

# Event Summary

## CASA THRIVE Gala for Kids' Mental Health

### **CASA's THRIVE Gala raises \$405,000 for kids' mental health**

Alberta's philanthropic community leveled up for kids' mental health on Friday, May 13, at the return of CASA's premiere gala to transform kids' mental health at Edmonton Convention Centre.

More than 400 generous guests, donors and supporters raised \$405,000 for CASA Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health to expand its mental health programs and services, with a goal of reaching twice as many kids and families – from 4,000 to 8,000 – over the next few years.

Hosted by Canadian tenor Adam Fisher, event highlights included:

- Entertainment from Juno Award winner Celeigh Cardinal, Dave Babcock, Ariana Whitlow, Hailey Benedict and The Melisizwe Brothers.
- A generous matching donation from Calgary's Hunter Family Foundation of \$200,000 to support CASA programs and services throughout Alberta.
- A live auction and *Battle of Alberta* cash appeal hosted by Ryan Jespersen, in which CASA CEO Bonnie Blakley switched from wearing a Calgary Flames jersey to an Edmonton Oilers jersey upon the Edmonton guests matching the \$200,000 donation from Calgary to help Alberta kids and youth province-wide.
- Dinner and dessert from Edmonton Convention Centre Executive Chef Serge Belair and cocktails served all evening from flair bartenders.

All proceeds go to support CASA's new vision: a community where all children, youth and their families are provided with timely mental health care and empowered to thrive.

Visit [levelupforkids.ca](http://levelupforkids.ca) to donate.

*CASA is a trusted non-profit organization delivering holistic, culturally safe wrap-around mental health services to children age 3 to 18 and their families. We do this through a team of specialized mental health professionals who are trauma experts committed to delivering outcomes-based programming in collaboration with community partners.*

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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#### **PHOTO CUTLINES:**

- 1 – This year's gala theme was THRIVE, in support of CASA's vision and mission.
- 2 – Edmonton's rising star Hailey Benedict performs her song *Level Up*, written for CASA kids.
- 3 – Lesley MacDonald hosts a panel discussion in kids' mental health and the impact of CASA services.
- 4 – Emily Cave of the Colby Cave Memorial Foundation announces a donation.
- 5 – Juno Award winner Celeigh Cardinal shares her story and music with the crowd.
- 6 – CASA CEO Bonnie Blakley challenges the crowd to donate to get her out of a Flames jersey.
- 7 – CASA CEO Bonnie Blakley celebrates a donation by switching from a Flames to an Oilers jersey.