Canada Foundation is responsible for fundraising its revenue that supports the ongoing work of its programs and its partnerships. Thanks to the generosity of our Air Canada community, we raised \$1.7 million and 80 million Aeroplan points in 2023.

#### Air Canada Foundation Golf Tournament

#### \$1.3M

The annual Air Canada Foundation Golf Tournament is the Foundation's largest fundraising event.



### Every Bit Counts commitment of

\$176,000

The Every Bit Counts program offers passengers on board Air Canada flights, in Maple Leaf Lounges and via the internet the opportunity to donate loose change of any currency.

#### Employee fundraising and payroll donations

#### \$61,000

Air Canada employees show their generosity each year through employeeorganized fundraisers and the payroll donation program.

#### Aeroplan points

#### 81M

Aeroplan points are generously donated to support the Air Canada Foundation's Hospital Transportation Program.

#### Individual donations

#### \$49,000

Generous donors are responsible for this tally.







## Annual Air Canada Foundation Golf Tournament

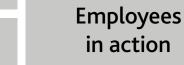
In 2023, the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Air Canada Foundation Golf Tournament welcomed about 400 guests with the support of 100 sponsors and numerous Air Canada retirees and employee volunteers. Hosted in the Greater Montréal Area, the tournament is the Foundation's biggest fundraising event and brings together Air Canada's largest suppliers and partners for an exciting day with a great cause: to support the health and well-being of kids across Canada.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, we raised a record-breaking amount of nearly \$1.3 million (net). Air Canada Foundation ambassadors Liam and Nolan, representing Starlight Children's Foundation Canada, a partner of the Air Canada Foundation, ran the highly coveted lemonade stand and raised an impressive \$13,500.

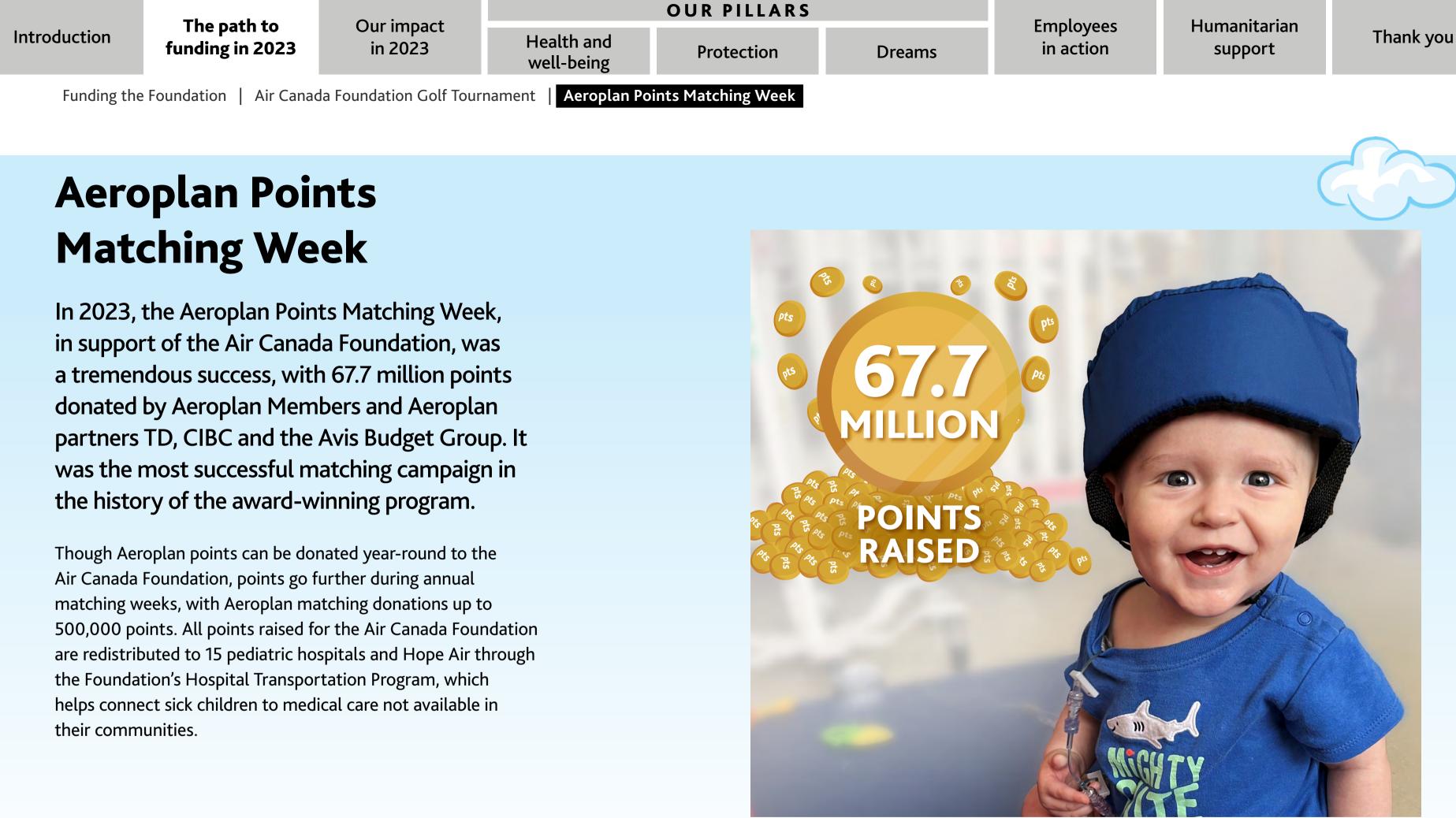
The success of this year's event would not have been possible without the 61 dedicated Air Canada employees who managed and hosted the tournament, including the evening's entertainment.

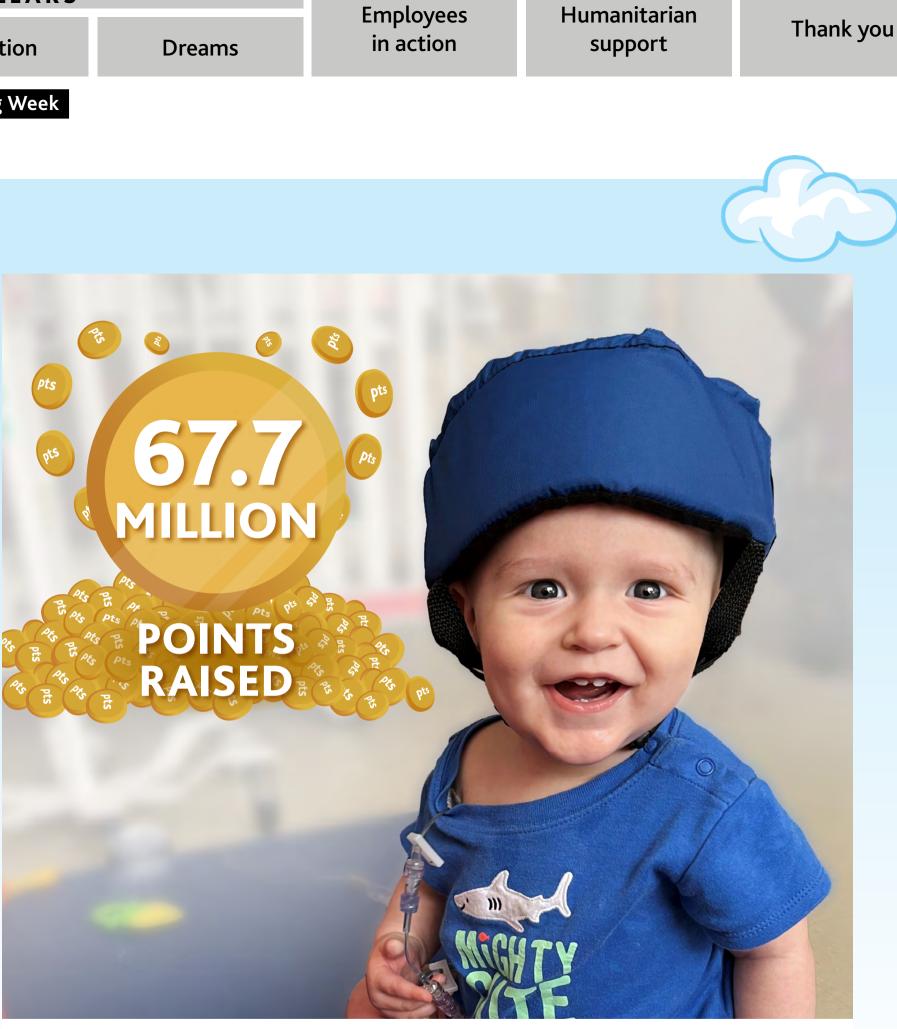










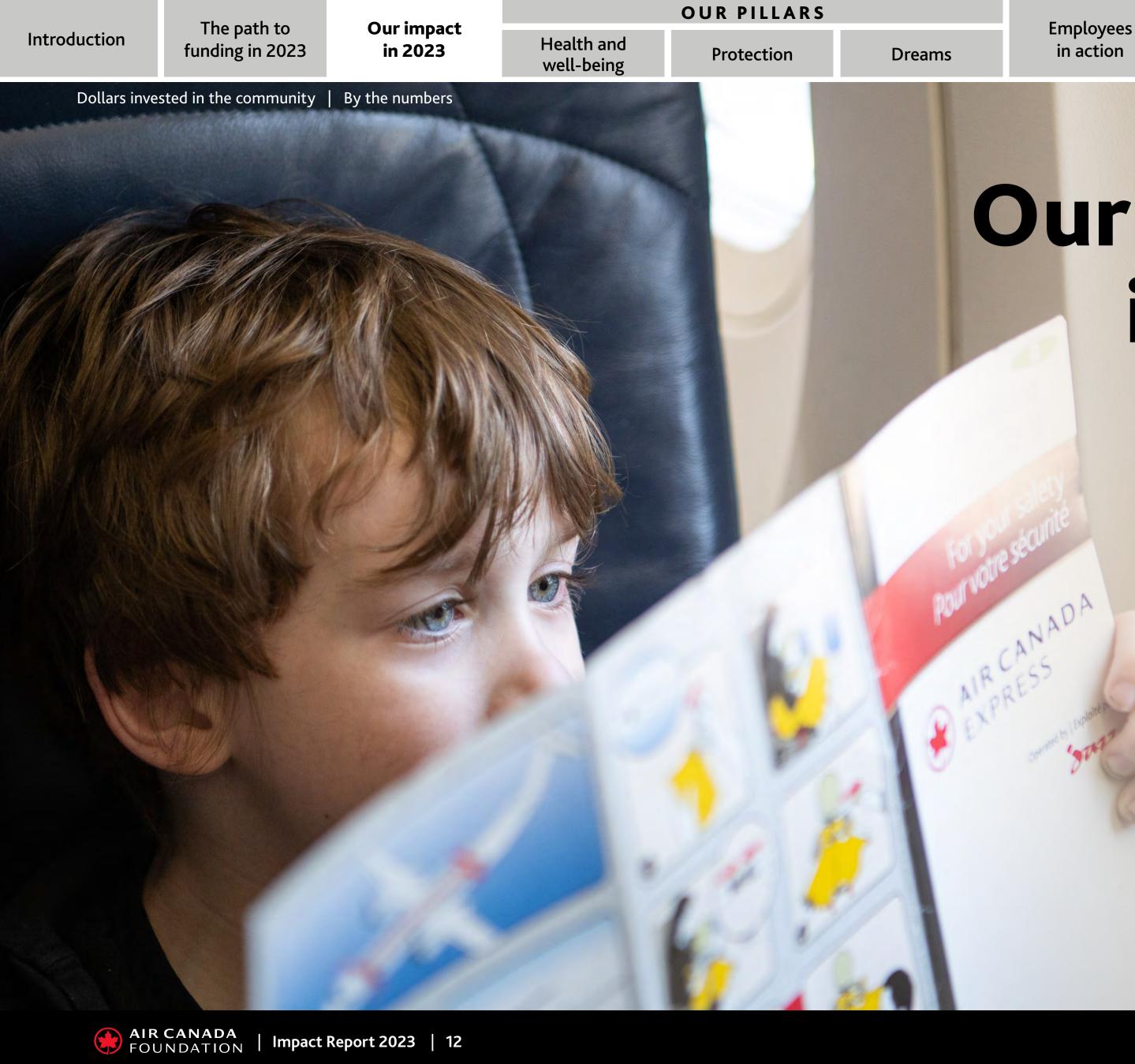






AIR CANADA FOUNDATION

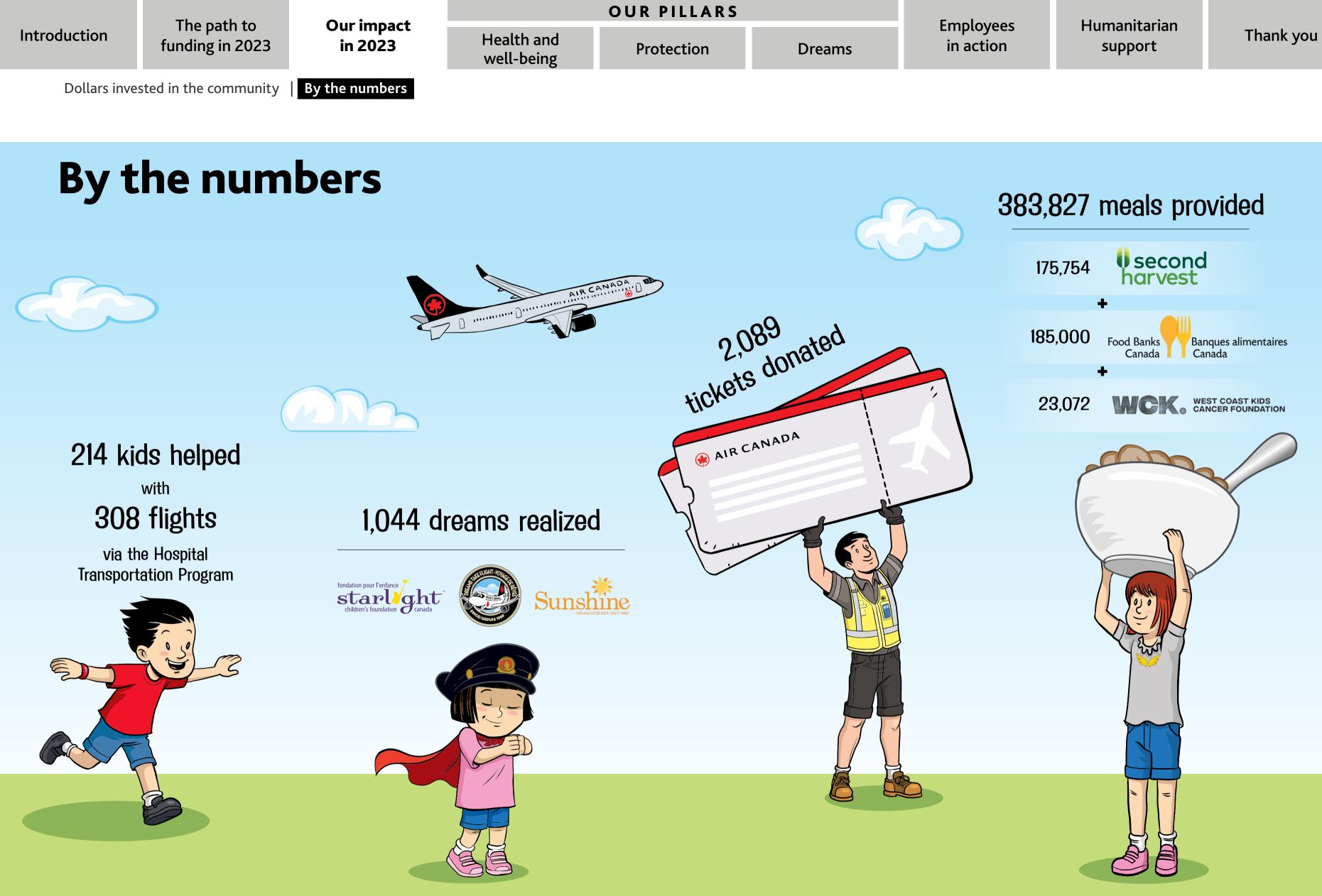




# Our impact in 2023



\$136,500 British Columbia	<b>\$155,000</b> Alberta	\$2,500 Saskatchewar		\$204, Queb





# Improving children's health and well-being



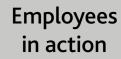


Photo: Patrick Palme

Gadelle



## **Hospital Transportation Program**

In 2023, the Air Canada Foundation Hospital Transportation Program celebrated a milestone anniversary: 20 years.

Under the program, and with the generous contribution of millions of Aeroplan points by Aeroplan Members to Hope Air and 15 pediatric hospitals countrywide, young patients and an accompanying parent access medical care that is not offered in their community. This is just one way the Air Canada Foundation and its partnership with the Aeroplan Member Donation Program is making a real difference in the lives of families across Canada.

In 2023, however, the Foundation was faced with a challenge: the Hospital Transportation Program was using points at a faster rate than could be replenished. Recognizing that the program's current operations might not be sustainable, it was time to innovate.

Key Aeroplan partners TD, CIBC and the Avis Budget Group stepped in to amplify the generosity of Aeroplan Member donations. In total, a record-breaking 67.7 million points was raised for the Hospital Transportation Program. The 2023 campaign exemplified how the community can come together for the greater good and in support of a common cause.

Roughly 700 families will be supported with easier access to hospital care thanks to Aeroplan Members and the kind generosity of the Avis Budget Group, TD, CIBC and Aeroplan."

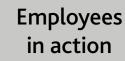
Adam Starkman President and CEO of Canada's Children's Hospital Foundation

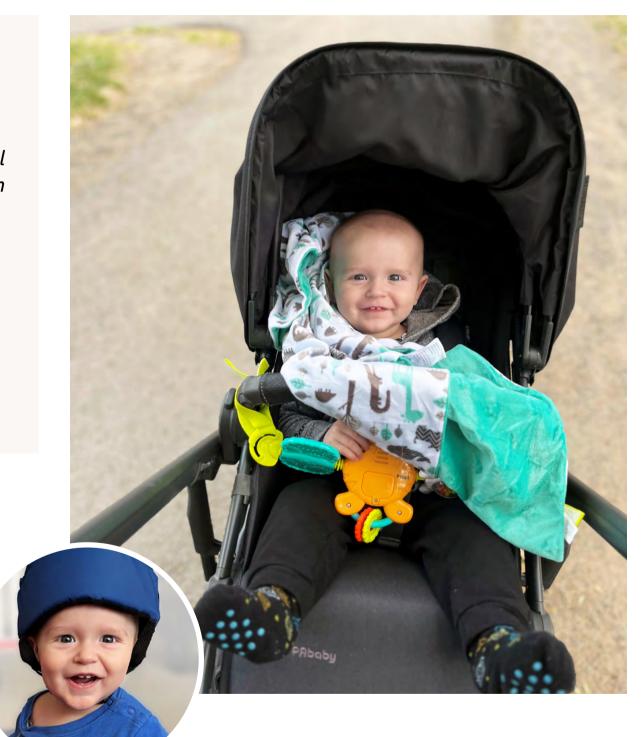




HOSPITAL TRANSPORTATION 2









## **Fondation Jeunes en Tête**

Fondation Jeunes en Tête offers free workshops in schools across Quebec to raise awareness about mental health and depression and to break down barriers to mental wellness among young people. By equipping teens, their parents and school staff with online tools, students are empowered to get help both for themselves and for others. In the period 2022–23, 201 young people consulted mental health resources. Out of these consultations, 137 youths sought help for themselves, 64 sought help for a loved one and 179 school students received treatment.

#### **Programs supported:**

- Mental Health Basics workshop
- Partners for Life workshop









## West Coast Kids Cancer Foundation

The West Coast Kids Cancer Foundation supports families across British Columbia who are dealing with childhood cancer and blood disorders. Family-focused programs are provided at no cost to help kids, siblings, parents and caregivers at every stage of their experience.

Under its Food Support Program, nutritious meals and healthy snacks are readily available on the oncology/hematology floor at BC Children's Hospital and in homes across the province, providing temporary food relief to families whose child is admitted or receiving treatment.

James Howey, Manager, Global Accounts at Air Canada, and his daughter, Luci, were among the employees who volunteered at the Food Support Program in 2023 by sorting, ticketing and packing food items for families. Volunteering was an opportunity for them to give back after their family was first introduced to the WCK meals and snacks that were available to them when Luci, then 14 years old, was admitted to the oncology floor at BC Children's Hospital in July 2022.

#### **Program supported:**

• Food Support Program



WEST COAST KIDS **CANCER FOUNDATION** 

AIR CANADA FOUNDATION



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difference to my wife and I having the option for a nourishing meal after long and stressful days being at the hospital and managing our daughter's care. Not enough can be said about the positive *impact of the WCK* Food Program and the burden it lifts for families in the moment when much more *important issues are at* hand." James Howey

*It made a world of* 

Manager, Global Accounts





## Protecting childhood and helping kids feel safe



## **Children's Aid Foundation of Canada**

According to the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada, all children and youth should have access to services and items that are necessary to nurture their healthy development and overall well-being.

The National Health and Well-Being Program of Children's Aid Foundation of Canada addresses the most urgent health needs of children and youth served by child welfare organizations. Its statistics show that 82% of kids in care are diagnosed with special needs, including physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioural and social difficulties, many of which require specialized care. This funding fills the gaps in basic government-funded health care and in the necessary preventive and specialized support that vulnerable children and families desperately need.

#### **Program supported:**

• National Health and Well-being Program

#### Meet Winona\*

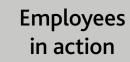
Winona was accessing counselling sessions with a therapist that she had developed a good relationship with. She applied for continued funding but her request was unfortunately denied. Through the Health and Well-Being Fund, she could access counselling over the holiday period when she was experiencing a lot of isolation, anxiety and depression.

\*Name and photo altered for privacy.





**GRANTED** \$100,000







## **Joy Smith Foundation**

The Joy Smith Foundation is Canada's leading authority on the prevention and intervention of human trafficking. Through its Intervention Program for Survivors of Human Trafficking, survivors can begin healing and recovering. The program covers a variety of subject areas with such topics as trauma-related behaviours, PTSD, Stockholm syndrome, addictions and mental health. Ultimately, survivors reintegrate into their own family setting or support network and become contributing members of their community.

In addition to supporting Joy Smith's Intervention Program, the Air Canada Foundation provided tickets in 2023 to return home victims of human trafficking, in co-ordination with law enforcement involved in the case.

#### **Program supported:**

Intervention Program for Survivors of Human Trafficking







## **Breakfast Club of Canada**

Breakfast Club of Canada is dedicated to giving children a chance to reach their full potential by starting every school day with nutritious food. It reaches more than 420,000 children in over 3,000 school nutrition programs across the country.

All funds raised through the Air Canada Foundation's Every Bit Counts Program were donated to Breakfast Club of Canada in 2023. The funds reinforce school nutrition programs, including through food donations, equipment and the provision of support and training.

Since the beginning of its partnership, the Air Canada Foundation has helped provide breakfast to thousands of kids. More recently, the Foundation helped set up school nutrition programs in Alberta, Manitoba and Nunavut, ensuring food security for children from all backgrounds.

#### **Program supported:**

• Breakfast programs in Indigenous communities



**COMMITMENT OF** \$176,000

Employees in action

#### Humanitarian support

#### Thank you

At a time when inflation rates are at an all-time high, it is crucial to continue to serve nutritious breakfasts to children, and we are grateful for the Air Canada Foundation's unwavering commitment toward this important cause."

Tommy Kulczyk President and Chief **Executive** Officer at Breakfast Club of Canada





## **Dreams Take Flight Canada**

In 2023, Air Canada and Dreams Takes Flight Canada returned to the skies for the first time since 2019 with once-in-a-lifetime flights to help more than 1,000 children make magical memories at a theme park in Florida or California.

Eight flights departed from Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal and Halifax over the course of the year.

Created in 1989, Dreams Take Flight Canada is a charity primarily composed of current and retired Air Canada employees and retirees who volunteer to make these journeys a reality. Over the past 30 years, Air Canada, as the exclusive carrier and now through the Air Canada Foundation, has flown more than 40,000 children on Dreams Take Flight trips.

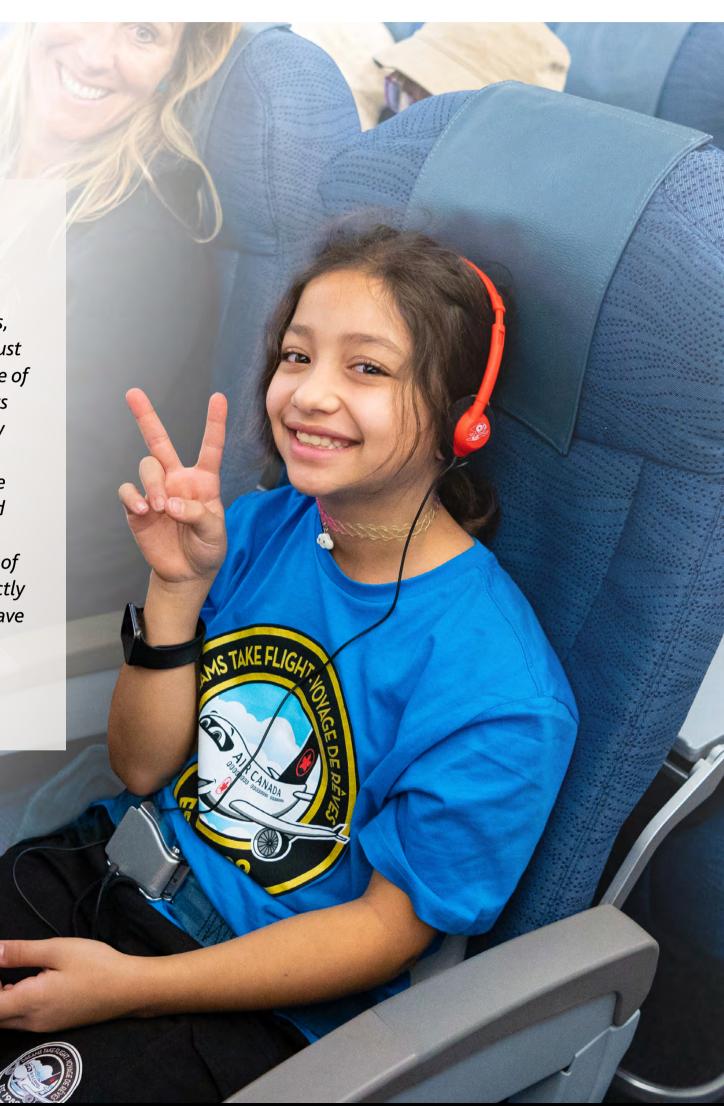
By generously donating their time, pilots, flight attendants, maintenance engineers and numerous other employees on the ground and behind the scenes offer children facing mental, physical or social adversity the chance to take a break from their everyday life to make memories and see new possibilities.



The children on our flights come from various difficult backgrounds. Some have experienced many doctor's appointments, hospital visits, deaths of family members, in and out of foster homes, looking after their siblings, just to name a few. While they get to experience a day at one of Earth's amazing places with Dreams Take Flight, it allows them to be a kid for the day. They often start the day shy and full of worries. At the park, the volunteers see them blossom. We see them smile as they meet their favourite characters, laugh at the thrill of a roller-coaster ride and create magical memories that will last a lifetime. For volunteers, seeing the change in these kids is why many of our volunteers return each year. It's to give the kids exactly what they deserve, a day to get away to have fun and leave all their worries behind them,"

Angela Guy President of Dreams Take Flight Ottawa Employees in action

Humanitarian support





## Starlight Children's Foundation<sup>®</sup> Canada x Rocky Mountaineer

In the fall of 2023, the Air Canada Foundation, Starlight Children's Foundation<sup>®</sup> Canada and Rocky Mountaineer came together for a third consecutive year to provide the trip of a lifetime to deserving families across the country.

Children facing mental, physical and social adversities travelled with their families from across Canada on board Air Canada flights to Calgary, Alta., where they embarked on a two-day train trip to Vancouver, B.C. from Banff, Alta. The train journey, donated by Aeroplan partner Rocky Mountaineer, gave the Starlight families the opportunity to make unforgettable memories together during a time when they needed it most and the chance to connect with other families facing similar hardships.

Joined by Starlight Canada's resident superhero, Captain Starlight, the families enjoyed endless onboard entertainment, including sing-a-longs, trivia games, caricature portraits and more, in addition to scenic views of some of Canada's most iconic landscapes.

Honestly for us, this was a once-in-alifetime opportunity to come out West and be together on this trip. Travel is so expensive, so for organizations like the Air Canada *Foundation to partner* with Starlight, they're making dreams come true for families, allowing them to travel and experience new things together that they couldn't otherwise experience."

Sophie's mom, Jenny



#### **Meet Sophie**

Sophie, 12, is from Doaktown, N.B., and lives with hydrocephalus and mild cerebral palsy. Although Sophie now has a shunt to help manage her diagnosis and keep fluid from her brain flowing in the right direction, there is regretfully still an 80 per cent failure rate for this treatment. A lover of singing and animals, Sophie and her family were able to let go of their worries on the Rocky Mountaineer and instead create precious memories to look back on.







## Air Canada Fan Flight

In 2023, the Air Canada Foundation partnered with the Air Canada Fan Flight Program, Starlight Children's Foundation<sup>®</sup> Canada and HEROS Hockey (Hockey Reaching Out Society) to select eight deserving children across the country to take part in a memorable adventure.

Every year, Fan Flight rewards deserving sports fans in Canada with unique experiences. As the country's flag carrier, Air Canada takes enormous pride in supporting the country's teams and in recognizing Canadian sports fans for their unwavering support to our teams.

*I think Piper really* teaches me and other people that you don't have to be like everybody else to be equal and worthy of the same things."

Brynn Piper's older sister, age 15.

#### **Meet Piper**

Piper, 13, has been a part of the SuperHEROS program with HEROS Hockey for four seasons. Living with cerebral palsy and global development delays means she spends much of her days in a wheelchair or using a walker to get around. She is the first SuperHEROS player, and one of the first girls in North America, to use a Kaye Trainer to take part in hockey. The Kaye Trainer is a suspension walker that allows her to play hockey in an upright position. Piper shows us that muscular and brain conditions are not barriers to playing the game.

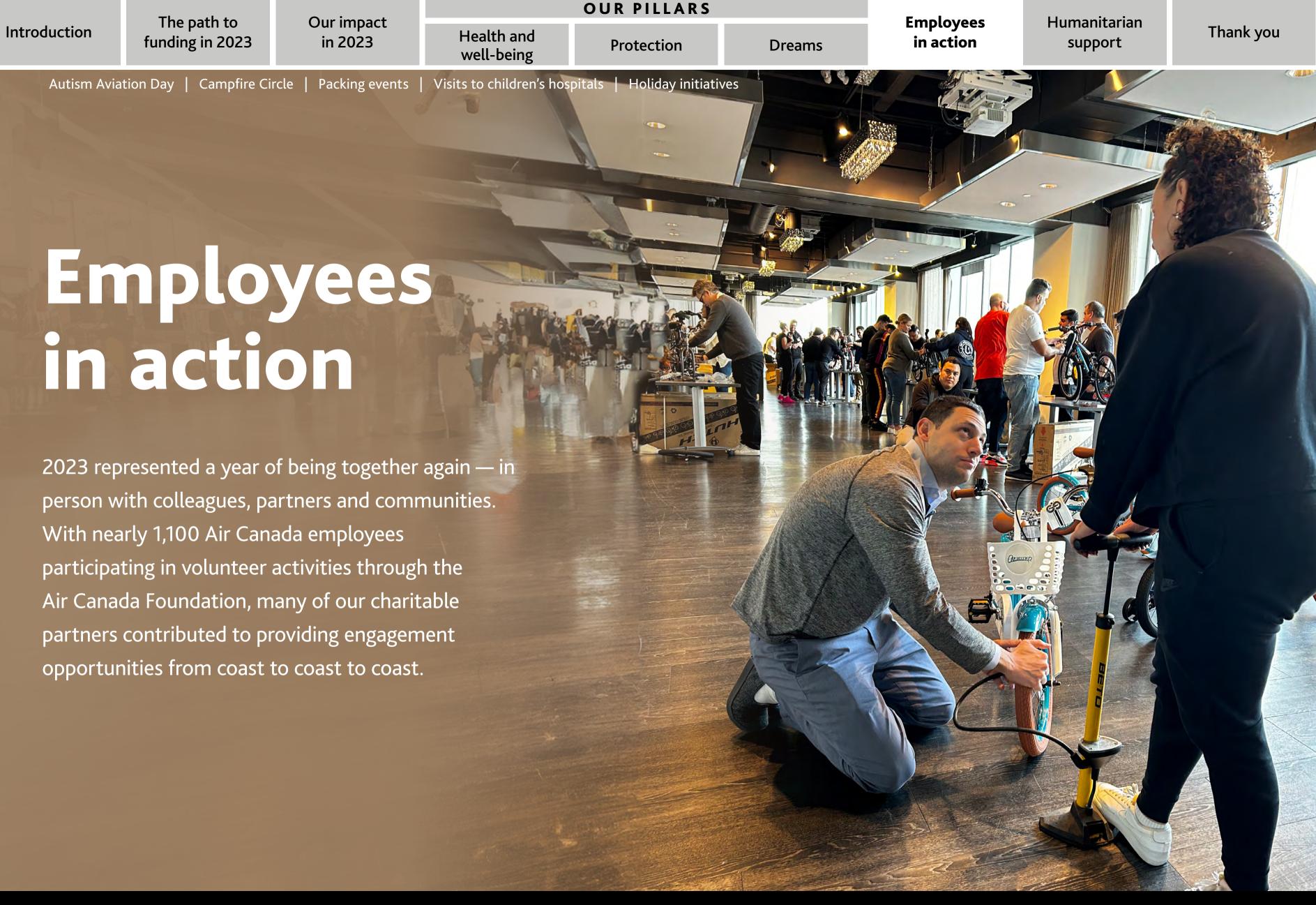
In November 2023, Piper was awarded the Fan Flight experience while watching her favourite hockey team play a game. Piper and her family will go on a tripof-a-lifetime to New York City in 2024 to make unforgettable memories, cheering on their favourite team in the "Big Apple."



Employees in action

#### Humanitarian support



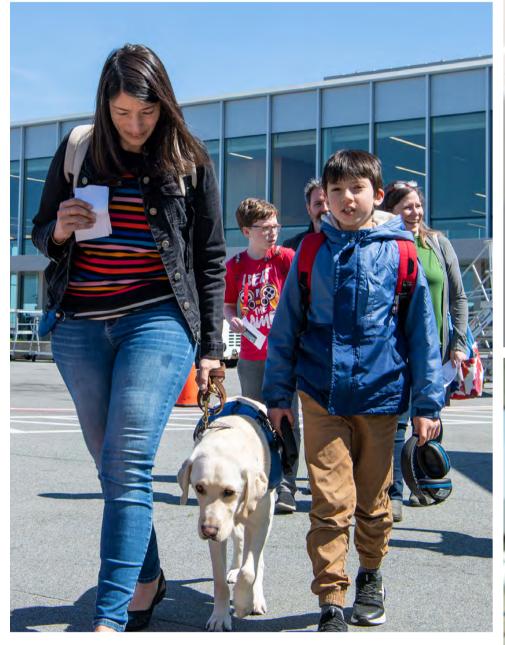




## **Autism Aviation** Day

In April 2023, the Air Canada Foundation and Air Canada employees partnered with Victoria International Airport to welcome over 50 individuals from the Canucks Autism Network community for Autism Aviation Day. The event provided an opportunity for children and youth on the autism spectrum to rehearse the entire pre-flight process with their families in a safe and supportive environment. The simulated experience included checking in, passing through security and boarding an Air Canada aircraft.

These rehearsals help increase predictability while decreasing stress, making travel more accessible for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.



**Employees** in action

Humanitarian support







## **Campfire Circle**

In April 2023, Air Canada employees volunteered with Campfire Circle, formerly Camp Ooch & Camp Trillium, preparing materials to be used in camp programming across Ontario pediatric oncology hospitals. Materials included slime kits, signature Camp braids and "bling" that serve as accessories and badges of honour for a child's milestones or accomplishments.

Campfire Circle finds ways, both planned and unexpected, to bring smiles to the faces of kids and families affected by childhood cancer.

Year-round community, in-hospital and overnight camp programs deliver fun and foster friendship and a sense of community at any stage of a childhood cancer journey.



**Employees** in action

Humanitarian support



## **Packing events**

Throughout the year, Air Canada employees volunteered with organizations like GlobalMedic and Food Banks Canada to pack emergency food kits and hampers for vulnerable communities across Canada and around the world.

In May 2023, over 130 employees volunteered at the Montréal HQ, packing more than 10,000 bags of food through GlobalMedic's McAntony's Menu program that delivers bulk foods to food banks, shelters and community support organizations. Some 11,570 pounds of green lentils and peas were donated to Share the Warmth, a local charitable organization that helps Montréalers in need in the southwest and Verdun areas.



Employees in action

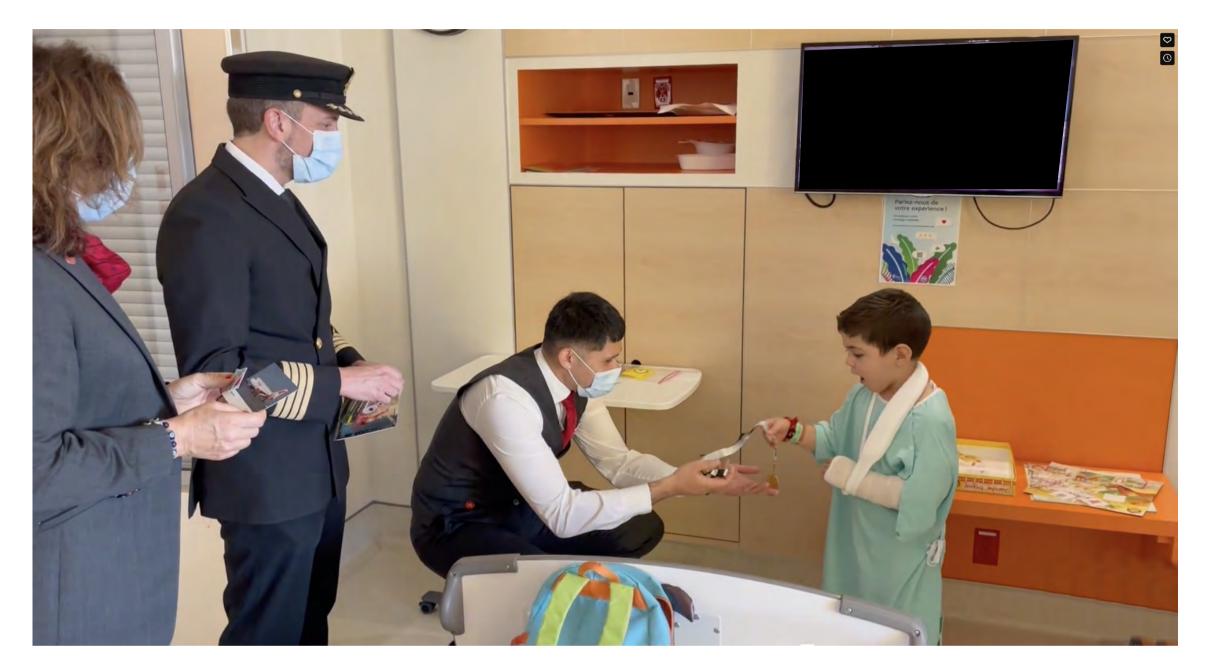
Humanitarian support



## Visits to children's hospitals

In October 2023, eight Air Canada employees visited Montréal's CHU Sainte-Justine Hospital to spend time with young patients and their families to bring friendship, joy and laughter.

In the span of a few hours, they handed out postcards, pins, drawing materials and medals of courage to several children. They also took the time to learn about each patient, eliciting smiles and many high-fives.





My role in the company is to have an impact during our flights. To be able to do that on the ground instead of in the air today, in a very different environment, is very special."

*Eric Brian Razon Trinidad Flight Attendant*  Employees in action



## Holiday initiatives

During the holiday season, more than 600 Air Canada employees from various teams partnered with the Air Canada Foundation to give back to our communities.



76

shoeboxes filled with essential and small luxuries items for women experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness

4 holiday hampers packed with essential items for at-risk youth





**Employees** in action

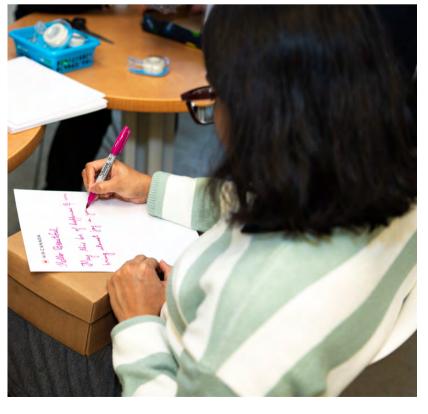
#### Humanitarian support

#### Thank you

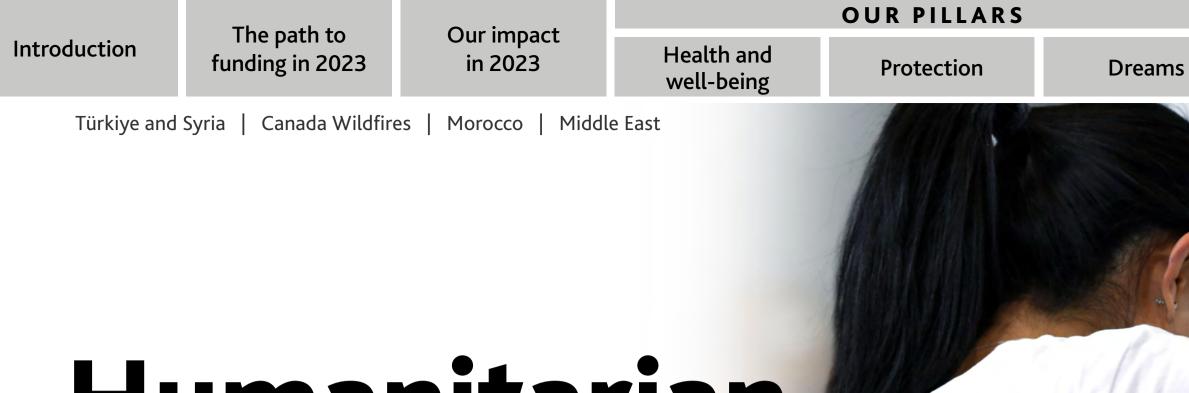
150 bicycles built for distribution during the holiday season to children in vulnerable communities across the GTA



2,780 kg food sorted and distributed through the Welcome Hall Mission

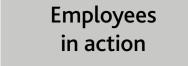


100 cards written to be distributed to senior citizens experiencing social isolation and loneliness



## Humanitarian support





#### Humanitarian support

Thank you

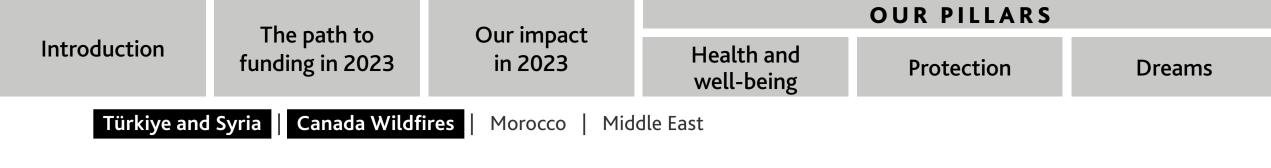






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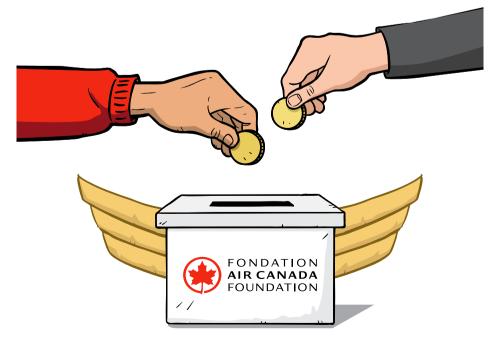


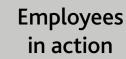
## FEBRUARY Türkiye and Syria

On February 6, 2023, a devastating 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck Türkiye and northwest Syria. Additional earthquakes and corresponding aftershocks followed. The Canadian Red Cross, a humanitarian partner of Air Canada, launched the Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria Appeal in support of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Air Canada Foundation launched a fundraiser in support of the Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria Appeal through which all donations were matched. Funds provided emergency relief and help to those impacted by the earthquakes, including resiliency and preparedness activities to surrounding areas.

Thanks to funds raised through the Canadian Red Cross appeal, the Turkish Red Crescent's personnel and volunteers distributed 425 million meals, provided health care services to 47,100 people, supported 452,400 people with cash support and provided psychological support to 173,500 people. Additionally, Syrian Arab Red Crescent, as the lead humanitarian responder in Syria, provided over 12 million humanitarian services, 1.5 million medical services and 5.4 million disaster management services, including services to more than 200 shelters.

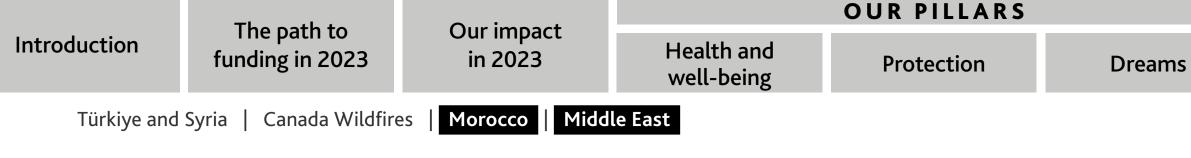
## All employee donations **MATCHED!**





### SUMMER Canada wildfires

Summer 2023 brought unprecedented wildfires, affecting several provinces across Canada. The Air Canada Foundation worked with the Canadian Red Cross to help those impacted by fires across the country, donating tickets to Team Rubicon Canada, in collaboration with Airlink, to send 75 volunteers to assist with recovery from wildfires. The Foundation also launched an employee fundraising initiative, matching all donations. Donations offered much-needed assistance to those most impacted in affected areas with immediate and ongoing relief, recovery and resilience efforts in response to the wildfires, as well as supporting community preparedness and risk reduction for future all-hazard disaster events.



#### September

## Morocco

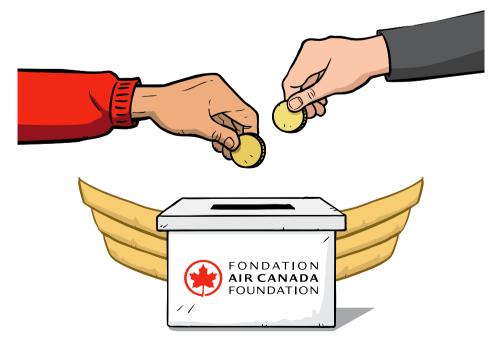
A devastating 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck Morocco on September 8. The earthquake hit Morocco's High Atlas Mountain range and was the strongest to hit the country's centre in more than a century. Its epicentre was not far from Marrakech, with the impact reaching as far north as Casablanca, damaging towns and villages near the base of the Atlas Mountains.

The Canadian Red Cross, in support of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. launched the Morocco Earthquake Appeal for immediate emergency relief to help those impacted by the earthquake including resiliency and preparedness activities to surrounding areas.

An Air Canada employee fundraiser was launched in support of the appeal with donations being matched by the Air Canada Foundation.

With the support of the Air Canada Foundation, GlobalMedic Rapid Response Team (RRT) members were able to travel to Morocco within the 48 hours following the earthquake allowing them to launch an immediate response to support affected families. Since the initial response, a total of 20 team members travelled to Morocco. By having personnel on the ground, GlobalMedic can continue responding to the needs in Morocco and is an integral part in ensuring they are providing the right aid to the right people at the right time. Access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene items, medical care, shelter and food were identified as priorities.

### All employee donations **MATCHED!**



Employees in action

#### October

## Middle East

When violence erupted in October 2023, the Canadian Red Cross launched the Middle East Humanitarian Crisis Appeal to support humanitarian assistance and provide relief to local civilians. Once again, Air Canada employees gained the opportunity to contribute to the appeal through an internal fundraiser with all donations matched by the Air Canada Foundation.

The Canadian Red Cross supports the work of Magen David Adom (MDA - Israel's National Society) and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), as members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. MDA mobilized all available resources and provided emergency medical services, operated three advanced medical posts, offered psychosocial support to those impacted and provided information to the public on safety. PRCS operated their ambulance centres and two hospitals in Gaza at their highest capacity. Their teams provided first aid and evacuated the sick and wounded through their emergency medical services (EMS). They also provided shelter services, mental health and psychosocial support and distributed emergency supplies.

All humanitarian efforts of the Canadian Red Cross are guided by their seven fundamental principles: humanity, neutrality, impartiality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

Protection

THANK YOU!

We sincerely thank all who contributed to the year's success and welcome you to join us as we look to help even more kids spread their wings in the years to come.

