



Closer to Home

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Uniting vulnerable children, youth & families

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Dear Friends of Closer To Home,

Closer to Home is sending out a new newsletter format which can now be received quarterly via email! If you are reading a printed copy of this newsletter and you would like to be on our email list, please let us know via email at funddevelopment@closerhome.com and do your part for the environment!

Quick Links

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Upcoming Annual General Meeting

Mark your calendar for our Annual General Meeting

During this year's Annual General Meeting on Oct. 19 at 6:00 pm at Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church (3020 - 51 Street SW, Calgary, AB) we will be celebrating our fifteenth year of service to children and families in the Calgary area. Our special guest speaker, musician and conductor John Kim Bell, will help Closer to Home recognize the support we receive from our community and funders.

Mr. Bell was the first North American Aboriginal person to ever conduct a symphony orchestra and has also conducted Broadway musicals. He produced, co-composed and directed the first-ever full scale Aboriginal dance production, In The Land Of Spirits. Mr. Bell also founded the Canadian Native Arts Foundation which provides professional development opportunities for Native youth in the arts. His career in the arts continues as a conductor, writer and producer.



At the AGM we will also unveil our annual report, recognize our donors, celebrate those practitioners who have achieved certification and provide special recognition to our volunteers. Appetizers, coffee, tea and punch will be available at 6:00 pm, with presentations and our special guest speaker starting at 7:00 pm. We hope you'll be able to join us.



Plan to celebrate

NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

October 4-10, 2010

Families Connecting through Stories

For a free online resource kit filled with information, ideas and activities, please visit www.frp.ca/nfw.



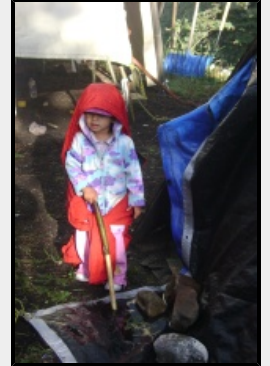
Summer Camping Trip

Kiwehtata / Healthy Families go camping

Earlier this summer, several families involved in the Closer to Home Kiwehtata and Healthy Families partnership went camping in the Ghost River area near Morley, Alberta. Families slept in teepees and took part in activities at the sweat lodge, including a customary sweat that was facilitated by an elder who shared stories and other traditions.

All weekend long, the children had endless fun with only sticks, sand and their imaginations. Parents enjoyed seeing their children playing outside and swimming in the nearby river. The families were grateful to learn more about their culture and how to incorporate traditions into their daily lives. One of the mothers said, "I have not been out of the city since I was 12 and it was great to spend time with my children and build memories they will remember for a lifetime."

A big thanks to Closer to Home program coordinator Sandy Smokeyday for her hard work organizing the event and for making the trip an amazing success.



Closer to Home Hosts Summer Celebrations

This summer, CTH hosted two very successful events!

Our annual appreciation barbeque in June was extremely well received by the staff, foster parents, children and friends of Closer to Home. Great weather and a carnival theme made for a fun filled afternoon. Special thanks to Baxter's Welding, Astro Jump and About Staffing for their generous donations.



Thanks also go to the Calgary Fan Force for volunteering to come down and spread a little Star Wars flavour.

Congratulations to Minoush Rafie for winning our first annual Chili Cook-Off; we look forward to seeing who will challenge her title next year!

Thank you to all the volunteers that made this day possible.



Closer to Home kicked off Stampede in style with a pancake breakfast at the beginning of July. It was a great morning of friends, family and steaming hot pancakes. The joy on the children's faces as they took part in face painting, live music, henna and other good times made the morning unforgettable.

Thank you to Greco's Pizza and M & M Meats for their donations and also to the Batter Boys for volunteering their time to cook up the delicious pancakes.



Thanks to everyone who participated for your continued support! We look forward to seeing everyone next year.





Become A Foster Parent

Closer to Home seeking foster families

Closer to Home continually struggles to find foster families in Calgary and surrounding rural areas for children ranging from newborn to 17 years old.

The Closer to Home foster care program offers a supportive family environment to children and youth who have been removed from their families and placed into the care of Calgary and Area Child and Family Services. Children in foster care have the opportunity to experience a normalized home setting located within their own community, allowing them to access the support they need with minimum disruption to their daily routines. Our foster care program focuses on the reunification of these

children with their biological families.

All foster parents receive free in-depth training, 24-hour on-call support and tax-free financial compensation. A bonus will be provided to all staff and foster families who refer qualified potential foster families.

Be the difference...Become a foster parent!

Call 403-2FOSTER (403-236-7837), email fostercare@closerhome.com or check our website at www.calgarycloserhome.com for more information.



Focus on Donors

Our donors make a real impact

Over the past few months we have received several donations that have made a real difference to Closer to Home's children and families.

Wonderful welcome bags provided by Harvest Operations Corp and hand made blankets crafted by numerous other community members, help comfort children who are placed in our foster homes and group homes. The personal items in these bags help make the transition to out-of-home placements much easier for the children.

The Bank of Montreal donated \$2,200 for two children to attend hockey and dance classes. This donation will help children who are new to Canada develop friendships and participate in activities they would otherwise be unable to access.

Many donors generously supported Closer to Home's annual BBQ and Stampede breakfast this summer. Their contributions ensured the children we support had the opportunity to be with other kids who have similar experiences and helped them feel like part of a larger community. These events also allow Closer to Home to include the community in our celebrations.

Ensuring that our facilities are well maintained for the children and families in our programs is always a challenge. But thanks to the Nickle Foundation and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation we have been able to upgrade the Pekewe Program. This makes the facility safer for the children and is a more pleasant environment for the families who live there while parents acquire new parenting skills.

As we prepare for the Christmas season we hope to continue to receive the contributions needed to support children and families. We are again hosting the Hair Salon Challenge. Last year several hair salons "adopted" children at Christmas and we hope that more salons will take up the challenge this year. In addition, the Calgary Academy and other private donors adopt children and families in the community. This year we are hoping to double the adopt-a-family program to meet the growing needs of children and families at Closer to Home Community Services. If you or someone you know would like to adopt a family, please contact our Fund Development Department at (403) 543-0550 ext 225 or funddevelopment@closerhome.com.

Another great need is for a van for our Pekewe Program. We have already received one-third of the money for the van from the Cohen Foundation and other private donors, and we are seeking donations for the remainder of the cost. We are hoping to have a vehicle in place by the end of the year to transport very young children and their parents to doctor's appointments and other important meetings.

Thanks again to all of our donors for their on-going support that helps children and families in need.

Donor Appreciation

Closer to home would like to recognize our recent sponsors and donors!



*The Harry & Martha
Cohen Foundation*

*The Nickle Family
Foundation*



Would you like to make a donation?

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____
City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

My Gift Information

\$ 250.00 \$ 100.00 \$ 75.00 \$ 50.00 \$ 25.00 Other Amount _____
 Cheque Visa Mastercard

Card # _____ Expiry Date _____

Do you wish to receive further correspondence from us such as Yes
our quarterly newsletter, donor recognition, or upcoming events? No



Donor privacy information: Closer to Home Community Services respects the personal privacy of our donors. We do not sell or share our donor list with other organizations. We use your donor information to support the processing of your gift and for ongoing fundraising activities. As part of our recognition program, we may publish donor names in Closer to Home publications such as our annual report or quarterly newsletters. If you prefer to remain anonymous, please contact our Fund Development Department at (403) 543-0550 ext 225. If you do not wish to receive further correspondence from our agency, please check the box provided above.

3507A - 17 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T3E 0B6

Charitable Registration #: 89823 5759 RR0001

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