



Annual Report

2025-2026



Land Acknowledgement

Navera Community Connections acknowledges and celebrates the diversity of our community which is shaped by our multiple and overlapping identities and experiences. We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 Territory and the traditional territory of the Cree, Assiniboine, Dene, Dakota, Salteaux, and the homeland of the Métis. A treaty is an inheritance, a responsibility, and a relationship. Through acknowledgement of these territories and homelands, we respect the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.



About Us

Navera Community Connections is a mission driven organization with a focus on positive community impact. We achieve results by utilizing a variety of strategies including counselling services, family and community programming, as well as early learning and family centres.

Founded in 1941, Navera Community Connections delivers support to the Saskatoon community by providing relevant and meaningful programs and services to individuals, couples, and families. We are leaders in developing innovative programs and services, often in partnership with other organizations that serve to meet the dynamic and ever-changing needs in our community.

Navera Community Connections is governed by a community based, volunteer Board of Directors who are committed to the work of the organization. Qualified staff provide professional and confidential assistance to anyone who is experiencing personal and/or family difficulties.



Mission

Navera Community Connections enriches the lives of the people we serve by navigating challenges and creating possibilities. We do this through early learning centres, counselling, mental health services, and a range of community programs.

Vision

Thriving people and connected communities.

Values

Belonging: Navera Community Connections' culture of inclusivity and belonging for clients, staff, and partners celebrates our strengths and honours our differences.

Community Centered: Navera Community Connections' emergent and flexible approaches foster connection and self-determination for individuals, families, and communities.

Compassion and Respect: Navera Community Connections is a community compass, guiding and supporting people when they need it most.

Collaboration: Navera Community Connections engages with partners and collaborators, connecting communities together, and leading programs that foster trust and shared responsibility.

Strategic Priorities

Organizational Sustainability: Ensuring effective and efficient governance and operations to support the delivery of reliable and trusted programs and services.

Strategic and Responsive Programs: Comprehensive programs that meet the current and emerging needs of the community and partners.

Community Connections: Building and maintaining strong stakeholder relationships and community partnerships.

Effective and Shared Leadership: Investing in its people, committing time and resources to build strong teams of skilled professionals.

2025-26 Highlights

Building Connection & Culture

Investing in our people remains a key priority. Throughout the year, staff participated in learning, leadership, and team-building opportunities, including a *Red Dress Day* Lunch and Learn, a *Blanket Exercise* to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day, staff development day, leadership team meetings, organization-wide business meetings, and social gatherings such as our end-of-summer BBQ and a holiday celebration. These events fostered connection, encouraged learning and reflection, and strengthened our organizational culture as we worked together to support thriving people and connected communities.



Long Service Awards

We were proud to recognize the commitment and contributions of several team members reaching important service milestones this year. Tera Hrappestad, Sarah Trischuk, Sara Prescesky, and Brianna Hillaby were each recognized for five years of service, while Janelle Sander celebrated ten years with the organization. These milestones reflect their dedication to our mission and the meaningful difference they continue to make in the lives of the individuals, families, and communities we serve.



Board of Directors 2025-26

President - Abhineet Goswami
Vice President - Rahwa Zeresnai
Treasurer - Iris Nicholaicuk
Past-President - Sherry Richert

Director - Brooke Thorpe
Director - Jo-Lynn Witt
Director - Nicole Tainsh
Director - R e Paterson



Message from the Board President & Chief Executive Officer

The 2025–2026 year at Navera Community Connections was a positive one for the organization. Founded on February 11, 1941, we proudly celebrated 85 years of service during the year. Over eight and a half decades, the organization has evolved to meet the changing needs of the community while maintaining a steadfast commitment to supporting children, youth, adults, and families.

Today, we continue to contribute as part of Saskatchewan’s nonprofit sector, which plays an essential role in the social and economic fabric of the province, contributing more than \$8 billion to Saskatchewan’s economy and employing more than 111,000 people. At the community level, organizations like Navera Community Connections help create connection, stability, and access to support for children, youth, adults, and families navigating increasingly complex challenges.

This continued need for community-based support was reflected across all areas of the organization throughout the year. Counselling services provided over 4,300 sessions supporting children, youth, adults, and families across Saskatoon and area. Community programming reached more than 3,100 participants through school-based groups, workshops, caregiver programming, and targeted mental health supports for children and youth. In the Early Learning and Childcare programs, 217 families were supported and 279 children participated throughout the year, including services through the ED Feehan and Rosewood Early Learning and Family Centres and the Before and After School Program.

At the heart of all of this work are the people who make it possible. The Board of Directors continues to provide thoughtful governance and steady oversight, while staff across all departments continue to show up with professionalism, compassion, flexibility, and commitment every day. Partnerships and collaboration also remain central to our work, and we are grateful to the many schools, agencies, funders, and community partners whose support not only extends our reach and impact but strengthens our ability to respond creatively and collectively to evolving community needs. Most importantly, we remain thankful to the individuals, children, youth, and families who continue to place their trust in Navera Community Connections.

Thank you for your continued support. We remain committed to moving forward with clarity, purpose, and a continued focus on creating possibilities alongside the people we serve.

Best,



Heather Dale

CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnnie Johnson".

Board President





Counselling

Connecting People to Care and Support

Navera Community Connection's counselling services support individuals, children, youth, and families in a variety of forms, including single-parent, two-parent, blended, 2SLGBTQIA+, kinship, and foster families. Each client works with a counsellor to develop a plan that reflects their specific needs and goals.

Grounded in clinical mental health practices, our counselling focuses on helping clients better understand their concerns, strengthen coping strategies, and improve relationships. Services are designed to support personal insight, decision-making, and adjustment through life's changes.

Clients seek support for a range of concerns, including substance use, grief and loss, relationship challenges, emotional distress, health issues, parenting and family dynamics, school-related difficulties, experiences of violence or abuse, and work-related stress.

This year, our team provided 4337 counselling sessions: 1752 for the Ministry of Social Services, 1672 for Rapid Access Counselling, 701 Fee for Service, and 212 for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

Student and Interns

In 2025-26, Navera Community Connections supported 6 students and interns, 4 within the counselling department and 2 in community programs. These placements provide opportunities for students to learn alongside experienced staff, contribute meaningfully to our services, and fulfill academic requirements. We are grateful to those who chose our organization as their practicum or internship site.



Early Learning and Family Centres

Nurturing Growth Through Play, Partnership, and Belonging

The province re-signed the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare Agreement in November 2025. This ensures the continuation of Parent Fee Reduction Grant and Wage Enhancement funding to continue for the next 5 years.

We continue to benefit from partnerships with the Saskatchewan Health Authority who provide Speech and Language Pathologists, Behavioural Consultants, Immunization Nurses and Healthy Mother Healthy Baby Nurse professionals to work with children, parents and educators at the centers. While many of the services have been scaled down, Saskatoon centers are fortunate to be the only licensed centers in the province to have access to these partnerships. ED Feehan continues to partner with CHEP each year to make healthy and nutritious foods available for the families at the Center. This year both centers hosted a total of 12 ECE practicum students from Sask. Polytech. ED Feehan has partnerships with the high school to provide Work Education Placements and Volunteer Hours for the high school students.

The ECEs participated in two Professional Development days during this fiscal year which meet requirements for our Quality Assessments. The first was *Teacher Talk*, which focuses on helping early childhood educators use everyday conversations, play, and routines to build children's language, social, and literacy skills through more intentional, responsive interactions. The second was a session on *Schemas* which repeating patterns of behaviour or play that children use to explore ideas and make sense of how the world works.



ED Feehan Early Learning & Family Centre

In 2025–26, the ED Feehan Early Learning and Family Centre served 54 families and provided care for 75 children: 22 infants, 8 toddlers, and 45 preschoolers, of which 10 attended kindergarten. Eight teen parents enrolled at ED Feehan High School & Mount Royal Collegiate accessed childcare through the centre.

"My son is so happy to get to daycare every morning! It is reassuring for us to know that he is so well cared for, and it made going back to work much easier."

- An ED Feehan Family

Rosewood Early Learning & Family Centre

In 2025-26, the Rosewood Early Learning and Family Centre served 88 families and provided care for 108 children: 15 infants, 20 toddlers, and 73 preschoolers.

"This place has been amazing for our family. The educators are kind, patient, and make learning fun. Our son comes home happy every day, which says it all!" - A Rosewood Family

Before & After School Program

In 2025-26, the Before and After Program served 75 families, including 17 new families. A total of 96 children attended the program, 21 of whom were new. Daily attendance stayed at an average of 60-68 students. Learning Moments have been implemented with the children to address social & emotional issues, and foster growth in the program.

"My daughter thoroughly enjoys the B&A program. As a sister of a special needs child, she enjoys playing after school with her friends- children she often does not see during the school day. She loves learning new things and the program really promotes her creativity. We love it!" - A 2nd Year Parent



Community Programs

Where Belonging, Learning,
and Well-Being Meet

We continue to receive a high volume of requests for group facilitation throughout the year. The length of these programs ranges from eight weeks to a full semester and in some cases, spans the entire school year. These groups were offered multiple times in various locations across Saskatoon and surrounding communities.



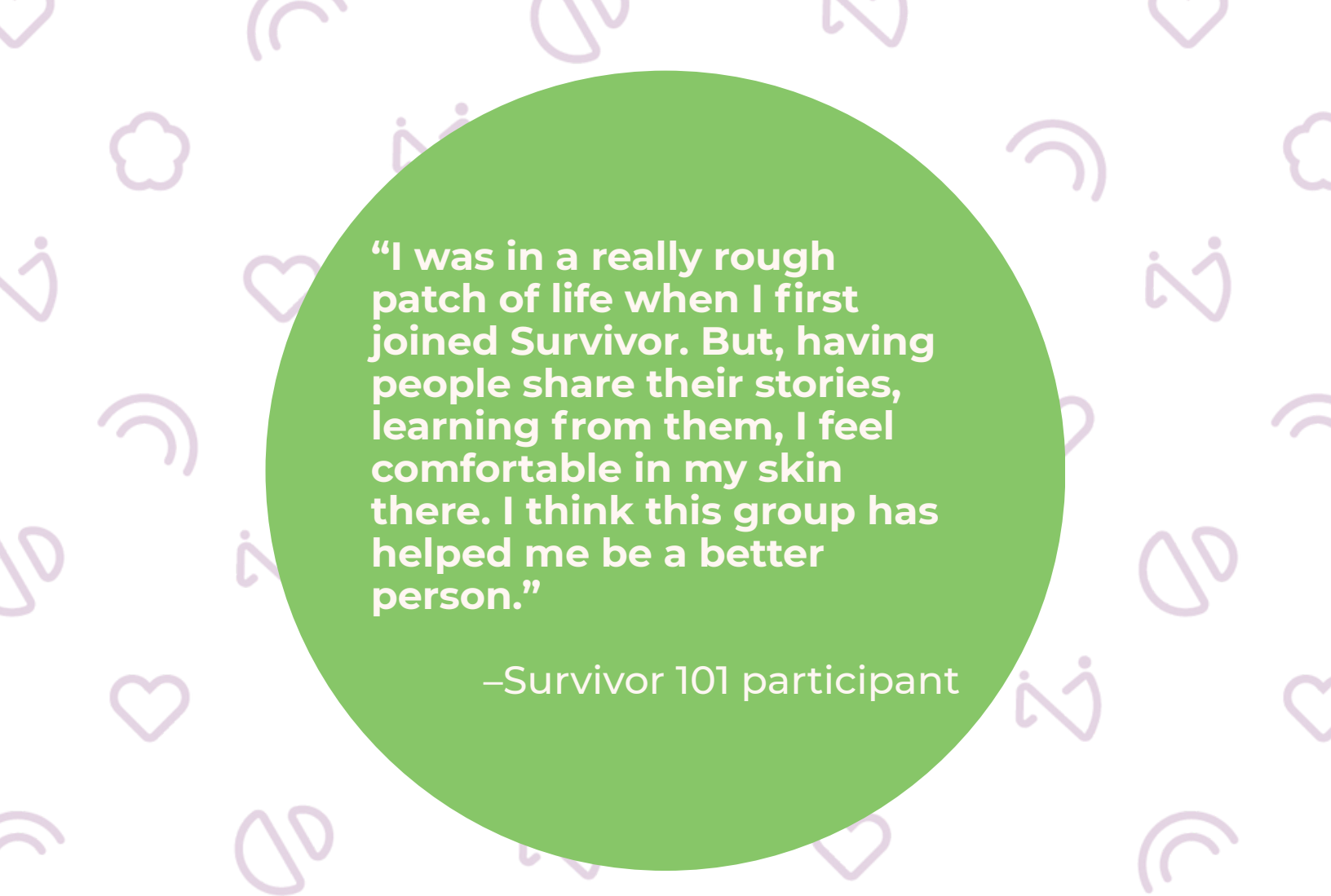
Youth Programs

The team facilitated 286 youth group sessions for 465 participants in Grades 7 to 12, offering programs such as *STEPS: From Anxiety to Resilience* and *Survivor 101*. These sessions provided safe, supportive environments where youth could connect with peers, strengthen emotional regulation skills, and navigate challenges related to anxiety, stress, and experiences of violence or trauma. Delivered in both school and community settings, the groups helped young people build confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging.

Parent and Caregiver Groups

This year, we facilitated 388 parenting and caregiver group sessions, reaching a total of 1168 participants. Our offerings included programs such as *Bridging the Gap, Dads Edition, Parenting with Resilience, Navigating Parenting, Taming Worry, Calming the Storm, and Mending Hearts*.





“I was in a really rough patch of life when I first joined Survivor. But, having people share their stories, learning from them, I feel comfortable in my skin there. I think this group has helped me be a better person.”

–Survivor 101 participant

Children’s Programs

Navera Community Connections supported children ages 7-13 through a range of therapeutic and skill-building groups focused on emotional regulation, anxiety, and relationship building.

Programs such as *Finding the Warrior Within*, *Taming Worry*, and *Calming the Storm* were delivered in schools and community settings, helping children develop healthy coping strategies in safe and supportive environments.

In total, 621 children’s group sessions were delivered, reaching 1489 participants. These groups provided consistent opportunities for children to build emotional awareness, self-regulation, and confidence in spaces that prioritized safety, inclusion, and connection.

Summer Programs

A total of 18 sessions were offered throughout the summer to students in various age groups serving 31 children and youth. These half-day sessions were a departure from our previously offered 4-day camps and were an effective way to offer more neurodivergent and anxiety-friendly supports to students.

Additional programming was offered to children and youth in partnership with White Buffalo Youth Lodge, Egadz, and Saskatchewan Intercultural Association. Parenting groups continued throughout the summer with sessions at the office and various partner locations.

Community Partnerships

CHEP Good Food



For many years, Navera Community Connections has been proud to partner with CHEP, whose ongoing support has helped provide milk, yogurt, and fruit to children attending our E.D. Feehan Early Learning Centre. This partnership plays an important role in supporting food security and healthy nutrition for young children during a critical stage of development. Access to nutritious foods helps fuel growing bodies and developing brains, while also easing food costs for the program. We are grateful for CHEP's continued commitment to ensuring children have the nourishment they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

Station 20 West



Navera Community Connections is committed to making mental health services accessible by bringing counsellors into community spaces where people already gather and feel comfortable. Our partnership with Station 20 West is a great example of this approach in action. Building trust and awareness took time, but through consistent presence and collaboration, we have developed strong relationships with staff and community members. Today, the partnership provides an effective referral pathway, helping people connect to mental health supports more easily while strengthening ongoing relationships between community services and counselling supports. We are grateful for the opportunity to work together to reduce barriers and increase access to care.

Celebrating 25 Years of the Saskatoon Community Service Village



In 2025, the Saskatoon Community Service Village celebrated its 25th anniversary, marking a quarter century of collaboration among community-based organizations working to strengthen Saskatoon. As a founding member, Navera was proud to join fellow partners in recognizing the vision, leadership, and commitment that established the Village as a unique model of shared space and collective impact. The milestone provided an opportunity to celebrate the many organizations, staff, volunteers, and community members who have contributed to its success and to reflect on the importance of partnership in addressing complex community needs.



Community Partners

We are deeply grateful for the many partners who collaborate with us to deliver meaningful and relevant services. This year, we worked with over 60 unique partners across a range of initiatives to provide programs and supports that respond to real community needs.

Partner Agencies

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Calder Centre
- Carter House
- CUMFI
- Central Saskatchewan Military Family Resource Centre
- Edward's Family Centre
- Global Gathering Place
- Interval House
- Martensville/Warman Early Years Family Resource Centre
- Reclaim Maternity Store
- Ronald McDonald House
- Sanctum Care Group
- Saskatoon Correctional Centre
- Saskatoon Early Years Family Resource Centre
- Saskatchewan Intercultural Association
- SWITCH Health Clinic
- Truly Alive
- Women's Re-Integration Unit

Schools

Saskatoon Public Elementary Schools:

- Brownell
- Brunskill
- Caroline Robins
- Caswell
- Egnatoff
- Forest Grove
- Henry Kelsey
- Howard Coad
- Mayfair
- North Park Wilson
- Roland Michener
- Sutherland
- Vincent Massey
- wâhkôhtowin
- W.P. Bate

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Elementary Schools:

- awâsisak kâ-nîmîhtocik St Francis
- Bishop Roborecki
- Georges Vanier
- Saskatoon French
- St. Edwards
- St. John
- St. Kateri Tekakwitha
- St. Lorenzo Ruiz
- St. Mark
- St. Mary's
- St. Peter
- St. Philip
- St. Volodymyr

Saskatoon Public Collegiates:

- Evan Hardy
- Mount Royal
- Tommy Douglas
- Walter Murray

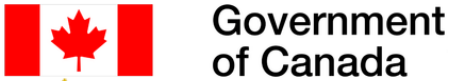
Greater Saskatoon Catholic High Schools:

- Bethlehem
- Bishop James Mahoney
- Bishop Murray
- ED Feehan
- Holy Cross



Funders and Donors

Funders



Korchinski Family Foundation



Donors

Organizations

- CHEP Good Food Inc.
- Family Service Saskatchewan
- Landis C.W.L.
- Mabel's Labels
- Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus & Father O'Leary Council
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery Corp.

Individuals

- Anonymous Donor
- Balpreet Nijjer
- J. Duane Koch
- Marty & Clare Schneider
- Nicole Tainsh
- Tara Nichols
- Terry & Howard Lowe
- Troy Boyenko

Memberships

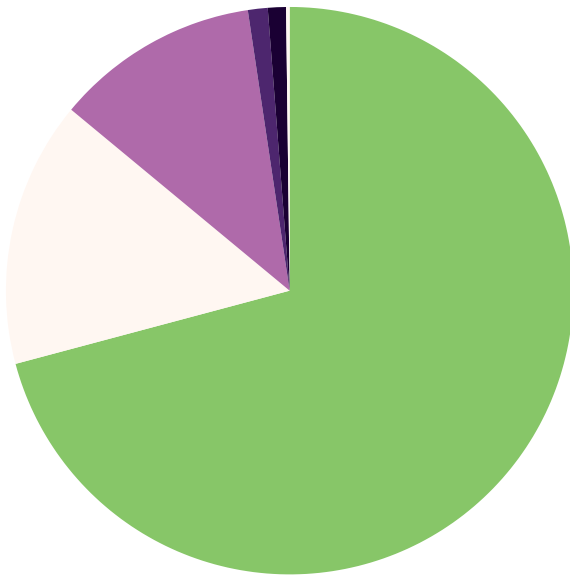
- Family Service Canada
- Family Service Saskatoon & Area
- Saskatchewan Federation of Early Learning
- Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce
- Saskatoon Early Childhood Association
- Saskatoon Nonprofit Partnership



2025-26 Financials

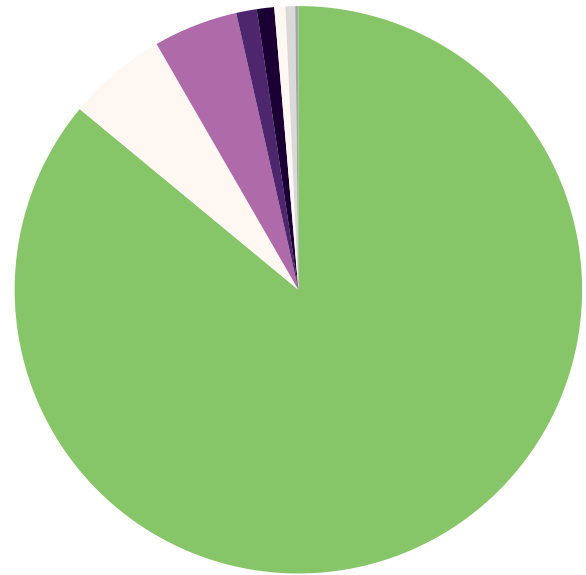
Revenue \$4,521,853

- Government of Saskatchewan
- Program User Fees
- Grants
- Interest Income
- Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
- Donations



Expenses \$4,308,310

- Employee Compensation
- Office, Rent & Insurance
- Program Materials and Supplies
- Professional Services
- Amortization
- Membership, Dues & Miscellaneous
- Promotion & Publicity
- Travel



For a full set of financials visit our website at navera.org





Founded on February 11, 1941, Navera Community Connections has spent 85 years supporting children, families, and communities. While our programs have evolved over the decades, our commitment to connection, belonging, and community well-being remains as strong today as it was in 1941.

Contact Us



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