

Summer 2011



Closer *to* Home

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Uniting vulnerable children, youth & families

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Closer to Home AGM Mark your calendar for our Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 24 at the South Calgary Community Association (Upper Hall), located at 3130 – 16 Street S.W. We will unveil our annual report, recognize our donors, celebrate those practitioners who have achieved certification and provide special recognition to our volunteer of the year.

**We hope you'll be able to
join us!**

To RSVP or for more information please call 403-543-0550 ext 0 or email reception@closerhome.com

Dear Friends of Closer To Home,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Closer to Home newsletter. Inside you'll find information about upcoming fall agency events, including the 34th Annual Teaching-Family Association conference being hosted this year by Closer to Home in beautiful Banff. Also note our AGM is coming up and we would love to see you there! We hope you enjoy our feature article about one of our valued practitioners as well as some summer highlights.

Conference hosted by Closer to Home

CTH staff attending Teaching-Family Association Conference

The 34th Annual Teaching-Family Association Conference is being hosted at the spectacular Fairmont Banff Springs from November 7 to 9, 2011.

We are excited to have Dr. Bruce Perry, M.D., Ph.D. as the event's keynote speaker. Dr. Perry is an internationally recognized authority on children in crisis. He is the Provincial Medical Director in Children's Mental Health for the Alberta Mental Health Board. In addition, he is the Senior Fellow of the Child Trauma Academy, a Houston-based organization dedicated to research and education on child maltreatment. Dr. Perry has been consulted on many high-profile incidents involving traumatized children, including the Columbine, Colorado school shootings, the Oklahoma City bombing, and the Branch Davidian siege.

Teaching-Family Association 34th Annual Conference



November 7-9, 2011
Fairmont Banff Springs
Banff, Alberta
CANADA

For more information about the conference, including the full schedule and registration options, visit <http://teaching-family.org/conference.htm>

Practitioner Spotlight:

Megan Pelletier – Closer to Home Community Services

Vulnerable Aboriginal families with children up to three months old are referred to the Closer to Home Healthy Families Program for support. Many of these families face financial insecurity, lack of knowledge about child development and attachment, isolation and domestic violence. Some are challenged by addictions.

Megan Pelletier is one of the two Home Visitors in this Closer to Home program. Her work with families has brought change, growth, knowledge and hope to the many young families she has worked with over the past year. When Megan started in this role she brought experience and knowledge of child development and parenting skills. However, she has also taught people self-advocacy, how to build healthier relationships, how to clean and maintain their homes, and how to enroll in school. The treatment plans for these families include a variety of goals and skills that address the family as a whole, with a focus on building and sustaining success.



Megan approaches each new learning agenda with enthusiasm and determination. With her support, many parents have achieved things they never thought were possible. Their babies and children are growing up in healthy, safe and stimulating environments with parents who are much more confident, skilled and supported than they ever would have been without Megan. Parents are going back to school, finding financial security and taking good care of their children – significant outcomes that will carry on for future generations!

All of us at Closer to Home are proud of Megan and the work she does in the Healthy Families Program. She is the kind of person Mother Teresa was talking about in this quote:

“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.”

CTH Summer Fun

A knee-slappin’ good time at our Annual Stampede Breakfast

Closer to Home held a successful Annual Stampede Breakfast on July 5. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event and who came out to support it. A special thanks to The Batter Boys for the fantastic pancakes, Greco Pizza for the tasty sausages and Crystal Glass for their kind help with storage and set up. Gloria McRae and Marvin Monroe provided excellent music that was enjoyed by all.

Without these businesses and individuals as well as the Closer to Home staff, we would not have been able to see so many smiles as the children and adults alike filled their breakfast plates, listened to the entertainment and enjoyed each other's company.

Yahoo!





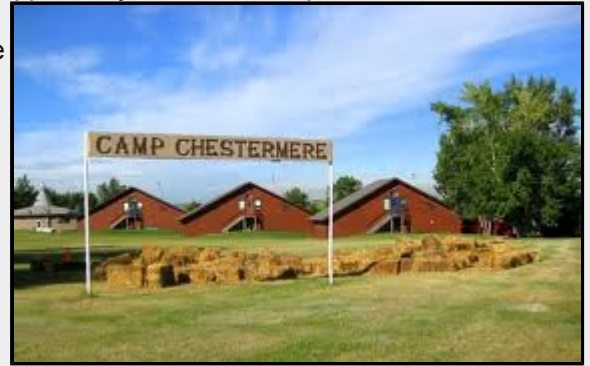
Summer Camp

Kids experience Camp Chestermere

Closer to Home youth have had the great opportunity to attend Camp Chestermere, a Christian youth camp on Chestermere Lake, east of Calgary, at a discounted rate for several years.

The camp experience has had a huge impact on many of our youth:

"Camp Chestermere was so fun! I really enjoyed singing the Christian camp songs and the counselors were great at listening to me. I am gonna miss Puma [Camp Leader]. I would like to be a leader one day." - youth, 12 years old



"I liked [Camp Chestermere] so much that I want to be a counsellor in training next year!" - youth, 13 years old

"I had a lot of fun with Frowns [counsellor]. I loved tubing!" - youth, 9 years old

Summer camp helps kids develop useful social skills and gives them a chance to make life-long connections that provide a lasting impression.



Closer to Home staff and kids would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Camp Chestermere and all of their counselors for providing such a valuable experience for our children.

Thanks for the memories!



Donor Appreciation

Closer to home would like to recognize our supporters from the last two quarters!

- 360178 Alberta Ltd
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- Astro Jump Canada
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- Sandra Smokeyday
- (Continued on page 4...)

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 No



www.closetohome.com
Ph: 403-543-0550



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Please send completed form to:
3507A - 17 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T3E 0B6

Charitable Registration #: 89823 5759 RR0001

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