

Do You Need to Access Services ?

There are Programs for Everyone in Our Community

Closer to Home's West Central Resource Centre (WCRC) brings a coordinated approach to providing a variety of programs and services to communities located in southwest Calgary.

Starting this September, WCRC will be offering a financial literacy program called "Momentum" for everyone who would like to improve their knowledge and skills in banking, budgeting, financial planning and consumerism. This six week long course is geared towards those who are eighteen and older. WCRC is organizing several more programs like this to cater to the needs of parents, youth, children and adults in our community.

Anyone who would like to register or learn more about these programs is encouraged to visit the WCRC or contact Alessia Morrell at 403-543-0550, Ext. 244.

Top FIVE In-Kind Needs...

Closer to Home gratefully accepts new and gently used in-kind donations. Currently we are seeking:

1. School supplies and backpacks for students in grades 1 to 12.
2. Baby supplies like diapers, baby formula, bottles and liners, newborn clothing.
3. Hygiene/personal needs including soaps, shampoo, body wash, toothpaste.
4. Kitchenware, pots, pans, coffee makers, cutlery and small kitchen appliances.
5. Home furnishings: standing or window fans, curtains, bedding and blankets.

If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact our Fund Development Department at (403) 543-0550, Ext. 235 or email at fdofficer@closerhome.com

www.closetohome.com

 /Closer to Home Community Services

 @closetohomeYYC

Uniting Families through Family Matters



Amber Perkins
Coordinator, Family Matters

Many parents and families come to Closer to Home Community Services (CTH) for a variety of reasons. Sometimes they are struggling to care for a child with special needs such as Autism, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder or a medical condition. Other parents have children who engage in high-risk activities including substance use, criminal activity or truancy that often lead to an unhealthy lifestyle. Sometimes parents are struggling with these issues themselves. And sometimes families experience an event that creates trauma, anxiety and hopelessness, leaving them in need of timely, responsive support.

When these struggles escalate and a family is at risk of being separated, CTH provides help through Family Matters, an intensive in-home support program designed to keep families together as they recover from crisis.

To elaborate more on the Family Matters program, we would like to share a discussion with Amber Perkins, the Family Matters Program Coordinator:

Tell us about the Family Matters program. How long have you been involved with this program? What is your role?

Family Matters provides support to families with child protection concerns raised by Calgary and Area Child and Family Services (CFS). We support families with moderate to more severe stages of child protection concerns and help the families remain united. If the program was not there, the families may require more intrusive interventions, which could mean separating the children from their parents.

I have been with the program for about 2.5 years now. I started by working as a Family Specialist and then moved on to coordinate the program.

As the coordinator of the program, I assign a Family Specialist to each family that is referred to us by CFS and work together with our Family Specialists in the community to ensure that the intervention for each family is successful. I also work with CFS to determine whether families are a good fit for our program, or if other services would be supportive to them.

Is there anything specific about the program that you find valuable? What makes this program unique to CTH?

Our Family Specialists do a really great job working with the family in prioritizing the issues that are hindering their progress. The families identify these problems and we work with them to address those problems within a short period of time. It is not us, but the families themselves, that drive the interventions. The difference with Family Matters is that it's a short term intervention and we work with limited timelines unlike other programs where interventions can be long-term.

What are the main challenges you encounter when working with a family?

We introduce changes in families and it sometimes puts parents and children in difficult situations. To support and encourage them to take that initial step of change can be a challenge. Because of this; we closely support families in this time of transition and learning. Family Specialists are dedicated in encouraging families to work towards achieving their own goals, hopes, and visions for themselves. We help reflect the positive impacts of change to parents themselves, which helps motivate them to continue moving forward towards meeting their goals.

Thanks Amber!

Donor Appreciation

Closer to Home would like to recognize our supporters from the last quarter (*April 1, 2014 - June 30, 2014*)

Alberta Association of Services for Children and Families • Ali Al-Saleem • Barb Henning • Beverly & Larry Flug • Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank • Calgary Sun • Cristin Forbes-MacFarlane • Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church of Calgary • Eric Lumsden • Erin O'Reilly • Geoffrey McMillan • Glamorgan Bakery • James Lytle • Jan Racicot-Huska • Janice & Dave Besson • Jennifer Head • John Stewart Architects Ltd • Kaitlin Nelson • Karen Olivier • Kids Up Front Foundation • Linda Kolner • Marilyn McMillan • Minoush Rafie • Prakash Thapaliya • The Calgary Foundation • United Way of Calgary, Donor Choice Program

When asked what difference we can make for children and families in our community...

We think about Sophie *

When Sophie and her mom first accessed the Family Matters program at Closer to Home, Sophie continued to act out and get in trouble at school. Like many teens, she tested boundaries and made decisions that attracted negative attention. Her mom struggled to parent in a positive manner and worried that the weight of their stress at home would become too much, resulting in another separation.

Very soon, the family's Family Matters Specialist noticed that Sophie's behaviour was in need of attention. She worked with Mom to clarify expectations at home and enforce consequences for inappropriate behaviours. Sophie's Mom helped her use a "good behaviour" chart at home and Sophie improved her grades at school.

Instead of attracting negative attention, Sophie was encouraged to find opportunities that highlighted her positive qualities. This helped Mom to learn more about the things that Sophie loved, such as dance and art.

Sophie's confidence has soared, her behaviours have improved at home and at school, and she looks ahead to a bright future. Her mom feels that she has regained a sense of trust with Sophie. She can provide consistency and positive encouragement at home, and manage everyday stress in a healthy way.

We know that Sophie and her mom are stronger today because of the support provided by Closer to Home. **But we couldn't do it alone.** You are the key to their success and you make it possible for Closer to Home to provide local families in need with personalized supports and programs, such as Family Matters. That's why we're asking you to donate today.

Will you help us continue to keep families together?

Please donate today.

**Name changed*

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Family Skills Coach - Part-Time

Family Skills Coach uses the Teaching-Family Model to develop and implement visitation plans and provides skill-based teaching that will target the identified referral issues in the child and family's relationship and provide opportunities for practice and change.

Foster Parent - Full - Time (Live-in)

Foster Parents provide specialized, treatment oriented family-based care for children. They follow all legislative and agency mandated policies and procedures involved in the care of foster children, as well as participate fully in the process of family reunification.

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. The Family Teachers' primary objective is to encourage youth to develop to their maximum potential and enable them to successfully integrate back into their families and communities.

For more information about the positions and to apply please visit the career section at our website:
www.closetohome.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Donation Deliveries Volunteer

Volunteer Photographer

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

YES! I WILL SUPPORT VULNERABLE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES.



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 _____

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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 and process your donation through the CanadaHelps website (www.canadahelps.org).

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.