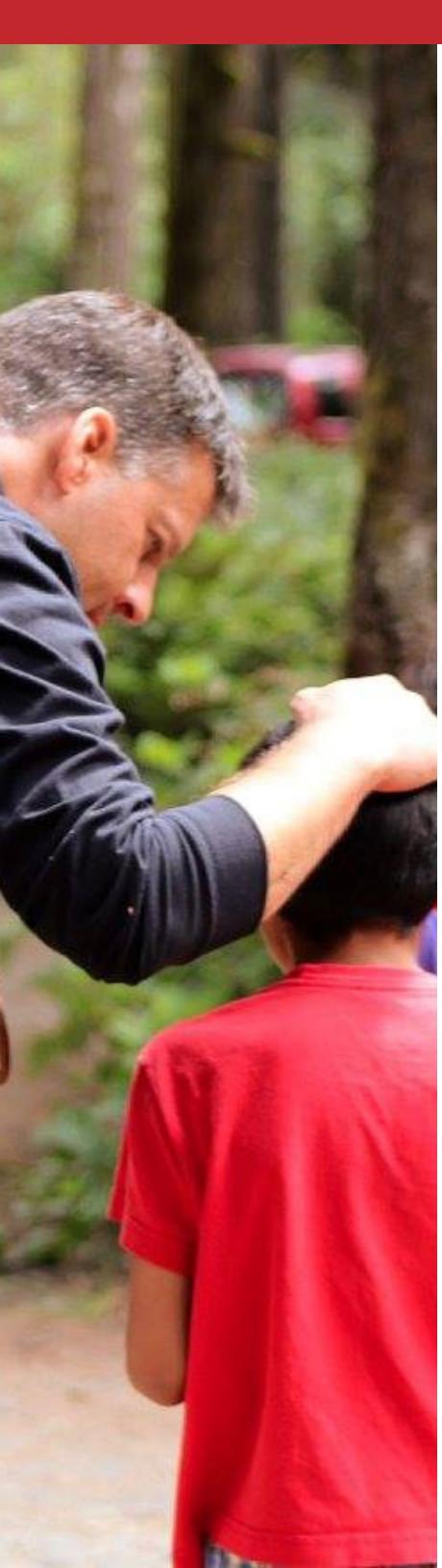


UKANDU



ANNUAL REPORT



For anyone who has been close to childhood cancer, the phrase “Cancer Sucks” is probably familiar. I think many of us would now attribute similar sentiments to COVID. I want to acknowledge, as we all continue to plod our way through these ongoing challenges, you are not alone. Our UKANDU family remains strong, and we want to thank you for being a part of what makes us great.

After the initial shock of losing another year of our flagship program, Camp UKANDU, we realized we still had opportunities to impact our families. Remembering an innovative and wildly successful launch of virtual programming in 2020, our staff and volunteers tapped into their seemingly boundless ‘You Can Do’ spirit and decided to make virtual programming even better. In 2020, we learned that our virtual programming could reach families across the country. In 2021, we learned that if we provided iPads (with a big assist from Cathedral Middle School!) we could have campers participate while on treatment in the hospital.

With some creativity and lots of safety measures, we were also able to provide our families with several different in-person, socially-distanced, events. As we have said a number of times now, two-dimensional connection is not the same as being able to connect in person, period. AND we also know that some connection is better than no connection. We also started a brand-new program called UKANDU Corps and if you haven’t already seen what this group of incredible young people did, please take some time to appreciate how they came together over 10 weeks to impact the community we all share.

It is amazing to think of all the changes that the world has seen in two years. And it is impossible not to feel the disappointment that comes from knowing there are families who have forever missed the opportunity to experience camp. Did I already say, “COVID sucks”? This time has been hard - my wish for us all is that we are able to allow ourselves space to process this past year and acknowledge both our highs and our lows.

As we look ahead at 2022, we have increased optimism that we WILL HOLD IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING this summer! Whether you have given of your time, your dollars, or your well-wishes - we wouldn’t have made it through the year without you. You continually show us how to survive and thrive and prove that hope and joy persist even in the toughest of times. We don’t always know what lies ahead, but we believe we will get through it together.

On behalf of the staff and the board of directors, I want to thank each of you for being a part of an amazing year at UKANDU.

Warmly,  
Jason “Thumper” Hickox  
Executive Director

# OUR MISSION

**UKANDU's mission is to bring hope, joy, and connection to communities impacted by childhood and adolescent cancer.**

We recognize that cancer impacts the entire family and we aim to provide parents and caregivers a respite from the physical, emotional and financial toll childhood cancer poses to families.



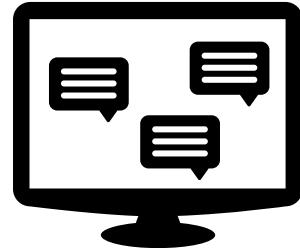
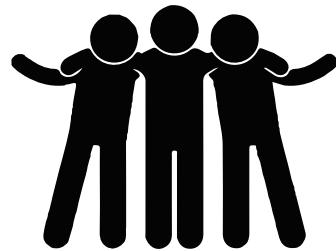
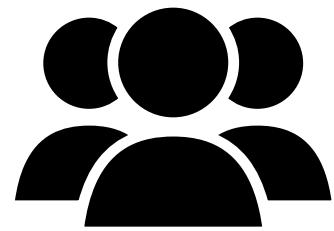
# 2021

For the second year in a row, UKANDU was not able to hold our traditional in-person programming.

Instead of canceling events and programs, we embraced the “UKANDU Spirit” and created new and exciting opportunities to connect through 8 events including a week of virtual camp, 6 safely-distanced, in-person, events, 6 virtual events, as well as the launch of our newest program, UKANDU Corps.



# IN REVIEW



**OVER 600  
PARTICIPANTS**

**6 IN-PERSON  
EVENTS**

**6 VIRTUAL  
EVENTS**

**OVER 100  
VOLUNTEERS**





## DRIVE-THROUGH SAFARI

Over 30 families boarded golf carts and drove through a transformed Camp Collins packed with safari-themed fun. Each family got to experience all the fun of a full week of Camp UKANDU crammed into a 90-minute drive-through experience! Families passed safari animals designed and created by local artist Mike Bennett, stopped to play classic camp games like “Sprout Ball” and “Pin Knock Down,” sang camp songs, and got to safely connect with the volunteers they already know and love.

## UKANDU VIRTUAL CAMP

Virtual Camp brought together 128 individuals, including 20 first-time families, to experience hope, joy, and connection - UKANDU style.

Participants were given a duffle bag prior to Virtual Camp full of everything they could possibly need to participate in each and every outrageously fun activity. This included live newscasts and campfires, arts and crafts, cooking classes, science projects, and more.

The format of Virtual Camp not only allows us to reach families outside of the immediate region but it provides a format in which kids who are stuck in hospitals or otherwise too sick to leave home can find connection with peers who have similar experiences.





## **VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING**

Virtual events have quickly become an integral part of UKANDU's year-round programming not only as a safe way to gather during the covid-19 pandemic; but as an accessible platform for more families to participate in and benefit from UKANDU programming. With 6 virtual events this year, participants had the opportunity to participate in everything from cooking classes to bingo nights. Thanks to the dedication and support of dozens of volunteers, over 600 participants were able to experience UKANDU's outrageous fun from the comfort of their own home.

## **UKANDU CORPS**

UKANDU Corps launched in August of 2021 and was a logical extension of one of UKANDU's core beliefs - that leadership can and must come from everywhere. This program brought together 12 young leaders every other week in a combination of virtual and in-person meetings.

Our young leaders heard from guest speakers, pondered the definition of "service" and "collaboration," and ultimately split into two cohorts to create and execute two service projects on issues that were important to them - LGBTQIA+ support and environmentalism.

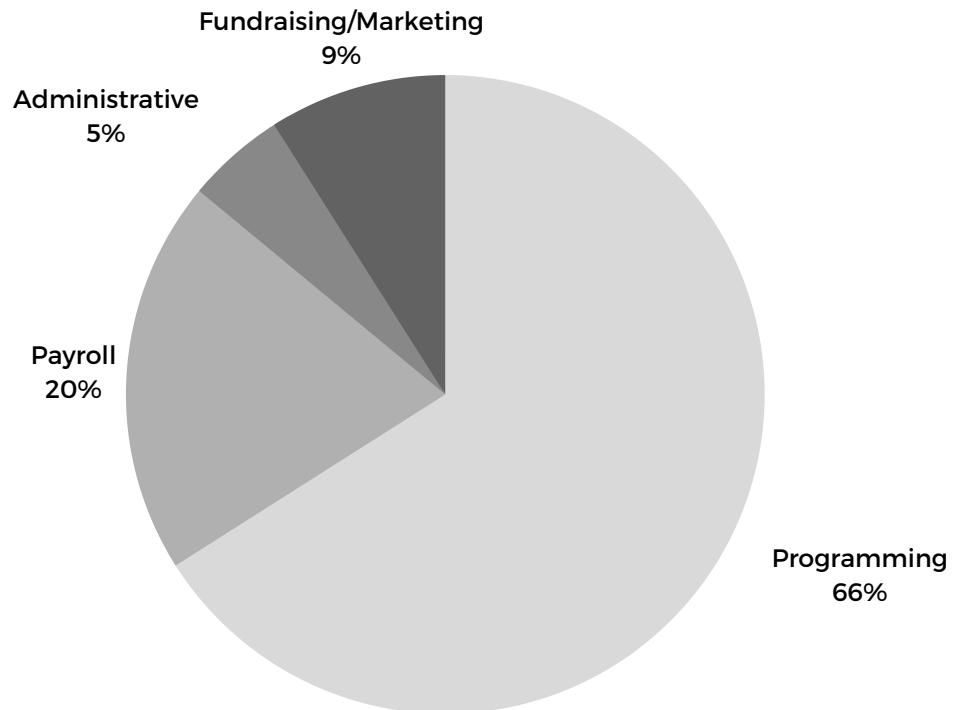


# FINANCIALS

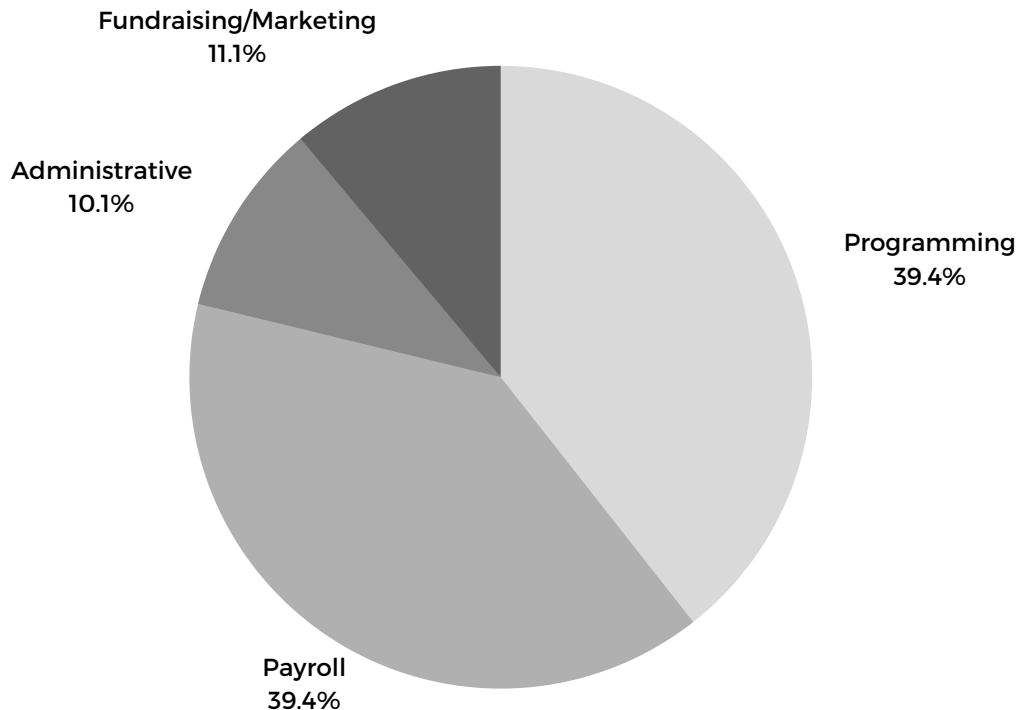
## UKANDU has an operating budget of \$938,000

The 2021 board-ratified budget called for some virtual programming, along with a return to in-person programming. As COVID-19 limited our ability to meet in person, the budgeted expenses for the year dropped significantly. The good news is that we were net-positive for the year. However, when viewed graphically, as a percentage of our overall budget and spending 'actuals', this change makes payroll expenditures appear as a much larger percentage of overall spending. Our board of directors is proud to be able to retain a passionate and qualified staff through the pandemic and remains committed to the responsible operations of this proud charitable organization.

### 2021 Board Ratified Budget



### Actual 2021 Expenditure



# UKANDU TEAM

## 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark McGraw, Board Chair  
Chris Schwab, Vice Chair  
Kay Yancey, Secretary  
Julie Desimone, Treasurer  
Christina Wood, Director

Ted Haley, Director  
Brandon Rochon, Director  
Lisa Kolve, Director  
Cecil Swamidoss, Director

## STAFF

Jason Hickox, Executive Director  
Kendra Gish, Program Director  
Sage Nicholson, Marketing Manager

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