



The ChariTree Foundation 2024 Annual Meeting Report

Date: June 26, 2025.



Students Grow Change, One Tree at a Time: Special thanks go to Principal Kelly Pevie for sharing photos from Jakeman All Grade's recent tree planting event, launched with a reading of The Wish Trees. This small K–12 school in Gros Morne National Park exemplifies how environmental learning can thrive in inspiring natural settings. Parks Canada staff joined students and educators for a hands-on project made possible through support from The ChariTree Foundation's outdoor education program.

Agenda

Last Meeting Follow-Up

- No outstanding items reported by the Executive Director.

Attendees

Andrea Koehle Jones, Hilda Wood, David Jones, John Koehle, Dr. Michael Koehle

1. Executive Director's Report

Climate change continues to pose significant threats to the health and well-being of children globally. Over the past year, however, world events have shifted international focus, pushing climate issues further down the global agenda. In response, The ChariTree Foundation emphasized the importance of prioritizing children's needs and expanding both traditional and skills-based environmental education as tools for building climate resilience among youth.

In 2024, The ChariTree Foundation focused on getting more children outdoors and meaningfully engaged in environmental learning. The organization awarded \$95,000 in Outdoor Classroom Grants to 19 schools across Canada, expanded its flagship tree-planting program, participated in global climate forums, and continued advancing environmental education for children worldwide.

A Field Expedition to Kenya: UN Engagement & Environmental Education

In May 2024, The ChariTree Foundation team visited Kenya to further its commitment to youth-centered environmental education and climate engagement. The trip followed catastrophic flooding that displaced hundreds of thousands—a stark reminder of the need for climate resilience and biodiversity protection. In Nairobi, the Foundation participated in the UN Biodiversity Meetings (SBI-4), focused on implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Discussions emphasized science-based action, equitable funding, and the leadership of Indigenous peoples, youth, and local communities in reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.

The team also visited a long-supported ChariTree Foundation project and orphanage school near the Kenya-Tanzania border. Students proudly showcased fruit trees planted through the Foundation's outdoor learning initiatives. Though spared from flooding due to its elevation, the school's location near Mt. Kilimanjaro reinforced the importance of climate-resilient infrastructure. Visits to ecological hotspots like Amboseli and the Maasai Mara further highlighted the region's biodiversity. A symbolic acacia tree planting in the Mara cemented The ChariTree Foundation's long-term commitment to reforestation and restoration.



Advocating for Child-Centered Climate Solutions at UNICEF's Leading Minds Think Tank

In June 2024 and again in 2025, The ChariTree Foundation participated in UNICEF's Leading Minds think tank in Florence, Italy. These gatherings brought together global experts to develop climate solutions that uphold children's rights, health, and resilience. The Foundation advocated for equitable, community-based approaches to climate and biodiversity education—particularly for children in the Global South. Emphasis was placed on eco-literacy, expanding access to environmental education, and empowering youth to take meaningful climate action.

2. ChariTree Foundation Program Highlights

A Tree for Every Child

The Foundation's signature initiative continued providing native tree seedlings to children for planting at home, school, or camp—fostering connections with nature and enhancing environmental literacy. Over 120,000 children across Canada, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Nepal have participated.

Key outcomes included:

- Practical tree care and planting skills
- Ecological literacy and forest connectivity
- Compassion for trees and conservation

Camp Tree Planting & Biodiversity Education Grant

The 2024 grant enabled Canadian camps to plant native species such as white spruce, Douglas fir, and apple trees. These activities were part of campers' environmental learning programs.

Outdoor Classrooms

New outdoor classrooms were supported in Canada and Ethiopia, giving students improved access to outdoor, nature-based education. Benefits included:

- Stronger environmental stewardship
- Improved mental health and well-being
- Greater curiosity, resilience, and connection to nature

Beach Cleanups

The Foundation helped children lead local beach cleanups with educational resources and support, encouraging environmental responsibility and youth climate leadership.

3. Press Releases & Advocacy (2024)

- **ChariTree Foundation Urges Global Climate Action Ahead of UN SB60 Dialogue:**

We advocated for:

1. Integrating child rights in climate frameworks
2. Protecting children from compounding climate impacts
3. Funding youth-led climate and biodiversity education opportunities

Global Climate Advocacy

- **UN SB60 Dialogue:** Advocated for child rights integration, protection from climate impacts, and funding for youth-led education.
- **COP29 (Nov 19 & 23):** Condemned weak climate finance outcomes. The Executive Director called for equitable solutions and encouraged youth resilience.
- **UN Dialogues (May 7, June 5, Oct 30):** Participated in meetings in Nairobi and Florence promoting child-centered climate action.
- **Loss & Damage Finance:** Called for community-based solutions and more support for climate-impacted children.

National Environmental Leadership

- **Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy (June 13):** Welcomed the strategy but urged stronger funding and implementation.
- **Biodiversity Strategy Input (Feb 9):** Contributed to a joint NGO effort to halt nature loss.
- **Wildfire Response (April 10 & Aug 1):** Urged government protection of children from growing wildfire risks.
- **Camp & Classroom Grants (April 18 & Sept 11):** Supported tree planting and outdoor education; demand exceeded expectations.
- **BC's 10 Billionth Tree (April 16):** Celebrated milestone, noting ChariTree's contribution to youth-focused reforestation.
- **Tree-Planting Parties (Feb 22):** Promoted youth-led environmental action through community events.

Children's Environmental Learning

- **Earth Day Book List (April 11):** Shared children's book recommendations for environmental awareness.
- **Climate Education as a Rights Issue (July 25):** Reinforced the link between environmental education and children's rights.
- **UNICEF Advocacy (June 5):** Advanced eco-literacy and global south youth participation at Leading Minds sessions.

Collaborations & Recognition

- **Nature Canada's #WomenForNature (March 7):** Executive Director joined as a mentor.
- **National Biodiversity Campaigns (March 7):** Supported public awareness efforts to meet biodiversity targets.

2024 Press Releases available on the [left side of The ChariTree Foundation home page](#) or under the [NEWS](#) tab.

4. Financial Summary

CENTS TO THE CAUSE

Everyone at The ChariTree Foundation volunteers their time—including the Executive Director. In 2024, 100% of donations supported environmental education programs for children and youth. All administrative expenses were personally covered.

Percentage of donations spent on fundraising: 0%

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

Financial statements are publicly available on our website.

Summary:

- Donations received: \$101,690
- Environmental education grants disbursed: \$107,300
- Administrative expenses: \$882 (covered privately by the Executive Director)



Statement of Financial Position (as of December 31, 2024)

Category	2024	2023
Cash	\$8,937	\$14,332
Receivables	\$0	\$215
Total Assets	\$8,937	\$14,547
Payables & Liabilities	\$0	\$0
Net Assets	\$8,937	\$14,547

Statement of Operations (Adjusted to Reflect Donated Admin Expenses)

Category	2024	2023
Donation Revenue	\$101,690	\$71,220
Donations to Projects	\$107,300	\$69,500
Admin Expenses (Covered Personally)	\$0*	\$0
Deficit/Surplus	\$-5,610	\$1,720
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$14,547	\$12,827
Net Assets, End of Year	\$8,937	\$14,547

5. Looking Ahead

In 2025, The ChariTree Foundation will:

- Participate in developing and supporting more environmental education opportunities for and with children—especially in the Global South
- Continue leading environmental education advocacy in Canada and globally, with a focus on equity and access to both formal and informal climate and biodiversity education opportunities that educate and empower children and youth.
- Continue to grow the Tree for Every Child program to connect more children with nature through hands-on tree planting experiences

- Support the creation and enhancement of more outdoor classrooms to promote place-based learning and environmental literacy
 - Champion youth participation in climate dialogues, ensuring young voices are heard in the decisions that shape their future
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6. Acknowledgements

Special Thanks To:

- Our incredible **camp and school partners** who bring environmental education to life
- The generous **supporters, donors, and board member volunteers** who make our work possible
- The inspiring **youth leaders, educators, and Indigenous communities** we are honoured to collaborate with
- And most of all, the **kids—for their enthusiasm, curiosity, and commitment to protecting the planet**

Andrea Koehle Jones

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