

SPUR

Calgary Foundation / Spring 2015



5

**festivals that feed
Calgary's soul**

**Sporting
chance**

**Athletic programs
are strengthening
Canada's
communities**

**Man
power**

**Fostering a new
generation of
responsible males**

Taking action
**Eileen Kwan is passionate
about improving lives**



Calgary Foundation 1955 to 2015

Milestone Moments

FOR COMMUNITY, FOREVER: the Calgary Foundation is a community that supports all people; a community who addresses needs now and in the future through power

1964

20 founding donors make gifts of \$5,000 each: Calgary Foundation asset base: \$100,000

30TH
Anniversary
Celebration

1985

"I Love Calgary Because..." project

To mark the Foundation's 30th year, local personalities, beginning with Grant MacEwan, publish articles about their love for the city.

1955



1979

Hayden Smith's Million Dollar Dinner: assets rise from \$120,000 to \$2 million overnight

1997

Gift of \$2 million from Galvin Family increases in 1997 to \$3 million

2000

\$1 million anonymous gift establishes Neighbour Grants Program

2001

Gift from David Bissett: \$8.2 million

Gift from J.C. Anderson: \$11 million

2002

Gift from Bob Kolstad: \$11.7 million
2007: +\$8 million

2004

Gift creates Mother Teresa Fund: \$14 million

2005

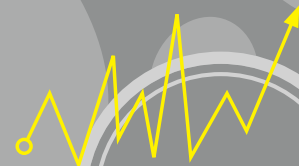
First major grant: \$1 million to Talisman Centre

50TH
Anniversary
Celebration

Forever Funds are launched to focus on areas where the Foundation can have the greatest impact.

2007

Calgary's Vital Signs launches



JULY 5, 1955:

First board meeting, Grant MacEwan is named inaugural chair of the Calgary Foundation.

APRIL 6, 1955:

the Calgary Foundation is incorporated

GROWING WITH CALGARY

1955 ASSET BASE: \$100,000

2015 AS

on builds a vibrant, healthy
ere a strong charitable sector
ful philanthropic partnerships.

2013

2013: Flood
Rebuilding Fund sees
\$9 million contributed
by 2,800 donors



**Gift from Doc Seaman:
\$117 million**

Largest gift in community
foundation history

2013: The first
issue of *Spur*
magazine is
published



2013: Gift of
\$5.5 million
from
Kahanoff
Foundation

2011

King Edward School
is purchased for
redevelopment as
an arts incubator

2012

Kahanoff Centre for Charitable
Activities is gifted to the Calgary
Foundation; second tower with
Decidedly Jazz Danceworks is planned

2014

Major & Signature
Grants program
launches: \$3.5
million granted to
three projects

Community
Knowledge
Centre launches

2015

60TH Anniversary Celebration

Host of Community Foundations
of Canada Conference

Calgary Foundation's
new logo for 2015



SET BASE: **\$800 MILLION+**

GRANTS TO DATE: **\$385 MILLION**



What will this ad be saying in 2075?

We know it will celebrate a 120-year history of donor and endowment stewardship. It will speak to the evolution of grantmaking in a hyperconnected, global context. And we know we'll be celebrating our ever-evolving community engagement initiatives because the way we do our work will always change. But the common thread running through everything we do won't: **how deeply we KNOW the charitable sector.** We understand how community works, what makes it flourish and when and where it needs help, now, and far into the future.

This year, as we celebrate turning 60 we're already looking ahead to the next 60. What will this ad be talking about in 2075? We invite you to help us write that story today.

calgaryfoundation.org



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Dramatic moment:
One field trip was all it took to hook Patti Pon on live theatre.

Board member Patti Pon on the set of Vertigo Theatre's *The Haunting*, written by Hugh Janes. Set designed by Narda McCarroll, with thanks to Rose Brow. Photographed by Stephanie Landry.

FEATURES

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Calgary's festival scene is more vibrant than ever. From music and books to science, engineering and performance art, these annual events fire our city's spirit.

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It's called the Canadian Hockey Fund, but Doc Seaman's legacy supports a range of community-building sport programs.

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Two programs are helping boys and men learn to make healthier, more responsible choices.

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John Aldred's belief in giving has become a way of life for his entire family.

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Esther Honens passed away in 1992, but her energy lives on in the pursuit of musical excellence.

NEW NOW **P30**

Calgary's pulse is taken; Jane's Walk offers insights into our city; Canada gets ready for a sesquicentennial.

Six decades of building community

IN 1955, a group of concerned Calgarians noticed two things happening in our city: a lack of funds to address social problems, and a number of estates that had been willed to obsolete causes. The money in those estates sat dormant while worthwhile community initiatives went unfunded.

When those citizens established the Calgary Foundation, they weren't thinking about a 60th anniversary. They were looking to build something that would be sustainable as long as there were citizens needing help. They were thinking big — imagining a foundation that would support their community forever.

This special commemorative issue of *Spur* features a fold-out cover, where you're invited to explore our 60-year journey and many of the milestone moments along the way.

While we're proud to mark this milestone of 60 years, the best thing we can do to honour that early audacious vision is to look ahead, as they

did, and think about ways to better our community forever.

That means engaging citizens in community-building, at both the philanthropic and grassroots levels. It means working with donors to help them achieve their charitable goals.

It means deepening our knowledge of what makes a city thrive and engaging citizens in community-building initiatives like Calgary's Vital Signs.

It means taking the lead in creating tools like the Community Knowledge Centre where any charitable organization (not just those funded by our grants) can tell its stories.

We can't do it alone — our founders knew that in 1955. So today, our work going forward is focused on helping people collaborate to make Calgary better.

When all people have the opportunity to make their community better, it already is. Here's to the next 60 years. And the next! ■



The best thing we can do to honour that early audacious vision is to think about ways to better our community.

Eva Friesen
President & CEO,
Calgary Foundation

SPUR

Calgary Foundation / Spring 2015

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P.13

Calgary's festival season brings out our city's character.





Grants help create community buzz

Grassroots programs grow small ideas into something big

By Mike Fisher



SOMETIMES YOUR BIG IDEA JUST NEEDS A LITTLE HELP to become a reality. That's where Stepping Stones and Neighbour Grants programs come in.

Neighbour Grants, the Calgary Foundation's original

grassroots granting program, is now 15 years old.

By applying for a Neighbour Grant, resident-led projects can receive up to \$5,000 to bring people together to achieve a common goal or share experiences, create a sense of belonging and build partnerships.

Neighbour Grants have provided \$1.8 million to 380 small projects across Calgary, and the record shows how a modest boost can work to strengthen the bonds of neighbourliness.

Stepping Stones are small but important grants of \$100 to \$600 that help neighbours undertake creative community projects.

Stepping Stones grants are awarded to projects that encourage residents to become more involved in their neighbourhoods, putting ideas into action and creating opportunities.

Stepping Stones is a partnership between the Calgary Foundation and First Calgary Financial. ■



Soul of the City Neighbour Grants

A "special edition" of the Neighbour Grants program, Soul of the City Neighbour Grants were launched in April 2014 by the Calgary Foundation and Calgary Economic Development. Check out the inspiring video, *Our City, Our Soul* at calgaryfoundation.org – you'll find the video in the Grassroots Grants section. ■

For more information including application forms, visit calgaryfoundation.org.

A Powerful Lift

Owen Hart Foundation offers opportunities for those facing hardship

By Heather Setka • Photography by Stephanie Landry

"IT'S ALWAYS GOING TO HAVE A SAD BEGINNING,"

says Martha Hart, PhD, director of the Owen Hart Foundation. Drawing a key message from the aftermath of the tragedy that led to the foundation being established, Hart

hopes to send the message: "It's not easy, but you can overcome challenges."

Hart's husband, Calgarian professional wrestler Owen Hart, died in 1999 when a stunt at an event in Kansas City went awry. Less than two years later, his wife started the Owen Hart Foundation at the Calgary Foundation as a tribute to his legacy and to their two children. "Through her grief, Martha instinctively knew that supporting others was the best

way to honour Owen," says Kerry Longpré, the Calgary Foundation's vice-president, communications.

The Owen Hart Foundation has today exceeded \$3 million in giving. Its signature initiatives, the Home Ownership Program at Momentum and the Scholarship Fund at Forest Lawn High School, are focused on helping people change the trajectories of their lives. "They were created out of adversity to help people work through their own adversity," Hart says.

Ivan Nguyen and Serene Omar both say the scholarships they received from the Owen Hart Foundation, awarded to students with financial need who show "motivation toward improving their lives through education," were life-changing.

Nguyen emigrated with his family from Vietnam in 2010 at age 15. He says the experience was a shock. "You feel like an outcast."

Slowly, he learned English, made friends and sought mentorship from his teachers. After being encouraged to apply for scholarships, Nguyen received \$4,000 from the Owen Hart Foundation. Without this kind of support, financial constraints would have prevented him from pursuing post-secondary studies.

"It's just really awesome," says Nguyen, now a University of Calgary student. An active community leader and volunteer, the 20-year-old plans to work toward a doctorate.

For Omar, the scholarship she received in 2005 was a tremendous boost.

"It helped set me off on the right track, and I've continued with that same momentum." Today, the 27-year-old University of Lethbridge grad loves her job as marketing director for a beauty-supplies company.

Omar, who continues to live in the Forest Lawn community, says Hart "ignited the flame" in her to give back. She started a program within her company to support national charities, raising more than \$85,000 to date. "I'm proud to say the Owen Hart Foundation is a big part of who I am and what I've become."

Hart says success stories like those of Nguyen and Omar are "incredibly moving and humbling."

Recently, the foundation celebrated its 15th anniversary (which included a documentary that's won film festival awards), and Hart is grateful she teamed up with the Calgary Foundation from the beginning.

The Calgary Foundation oversees administration for the Owen Hart Foundation, allowing Hart to focus on raising funds, choosing recipients and spreading a positive message.

"No words can describe just how wonderful it is to know that you have actually helped someone lead a better life," Hart says. "It's just truly amazing." ■



“

I'm proud to say the Owen Hart Foundation is part of who I am and what I've become.

”

Serene Omar



Ivan Nguyen,
Martha Hart and
Serene Omar.

Championing the Arts

Patti Pon, President and CEO of Calgary Arts Development

By Jennifer Friesen • Photography by Stephanie Landry

“

I believe when art is infused in the lives of our citizens, the power to build community grows exponentially.

”

WHEN PATTI PON WENT ON A GRADE 8 FIELD TRIP to Theatre Calgary, she had no idea it would change her life.

The stage with actors in elaborate bird costumes is one of her most vibrant memories. Now president and CEO of Calgary Arts Development and a Calgary Foundation board member, Pon recalls it as the moment when her love for Calgary theatre began.

"There was something in that, a spark that has coloured and influenced my life," she begins. "It's all so vivid to me. I remember the stage manager talking about what it was to create theatre, and thinking, 'OK, I guess I need to be involved in theatre.'"

This passion led her to study theatre at the University of Calgary and work as an intern at Alberta Theatre Projects.

At the time, Pon says, there were just a few arts and theatre groups in the city. Over the years, she's been part of that number increasing by leaps and bounds. In 2014, Calgary Arts Development invested in almost 160 organizations.

"I really attribute that growth to a creative energy. There's something in the DNA of our city that enables artists to express their voices."

Pon joined the Calgary Foundation in 2004

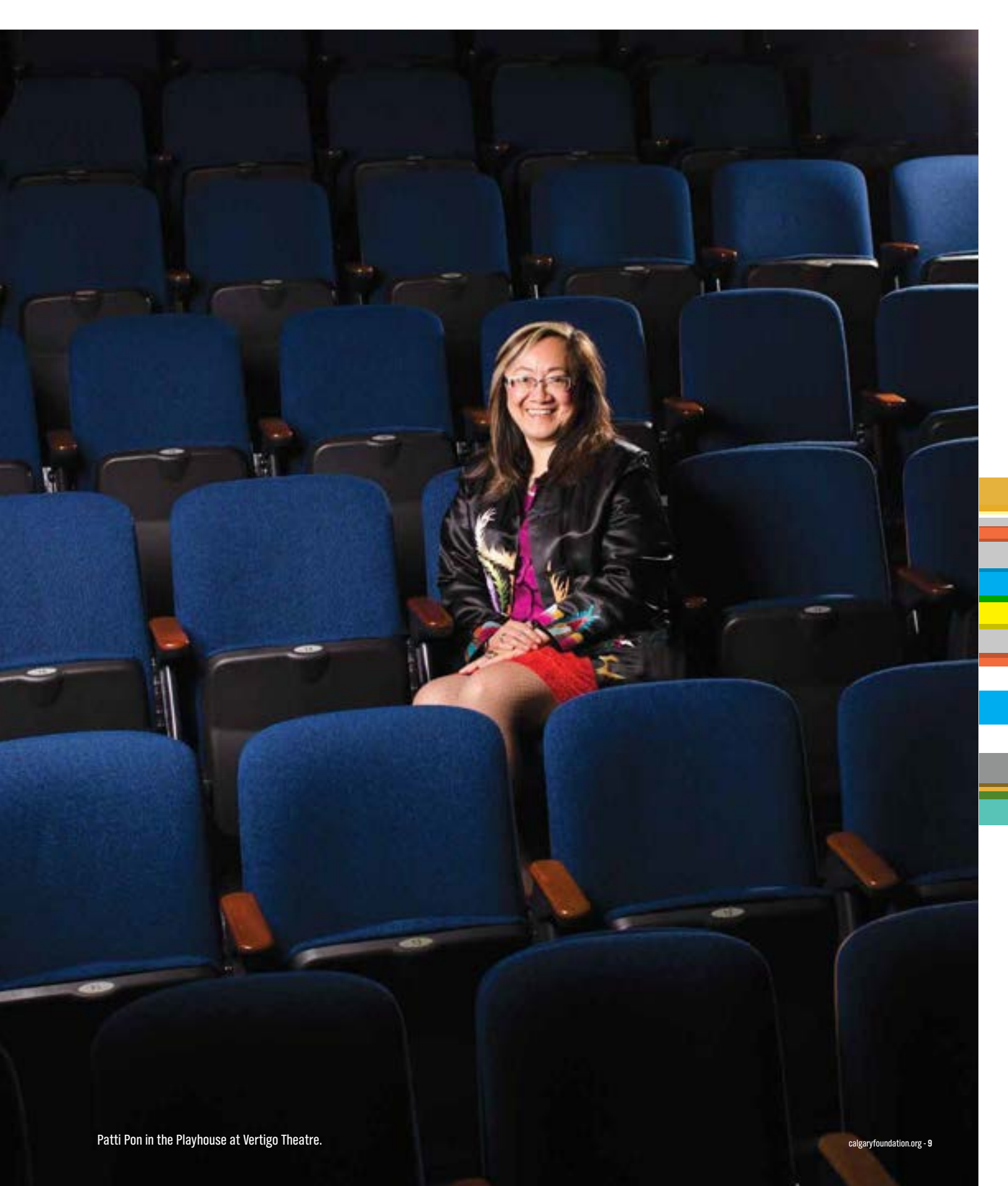
as a volunteer with the Education and Lifelong Learning Community Grants Committee. She became a board member in 2011 and has played a key role working with community donations and fostering the arts.

"The Calgary Foundation's board of directors attracts the 'best of the best' in community leaders, and we certainly have that in Patti," says Calgary Foundation president and CEO Eva Friesen. "She is an outstanding leader in the arts world and her contributions to our board are invaluable."

Pon was chosen to head Calgary Arts Development in 2013. A founding member of Shakespeare in the Park, she has also worked with Arts Commons and the Alberta Performing Arts Stabilization Fund.

Her dedication and contributions to Calgary's theatre community were recognized in 2013 with the Harry and Martha Cohen Award and in 2012 with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

"I believe when art is infused in the lives of our citizens, the power to build community, to build cities, grows exponentially," she says. "Art is a great connector. It allows citizens to see each other as people, and to contribute to making the community a better place." ■



Patti Pon in the Playhouse at Vertigo Theatre.

A Better



Volunteers are motivated to make a difference in the local community

By Paula Trotter • Photography by Jared Sych

SEEING THE CHANGE THAT HAPPENS when you take action to show that you care about other people is powerful motivation for volunteers like Don Thurston and Eileen Kwan. Both are passionate about helping others through the Calgary Foundation — because they see the remarkable difference it makes in the community.



Place



“

I've been involved in this for a long time and I can say things are getting better.

”

DON THURSTON WOULD RATHER NOT STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT.

The veteran Calgary Foundation volunteer and past board member does so, albeit reluctantly, only so he can shine the light on the outstanding work and achievements of organizations that have received grant funding from the Foundation.

"Measuring impact is hard to do, but I've been involved in this for a long time and I can say things are getting better,"

Thurston says. "The Foundation really does make a difference. People work so unselfishly and with so much dedication and enthusiasm, and such big brains. It's humbling."



Thurston, who chairs the Calgary Foundation's Daryl K. Seaman Canadian Hockey Fund Committee, says Seaman himself is a great source of inspiration. The late Calgary oilman and philanthropist was "a real person, a humanist," Thurston says. "From start to finish, he was all about staying in the game."

The Fund benefits not just hockey, but any worthwhile amateur sport program, not only locally but across Canada. Thurston

says this reflects a belief in sport as a "great equalizer that brings people together."

Thurston also participates on the Neighbour Grants Advisory Committee. He says he's often awestruck by the power of the grassroots programs these grants support. Recipients are small groups of passionate people — communities in their own right, Thurston says — who bring forth unique ideas, from community kitchens to Little Free Libraries, that have broad impact across the city.

"Community is everything," he says. "It fosters growth."

“

Programs that serve kids, youth and families are really where the opportunities are to improve lives.

”

EILEEN KWAN IS PASSIONATE ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

Kwan spent the first part of her career working in the youth corrections system, where she experienced first-hand the power of helping young people change their lives.

"It was inspiring to see how we could provide them with an environment in which they could thrive and relax and be kids again, by helping them see how they can be different,"

she says. This past fall, after three years on the Calgary Foundation's Children, Youth and Families Committee, Kwan was named its chair.

The committee meets twice a year to review applications and determine which programs will be recommended for funding by the Calgary Foundation's grant committee.

Kwan has long been driven to work with young people because of their potential. "Programs that serve kids, youth and families are really where the opportunities are to improve lives," says the mother of two.



Part of the joy Kwan gets from volunteering is seeing how quickly financial contributions from the Foundation can have an impact on the lives of youth in difficult circumstances.

She cites the Louise Dean Centre, which provides education and other services to Calgary teens who become pregnant (the centre has received financial support through the

Foundation's contribution to the Catholic Family Service).

"I think it's so awesome that these young mothers have somewhere to go, that they can continue to go to school. That's so important for that child and mom."

Kwan also draws inspiration from seeing the progress of people she's encountered in her career — such as one young person with whom Kwan had worked in the corrections system, then met again by chance many years later.

"He remembered me. He thanked me. It was so great — he had his own family and children. If one can turn out like that, that's pretty awesome." ■

Turn to page 20 to learn more about the nationwide and local organizations that have improved the lives of kids through sport thanks to funding from the Daryl K. Seaman Canadian Hockey Fund.



Celebrations of Inspiration

CALGARY'S ANNUAL FESTIVALS ARE
FORGING THE CITY'S CHARACTER

By Heather Setka

The throngs of people who take in Calgary's arts and music festivals each year know they'll see phenomenal talent and globally recognized performers. But they don't see the inspired behind-the-scenes contributions of energy and generosity that make it all happen.

"Festivals represent all the good things this city is about," says Dan Thorburn, the Calgary Foundation's vice-president, grants and community initiatives. "They allow the community to celebrate something together." Here's a look behind the scenes at some of Calgary's signature events.



We go beyond bouncy castles. We celebrate creativity for children and break down educational barriers.



Calgary International Children's Festival attractions include Squonk, featuring a gigantic mascot and a five-piece rock band.



CALGARY INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL, May, Olympic Plaza and Arts Commons calgarykidsfest.ca

EACH YEAR AT THE CALGARY INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL, YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EXCITED and inspired by dancers, singers, players, multimedia makers and much more.

"We go beyond bouncy castles," says festival director Brian Dorscht.

"We celebrate creativity for children and we break down educational barriers."

Dorscht says the 2015 festival will feature smaller, more intimate performances alongside grand-scale ones.

For example, one-woman show *Potato Needs a Bath* offers a memorable puppet show for preschoolers. Meanwhile, headliners Squonk bring a 40-foot mascot and a rock band.

And there's everything in between, including the creators of popular TV program *Wild Kratts*, brothers Chris and

Martin Kratt, in Calgary for the first time.

Rain or shine, the Calgary International Children's Festival gives kids — along with their families and caregivers — a chance to meet their favourite performers and learn from them through interactive workshops. "It makes what they see more real," Dorscht says. "It encourages them to create and invent. It opens the world to them."

To help throw open the door to this thrilling creative world, the Calgary Foundation provided grant funding for both the 2014 and 2015 festival seasons.

The Calgary Folk Music Festival is an annual gathering of music lovers and a cultural celebration.

CALGARY FOLK MUSIC
FESTIVAL,
July, Prince's Island Park
calgaryfolkfest.com

THE CALGARY FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL IS A WORLD ALL ITS OWN. "It's how the world should be for four days," says the festival's artistic director, Kerry Clarke. "Prince's Island becomes like a public square for the weekend."

The festival, which has taken place each year beginning in 1980, boasts an eclectic lineup. "Calgarians have open ears and minds," Clarke says.

Folk Fest began as a response to Calgarians' interests, and it has since grown in stature to both reflect and shape our city's cultural scene.

Among the 75 acts scheduled for 2015 are current roots, blues and folk artists Shakey Graves and Rhiannon Giddens, longtime favourites Loudon Wainwright III and Buffy Sainte-Marie and a wide range of others. Other programs run alongside the main event. The popular Boot Camp, for example, sees internationally known artists mentoring budding musicians and songwriters.

Programs such as Boot Camp likely wouldn't exist without the Calgary Foundation's support, Clarke says. The Foundation also provided significant flood recovery funding in 2013, and helped fund the launch of Festival Hall in Inglewood.

Clarke says working with the Calgary Foundation is collaborative. "It's honestly one of the best processes I've been involved in."

“The Calgary Folk Music Festival is how the world should be for four days each year.”



“We felt if we could dream it here, we could do it here and the city would embrace it. And it has.”

Calgary Opera's Pirates of Penzance

OPERA IN THE VILLAGE,
August, East Village
calgaryopera.com/bigtop

FOR SOME, THE WORD “OPERA” CONJURES IMAGES OF WHITE GLOVES, DAINTY GOLD BINOCULARS AND SECLUDED BALCONIES.

But at Calgary's Opera in the Village, it's more like jeans, cotton candy and families. “It's a different experience from what our main audience would encounter,” says Calgary Opera spokesperson Erin Kergen. In fact, 60 per cent of Opera in the Village's audience is new to opera, she says. The intention is to expose a range of people to the art form, with the hope of increasing attendance during the regular opera season.

Canada's first and only outdoor opera,

the event is a great fit for Calgary, says brand manager Ryan McCaffrey. The city's growth has increased its appetite for the arts, and Calgary is also “a ‘yes you can’ city,” he says. “We felt if we could dream it here, we could do it here and the city would embrace it. And it has.”

In 2015, its third year, Opera in the Village will feature *The Mikado*, a two-act comic opera, as its main-stage event. The children's showcase is *The Scorpion's Sting*, which features puppets, Egyptian gods and a shimmering gold set. Kergen says the stage is an attraction in itself. Under an open-air, Cirque du Soleil-style tent, a stage in the round gives the audience 360-degree exposure to the performance. This only-in-Calgary event is thanks in part to a grant from the Calgary Foundation to expand the festival's impact.

BEAKERHEAD,
September, multiple locations
beakerhead.com

IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO PIN DOWN EXACTLY WHAT BEAKERHEAD IS,

but witness any aspect of the inspired concoction of art and science and you'll understand. Organizers call it a spectacle rather than a festival, and the event fuses the creative and the technical.

For example, says marketing and communications director Michelle Htun-Kay, a Beakerhead event might ask and answer the question “What happens when you put a dancer, a scientist and an engineer together?” Last year, one of these “smash-ups” included a flame-spitting 7.6-metre-tall mechanical octopus that invaded a street dance party. Yes, really.



Beakerhead is an eye-opening, ear-catching, thought-provoking happening that mixes art and science into a potent brew.

“Calgary is an engineering hub, which is part of Beakerhead’s focus.”

“Calgary is an engineering hub, which is part of Beakerhead’s focus,” Htun-Kay says. Add the community’s “dynamic art and culture movement,” and the chemistry is undeniable; Beakerhead is poised to become a signature Calgary happening.

Htun-Kay adds that organizations from the University of Calgary and Telus Spark to the Banff Centre and many others are actively fostering Beakerhead’s growth.

For 2015, Beakerhead’s masterminds hope to expand on their first two years of

success by spreading the spectacle into communities beyond Calgary’s urban core with events in Sunalta, Garrison Woods and Currie Barracks as well as at Chinook Centre.

“One of our long-term goals is to reach a wider audience.”

The Calgary Foundation has played a part in the glorious madness by providing funding for strategic planning. “The Calgary Foundation lends the greatest value,” Htun-Kay says.



Wordfest events, like 2014’s “Writing About War” with author Kim Thúy, right, bring writers and audiences together.

WORDFEST,
October, multiple locations
wordfest.com

A MILESTONE LIKE 20 YEARS CALLS FOR CELEBRATION, ESPECIALLY FOR ONE OF CANADA’S LARGEST LITERARY FESTIVALS.

And Wordfest will be celebrating, as the annual event builds this year’s programming around aboriginal voices, says executive director Jo Steffens.

Wordfest became a reality in Calgary and the Bow Valley thanks to the collaboration of local organizations including the Writers’ Guild of Alberta, the Calgary Public Library and Mount Royal University and the Banff Centre.

Wordfest has both inspired and reflected the growth of Calgary’s appetite for culture and literature.

Among the 100-plus writers on the bill for 2015 are two Canadian greats, Drew Hayden Taylor and Richard Van Camp. Steffens says both are engaging writers with “fantastic” presentation skills. The event is supported by the Calgary Foundation with a supporting grant that helps to “celebrate our cultural identity and collective heritage,” Steffens says. ■

Next-Generation Donors



“

Canada had been very good to me, so it was time to put something back.

”

Charitable Spirit

John Aldred's passion for giving has become a family trait

By Jennifer Priesen

EVERY YEAR, ON A WINTER SATURDAY MORNING just a few days before Christmas, John Aldred would bring his three children to the nearby Safeway store. There, young Jennifer, Jessica and Ryan would each pack a hamper full of food and toys to donate to a family for Christmas dinner.

"My dad's background wasn't one of affluence growing up, so the fact that there were more unfortunate people than us was always part of his awareness," says Jennifer, now a mother herself. "He taught us that there are simple ways to help your community and be aware of the needs of other people. That was a major part of how we grew up."

John moved to Winnipeg from England in 1967 as a certified agricultural engineering technologist, thinking the vast Canadian prairies would be a perfect fit for his skills and spirit. "I found out two things when I got there," he says. "The first was that it was freezing cold, and the second was that no one recognized my education and they didn't know how to value it." A trades career was looked on as "the lowest of the low," he adds.

But that didn't stop him from working his way up. He began as a mechanic's helper, and after moving to Calgary became a heavy-duty mechanic, then president of Pamco Ltd. By 1980, he had founded Enerflex Ltd., supplying industrial equipment to the global oil and gas sector.

John always insisted on giving back. Because of his respect for education, especially in the trades, he began in 1998 to give to community organizations including the

Calgary Foundation. Today, his entire family is involved as donors with the Foundation, and John has worked closely with SAIT Polytechnic to boost trades training. In 2010, he and his wife Cheryl made a record \$15 million donation to expand and modernize the school.

"Canada had been very good to me, so it was time to put something back," he says. "But I wanted it to be something I had a passion for. I didn't want to just write a cheque and be done with it."

Adds Jennifer: "It was so inspirational to see that one individual can make such a big difference. It was a cause he really valued and felt passionately about; it was a coalescing of everything he ever believed or taught us to believe."

It's been a long time since John took his kids to collect food for hampers, but Jennifer, Jessica and Ryan have since taken on community projects of their own and are involved with annual giving through the Calgary Foundation.

Jennifer's charitable work has focused on education, particularly helping gifted children reach their potential, while Ryan and Jessica have done international projects such as building a school for girls in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Through these and other initiatives, John and Cheryl have seen their charitable spirit flow through to the next generation.

"I've always tried to make giving a normal part of their lives," John says. "I'm happy we're all involved with something so meaningful." ■



Facing page,
John Aldred;
Above from top,
his children
Jessica, Jennifer
(with her daughter)
and Ryan.



A Sporting Chance

Doc Seaman grants support community-building through athletics

By Paula Trotter

THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF REASONS to celebrate the late Daryl (Doc) Seaman. He was a Second World War pilot and an Officer of the Order of Canada, held two honorary law degrees and is in the Hockey Hall of Fame, the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame and the Canadian Oilmen's Hall of Fame.

In Calgary, he might be best remembered for his key role in bringing both the 1988 Winter Olympic Games and the National Hockey League to Calgary. He was also a

trailblazing yet modest philanthropist with a passion for health and wellness. His love for sport will forever make a difference in the lives of young Canadians through his contribution to the Calgary Foundation in the form of the Daryl K. Seaman Canadian Hockey Fund.

This endowment fund awards grants across the country, but its reach goes beyond hockey. The following amateur athletic programs have received grants from the Daryl K. Seaman Canadian Hockey Fund to help them teach important life skills through sport.



Reintroducing First Nations youngsters to lacrosse as part of their culture is helping to build stronger communities.



Right to Play: Lacrosse for Development

LACROSSE WAS FIRST designated the official National Game of Canada before Confederation, in 1859. Today it's the official National Summer Sport, with hockey its winter counterpart.

The origins of the game can be traced back about 1,000 years, to when hundreds or even thousands of First Nations men would converge on the open plains to play the game. Today, the Iroquois Nationals are the only team representing a non-sovereign country that is permitted to compete as one at the World Lacrosse Championship.

These historic ties to the game are in part why Right To Play Canada brought lacrosse to remote First Nations communities as part of its Promoting Life Skills in Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) program.

"One of the objectives of the program is to introduce, or even reintroduce, lacrosse as a cultural game, to tell them about the history and help them understand what it means, and to continue to live everything that lacrosse embodies in their culture," says Lauren Simeson, who oversees the Lacrosse For Development program with Right To Play Canada.

Through partnerships with the National Lacrosse League and local communities — including elders who speak of the historic significance of the game — the

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The goal of all the programs is to use sport as a hook, a way to teach them life skills and confidence.

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program introduces lacrosse as a fun and healthy summer activity.

"The goal of all the programs is to use sport and play as a hook, a way

to teach them life skills and confidence," Simeson says.

Right To Play Canada and the community each pay half the salary of a local person who serves as the program's mentor.

The mentor works with professional NLL players, including Andrew McBride of the Calgary Roughnecks — role models who volunteer their time, travelling to the communities to offer coaching and skill development.

Community mentors are then able to carry on the tradition of the game through practice and play.

The Lacrosse For Development program has been up and running for the past three years and was brought to four communities this past year thanks to funding from the Daryl K. Seaman Canadian Hockey Grant.

Courage Canada founder and president Mark DeMontis with a camp participant.



Courage Canada Hockey for the Blind Youth Camp

MARK DEMONTIS WAS 17 and playing competitive hockey when he was diagnosed with Leber's optic neuropathy, a rare condition that took away the central sight in both his eyes within six months.

He felt robbed — not just of his sight, but also of his youth and his dream to play in the National Hockey League.

But after a time of grieving, DeMontis discovered blind hockey in his hometown of Toronto and, he says, he "saw the light." He wanted others who are blind and partially sighted to share his joy in the game that shaped his life. So at age 21, DeMontis started Courage Canada Hockey For the Blind.

"We're using hockey as a catalyst to break down a lot of barriers that people are facing," he says. "We're celebrating our great game and also trying to work together to meet the challenges we face daily in the blind community."

DeMontis says blind hockey has the

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We're celebrating our great game, and also trying to meet the challenges we face daily in the blind community.

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the referee's whistle blows.

The charity began by offering learn-to-skate programs and blind hockey exhibitions, and eventually the annual Courage Canada National Blind Hockey Tournament. More than 75 players competed in this February's three-day meet in Toronto, up from 45 when it began two years ago.

DeMontis, though, had long wanted to start a youth camp. Thanks to funding from the Daryl K. Seaman Canadian Hockey

same intensity as the sighted version. The main differences are that the puck is larger and slower and makes noise, and there's a no-drop faceoff — the puck is put on the ice and players compete for it once

Fund at the Calgary Foundation, his dream came true last summer. Twelve players age 12 to 18 from across Canada converged on Burnaby, B.C., for the inaugural six-day skills camp.

Along with practices, the boys and girls were introduced to baseball and soccer and went to a B.C. Lions football game.

"They're doing this because for one whole week they can be like every other kid in Canada," DeMontis says. Eight of the participants at summer camp ended up playing in this year's annual national tournament — but the camp was about much more than just skill development.

"The camp was a really good opportunity for these kids and their parents to learn that they're not alone," DeMontis says. "It wasn't as much about hockey as it was about life. Being passionate on the ice is one thing, but being passionate in life is even better."

Calgary Police Service: Power Play

A HOODIE THAT SAYS “HOCKEY MOM” across the back may seem like a simple, very Canadian gift from a boy to his mom.

But as Rayn Boyko shares the story of a young boy who gave his mom this present, you get the sense it was anything but simple. In fact, it was momentous.

“It’s important for these kids to know they’re able to participate in hockey,” says Boyko, a constable with the Calgary Police Service. She’s speaking of the young people who participate in Power Play, a free weekly drop-in program that provides equipment and ice time to kids between the ages of six and 17 who have financial and cultural barriers to hockey.

About 95 per cent of the kids in Power Play are newcomers to Canada. In fact, the more than 400 kids who have gone through the program (there are about 120 in this, its fifth, season) come from upwards of 20 different countries. Our nation’s beloved sport plays an important role in helping these children transition to life in Canada.

“Sometimes when people come to Canada, they feel like they’re on the outside looking in,” Boyko says. “They feel like something as quintessential to Canadian culture as hockey isn’t available to them.”

An accessible program like Power Play can help young immigrants and refugees

feel part of Canadian culture — so much so that a child would buy a Hockey Mom sweatshirt for his mother’s birthday.

Power Play also gives the Calgary Police Service an opportunity to build trust among individuals who may have only had negative experiences with police.

“Some of them come from countries where police are not trusted, and for good reason,” Boyko says.

“So this program is a good opportunity

for us to grow our relationship with the kids and parents.”

While Power Play counts on a number of partners — Hockey Calgary provides weekly ice time at Max Bell Arena and Calgary Transit provides free public transportation for participants — Boyko says the program is only possible with the support of the Calgary Foundation through the Daryl K. Seaman Canadian Hockey Fund. ■

“Sometimes when people come to Canada, they feel like they’re on the outside looking in.”



RECENT GRANTS

▶ **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF SAINT JOHN, N.B.**, to support its Top Corner Hockey Club, a 20-week learn-to-play program giving children age eight to 12 an opportunity to play hockey despite financial barriers.

▶ **FIT ACTIVE BEAUTIFUL**, Hamilton, Ont., to support the launch of its FAB Girls Empowerment Program, which encourages high school-age girls to remain physically active, engage in healthy living and develop teamwork and sportsmanship.

▶ **THE TEMISKAMING FOUNDATION**, New Liskeard, Ont., to support the Timiskaming Tumblers Gymnastics Club’s coach training program, which will give more young people the opportunity to keep active through recreational gymnastics.

▶ **NDINAWEMAAGANAG ENDAAWAAD INC.**, Winnipeg, to support the North End Hockey Program, which uses organized hockey as a vehicle to enhance the quality of children’s lives while teaching social responsibility, leadership skills and confidence.

SHE'S WELL KNOWN in the international music community for the festival named in her honour. But many Calgarians have no idea of the impact Esther Honens has had on people's lives, both locally and globally — even after her death in 1992.

"She loved this city," says Heather Bourne, interim president for Honens, the non-profit organization named for its benefactor. "And she wanted to give something to this city."

That gift is the Esther Honens International Piano Competition, which offers rising stars the chance to develop their passion and expertise. Today offering \$100,000 in prizes and a world-renowned artist development program, it's a lasting tribute to a woman who loved music and her community.

Honens' life reads like a classic novel. Born Esther Smith in Pittsburgh in 1903, she moved to Calgary at age

she wanted to build something similar here.

A major contributor to the arts throughout her life, Honens began work on her legacy competition in the late 1980s. In 1991, she created the inaugural competition with a \$5 million endowment gift from the Calgary Foundation.

Diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, Honens felt her health failing drastically. The competition was moved up a full year so she could see it realized, taking place Nov. 13 to 28, 1992. It brought pianists from all over the globe — Austria, Brazil, Yugoslavia, and Taiwan, to name a few — to compete for a \$20,000 grand prize.

It wasn't just about money. Honens hoped to showcase Calgary's community spirit, while nurturing international talent. "She seemed to understand the value of technically brilliant pianists and the importance of reaching deeper," Bourne says.

A Force of Nature

Esther Honens' spirit continues to support musical excellence

By Heather Setka

five with her parents and older sister Ruth. The sisters began piano lessons early, and Esther "lived her life in [a] state of musical love," writes author Iris Nowell in her book, *Women Who Give Away Millions*.

However, Honens wasn't a professional musician herself. Rather, she was a successful entrepreneur. She married late, in her early 50s, to real estate investor John Hillier. Through land developments during an early oil boom, Honens became a "wealthy woman," Nowell writes.

Hillier died in 1971 and Esther married again, at age 71, to rancher Harold Honens.

Her lawyer, Don Hatch, characterizes Esther Honens as a "careful and astute" businessperson as well as a "gracious and wonderful" woman.

"She was really quite remarkable," Hatch says. He remembers the moment Honens proposed a music competition for Calgary. She'd attended a competition in Texas and

Hatch says Honens watched the competition from a private booth at the back of the Jack Singer Concert Hall. "She was quite delighted and very grateful," he says. "It filled her with satisfaction and pride."

Honens died five days later. The competition's first laureate, Yu Wi, was flown in from Argentina to play at her funeral.

Her lasting legacy includes grants that support other musical events and organizations, including the Calgary Performing Arts Festival, the National Music Centre, the Calgary Choral Society, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and much more.

Honens' tombstone in Calgary's historic Union Cemetery reads simply: In Loving Memory.

"There are forces of nature in this world," Bourne says. "And she was one of them." honens.com ■

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It wasn't just about money. Honens hoped to showcase Calgary's community spirit while nurturing international talent.

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The New Masculinity

Helping men make healthy choices

By Mike Fisher

In one part of the city, a group of teenage boys gathers to discuss what it means to be male in the 21st century, and how to set an example by welcoming differences between people.

Meanwhile, on the other side of town, men work together to take the lead in ending domestic violence.

Communities thrive when their members' mental, emotional, social and physical health is cared for. That's why some innovative programs in the city are addressing the root causes of issues such as domestic violence and homophobia through the lens of masculinity. The Calgary Sexual Health Centre's WiseGuyz and the Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary's SHARE (Sustaining Healthy and Awesome Relationships) programs reach out to boys and men. Both organizations receive support from the Calgary Foundation.



Breaking out of the 'man box'

INSIDE AN OLD STORAGE SPACE on Edmonton Trail that's been converted into a classroom, 10 young men in their early teens sit in a circle. A boy with blue Adidas shoes and classic Justin Bieber hair sits forward, his elbows on his knees. Another wearing a baseball hat and a black AC/DC t-shirt leans back, listening to WiseGuyz program coordinator Blake Spence.

Each WiseGuyz session starts with a question. Today, it's this: How would you respond if a close friend or family member told you he or she were gay? For some, the question floats out there for consideration. For others, it hits home with a thud.

"I was in the closet a good two years before I went to WiseGuyz," says a past participant. "I just felt so terrible. But then, being in WiseGuyz and seeing how it was accepted — it was OK to be that way — I felt so much better about myself."

A key program of the Calgary Sexual Health Centre, WiseGuyz thrives on

inclusivity. Teenage boys who appear to be very different from each other get together in a setting where anything and everything is up for discussion and there's no judgment.

Up and running since 2010 in six Calgary schools, the WiseGuyz program originated when the Calgary Sexual Health Centre noticed statistics that suggested sexual health efforts were missing the male half of the equation. Programs were focused on helping girls and women, and teen pregnancy rates had indeed

fallen, but the rate of sexually transmitted infection was still on the increase, as were rates of domestic and sexual violence. And despite increased awareness, homophobia and bullying also continued in schools.

Clearly, the existing initiatives were not addressing the role of boys and men in creating a healthier community.

Calgary Sexual Health Centre executive director Pam Krause says society struggles to understand masculinity. "We see men stuck in the 'man box,' so to speak, and discouraged from having experiences outside of it. Young men often fall into a bystander role. They learn to be complicit with what's going on with their peers, to shut up and carry on. We're helping change that."

The acceptance and new perspectives encouraged by the WiseGuyz program

coordinators can translate into a powerful new capacity for critical thinking.

WiseGuyz tells boys that they have the power to change social norms. Participants learn alternatives to their peer groups' accepted behaviours. They raise their level of respect for young women, as well as for others who may appear to be different.

The Calgary Sexual Health Centre is working on scaling a plan for the program to make it work across Canada. "We get requests from across the country to start a WiseGuyz program," Krause says. "Right now, our plan is to keep growing across the city and Alberta."

More than 200 junior high school boys have gone through the 18-week program, consisting of two-hour weekly sessions during school hours, since it began.



We see men stuck in the 'man box,' so to speak, and discouraged from having experiences outside of it.

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Pam Krause





The fourth R: Relationships

HEALTHY PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

are a community's foundation, says Vic Lanton, manager of the Ethno-Cultural Council's SHARE program. Lanton has been examining traditional models of masculinity as a risk factor for unhealthy relationships for the past 25 years.

"The men we work with can see that it doesn't take a social worker to advocate against domestic violence," he says. "They see that men can be leaders."

There are 16,000 domestic-violence-related complaints to police each year in Calgary. That's almost 44 per day, 365 days

a year. Research shows that people who have been exposed as children to situations such as domestic violence and addictions have a much higher risk of social and health problems in adulthood, Lanton says.

"Our goal is healthier men, healthier role models and healthier families."

The Ethno-Cultural Council facilitates the voices of 47 ethno-community groups in Calgary, providing training to "brokers" within various communities who can help solve thorny issues.

"We work with community leaders and members using their existing strengths," says Martha Fanjoy, the council's programs and policy manager. "Vic Lanton's work with boys and men really follows this philosophy. From sexual health to domestic violence to parenting and fatherhood, we are working on solutions."



“There is reading, writing and arithmetic, but we also want boys and men to learn the very important fourth R — relationships.”

Vic Lanton

Lanton says traditional stereotypes have a powerful impact on both sexes.

"Women are more likely the ones to seek help when there are problems, but men are taught they are the stronger sex; they are seen to be the breadwinners," says Lanton, who works with boys and men in diverse Calgary communities including those with origins in Somalia, Zimbabwe, Vietnam and the Philippines among many other nationalities and backgrounds.

"When men come to Canada and discover, say, their credentials are not accepted, they might become very frustrated," he says. "When there are relationship troubles, there can be violence, too. There is reading, writing and arithmetic, but we also want boys and men to learn the very important fourth R — relationships."

"When we meet with men, we discuss how masculinity affects their health and the ways they can take care of themselves. We also discuss the importance of their relationships with their partners."

Dramatic changes don't happen overnight, of course, but Lanton is seeing improvements. Recent reports show that more than a dozen ethnically diverse men were involved in Participatory Action Research on Engaging Men in Domestic Violence Prevention and more than two dozen youths completed basic healthy relationship sessions at Father Lacombe High School.

These statistics are just a slice of the work the council is doing to engage boys and men in promoting healthy communities through healthy relationships. ■

Vital Signs 2015

By Mike Fisher



Taking the City's Pulse

CALGARY IS A GROWING, vibrant city with a lot to celebrate — but not all Calgarians share equally in the prosperity. So how are we really doing? Are you happy with all the aspects of your community?

The ninth annual Vital Signs survey is your chance to start conversations, take action and have your say in helping to shape Calgary. Each year, the survey generates information that goes into the Vital Signs report, which presents research and statistics, and rates our city based on how people feel about their lives as Calgarians.

The Vital Signs project measures community vitality, identifies trends and assigns grades in areas critical to quality of life.

Vital Signs is part of a national community checkup coordinated by the Community Foundations of Canada. This year's survey launches May 20.

TO TAKE THE SURVEY and add your voice to the continuing discussion about where Calgary excels and where there's room for improvement, visit calgaryfoundation.org; [#vitalsignsyyc](https://twitter.com/vitalsignsyyc)

Take it to the streets with Jane's Walk

Walk the walk, and the talk, while you explore Calgary streets during Jane's Walk, a global weekend of free neighbourhood walking tours led by community volunteers. It honours the legacy of urbanist, writer and activist Jane Jacobs. The Calgary Foundation is the driving force behind Calgary's Jane's Walk, which has seen volunteers introduce thousands of people to more than 70 Calgary neighbourhoods in the walk's first seven years.

This year's walks will take place May 1, 2 and 3. janeswalk.org; [#janeswalkyyc](https://twitter.com/janeswalkyyc)



Imagination150: Get Ready for Canada's Sesquicentennial

Canada will be 150 years old in 2017, marking its sesquicentennial. How do you want to celebrate? Follow the conversation at i150.ca. You'll learn how you can get involved in a bash that's looking beyond the birthday to envisioning how the country can continue to evolve. Canada's sesquicentennial will be celebrated from coast to coast, but activities will be rooted in communities. A guidebook available on the i150.ca website offers ideas on engaging the people in your community about their hopes for 2017. ■

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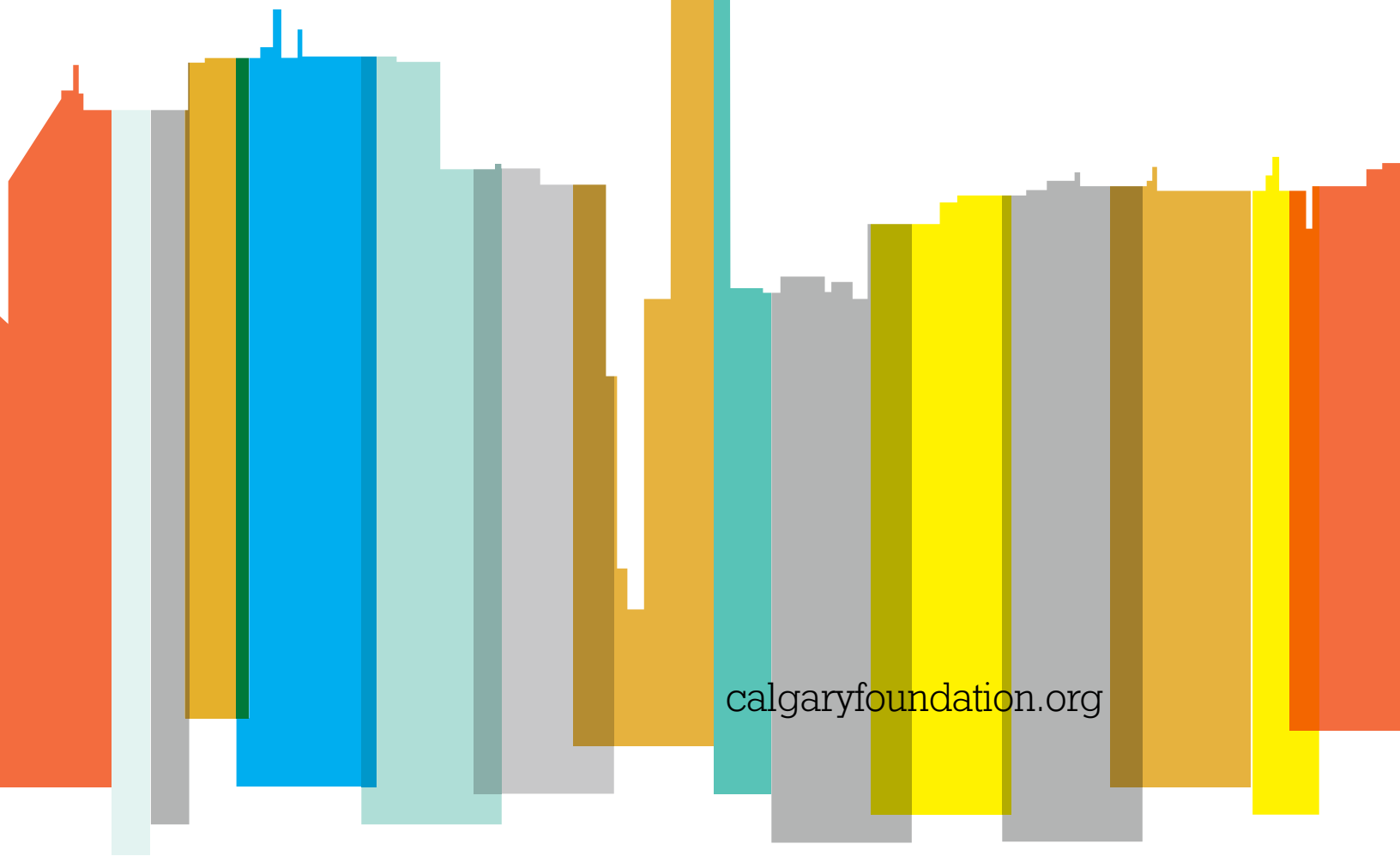
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