

2019



# Annual Report

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**PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY**

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FOREVER FAMILIES OF CANADA (# 827328584 RR0001)





# INTRODUCTION

They say time flies when you are having fun, so it is no surprise that 2019 has whizzed by with smiles on our faces. We are incredibly grateful for God's faithfulness and for the many ways people across our nation have partnered to make this a remarkable year. While it has stretched us once again to think BIG and work through more small details than ever before, this has been a defining year that will reap well in the long run.

Forever Families of Canada is passionate about connecting, equipping & mobilizing the Church to effectively care for vulnerable children & their families - and we trust this 2019 annual report will give you a glimpse into what God is doing through Forever Families of Canada.

Consider how you might want to collaborate with us in 2020 and let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Harold & Wendi Park*

Co-Founders / Directors  
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# ORGANIZATIONAL SUMMARY

One Charity with Two Integrated Initiatives

1

CarePortal 

connecting & mobilizing churches  
to effectively respond to identified needs  
of vulnerable children & families in their community,  
through an innovative online platform & collaboration  
with local child serving agencies/ministries.

2

CareWell 

ACADEMY

empowering  
communities  
(churches, schools, agencies,  
ministries, families)  
to find hope & healing  
through education &  
supports

  
OF CANADA

Charity to support the national advancement of  
CarePortal & CareWell with priorities in  
administration, fundraising, national & regional  
networking for building healthy church,  
community & social service relations

## AT A GLANCE

### OUR MISSION

Forever Families of Canada exists to CONNECT, EQUIP & MOBILIZE church communities across Canada to effectively care for vulnerable children and their families.

### OUR WORLDVIEW

We believe that everyone has a piece in the child welfare puzzle & that God calls the whole Church to care in unique ways.

We believe the Church wants to care but needs healthy connections & discipleship to do so effectively.

### FIVE 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- A year of pruning good things for a refined focus on 2 core initiatives: CarePortal & CareWell Academy.
- Canadian piloting of CarePortal in Winnipeg with 3 churches & 2 agencies
- National launch of CarePortal on November 14, 2019 at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.
- Development of CareWell Academy and formation of it's starting inter-provincial team of facilitators.
- 1st Annual All-Leaders Retreat for board, staff and key stakeholders.

# 2019 DEFINING MOVES

# DETAILED REPORT



## JANUARY

Sometimes to grow, you need to prune.

Since February 2017, Forever Families has had the privilege of renting affordable office space from an aging and small congregation in Winnipeg. While much of the ministry was operating online and remotely, this facility was ideal for administration and hosting meetings and larger events. In 2018, the 26 year old facility was offered to Forever Families for a really good price, and until January of 2019, we were in the process of developing an exciting capital campaign for the creation of a Family Restoration Centre that would be home to a multiple of ministries and our expanding ministry. But unexpectedly in January 2019, God clearly but unexplainably lead Forever Families to release this offer to purchase, sensing that this good opportunity needed to be pruned in order to step into a more focused ministry that did not involve facility management. We agreed to keep renting until it was sold. While this was unexpected start to 2019, everyone had peace that this was the right decision and were excited to pour ourselves into the next phase.

## FEBRUARY / MARCH

February and March were months for meetings and strategic planning sessions. We invited Bonnie Baird-Ferguson, expert PATH facilitator and husband Rex, to lead some of our team through a process of vision casting and planning. This was an instrumental time that lead to the subsequent development of CareWell Academy and further defining roles as well as gaps that were needing to be filled in order to reach our goals. If there's one thing our team loves to do, whether online or in person, it's collaborating with our diverse giftings to set some pretty audacious goals and then work together to realize them.



# DETAILED REPORT (cont'd)



## APRIL

Forever Families of Canada was able to host multiple sites of the Empowered to Connect simulcast that has been put on annually by the Karyn Purvis Institute for Child Development. Providing excellent training and resources continues to be an ongoing need for those caring for children in hard place, especially for parents, church and para-church ministries, and child serving agencies. A growing number of Canadian professionals have been getting trained, and the development of CareWell Academy has been helping to create a collaborative of Christian professionals who can do more together. A key new team member was added at the end of April, Dr. Alison Wells-Dyck, who gave up her professor position at the University of Manitoba, to volunteer her time as National Coordinator for CareWell Academy. She is an invaluable addition to the team!

## MAY / JUNE / JULY / AUGUST



As a Global Bridge-Network Member of CAFO (Christian Alliance for Orphans) a team of FFC representatives joined their large summit in Louisville, Kentucky in May. Some were Canadian delegates in the Global Leadership Forum, while others were invited to join the CarePortal Leadership Intensive, as we newly were expanding into Canada with the pilot phase. It was a meaningful time for coming together as a team from many Canadian locations, and for getting inspired with great connections and informed research.

The remaining summer months flew by with the addition of four university students. They were incredibly instrumental in piloting CarePortal with churches and agencies, creating multimedia resources, developing our human resources, and in event planning for our first-ever All-Leaders Retreat (August) and the national launch of CarePortal (November). Working with students who have a passion for the church and child welfare is a highlight for those supervising them. Many go on to develop related careers.



We ended the summer with a leadership retreat for staff, board and key stakeholders for team building, leadership development, ministry updates and strategizing a few key next steps. We laughed, we cried, we grew in solidarity. Eric Edwards from Ontario (and wife Alex) unofficially joined our team here, later to come on officially as Area Director for Eastern Canada and CareWell Academy Regional Associate in 2020!



# DETAILED REPORT (cont'd)



## SEPTEMBER

The building we had rented for the past two year was sold over the summer, so September started on a fresh slate, decentralizing each person to everyone's home and shifting to more online efficient methods of teamwork like video calls and group sharing online work platforms. There are still intentional efforts to meet in person, but with less overhead in rent and facility costs. It seems to be working great.

Nearing the end of our national CarePortal pilot phase in Winnipeg thanks to the dedicated work of student team member, Jessica Anderson (R), the baton was passed on to Lisa Hamm (L) - our first ever CarePortal Regional Manager. Lisa is no stranger to Forever Families of Canada, working as a volunteer in a variety of capacities, but now is tasked with working with Winnipeg churches and agencies who are using CarePortal. Volunteer Kathy Boschmann also stepped into a new role as Winnipeg CarePortal Ambassador and is effective in connecting new churches into.



## OCTOBER

Forever Families of Canada is a global affiliate of World Without Orphans, a Christian movement of national ministries from around the world who connect, equip and mobilize churches in their nation to effectively care for vulnerable children and families. Executive Director, Wendi Park, and CarePortal Ambassador, Kathy Boschmann attended the Global Forum in Chiang Mai, Thailand, along with about 500 other international delegates. It was an incredible time of worship, sharing best practices and encouraging each other in the movement.



Meanwhile, in Winnipeg, things were ramping up for the official launch of CarePortal in Canada that was planned for November. We set a goal of 10 churches and two agencies to be trained and ready to launch with us, and thanks to the dedicated work of many, the goal was surpassed.

# DETAILED REPORT (cont'd)

## NOVEMBER

November welcomed the all-time highlight of the year - the moment people were waiting for! It was the month CarePortal was officially launched in Canada. November 14th gathered people from across Canada, both in person and online, with a big celebration at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg. It was a chosen historic site where Indigenous Peoples and Settlers would gather - and it was fitting that we created an open invitation back to this site for the launching of this innovative connecting online platform. Politicians, media, social services, general public and many different churches were represented - all with a common desire to see more vulnerable children and families cared for.

The night featured an energetic fancy dance by a team member's son, a touching interactive theatre experience, a panel (agencies, CarePortal, CareWell Academy), some speeches, photo booth, game, and refreshments. There has been interest expressed from other regions of Canada, and some development is underway. To learn more, go to [www.foreverfamilies.ca/careportal](http://www.foreverfamilies.ca/careportal).

CareWell Academy was also announced at this launch, as a feature specifically designed to equip those getting involved with CarePortal. To learn more, go to [www.foreverfamilies.ca/carewell](http://www.foreverfamilies.ca/carewell)



## DECEMBER

After a year like this, December was appropriately dedicated to administration and supporting the functions of CarePortal and CareWell Academy - with a beautiful sigh of relief. Once again, in all the new developments and leaps of faith, our books balanced.



# 2019 FINANCES

The official financial report for 2019 has not been released yet, though Forever Families of Canada can verify that we have met financial goals necessary to cover expenses of 2019.

Please contact [wendi@foreverfamilies.ca](mailto:wendi@foreverfamilies.ca) if you would like a statement released to you when it is available.