

Volunteers Enrich Lives at Closer to Home

About volunteering at Closer to Home:

It may seem like any other home, another store-front office, or community facility. Inside, however, you'll find a host of volunteers working in a variety of ways: encouraging kids with homework, delivering furniture donations to a family's new home, providing youth mentorship and support to kids and families from all walks of life.

Volunteering with Closer to Home is an exciting way to engage in your community and drive social change – and the benefits are endless. Here is some of what to expect when you become part of an inspiring team of volunteers:

- Building life-long relationships with children, youth and families
- Encouraging and supporting success in a child's life
- Helping children to know that they are important and valued
- Gaining pride in belonging to a dedicated organization
- Making a difference in peoples' lives

Current Volunteer Opportunity:

➔ Donations Delivery
 Driver Volunteer/Team

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

National Volunteer Week:

This year marks the 40th anniversary of National Volunteer Week (April 6-12), where Closer to Home and other organizations across the country celebrate and recognize the positive difference volunteers make in our communities.

Thank you
 to all our volunteers for
 your energy and commitment. We
 are immensely grateful.

www.clostertohome.com

 /Closer to Home Community Services

 @clostertohomeYYC

Strengthening a Family's Future

On a chilly February morning, a woman along with her four young children visited Closer to Home Community Services hoping to get any possible support to overcome the ordeals she and her four young children were experiencing. The mother was displaced by the flood, had become a victim of domestic conflict and underwent other hardships while struggling to resettle in a new place before visiting Closer to Home Community Services.



Sara (name changed) had long been a victim of domestic conflict in her home in High River. The flooding in 2013 directly impacted her house further adding to her challenges. In hopes to flee the relationship and have a new beginning for her and her children, she decided to move to Calgary together with her four young children, all under the age of eight. Once in Calgary, Sara became involved in a relationship resulting in domestic conflict and she fled her partner once again. This left Sara and her children homeless and she had to resort to couch surfing. She sometimes had to leave her children at her friend's house during those days leading to separation between Sara and her children. She was a single, unemployed mom of four young kids and struggled to secure resources to provide for her children and find housing. Her contacts with a few organizations offering resources could not bring her out of this predicament. To add to the challenges, her children were not accepted by local schools as she could not provide a home address for them. One of the schools, however, referred her to Closer to Home for further assistance. She decided to visit the organization with renewed hope.

"Sara was physically and emotionally distressed when she came to West Central Resource Centre", recall Katie and Ashley, Family Support Workers at the Centre who welcomed Sara and her kids. They took the children to the play area inside the Centre and fed them. After hearing her story, Katie and Ashley connected Sara with the Domestic Conflict Response Team (DCRT) at Closer to Home. The staff at West Central and the DCRT Outreach Worker worked collaboratively to provide crisis support to Sara. After providing food, gas, clothing and some financial support for her and the children as an immediate relief, the staff at Closer to Home immediately set up a plan to find the young mom and her children a place to stay temporarily until they could find permanent housing.

"We spent each morning making phone calls to the local shelters to advocate for Sara and her children. Shelter after shelter turned up full before Sara and her children were accepted into Awo Taan Healing Lodge", Ashley said while discussing the effort made to secure a place for the family. After only a couple of weeks in the shelter Sara and her four children were approved for Calgary Housing. They are now living in a three bedroom townhouse. The family has been reunited and the children are back in school and happy in their new home.

"I remember how frustrated I was before and how comfortable Closer to Home made me," said Sara of the support provided by staff members at Closer to Home. Sara continues to keep in contact with the West Central Resource Centre at Closer to Home to update developments with her and the family.

INVITATION: CTH Stampede Breakfast

"If people did not love one another, I really don't see what use there would be in having any spring." ~ Victor Hugo

The spring brings joy and excitement in the hearts and minds of people. Spring is also called the season of new beginnings as the earth seems to come to life again with the blooming of colorful flowers and playful activities of animals. It also heralds a series of events and outdoor shows that help to promote harmony and love among communities. We at Closer to Home are enjoying the spring in the air and starting to organize our Annual Stampede Breakfast, to mark the beginning of the Stampede Season. The Stampede Breakfast will be held in early July outside of our office, where friends and families of Closer to Home are invited to come together to have fun and enjoy the festivities. Date to be confirmed. Please check our website for updates and we hope to see you there!

Donor Appreciation

Closer to Home would like to recognize our supporters from the last quarter (January 1, 2014 - March 31, 2014)

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada - Alberta Region • ATCO Power Asset Optimization • Barb Henning • Beth & Gordon Forbes • Calgary Herald Christmas Fund • Cenovus Energy Inc. • Cristin Forbes-MacFarlane • Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church of Calgary • Eric Lumsden • Erin O'Reilly • Glamorgan Bakery • James Lytle • Jennifer Head • Joanne Rawlinson • Kaitlin Nelson • Karen Olivier • Kerri Rae • Kids Up Front Foundation • Linda Kolner • Geoffrey & Marilyn McMillan • Minoush Rafie • Mission Possible Recovery Foundation • PricewaterhouseCoopers Canada Foundation • Gilewicz Family • Scarboro United Church • Sponsor Energy • Tina Chapman

Healing...
resilient families...
strong communities...
and that every child
will belong to a family.

What are these worth to you, personally?

I imagine you would say, "A lot."

We think so, too.

Like you, we believe that everyone deserves to belong to a family and have a place to call home. Every day, Closer to Home joins with families as they overcome the most challenging circumstances. We support families unconditionally and teach them the skills they need to stay together. Every day, we see families flourish and provide a better future for their children. And every one of these days is only possible because of support from friends like you.

Your support makes a difference, every day.

When you give to Closer to Home, you ensure that vulnerable children and families continue to receive the best quality care that they need and deserve. Your gift has the power to build healthy and resilient families. And, as a result, your gift ensures that our communities are stronger.

Please help us continue our work of **uniting vulnerable children, youth and families.**

To donate today, fill out the form below or contact us at (403) 543-0550 Ext 235 or fdofficer@closerhome.com.

To donate online, please visit www.closerhome.com/donate

JOB OPPORTUNITY!! Family Skills Coach

(Multiple Positions)

About the Position: In these flexible part-time positions, The Family Skills Coach provides family reunification and supported visits to the South Calgary MST as well as children and their families in the Closer to Home Foster Care Program. Utilizing the principles of the Teaching-Family Model, the Family Skills Coach develops and implements Visitation Plans, 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; as well as help families engage and stay engaged in the reunification process by providing hope and building relationships quickly with the family at the time of referral. The Family Skills Coach is also responsible for providing transportation for the child(ren) to and from visits and use that time to assess the child's needs, proactively teach and identify new strategies. In addition, the Family Skill Coach is responsible for completing the required program reports and documentation and participating in meetings that are relevant to their role.

About You: You possess exceptional verbal and written communication skills and have the ability to effectively communicate with and relate to people of all ages. You are extremely detail oriented, organized and can effectively manage multiple priorities at one time. You are able to develop and maintain strong working relationships with children and youth and their families as well as with community agencies and resources. You are a compassionate individual with a positive and empathetic approach who understands how to set appropriate professional boundaries. You have experience with individuals from a variety of cultural backgrounds, are sensitive to their cultural and spiritual needs and can incorporate these into planning for families. In addition, you are eager to learn and carry out the principles and philosophy of Closer to Home and the Teaching-Family Model.

For more information about the position or about the organization please visit our website at: www.closerhome.com

INTERESTED APPLICANTS ARE ASKED TO SUBMIT THEIR COVER LETTER AND RESUME TO: info@closerhome.com

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

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 _____

City _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

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 _____

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

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.