

SPUR

The Calgary Foundation / Spring 2014



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**Programs to keep
Calgary kids safe**

**Empowering
females**

**Initiatives that help
women through
difficult transitions**

Energized

**Tapping into
the power of youth
to build stronger
communities**

In her footsteps
Neepin Auger wants
a brighter future for
First Nations students



Projects that inspire

AS WE LOOK down the road through 2014, I'm inspired by some of the work The Calgary Foundation is involved in.

In partnership with our friends at Calgary Economic Development, we've launched the first-ever **Soul of the City Neighbour Grants** program. This grassroots grant program will award up to \$5,000 to projects that build community — everything from community gardens to street festivals. Selected finalists will pitch their project ideas in April to a live audience, which will then vote to select the winning ideas. Grant recipients will have the opportunity to be a part of a Soul of the City Neighbour Grants video and share their project stories.

When it comes to sharing stories, the **Community Knowledge Centre** website is a new interactive resource that will help charitable organizations tell the stories of the work they do. Keep checking back as we continue to grow the site over the coming year, and you'll learn even more about the inspiring organizations that support our city and all its communities. Visit ckc.thecalgaryfoundation.org.

Calgary is rich with engaged citizens, so it's no surprise that hundreds of us hit the streets to participate in the annual **Jane's Walk**, taking place this May 2, 3 and 4. Neighbourhood volunteers lead free local walking tours offering insiders' views, sharing stories and sparking conversation.

Since the beginning of Jane's Walk in 2008, it has grown from six walks and 100 participants to more than 40 walks and 1,600 people pounding the pavement! It's a great way to put people in touch with their environment and each other.

Our annual **Calgary's Vital Signs Report** is another fantastic way to engage with the community and assess our quality of life. The report is designed to measure the vitality of our city by identifying trends and assigning grades in areas critical to our well-being. We encourage all of you to make your voices heard by participating in the Vital Signs survey this spring.

We appreciate your feedback and would love to hear from you; e-mail info@thecalgaryfoundation.org or call 403-802-7700. ■



Calgary is rich with engaged citizens, so it's no surprise that hundreds of us hit the streets to participate in the annual Jane's Walk.

Eva Friesen
President & CEO,
The Calgary Foundation

SPUR

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The "who, when, where and why" of The Calgary Foundation.

All Walks of Life

Neighbours gather to participate in these destination projects

By Laura Lushington

AT THE APPLEWOOD PARK PLAYGROUND

in southeast Calgary, all kids can play. The largest barrier-free playground in Calgary, it allows children in wheelchairs to play side by side with other kids, and use unique equipment including a track ride and a climber.

There's also a rocker that allows wheelchairs to roll in, and xylophones at wheelchair height for maximum fun. Benches and shelters let parents gather to watch their children.

"We have 22 different ethnic groups living in Applewood," says Frank Warkentin, who along with his wife, Lynn, were the prime movers behind the playground. "If

we're going to get the community together as a whole, then we've got to start by getting the kids together. The parents will follow."

As volunteers built the playground last September, kids were peeking through the fences in anticipation. It's been busy ever since, with families from all over the city coming to the park because of its unique features.

The Calgary Foundation's Neighbourhood Grants program helped fund the build and the grand opening. The program has one simple mission: to strengthen the fabric of neighbourhood life. Through grants up to \$5,000, the program backs projects that bring people together.



LOCATED IN THE CITY'S NORTHWEST, the Botanical Gardens of Silver Springs have become an urban oasis. Calgary's largest ornamental garden complex, this marvel of horticulture spans 18,000 square feet and includes 1,300 feet of uninterrupted wall garden.

Each year, dozens of volunteers contribute more than 6,200 hours to planting and maintaining the perennials, annuals and shrubs in each of 13 distinct gardens.

"When you walk through the park, you'll be hard-pressed to find a weed," says Duncan Badger, co-chair of the project. "That's because our volunteers work so hard. But they put

in so many hours because they enjoy it."

A recently added feature is the Labyrinth Garden, with more than a kilometre of pathways, arbours, garden beds and planters, partly funded by the Neighbourhood Grants program.

This feature attracts visitors from around the city, as evidenced by entries in the garden's guestbook.

"We're a user-driven park," Badger says. "We want decisions of what we build to be made by visitors."

Together, these two grant recipients are forging neighbourhood connections.

thecalgaryfoundation.org/grants-awards/grassroots-grants. ■

Safe & Strong

Programs bring all hands on deck to protect children

By Sara Samson



The physical safety and emotional well-being of our youngest neighbours is crucial to the future of our city and our communities. From the most critical — rescuing abducted children — to the more complex needs of immigrant youth, these programs are here to help. >>>



ZEROING IN ON MISSING CHILDREN

When a child goes missing, every minute counts. Connecting instantly with people in an area and alerting them of a missing child can save a life.

Amanda Pick, executive director of the Missing Children's Society of Canada, knows the importance of rapid awareness and action in missing children cases. "We know that the two critical negative factors for children to be abducted or stay missing are time and anonymity," she says. If these factors are addressed, children can be found quickly — and ultimately, many abductions could be prevented.

Knowing that our city and province are home to numerous large corporations with equipment, technology and staff members that could help locate a child, Pick and her team sought a way to pool these resources to create a rapid response team.

After four years of research, the CodeSearch mobile application was created to do just that. Employees of participating

corporations can download the app to their smartphones, allowing the Missing Children's Society, along with the Calgary Police Service, to alert them when a child has gone missing in their area.

Once local tech company Strut Creative built the software, The Calgary Foundation's \$30,000 grant allowed Pick and her team to implement the program and connect with thousands of Calgarians.

The app was also designed to help partnering companies donate time, and physical assets such as helicopters and ATVs, to help in a search. "Technology is affording us the opportunity to be a very connected community, and we can use that connection to ensure our children are safe," Pick says.

The program is the first of its kind in North America, and can be used as a prototype for other communities and law enforcement agencies around the country. "We are literally making a change starting here in Calgary that is going to affect the entire country," Pick says.

"Partners like The Calgary Foundation, the Calgary Police Service and corporations will be able to stand together with this legacy that says we changed the country in terms of missing children." **mcsc.ca**

“We are literally making a change starting here in Calgary that's going to affect the entire country.**”**

*Amanda Pick,
executive director,
Missing Children
Society of Canada*



The new CodeSearch smartphone app allows for immediate mobilization of people and equipment when a child goes missing.

MOVING PAST DISCRIMINATION

Jovey Sharma's first experience of Canada was brief and not very pleasant. Arriving in Brampton, Ont., at age 10, like many young immigrants he faced challenges. He had left behind friends, family and the life he was used to at home in India — and English wasn't his first language.

"It was big struggle for me, just getting adjusted. I wasn't aware of cultural refer-

ences — that was a big obstacle, I felt. People knew I was new to Canada, and even though my English wasn't horrible, there were instances when people couldn't understand me," says Sharma, now 19.

"My first experience in Canada was definitely not what I now know Canada to be. I was glad to go back to India."

After returning home for a time, Sharma's family decided to make another go of it in Canada, this time in Calgary. By then 13 years old, he found the experience very different. "People were much more accepting and welcoming in Calgary."

Helping him feel at ease was the Canadian Red Cross Alberta's Multicultural Youth Action program. The support he received encouraged him to help others; he began working with the organization's Beyond Discrimination program when he started high school, mentoring younger newcomers.

"My impression as a 10-year-old was this is a horrible place, and Canada is not accepting. If kids have that impression, they're not likely to be successful. If I can inspire just one person per presentation, it's worth the effort," Sharma says.

For the Red Cross, empowering young people by giving them a leadership role as educators and mentors is a path to a safer and healthier city.

"We provide opportunities for youth to fully develop themselves as leaders in the community, as role models and change-makers in society," says Daniela Rojas, humanitarian law and international youth engagement program associate with Canadian Red Cross Alberta.

The Beyond Discrimination program is one of those opportunities, designed to address bullying, racism and discrimination that affects Calgary youth. Thanks to an \$80,000 grant from The Calgary Foundation, the Red Cross has created a three-year multi-stage program to train immigrant youth to become facilitators and educators, who then help train the next new group entering the program. Currently, the program has 29 youth educators completing the training.

The end result: a pool of trained people who can support the program in the long term. "This is not a one-year project or a vision. This is a process for them to develop a level of youth expertise," Rojas says.

The program has opened doors for Sharma, who's currently finishing his second year of biomedical sciences studies at the University of Calgary and is president of the campus Red Cross club. "I got volunteer opportunities through it, and eventually it led me to start volunteering a lot more."

Today, Sharma is a trained independent educator on bullying and harassment prevention for the Red Cross's RespectED: Violence and Abuse Prevention program, and he's being deployed to schools to help empower young people.

And perhaps most significantly, in light of his first childhood experiences of the country, he recently became a Canadian citizen.

redcross.ca



"My first experience in Canada was definitely not what I now know Canada to be."


Jovey Sharma,
University of Calgary
biomedical sciences
student

Lindsay Leigh Kimmett Memorial Foundation

Programs honour the memory of a brilliant life cut short

By Karen Durrie





LINDSAY KIMMETT was just 26 and in her second year of medical school, with a promising career and life ahead of her, when she died in 2008. On a sunny morning near her hometown of Cochrane, the brilliant student and athlete was a passenger in a car that crashed as a result of distracted driving.

As Lindsay's grief-stricken parents Dianne and Kelly, and brothers Taylor and Reid, flew home from the Caribbean — where they were travelling when they got news of the accident — they were already thinking about creating a foundation to pay tribute to Lindsay's life.

"We wrote her obituary on the plane, and we knew friends were already making some kind of fund. We decided to make a foundation the day after she died," says Kelly.

Lindsay, 26, graduated as valedictorian from Cochrane High School in 1999, completed a degree in kinesiology with distinction at the University of Calgary, and later decided to pursue a career in emergency medicine.

The Lindsay Leigh Kimmett Memorial Foundation offers two award programs in Lindsay's memory.

The Dr. Lindsay Leigh Kimmett Prize for Emergency Medicine awards one graduate each year \$2,525 — the figure is significant because 25 was Lindsay's jersey number on her Beiseker Jets hockey team.

Applicants must be in their final year of emergency medicine studies, submit an essay, meet academic merit requirements and show exceptional leadership qualities and involvement in the U of C athletic program.

Meanwhile, the Valedictorian Scholarship for high school students awards \$1,000 per student to be applied toward post-secondary tuition.

The foundation has also teamed up with the Daryl K. Seaman Canadian Hockey Fund to create the Lindsay's Kids minor hockey and ringette sponsorships to help youngsters who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford to play. As well, the annual Kimmett Cup pond hockey tournament, held each January in Cochrane, raises money for the fund and awareness of Lindsay's legacy of compassion and caring.

"She was a very gifted and passionate type of person, and she absolutely would have excelled," Dianne says.

lindsaykimmett.org | kimmettcup.com ■

“

She was a very gifted and passionate type of person, and absolutely would have excelled.

”

Dianne Kimmett,
Lindsay's mother

Photos from left: More than 430 players gather at Mitford Pond in Cochrane for the annual Kimmett Cup pond hockey tournament; Cochrane marathon legend and Guinness world record holder Martin Parnell takes to the ice; U of C medical student Stuart Wiber, along with two of his fellow future doctors, continues to honour Lindsay's memory; players wore this year's baby blue jerseys well, playing a spirited tournament and raising funds for charity.

Portrait



From left, Shannon Peters, Jack Schneider, Jessica Schneider, Nancy Peters and Elizabeth Peters.

of a Family

Oilman and philanthropist Ed Galvin would be proud of the work his family's Fund is doing

By Nicole Forrest • Photography by Jared Sych

“

We've learned from our community and we've learned from each other. We do a lot of work to keep this going — that's why I'm so proud.

”

*Nancy Peters,
daughter of the late
Ed Galvin*

THERE'S AN AIR OF WARMTH and familiarity in the bustling home of Elizabeth Peters today. As several generations of Edward Galvin's descendants gather here to discuss the Galvin Family Fund, it's clear that the late oilman's commitment to Calgary is echoed in this room.

"We've learned from our community and we've learned from each other," says Nancy Peters, Galvin's daughter, who now collaborates with 10 other family members — including two of Galvin's great-granddaughters — to guide the fund. Four of the philanthropist's great-grandsons will join the group in the years to come. "We do a lot of work to keep this going. That's why I'm so proud."

Galvin, who died on Christmas Day in 2004 just a couple of weeks short of his 92nd birthday, established his Fund at The Calgary Foundation 20 years ago in memory of his late wife, Frances. Today it continues to support initiatives in areas ranging from children and youth to the environment and community-based organizations.

The Galvin Family Fund's grant recipients include the Children's Cottage Society, Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary, the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, the Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley, Parks Foundation Calgary, the Alberta Ecotrust Foundation, Pathways Community Services Association and the Federation of Calgary Communities.

The Fund recently supported an equestrian therapy project led by one of Galvin's great-granddaughters. "Seeing the excitement in the eyes of a woman who had suffered a stroke, as she touched and interacted with a horse, was very gratifying," says Shannon Peters, the Galvin granddaughter who currently chairs the Fund.

"The site visits are where you really see the passion at ground level and learn the stories of people benefiting from The Calgary Foundation," says Jessica Schneider, another of Galvin's granddaughters. During a visit to study possible scholarship donations at a high school in need, Schneider was shocked to learn many of the students couldn't read beyond a Grade 4 level.

"What became clear on that visit was that money would better serve the community if it was applied to literacy programs at a younger level."

As the Fund evolves and new generations join the table, the family expands the layers of help it can provide. "Endowments held at The Calgary Foundation will grant in perpetuity," says Elizabeth Peters, another of Galvin's granddaughters who's also a board member at The Calgary Foundation.

"As a family Fund, we appreciate the opportunity to work together in philanthropy. We currently span three generations of family members, and an objective is that the values and the mission of the Galvin Fund will continue to evolve and flourish with future generations." ■

Good Sports

Inspired to help, Dave Wilder and Adam Woodward give Calgary kids a sporting chance

By Mike Fisher • Photography by Jared Sych

ON A COLD DAY in November 2009, a teenage boy on his way to play basketball ran past Adam Woodward in a high school gymnasium wearing a pair of ratty, torn-open Vans shoes.

That moment sparked something in Woodward's heart that would become The Big Give Project, which aims to allow every student athlete in Calgary an equal opportunity to pursue excellence in the classroom, in the gym and on the playing field.

Woodward, now 35 and a senior vice-president and investment adviser with Calgary wealth-management firm Richardson GMP, founded the project and operates it with the help of his friend Dave Wilder, 32, an investment associate at the same firm.

"The kid was wearing these beat-up old shoes and I told him, 'hey, you've really got to get some basketball shoes to play right,'" Woodward says. "When he told me he couldn't afford new shoes, it made me stop and think. What could I and others do to help bring kids like this up to a level playing field?"

The results are astounding. The Big Give has raised more than \$500,000 to

help student athletes. It helped rebuild the basketball program at Forest Lawn High School and has supported other high school athletic programs in the greater Forest Lawn community. The Big Give also backed students at Ernest Manning High School, which won four city championships along the way.

"Being able to wear a uniform in organized sports can instill such pride," Woodward says. "When we started, most of these kids didn't have them."

Last year, a Big Give Project program called Kicks for Kids provided more than 100 kids in need with 15 choices of the coolest new shoes available.

Adds Wilder: "Partnering with The Calgary Foundation allows us to minimize our expenses by not creating our own charitable shell, which means we can donate 99 per cent of all funds we receive. All grants we send out are approved by the Foundation, and that 'check and balance' assures our donors that the funds are used appropriately."

Learn more and contribute at thebiggiveproject.com. ■



“

Being able to wear a uniform in organized sports can instill such pride. When we started, most of these kids didn't have them.

”

*Adam Woodward,
founder of The Big
Give project*



Board Member Profile



'Part of a great team'

Building community as a Foundation board member is a treasured gift for Ali Bhojani

By Mike Fisher • Photography by Jared Sych

“I know how unique Calgary is. In spite of spectacular growth, the culture hasn't changed. It remains a place where people look at you on the basis of your ideas, not who your dad is or where you're from.”

ALI BHOJANI came a long way from his birthplace in Uganda to find Calgary — and today, it's a city that fits him like a well-tailored suit.

"I know how unique Calgary is," says Bhojani, 47, The Calgary Foundation's vice-chair. "In spite of spectacular growth, the culture hasn't changed. It remains a place where people look at you on the basis of your ideas, not who your dad is or where you are from."

Bhojani's father moved the family to Canada from Uganda in 1972, part of the exodus triggered by dictator Idi Amin's arbitrary expulsion of Asians from the east African country. The family started out in Vancouver, Bhojani says, then moved to Calgary after three years.

Bhojani went to Western University in London, Ont., for his undergraduate degree, then to Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, before returning to Calgary to practise law.

His legal practice didn't last long, though, as he soon got into investment banking, a career in which he travelled the world and worked in London, England, for several years. Back in Calgary, Bhojani became president of Basa Investment Corp., a privately owned family investment

company. In a city where entrepreneurs thrive, Bhojani has excelled — and he's shared his talent for success by serving on The Calgary Foundation board since 2009.

"I was looking to get involved with things beyond the business world and with philanthropy," he says. "The Calgary Foundation provides for me the opportunity to bridge the business and philanthropic worlds. For me, to be able to give back and be part of a great team in a city I love is something I'll always treasure."

An early riser with abundant energy, Bhojani has usually read several newspapers before 7 a.m., when he has breakfast with his family before starting business. It's no surprise that he has worn several hats in his work with The Calgary Foundation, including serving on the grants committee and chairing the Innovative Support for Charities committee.

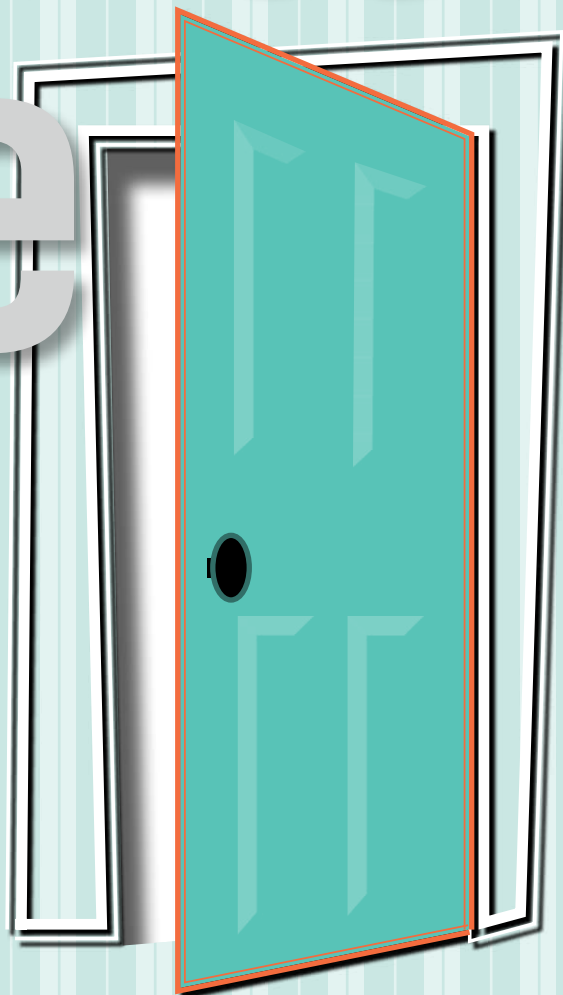
Bhojani, who's married with a nine-year-old son, also has an active life on top of his career and volunteer work. "I love spending time with my family. I'm a voracious reader. I love to golf, and we ski in the winter. We love travelling to Europe — there's so much history there."

Through the Foundation, Bhojani is building some history of his own in Calgary. ■

Opening a Brighter Future

EDUCATION IS A
KEY TO MOVING
FORWARD
FOR WOMEN
OVERCOMING
CHALLENGES

By Sara Samson



CREATING CHANGE THROUGH WOMEN'S VOICES

The challenges facing women who have been in prison are endless. Once they have served their time, returning to their former families, jobs and communities can be impossible.

"When women are sentenced to a period of incarceration, that period can end up being a life sentence," says Barbara Hagen Nyman, executive director of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary. "Many of their very important relationships have been altered — and despite the fact they've done their time, they really are held accountable for the rest of their lives for those events."

Helping women who have been in prison re-enter and navigate society is at the core of the work the Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary has done in the city for almost 50 years.

The challenges faced by incarcerated women include rampant misconceptions and stereotypes, Nyman says. "If you've

never come into contact with someone who's been incarcerated, you're really left to rely on media portrayals," she says.

The Elizabeth Fry Society developed a program called Inside Out: Creating Change Through Women's Voices to give the public a realistic picture of what life is like for a woman who has been in prison. Funded by a \$43,000 grant from The Cal-

gary Foundation in 2012, the program gave previously incarcerated women a chance to share their stories and their challenges with reintegration into the community, while breaking some of the stigma and stereotypes associated with incarceration.

While the Inside Out program itself has ended, the Elizabeth Fry Society has continued to give women a voice by creating a web presence called By the Women, or BTW, where they post their stories and artwork.

Changing people's opinions and stereotypes is challenging, and Nyman commends the women on the courage it took to come forward with their faces and names to share their stories. elizabethfrycalgary.ca



Some of the artwork created by previously incarcerated women as a way to help tell their stories.



When women are sentenced to a period of incarceration, that period can end up being a life sentence ... despite the fact they've done their time.

Barbara Hagen Nyman, executive director, Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary

\$43,000
GRANT FROM THE CALGARY FOUNDATION

TAKING A STAND AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter has spent the last four decades striving to end domestic violence in Calgary — and Lissa Samantaraya-Shivji, its manager of strategic development and evaluation, hopes the shelter isn't around for another 40 years.

Each year, the Calgary Police Service receives about 16,000 calls related to domestic violence. It's a staggering number, and even more so in light of the fact many incidents go unreported. When someone experiences family violence and turns to family members or friends for support, those people may not know how best to respond.

That's where the Take a Stand Against Family Violence Community Action Campaign comes in. "It's really focused on how we can change social responses so victims are better supported," Samantaraya-Shivji says. "We want to let people know that there are so many programs and services in this city, and that there are options for them."



We want to let people know that there are so many programs and services in this city — there are options for them.

Lissa Samantaraya-Shivji, manager of strategic development and evaluation, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter

The program, which was rolled out earlier this year, is largely about public education, teaching individuals and groups how to respond to domestic violence. Samantaraya-Shivji says social response is vital, and it's important that victims aren't blamed and that perpetrators are held accountable.

The campaign will also discuss healthy relationships and educate people on what local resources are available for victims.

The Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter has put a coordinator in charge of the campaign and started training volunteers with the help of a \$55,000 grant from The Calgary Foundation. "We want Calgarians to feel they are able to help us address this issue," Samantaraya-Shivji says.

"If we're not building that capacity in the community, how are we going to address something that is so complex?"

calgarywomensshelter.com

16,000
DOMESTIC-VIOLENCE-RELATED CALLS
TO THE CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

CRUCIAL HELP FOR EXPLOITED WOMEN

Women who have been sexually exploited need specific, long-term support to reintegrate into society. That's where the Servants Anonymous Society comes in.

Servants Anonymous has been in Calgary for 25 years, supporting women who have suffered or are at risk for sexual exploitation, including involvement in the sex trade. That key support includes housing, life skills training, child care and a work experience program.

"Some of the women have never had a job, and some of them were victims of human trafficking," says Theresa Jenkins, manager of resource development at the society. "We help them become educated, learn skills, get certifications and get past the barriers they have encountered."

Many of the fundamental workplace skills we take for granted are learned at our first jobs. But for women who have never held formal jobs, these skills don't come naturally and must be taught.



“Some of the women have never had a job, and some of them were victims of human trafficking.”

*Theresa Jenkins,
manager of resource
development,
Servants Anonymous
Society*

Servants Anonymous serves as a bridge to the workforce, Jenkins says. The women learn everything from how to dress and how to interpret body language to effective communication and time management.

They then put their learning into practice with job shadowing and six-month work experience terms.

A \$40,000 grant from The Calgary Foundation has allowed Servants Anonymous

to develop a formal curriculum for the employment program, with handbooks and training guides to ensure all women are going through the same process and come out with a solid set of skills and abilities.

"We never want to see a woman fail at a new job because we didn't cover something," says Jenkins. "This program will prevent that." servantsanon.com ■

25 YEARS
SERVANTS ANONYMOUS HAS BEEN
HELPING EXPLOITED WOMEN FOR
A QUARTER CENTURY



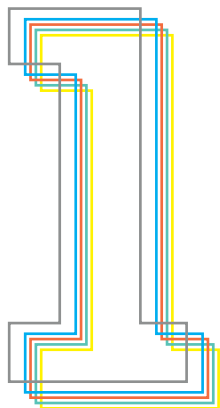
Powering up

THREE PROGRAMS THAT ARE
HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE
ENERGIZE THEIR POTENTIAL

By Jennifer Priesen

Calgary is a young city. More than 25 per cent of our population is under the age of 20 — and with an ever-increasing number of young people choosing to stay in Calgary, these individuals are key to the future of our community.

Here's a look at three initiatives that are empowering the next generation with the skills needed to keep our city moving forward.



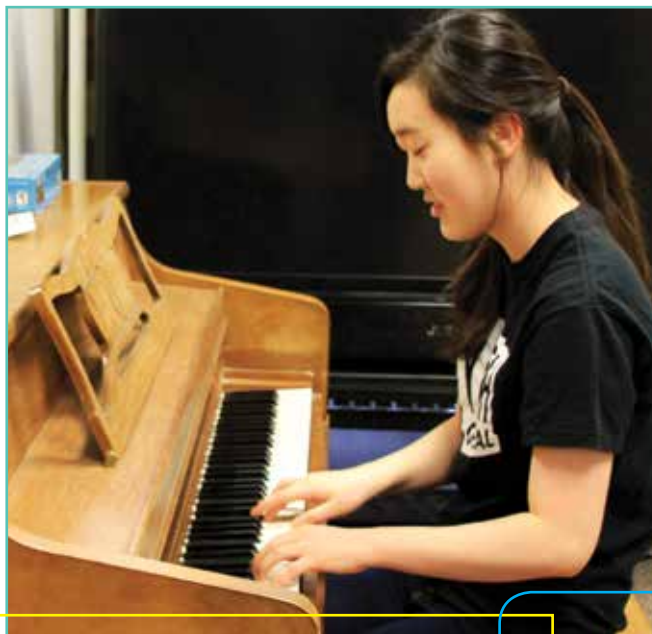
Youth Central Community Engagement

NESTLED IN EAST VILLAGE is an apartment block called Edwards Place, a low-income housing facility for seniors. The residents were often tucked away in their rooms, separated from the rest of the city. That all changed when they were visited by four high school students from Youth Central, a charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to involving young people in the community through volunteering, serving on boards and committees and learning first-hand that they can make a difference.

Through Youth Central's Community Engagement initiative, which is supported by a \$60,000 grant from The Calgary Foundation, 16-year-old Paula Ngo and three other volunteers got a chance to reach out and offer their help where they saw a need. After coming across Edwards Place, they quickly set out to build a volunteer project on their own.

"It was completely different from any other seniors' home we'd ever seen," Ngo says. "We could see how isolated they were; they didn't really have the chance to be social and interact with people."

After coming in week after week, the volunteers decided to put on themed par-



Top left, Youth Central volunteer Rebecca Yang plays piano for the residents at Edwards Place, a low-income seniors' apartment complex. Below left, Yang, at left, and Paula Ngo with Edwards Place resident Myrtle. Below, helping residents enjoy life and pursue hobbies is key to the Youth Central Community Engagement initiative.



ties each month. Almost all the residents ended up coming to the events to relax and socialize. For Ngo, arriving at Edwards Place and seeing the smiling residents waiting for her in the foyer with the door open is an experience that has changed the way she sees the world.

"To see that I have actually helped someone and made a difference in their life, no matter how small it is, has honestly helped me grow as a person," she says. "That, in itself, is a reward for me."

Through the Community Engagement initiative, Youth Central has been able to expand the number of nonprofit groups it works with by 22 per cent — from 147 to 179 — in just one year.

"That's just more opportunity for young people to come in with these amazing ideas," says Hodon Abdi, Youth Volunteer Corps program manager at Youth Central. "They have this passion and this drive, and we can help them hone those skills so they can do incredible things." youthcentral.com

2



The Mo-Bility project helps kids with disabilities including autism spectrum disorder focus on their interests and talents – what they can do, rather than what they can't.

Ability Society of Alberta Mo-Bility project

NAVIGATING SOCIAL NORMS in school is daunting for most kids, but for young people with autism spectrum disorder, being part of schoolyard interactions can be nightmarishly confusing.

Time and again, parents of children with disabilities have come to Ability Society of Alberta CEO Adrian Bohach to tell him about their kids being bullied, criticized and called clumsy. No one wants to play with them, they've said.

Realizing there was nowhere for these kids to go to improve their social skills, Bohach decided to try something new — creating a space to teach youth with disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, how to relate with the world in a positive way.

"Imagine being thrust into a society where you don't know how to interact with anybody," Bohach says. "You even have to be taught about the concept of play. It's extremely frustrating. So what we want to

do is work on the abilities that these kids do have, develop them so that they can interact and communicate."

Called Mo-Bility, this new self-sustaining project launched in January, and is the first of its kind in Canada. Equipment, funded by The Calgary Foundation's community grant of \$35,000, includes a climbing wall and a ball pit to help the children develop their balance and co-ordination.

"We want these kids to have the same kind of fun and sociability that any child will have through active play or sports," says Bohach. "We want them to have the same opportunities as everyone else."

abilitysociety.org



Cardel Place: Child and Youth Action Research Project

Making exercise less structured and more fun, young Calgarians take part in baseline testing to help determine their fitness levels and need for physical activity.

WITH A TOTAL OF 12 CHILDREN — a blend of adopted and biological offspring — maintaining a healthy level of family fitness and fun was a priority for Darlene Ruzic. But it wasn't until she took her family to Cardel Place that she was able to turn her active ideals into an active lifestyle.

In 2012, the Cardel Place recreation centre in northwest Calgary launched a 10-year mission called the Child and Youth Action Research Project, in partnership with the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University. Using scientific research, the project's goal is to search for ways to teach active living to youth and seek a return to spontaneous active play in place of formalized fitness programming.

Six of Ruzic's children, age seven to 13, have taken part in the research at Cardel Place, where their activity levels were monitored and recorded for a baseline measurement. Ruzic says it opened her eyes to the fact that some of her kids weren't as active as she thought they were.

As a result, they've made commitments to a healthier lifestyle.

The idea for the Child and Youth Action Research Project, which is part of a broader strategy called Raise the Bar, sprang from Cardel Place CEO Sue Scott's feeling that Canadian recreation programming wasn't as effective as it could be.

"Everything has become so over-structured and institutionalized — we've created

an impediment to play," she says.

With the project, Cardel Place is trying to break that monotony so future generations will stay active. The research done over the past two years will be built into new curriculum prototypes that are part of the project's next phase, to which The Calgary Foundation has given a \$50,000 community grant.

Ruzic says the experience at Cardel Place has brought the concept of "play" back to her family.

"When we first came, some of my kids were too shy or embarrassed to try new things, but when it's framed as play, they're willing," she says. "There's this incredible increase in confidence in all of them."

cardelplace.com ■

Smart and Caring



THIS SPRING, NEEPIN AUGER is wrapping up the third year of her bachelor of education degree at Mount Royal University — something the 25-year-old didn't always expect to achieve. She dropped out of school in Grade 8, and it wasn't until she was 18, and a new mother, that she felt ready to go back.

Auger was born and raised in the Calgary area after her parents left the Bigstone Cree Nation in northern Alberta to pursue their education. Her mother became a lawyer, while her father, a passionate artist, achieved a PhD in education.

But once Auger entered the school system herself, she recalls a different set of memories: children taunting her, insulting her and even dancing around her shouting mockeries of aboriginal chants.

"It's a struggle to feel that judgment on you, at any age," she says. "It doesn't matter what your background is. I came

SAGE is an educational partnership between Outward Bound Canada, Canmore Collegiate High School and the Nakoda community of Morley. It uses outdoor and experiential education to increase resiliency and confidence, and high school completion rates, for Nakoda students going to school off-reserve.

"We're starting with trying to help increase the high school graduation rate," says Dan Thorburn, vice-president of grants and community initiatives at The Calgary Foundation. "The goal is to promote the success of aboriginal youth, and we think education is key."

For Auger, leaving high school wasn't the end of her learning. She was home-schooled by her father, who instilled in her a deep knowledge of her heritage. By the time she was 18, the lessons about her culture had boosted her confidence.

At Mount Royal, she spent three years catching up on her high school studies, then joined the education program,

Growing from deep roots

Helping urban aboriginal students stay in school is the goal of a new initiative

By Jennifer Friesen • Photography by Jared Sych

from a good background with educated parents, but my name was still 'Neepin' and I was still 'the Indian.'"

Auger and both of her siblings left school without graduating, a strikingly common pattern among urban aboriginals. As of 2010, 25.8 per cent of urban aboriginal people in Alberta had dropped out of school, a stark indication of the struggles they face, and the motivation behind The Calgary Foundation's long-term commitment of up to \$1 million toward improving the success of First Nations youth.

Grants made under the Foundation's Smart and Caring Urban Aboriginal Initiative to date include funding for the Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth, in collaboration with YMCA Calgary and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary, for a multi-phase project to determine how to most effectively support the success of young First Nations people; and a grant to the SAGE (Stoney Adventure Group Experience) program.

from which she'll graduate in 2015. An accomplished painter in her own right, she published two children's books last fall with original artwork and text in English, French and Cree.

But despite her successes, Auger wonders why she's the only First Nations person in her graduating class of 70 students, and she's concerned about her daughter's educational future. She hopes this new project will help children learn about aboriginal cultures earlier on, and that teachers will instruct aboriginal students in the oral tradition they understand.

"It's good to see that someone is noticing that First Nations people need help and education," she says. "They need to have resources that help them to continue, or to go back when they're ready. I did, and it saved my life." ■

T

IAN EVEREST KNOWS first-hand the passion, the hope and the dedication of grant applicants. That's because she's been on their side of the desk.

Today, she's the senior development officer with the Calgary Zoo, but Everest's career began 16 years ago with a job in the zoo's horticulture department. Soon she moved into an influential role, heading the design team that developed the Destination Africa building.

After a stint in the education department, she worked in the zoo's Centre for Conservation Research. It was in this

about six years ago, when a colleague recommended she put her name forward. It's a move she's never regretted.

"I am humbled by all the phenomenal work people are doing. It's amazing, the different niches people are working in to make Calgary a whole and complete city. It's such an honour to be able to help the Foundation facilitate that work, and help the people working on those projects."

The committee oversees grants covering an array of environmental projects affecting everything from animal species to human society. That's what makes the role so fascinating, Everest says. In addition to her work at the zoo

Green with

Working at the Calgary Zoo helps Tian Everest relate to environmental projects

By Karen Durrie • Photography by Jared Sych

then-small department that she began applying for funding to fulfill her own passionate ideals about what the centre could do.

"Conceptualizing a project and trying to find funding for it has been very useful, because I have been in the same shoes the applicants sitting across the table are in," says Everest, chair of The Calgary Foundation's environment grants committee. "I can empathize with what they're trying to do, and what they're feeling as we review their applications."

Everest's work with The Calgary Foundation began

and with The Calgary Foundation, Everest, mother of a five-year-old daughter, loves to ride horses and compete in show jumping.

Meanwhile, it's been a challenging year in the wake of last year's flood and its impact on the zoo, but she's been heartened by Calgary's spirit.

"We were brought to tears just about every day with the hard work and donations from people out of their own hearts. It was amazing. It gave me even more respect for Calgarians and our city." ■



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”

Empathy

GROWTH AREA:
The Calgary Zoo's
senior development
officer Tian Everest is
still at home in the zoo
conservatory, where
she began her career
16 years ago.

Turning the tide



THE FLOOD REBUILDING FUND
GATHERS BROAD SUPPORT TO HELP
THOSE IN NEED BOUNCE BACK

By Sean P. Young

Following the unprecedented June 2013 floods in southern Alberta, The Calgary Foundation established the Flood Rebuilding Fund to help communities rebound.

With fundraising efforts ranging from lemonade stands to corporate gifts, two concerts and a book, *The Flood of 2013*, published by the Calgary Herald, the Flood Rebuilding Fund has received more than \$8 million in donations in under 10 months.

That money has been put to use, with more than \$6 million granted to charitable organizations for long-term community rebuilding. These grants have helped at least 150,000 people through new initiatives and by enhancing existing programs.

Here are three examples of the Fund at work in the community.

The Way In Network consists of four agencies helping seniors in Calgary. Louise Griep, facilitator with The Way In, says many older Calgarians struggled when returning to their homes after the flood.

"Many of them just got completely stymied with all the things they still had to do to get their lives back together," Griep says.

With support from the Flood Rebuilding Fund, The Way In hired two full-time social workers to canvass neighbourhoods in the flood zone, helping those in need apply for assistance, sort out insurance claims and get back on track. "We're really trying to make sure no one is slowly sinking without anyone noticing," Griep says.

The Diakonos Retreat Society serves the families of peace officers, firefighters, emergency services and military personnel.

"The experiences that are associated with emergency response professions often

have pretty big consequences for families," says Diana Festejo, Diakonos Retreat Society's CEO. "The flood added to the stress, and affected first responders' families in many ways."

The Diakonos Retreat used a grant from the Flood Rebuilding Fund to launch a youth resiliency program to run this summer. It involves workshops and recreational retreats, as well as some local mission work for the children of first responders.

Festejo says the program will strengthen the bonds within first responders' families and build confidence and leadership in as many as 1,000 young people.

The 1st High River Scouts were given a grant by the Flood Rebuilding Fund for weekly programs, camps and various outdoor activities to help youth cope with the flood's impact on their lives.

"There's not a lot left in High River, no place to swim or play hockey. It's essential that these kids have weekly activities," says Rev. Susan Lukey, group commissioner with Scouts Canada in High River.

For the about 150 Beavers, Cubs, Rovers, Scouts and Venturers in High River, assistance from the Flood Rebuilding Fund helped make up for the fact they couldn't do their usual fundraising activities in the wake of the flood.

"We wanted to take the stress off having to do a big push for those funds," Lukey says. The grant helped the young people maintain their routine and their normal recreational pursuits, despite the disaster. "The kids really need an outlet where they can just have fun away from the stresses going on in their lives," Lukey says.

"That was our biggest reason for applying to The Calgary Foundation." ■

\$8M+

in donations
to the Flood
Rebuilding Fund

\$6M+

granted to charities
supporting flood
recovery

150,000

people helped with the
Fund's assistance

New Now

Kahanoff Two

**Affordable office space for charities
will reach new heights**

By Sean P. Young



For more than a decade, the Kahanoff Centre has provided office space in Calgary's Beltline district to charitable organizations at below market rent. Today, the facility is entering a new era. In June 2012, the Kahanoff Foundation gifted the centre to The Calgary Foundation, and now a second Kahanoff building is taking shape.

"We all knew that the best home for the Kahanoff Centre was with The Calgary Foundation," says Alan Moon, board chair with the centre.

The original 11-storey Kahanoff Centre is part of the legacy of philanthropists Syd and Fern Kahanoff, who were eager to give back to the community that had seen them achieve success with their company, Voyager Petroleum. When they sold Voyager in 1979, they established a charitable foundation that has granted more than \$250 million to projects locally and worldwide.

"Syd's direction for the Kahanoff Foundation emphasized innovative investments in the community. This provided a mandate to pursue projects like the Kahanoff Centre," Moon says. "It's of very high value — a building devoted strictly to charitable activities."

The Calgary Foundation CEO Eva Friesen says being entrusted with the centre was an honour: "This generous gift aligns so well with our mission of building a strong charitable sector."

As part of that mission, construction has begun on the 12-storey Kahanoff Two building, with Decidedly Jazz Danceworks as anchor tenant. Kahanoff Two, set to open in November 2015, will continue the primary vision of the Kahanoff Centre, giving charities office and meeting space at around 75 per cent of market value.

The 60,000 square feet of new office space in Kahanoff Two will be available shortly after the building opens, and all new occupants will be moved in by summer of 2016.

kahanoffconference.com ■

About The Calgary Foundation

WHO

The Calgary Foundation is thousands of people, families, donors, charitable organizations, community leaders, volunteers and staff members, all striving to strengthen and enrich our city and the surrounding area.

WHAT

The Calgary Foundation does three important things:

1. It applies resources, creates meeting places and fosters partnerships to build a strong charitable sector.
2. It offers expertise and advice to donors to help establish charitable Funds, most endowed in perpetuity.
3. It provides grants to hundreds of nonprofit organizations working in all sectors of the community.

WHEN

1955 The Calgary Foundation is founded by a group of forward-thinking citizens led by Doug Hawkes, Grant MacEwan, Con Ashby and Ed Bredin.

1979 A million-dollar fund-raising dinner gives The Calgary Foundation the boost that allows it to become the effective grantmaker it is today. The fundraiser is spearheaded by Harry Cohen and Hayden Smith.

2013 The Calgary Foundation receives a record-breaking donation of \$117 million from the estate of Calgary icon Doc Seaman.

WHERE

The Calgary Foundation serves registered charitable organizations in Calgary and surrounding areas, from Bragg Creek and Cochrane to Airdrie and Okotoks. Our fundholders support causes right here in Calgary, as well as organizations across the country and the globe.

WHY

The Calgary Foundation exists to nurture a healthy, vibrant, giving and caring community that values diversity and supports all people, a community where citizens are engaged, and where a strong and sustainable charitable sector serves current and emerging needs. ■



THE CALGARY
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thecalgaryfoundation.org

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