



Change is Inevitable... Closer to Home has a New Mission Statement and Logo

Dear Friends of Closer to Home,

If you glanced over this newsletter, you may have already noticed a different look to our logo and a new mission statement. Yes, we redesigned our logo and reframed the mission statement to better reflect who we are and our work with children, youth and families. The new changes come at a time of organizational growth and improved strategic directions, especially as we head toward our 20th anniversary in 2015.

These new identities still carry the essence of earlier versions but also emphasize innovation and creativity to fulfill our mission and meet the evolving needs of children, families and communities.

The bold CTH lettering and its house symbol in the new logo embody Closer to Home's commitment to families by bringing help 'closer to home' and its yellow contour line represents a path of growth and change. The new mission statement "Empowering Families to Stay Together" continues to be the overriding goal for every service we provide.

Thank you to community members, staff and Board of Directors who contributed to make these changes possible. Melodi Petriego, owner of Savvy North Web Design, deserves special recognition for helping CTH design a new logo that we are proud to carry forward.

Spread the Good Cheer Adopt-a-Family 2014!

Presented by:

MCQUISTON
EXECUTIVE
WEALTH GROUP



RBC Wealth Management
Dominion Securities

Yes, it is that wonderful time of the year again. Christmas 2014 is just around the corner and as we know many children become joyous and lit up by simply thinking about the season. They associate the season with joy and merry making and of course gifts from Santa! Unfortunately Christmas is also stressful for many low-income families in Calgary and surrounding areas as they are not able to purchase gifts for their children.

Since Closer to Home works with these families throughout the year and help them to address every challenge they face, we coordinate the Adopt-a-Family initiative, presented by McQuiston Executive Wealth Group, RBC Dominion Securities, to support them during a highly stressful time.

With your generous support last year, we were able to provide Christmas gifts to 90 low-income families including 217 children. This year again, we appeal to our donor community to support Closer to Home in bringing joy to these families. Your gift, large or small, can make the difference for a family or child in need.

If you would like to know more about Adopt-a-Family or want to make a contribution please email us at aaf@closerhome.com or call 403-543-0550 ext. 235.

Thank you for your kind support, Happy Holidays!

Free Lunch Project: Volunteer Parents Prepare Lunch for Kids

Closer to Home organizes various programs through its West Central Resource Centre to help families and children overcome difficult situations they come across. Some of the programs are also aimed at enhancing their knowledge and skills like developing parenting skills, money management and babysitting. The Free Lunch Project is one innovative program that helps promote healthy eating habits among families and also encourages and promotes the culture of volunteerism in the communities in which they live.

In collaboration with the Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids, and the Calgary Public Library, the Free Lunch Project provides free lunch for children in Wildwood, St. Michael and Rosscarrock schools in the southwest community of Calgary. What is unique about this program is that the parents of the children registered in the program prepare lunch for their kids themselves! But before they enter the kitchen to prepare lunches for their children and their friends, the parents first complete a food safety training course through Alberta Health Services which ensures that the parents are able to make the lunch packs safely. Soon after the training is complete, each parent volunteers weekly to prepare lunch for their kids.

Meet Mai Elsayed, she is one of the volunteer moms who prepares lunch for the 40 kids enrolled in the program this year. She wanted to volunteer in the program because she could learn about food safety, get to know and make new volunteer friends and most importantly contribute to the well-being of the kids in her community.

"We enjoy making the lunch and the kids are even happier to get lunches" Mai said about her volunteer experience. When asked about her lunch pack among the ones she makes, it turned out to be the veggie sandwiches. "They are healthier and nutritious", she told us. Mai has two kids enrolled in the program who are fortunate to get delicious lunches prepared by their mom!

If you would like to know more about the Free Lunch Project or about other programs and services offered through Closer to Home's West Central Resource Centre, please call Minoush Rafie at 403-543-0550 ext. 224.



Mai (left) prepares lunch with other volunteer moms

Donor Appreciation

Closer to Home would like to recognize our supporters from the last quarter (*July 1, 2014 - August 31, 2014*)

Barb Henning • Cristin Forbes-MacFarlane • Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church • Eric Lumsden • Erin O'Reilly
Geoffrey McMillan • George Demitropoulos • James Lytle • James Evans • Jan Racicot-Huska • Jennifer Head • Justin Senft
Jytte Maleski • Kaitlin Nelson • Karen Olivier • Kids Up Front Foundation • Knox Presbyterian Church • Koral Evans
Layl Alnawwab • Linda Kolner • Marilyn McMillan • Minoush Rafie • Nick Rafie • Prakash Thapaliya • Ramada Airdrie
Hotel & Suites • Sarah and Campbel Sinclair • Stantec Planning and Landscape Architecture • The Happy Birthday Project
Trinity Lutheran Quilters • United Way of Calgary, Donor Choice Program

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Group Home Practitioners - Full Time (Live-in)

This live-in position (based in Airdrie) is for a couple able to provide intensive treatment for six youth in a family home environment. The Teaching Parents' primary objective is to encourage youth to develop to their maximum potential and enable them to successfully integrate back into their families and communities. As 'parents', you would be responsible for these youth as you would your own children with days off and vacation time provided.

Family Teacher - Full Time (Live-in)

This position in your own home is ideal for an individual or couple looking to have a positive and lasting impact on children and their families. Living and working in your family home environment with one youth, the Family Teachers connect with the youth and model the skills needed to be part of a healthy family. You would assist with daily activities and routines, implement treatment planning and manage crisis and escalations when needed.

For detailed job descriptions and to apply please visit the career section at our website:
www.closetohome.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Adopt-a-Family Volunteer Driver - Gift Delivery

Adopt-a-Family Volunteer Gift Shopper

Contact us at volunteer@closetohome.com and see our website www.closetohome.com for more details.

Celebrate National Child Day on Nov 20th

"Children are the future of every nation," is a popular saying. National Child Day has been celebrated across Canada on Nov 20th since 1993 in recognition of the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. By ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991, Canada made a commitment to ensure that all children are treated with dignity and respect. This commitment includes the opportunity for children to have a voice, be protected from harm, be provided with their basic needs and have every opportunity to reach their full potential.

Closer to Home's mission aligns with the same spirit of improving the well-being of children and it does so by providing them with compassionate, positive and unconditional support so they are active participants in their own lives and in their families and communities. National Child day on Nov 20 emphasizes the need to work collectively for children and reminds us about the important role they play in society.

From attending children's events to making a visit to the zoo with kids, there are plenty of activities to help you commemorate this important day and to celebrate children all year long!

Some ideas to get you started:

- Organize a **neighbourhood picnic** with your children and get to know other families in your community.
- Involve your children in **donating** some of their good quality toys to a community group.
- **Make some cards** for your children to give to their friends at playgroup or school using their own artwork or handprints.
- **Plant a tree** for your baby and watch it grow with your child. It will be their own special tree.
- Write a **letter to your child** about what makes them special, date it and keep it in a treasure box for them. Each year you could add a photo, memento or new letter. What an amazing gift this will be when they are older!

YES! I WILL EMPOWER FAMILIES TO STAY TOGETHER.



I would like to make a MONTHLY GIFT of:

\$30/mth \$20/mth \$15/mth \$10/mth Other \$ ____ /mth

OR, here is my SINGLE GIFT of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ ____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Closer to Home may recognize my name in the Donor Recognition section of CTH publications such as this quarterly newsletter.

Method of Payment:

My cheque made payable to "Closer to Home Community Services" is enclosed.

I would prefer to use my credit card.

For credit card donations, we will call you to verify information an

Cardholder Name _____

Card # _____

Exp ____ / ____

Cardholder Signature _____

Please return your completed form to:

3507A 17 Ave SW Calgary, Alberta T3E 0B6

Or fax your completed form to (403) 246-6406

Questions? Contact us at (403) 543-0550 Ext 235.