Report to the Community
2015/2016
MISSION:
EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO STAY TOGETHER

VISION:
Closer to Home (CTH) is committed to contributing to a future where every child will belong to a family and feel valued and secure. Through the use of evidence-based practices and innovative solutions, CTH will strive to preserve, reunify and build stronger families who can care for their children and contribute meaningfully in their community. CTH will provide a broad array of strength-based and family-centred services that teach, coach and support families to create new possibilities and achieve better futures together.
PRINCIPLES:

**DIVERSITY** Practices promote tolerance and are sensitive to individual cultures, traditions and lifestyles.

**INDIVIDUALIZED APPROACH** Interventions are strength-based, child and family-centred, flexible and solution-focused.

**EFFECTIVE SERVICES** Integrated quality assurance systems provide the necessary feedback to improve services and create a continuous learning environment.

**OUTCOME FOCUSED** Meaningful outcomes for children and families are achieved with integrity, excellence and accountability.

**TRAUMA-INFORMED** Practice is aligned at all levels, ensuring appropriate screening and treatment for all individuals impacted by trauma.

**CLIENT SATISFACTION** Services solicit the opinions of all participants and are responsive to needs and concerns.

**COLLABORATIVE AND INCLUSIVE** Participation in partnerships that offer value added services to children and families.
Message from the:

Board Chair &
Chief Executive Officer

Strong families living in strong and healthy communities. It is the ideal world for healthy and happy children to grow and to thrive. It is what we all want our city to have and to become.

As part of an extensive network of Calgary service providers, Closer to Home embraces the mandate of supporting, teaching and healing children, youth and their families when life throws them a curve ball or becomes so challenging that their own family starts to breakdown. Rebuilding the family, providing strategies that help parents cope and adapt, teaching children skills to help them be resilient, and supporting people who have experienced significant trauma in their lives continues to be the main focus for our programs and services.

Within our teaching homes, foster care and family-based services, we have seen many children and youth take the first steps toward healing under the capable guidance of Closer to Home practitioners. Kids, along with their parents in many cases, are learning new skills and strategies that will help them thrive at home, in their schools and communities. At Closer to Home, we recognize the importance of individualized services. All of our programming can be specialized to the specific needs of each client, ensuring their success.
Cultural diversity, respect and inclusion for other traditions is foundational for the work we do with new Canadians and immigrants who access our services. Through our prevention and early intervention programs in the community, we have impacted many families who are just learning how to navigate Canadian society, and who are looking for community supports and resources. Of the 1,635 children, youth and families served this past year, over 1,400 people accessed the West Central Community Resource Centre for help, information and critical resources.

As part of our Strategic Plan, we continue to develop and build our Aboriginal worldview and understanding so that our services are culturally relevant and therapeutic to indigenous people. Working with local Elders continues to shape and guide our practice so that we can be part of the healing journeys that impact so many of the families we serve. Our Aboriginal practitioners are successfully engaging and working with many young families in an effort to strengthen parenting practices and family stability within a contextual framework of healing from intergenerational trauma.

So many Calgarians continue to support the work at Closer to Home. We truly appreciate the leaders in the community that champion our agency, govern with integrity, or donate with regularity. With your support, we can continue to help children thrive, support families and strengthen the capacity of the community to respond to the needs of its members. Together, we can make a difference!

Karen Olivier
Chief Executive Officer

Kate Andrews
Board Chair
Year in review

It was a special year for Closer to Home, as we reflected on 20 years of learning and growing into the dynamic agency we are today. But it was also a challenging year for many in our city, and Closer to Home worked hard to address the changing needs of the children, youth and families in our community.
**Foster Care:** In early 2016, we recognized a critical need for more foster homes to provide a stable, nurturing and therapeutic environment for children and youth experiencing trauma. We began preparing for a Foster Parent recruitment campaign to let our incredible family of supporters, and those who may not have heard of us yet, know of this great need.

**Working with Syrian Refugees:** Closer to Home was one of many local agencies that recognized the needs of the 1,400 Syrian refugees who arrived in Calgary this past year. We have served more than 250 of these individuals, as well as many other newcomers to Calgary – children and families who needed help settling in and connecting with resources and supports in their new home.

**Adopt-a-Family:** In the midst of a difficult economy, we weren’t sure what to expect when we launched Adopt-a-Family, presented by McQuiston Executive Wealth Group. We were blown away by the determination and generosity of our family of donors, who together contributed more than $64,000 worth of gifts and grocery gift cards for nearly 100 families in need. The countless stories of hope and the lasting memories of joy and excitement kept us inspired throughout the year.

**Kiwehtata:** Our Kiwehtata program is continually evolving to better support Aboriginal families. The Aboriginal healing program focuses on building strong family relationships through caring, sharing and traditional teachings and ceremony. Families in this program come with high levels of isolation, so another key element of the program focuses on increasing social connections and support for families.

**Did you know?**

**53% of children** in Homework Club said it helped them become more involved in their school and community. Research shows that children who participate in afterschool programming are less at risk of becoming involved in dangerous or harmful activities.
Measuring our impact

Closer to Home served 1,635 clients in 2015/16, and we’re proud to say 95% of our clients were satisfied with the services provided. But we know the needs of children and families in our community are continually changing, and we are committed to adapting to meet these needs.

In order to ensure our programs remain effective and continue to improve, Closer to Home measures outcomes and impact using a tool we developed called the Evaluation and Outcome Framework. This Framework helps us ensure the work we do has a sustainable, meaningful and positive impact on the lives of children and families.

There are **FOUR KEY DOMAINS** we focus on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>Child Well-Being</th>
<th>Family &amp; Community Connections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes relating to the absence of maltreatment and reduction of risk behaviours.</td>
<td>Outcomes relating to healthy social and emotional development of children.</td>
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<tr>
<td>86% of children/youth in our in-care programs reduced risk behaviours</td>
<td>94% of families in our early intervention/prevention programs reported an increased ability to respond to daily challenges</td>
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<tr>
<td>85% of families in our early intervention/prevention programs reported increased knowledge of child development and parenting strategies</td>
<td>89% of children in our Foster Care program met their developmental milestones</td>
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In 2015/16, there were 6,899 children in care in Alberta.

Closer to Home Community Services
Permanence

Outcomes relating to children staying home, going back home or finding a permanent caregiver.

• **97%** of the children/youth discharged from our Family Matters program stayed home at discharge

• **88%** of children in our Foster Care program returned home or found a permanent home through kinship care or adoption

Did you know?

In 2015/16, there were **6,899 children** in care in Alberta.
Finding Home:
A Young Mom’s Journey to Healing
Growing up in a house with addictions was difficult for Tamara.

“My parents had quite the parties, so I was always around that,” she says. “It wasn’t easy seeing my mom and dad fight, seeing other people fight, but I got so used to it, I would just ignore it and carry on with my day.”

In a house with five other siblings, Tamara relied on one of her older sisters to take care of her. The instability she experienced as a child carried into her teenage years.

“I was always running away, until my mom put me in foster care,” she recalls. Tamara stayed in a foster home until she was 16, when she moved in with a cousin. It’s hard for her to remember a time when she wasn’t moving from house to house, living with different people.

When her oldest child was placed in foster care herself, Tamara felt like she’d hit rock bottom.

“Everything kind of went downhill from there,” she says. “I felt pretty lost. Some days I felt like just giving up, but I had to snap myself out of that.”

She became pregnant with another child, but couldn’t seem to find the stability she needed in the midst of dealing with depression.

After the birth of her youngest daughter, Tamara’s social worker helped her get into Closer to Home’s Pekewe Family Reunification Program, a highly-supportive live-in program where Aboriginal families developed the skills and social support they needed to live successfully in their community. At Pekewe House, Tamara felt she was given renewed hope.

“Her story is nothing short of miraculous.”

— Marsha
Because she was staying in the house, with staff available 24/7 to provide guidance and support, Tamara was allowed to keep her new baby girl with her. She worked through her shyness and trust issues, allowing herself to open up to the workers and take in what they were teaching her.

“I let her know that everybody has their story, but you don’t have to be caught back in your past,” says Marion Redwood, Healthy Families Home Visitor, who worked closely with Tamara to help improve her parenting skills. “She was so open to new ideas. She wanted her oldest daughter back, and she worked very hard to make that happen.”

Tamara learned how to ask for help, how to deal with her daughter’s difficult temper, and how to calm down and walk away from a confrontation. She learned how to parent positively, practicing scenarios with Closer to Home staff about teaching her daughter to listen and follow instructions. She says one of the most important lessons she learned was to never argue in front of her children, like her parents did when she was young.

“That can be terrifying for a child,” says Marion. “It can cause them to not trust, to be scared, to act out. You’re teaching them that is the way of life.”

Tamara was so eager to improve her parenting skills, she enrolled in Closer to Home’s Kiwehtata Parenting Program three times. The parent/child development program is specially designed for Aboriginal families like Tamara’s, who hold their culture close to their hearts. The program focuses on safety and healing from intergenerational trauma, along with parenting and life skills.

“When I’m going through something hard in my life, I’ll talk to my Elders,” says Tamara.

At Pekewe, she participated in Sharing Circles, went to Pow Wows and contributed to family barbeques. “I’d never had anyone supporting me the way Closer to Home did,” she says. “Throughout my whole life, I never had that. It was a different feeling.”

Just four months into her stay at Pekewe, Tamara had her oldest daughter back for good. She worked on nighttime routines with her kids, attended counselling sessions with her oldest daughter to help rebuild their relationship, and found the stability she’d always been searching for.

Tamara and her girls recently celebrated one year of living in their current apartment, and Tamara is preparing them for kindergarten and grade four this fall.

They’ve stayed in touch with Closer to Home, with staff helping to furnish their home and providing food hampers if needed. Tamara and the kids regularly participate at
Closer to Home events, performing Jingle Dress, an Aboriginal Pow Wow dance, and making bannock for everyone to enjoy. In so many ways, they are part of Closer to Home’s extended family.

Tamara recently graduated from the Aboriginal Family and Youth Support program at RIEL Institute for Education & Learning, and hopes to work with kids and families who are struggling like she once was.

“She wants to make a difference in the world,” says Marion. “Her own life experience helps. She would be great at it.”

Her story is “nothing short of miraculous,” says Marsha Hanson, Kiwehtata Facilitator, who also worked closely with Tamara during her time at Pekewe. “It took hard work and time to heal, but she has become a truly beautiful mom.”

“It’s been a crazy ride,” says Tamara. “But I know how to handle things a lot better now, and look into my resources more often.”

“Our house is full of furniture and my kids have their own rooms,” she continues. “It’s been great and it’s been stable. The support from Closer to Home has meant a lot to me.”
Celebrating Differences: How Foster Parents Embrace Diversity
Imagine losing everything you have in just a few moments: your family and loved ones, your warm bed, all of your treasured possessions, and your home.

Now imagine this experience as a child.

Despite their best efforts, sometimes families face challenges that are overwhelming. In these scenarios, the best option may be for children to come into care temporarily.

In 2015/16, approximately 3,600 children were living in foster care in Alberta.

Coming into a foster home is often a difficult and traumatic experience for children. Everything has changed and everything is new; they question their connections, their value, and where they belong.

But it is also an opportunity for families to get back on their feet. It is an opportunity for learning, for growth, and for healing. Whenever possible, the goal is to bring children home to their families. Foster care is a temporary support, not a long-term solution for permanency. Closer to Home works closely with families towards reunification, empowering them to learn skills, build on strengths, and hopefully be reunited one day.

Closer to Home is proud of our incredible foster parents and the work they do every day to support families. When things are falling apart and a family is going through their most heartbreaking moments, foster parents step up. At a moment’s beckoning, they are ready to support a family. When asked, they hardly ever say “no”. Instead, they welcome frightened, hurting children into their homes. With open hearts and warm smiles, foster parents help ease a family’s pain. They provide a safe, temporary home for children: a warm bed to rest on, a home-cooked meal, and a nurturing, caring home to comfort them.

Closer to Home believes in specialized services that celebrate the diversity of each child. From foster parents’ first round of interviews, to pre-service training, to ongoing coaching, we are committed to providing families and children with supports that are individualized. We know every child who comes to us is different. Their stories are different. Their needs are different. Their cultures, traditions, spiritual beliefs and lifestyles are different.

Consider, for example, that over 50% of Closer to Home’s foster children in 2015/16 were Aboriginal. The First Nations, Metis, and Inuit communities are remarkably diverse and rich in traditions and history. Supporting Aboriginal families and children cannot be done without honouring their roots. As such, our foster parents are creative and inspired. They help ensure every child feels as little change as possible.
Closer to Home strives to preserve and promote every child’s culture, including spirituality, food, traditions, music, and history. For children displaced from their homes, culture is an even more critical part of their identity. It provides stability and belonging.

“For our foster parents, cultural integration comes naturally. It’s a natural part of what they do as caregivers,” says Jody Hoogwerf, Program Manager.

Closer to Home’s commitment to diversity is supported from the beginning of a foster parent’s journey with us, through our comprehensive pre-service training program. We dedicate a full week of sessions to ensure our staff and foster parents are practiced in the Teaching-Family Model and how to best implement the highest-quality care. Throughout their careers with us, foster parents receive ongoing training and support. They participate in cultural awareness training, Aboriginal ceremonies and partake in group support sessions to learn from each other. A major component of our ongoing training program centers on building cultural connections and the importance of developing each child’s sense of self and community.

Armed with the training and support of our leadership team, our foster parents are able to do amazing things. They intentionally explore and look for cultural activities relevant to the kids in their home. If a child is Aboriginal, they take them to events like Pow Wows, feasts, and ceremonies on the reserve. If a child has a religious affiliation, foster parents take them to church, the synagogue, or the mosque. They cook ethnic meals and find traditional art work, decorations and toys. They encourage children to hold onto and explore their culture.

“Our foster parents do incredible things for children in their homes,” says Jody. “We have one parent who is teaching her foster children Cree and Blackfoot. Can you imagine how much this means to a child, to be able to connect with their neighbours and aunts and uncles in their own language?”

Every kid, whether they are in care or not, needs to know that they are special and that they belong somewhere.

– Jody

Foster parents work hard to help keep things “normal” when a child comes into care. It might mean driving an extra couple of hours to see a dentist or doctor on the reserve, who is already familiar with a child’s medical history. It might mean helping with smudging ceremonies to cleanse bedrooms, or it might mean lending a hand to hang dreamcatchers. It might mean rhythmic drumming playing in the background during the day. For other kids, it might mean bringing them to the Jewish Cultural Centre or cooking a special meal of pierogis and sausage to celebrate their Ukrainian heritage. It might mean connecting them with Somalian or Sudanese social groups.
or learning traditional songs and dances from the children. Together, these small but deliberate actions add up.

“Everything foster parents do helps build a sense of comfort and security for the kids. Their commitment to honouring each child’s differences is so important,” confirms Jody.

Our foster parents also explore children’s family histories with them. Understanding where they come from can be very meaningful. For Aboriginal families, the family name tells a compelling story. Closer to Home connects children and youth with Elders who are able to connect them with distant relatives, teach them about their family’s way of life, and tell them the stories of their people.

“That’s huge for our kids – an important part of Aboriginal culture is that teachings are done through stories. It is so important to keep our kids connected to Elders,” says Jody.

This connection to Elders and their band can also help kids find a permanent home. It can help them connect with their greater community and build healthy support networks that will last beyond their time in foster care.

“Years ago, we had a set of foster parents travel to Saskatchewan to visit a child’s reserve,” Jody shares, revealing how important connections to the community can be. “Together with the band and other partners, we were able to find extended family that we never knew about before. They got along instantly, and this ended up being the children’s ‘forever home’.”

Because that is the best outcome for a child in care: finding a permanent home where they are connected, loved and nurtured.

“[It is so important to keep our kids connected to Elders.]”

– Jody

When kids come to us, they often feel afraid, isolated, and angry. They have lost all the things they hold near and dear.

But our foster parents are here to help. They are here to provide a shoulder to cry on and to help children find their confidence again. They promote and preserve each child’s individuality and culture. They celebrate the child’s family, history, heritage, traditional music and foods, and help children understand who they are. Foster parents help children find a place to belong and a community where they are loved, supported, and confident.

“When kids leave our foster families, we want to make sure they know they are part of something bigger,” says Jody. “Every kid, whether they are in care or not, needs to know that they are special and that they belong somewhere. It is always amazing to see children find their confidence.”
Practitioner of the Year:
Kristina Mitchell

Knock. Knock. Knock. Just like that – a family’s world can change.

On one side of the door, a family is going through turmoil and painful challenges.

On the other side is Kristina.

Kristina has been a Family Specialist at Closer to Home for just two years. When she joined our team, her extraordinary talent stood out immediately.

With a naturally caring spirit and a warm smile, Kristina has a special ability to quickly connect with parents, youth and children when they are living through their toughest moments. She opens her heart, listens to their needs and challenges, and then knowingly guides families in the right direction.

And that is not always easy: often times, families struggle with having a stranger come into their home. It can be difficult to open up and trust someone with your family’s most intimate challenges. Children and youth, too, often find it difficult to be open and vulnerable.

But families find working with Kristina different: her kindness emanates and her bright spirit lights up the room.

Part of the Family Matters team, Kristina works closely with families who are dealing with some form of crisis and experiencing significant challenges. Kristina works with each family for six to
eight weeks, offering in-home support as often as needed. She does not work a typical 9-to-5 shift, but instead is available whenever families need her.

Admired by her colleagues for her problem-solving skills, Kristina is a true advocate for families.

“Kristina is encouraging and a ray of hope for many families. Her unique ability to balance empathy and problem-solving is what makes her so special,” says Melody McCann, Family Matters Program Coordinator.

With great patience and care, she teaches parents and children important skills such as how to give effective praise. She helps parents learn how to address inappropriate behaviors with confidence and coaches them on setting family goals. She teaches families how to communicate effectively and supports their goals and dreams. Kristina empowers families to thrive and always makes sure they know they can succeed.

Families know Kristina is on their side. When a family is hurting, Kristina understands. Their challenges become her challenges. Their successes become her successes. Her genuine care and compassion shines. She is there 110% to back them up, to guide them through crisis, and to cheerlead them to the finish line. And when a family finds success, even in the smallest of ways, she celebrates with them wholeheartedly.

Humble and determined, Kristina remarks, “the families are the ones working hard, not me…when I work with a family who is motivated and will do whatever it takes to stay together as a family – that’s inspiring.”

When asked what receiving this prestigious award means to her, Kristina shares that it simply motivates her to do better.

“Our work is hard. It’s hard on your heart, and it’s hard on your life. But at the end of the day, when you get to look back and realize you made a difference in these people’s lives, that’s what’s important.”

Passionate about supporting families on their journeys of healing, Kristina is a teacher, a cheerleader, a mentor, and a counsellor.

So, when Kristina steps up to that door and knocks, she knows there is a challenge on the other side. But she also knows there are life-changing moments and worthwhile celebrations waiting, and that’s what inspires her every day.
Volunteer of the Year: Raifeh Hasan

Earlier this year, Raifeh Hasan saw two of Closer to Home’s Family Support Workers, Laura and Jodie, distributing food in her community. They were hard at work with the Brown Bagging program, a partnership between Closer to Home and Brown Bagging for Calgary’s Kids. The program provides healthy lunches to children in the city who otherwise might go hungry at school, prepared and distributed by Closer to Home staff and community volunteers.

Laura and Jodie seemed so busy, Raifeh remembers, and she asked how she could help.

She hasn’t looked back since, now thinking of the two as her own daughters.

Raifeh and her husband came to Canada six years ago, initially for a visit with their son who already lived here. Then, the civil war back in Syria began, and their home was lost.

“There do we go?” she remembers thinking.

They applied for immigration and have stayed in Canada ever since. Raifeh is profusely grateful for the support she and her family have received since arriving in Calgary, and through her volunteering is beginning to learn some English words, like “tomato,” “cucumber,” and “apple.”

“We teach her the English words for the food we’re distributing, and she teaches us the Arabic words,” says Jodie.

“Having Raifeh as a volunteer has meant so much to Closer to Home.”

“She brightens our days,” says Jodie. “Raifeh is so giving with us. She takes care of us and helps us so much. We couldn’t have run our program so successfully this past year without her spirit and generosity.”
When asked what the best part is about volunteering with Closer to Home, Raifeh smiles. “I never felt like a stranger,” she says in Arabic. “It’s like I am with my family. I don’t consider this work. They needed the help, and I helped. It’s a joy!”

Raifeh says she is “emotionally relieved” to be in Calgary, safe and with her children.

She looks forward to continuing her volunteer work this fall, happy to be giving back to a “beautiful country” that helped her so much when she needed it.

“Volunteering is doing good,” she says. “We should all have time to do good.”

Closer to Home is always looking for enthusiastic, committed volunteers to join our team. You can make a difference in the lives of children and families who need to know they are important and valued. Visit closertohome.com for current opportunities.
Donor of the Year: Imperial

When Dennis Pinco first got involved with United Way’s Days of Caring initiative more than 25 years ago, he stood out immediately as a leader.

“I was a handyman,” the Conventional Reservoir Engineer remembers. “I could do painting, I could do construction, so someone came to me and asked if I could lead a project.”

He jumped right in, and hasn’t looked back since. Days of Caring was officially launched in 1990, but United Way of Calgary’s Heather Innes says projects have been going on since the start of the organization 76 years ago.

Each year, United Way helps connect local companies with hundreds of volunteers who want to use their varied skill sets to make a difference in their own neighbourhoods.

“Calgary is not just a place where we work, it’s a place where we live. It’s our home,” says Theresa Redburn, Vice-President of Imperial Upstream Commercial.

Since 2010, Imperial employees have put in more than 3,400 volunteer hours across at least 75 different projects. Heather says one of the best parts of partnering with Imperial is knowing the level of skill and care that goes into each project.

“It’s an amazing synergy,” she says. “That corporate support and engagement in the community – we always know that when Imperial is doing a project, it’s going to be done safely and well, and our agencies are going to be so happy at the end of it.”

Indeed, when Dennis’ team completed their first project with Closer to Home in 2012 – renovations on one of our Community Teaching Homes – CEO Karen Olivier was amazed.

“That first year, we didn’t know what to expect,” says Karen. “We couldn’t believe how much work they were able to get done so quickly.”

“The kids loved it,” she continues. “It’s so important to us to make sure they know there are people in the community who really care about them.”

Over the past four years, each of Closer to Home’s group homes have benefited from some much-needed construction and renovation work thanks to Imperial’s financial investment and hundreds of volunteer hours put in by its employees.
Last year, about 50 volunteers descended on the home in Airdrie, replacing and painting the back fence, refinishing the shed, installing a patio so the kids could have a place to play and shoot hoops, and replacing the flooring throughout the main level. All of this within two days.

“It seems hard to organize that many people in that short of a timeframe,” says Dennis, who has led the Closer to Home projects since 2012, “but it’s not, because everybody wants to help.”

Theresa says the projects have been a great team-building initiative for employees, and a way to connect with people outside Imperial’s work areas.

“Days of Caring is a core pillar of our community giving,” she says, “but it wouldn’t be successful without leaders like Dennis who really galvanize the teams and pull it all together.”

Reflecting on the difficult situations of the youth who live in the homes he so caringly works on, Dennis gets emotional. “I don’t have kids, but the thought of these troubled kids…” he pauses. “These projects help kids feel like they belong and feel like they have a place.”

“And that’s what Closer to Home does – they make these kids feel safe.”
Fundraising Revenue

In-kind: $107,297

Monetary: $414,556

Did you know?

Eight out of ten Canadians donate to a charitable organization each year.

Government: 1%
Foundations: 8%
Individuals: 19%
Corporations: 30%
Organizations & Religious Groups: 42%

Government: 76%
Foundations: 14%
Individuals: 5%
Corporations: 19%
Organizations & Religious Groups: 1%
Ways to Support
Closer to Home

1,635 MORE PEOPLE EMPOWERED, thanks to continued support from donors like you.

Your contributions, big or small, help build stronger families who feel empowered with the knowledge, skills and resources they need to stay together. Your support is welcome and appreciated.

How Can You Empower Families This Year?

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR
Help meet the true needs of the children, youth and families in your community by committing to monthly giving. When you give on a consistent basis, funding is distributed to the areas with the most need, ensuring programs are adaptable to the changing needs of local families.

HOST A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER
Big or small, hosting your own event for Closer to Home is a fun way to support families in Calgary. You could plan a silent auction at your next party. Or you could challenge your colleagues to skip their daily coffee for a week and donate the proceeds. Inspiration is all around you!

ADOPT-A-FAMILY
Last year, more than 230 children across nearly 100 different families were given the gift of a magical Christmas thanks to Closer to Home donors. You can donate gifts and basic necessities to a family in need this holiday season.

For more information or to get started with one of these initiatives, please visit closertohome.com.
Join the Cause: 

**Become a Monthly Donor**

At Closer to Home, we rely on our family of donors to help us provide the programs and services families in our community need. When you commit to monthly giving, you are given peace of mind, knowing you are making an ongoing impact in your community.

**Connect**

$25/month

A monthly gift of $25 will allow a family to connect with early intervention and prevention services, such as parenting courses, youth programs and more.

**Strengthen**

$75/month

A monthly gift of $75 will strengthen a family recovering from crisis, supporting them as they build new skills that will help them prevent crisis and manage stress in the future.

**Did you know?**

**Nearly one in ten** donors give because they’ve benefited from those services in the past and want to give back.
Here is my monthly gift of:
- $25/mth
- $75/mth
- $150/mth
- $250/mth
- Other $________ /mth

OR, here is my single gift of:
- $50
- $150
- $300
- $500
- Other $________

Name__________________________
Company________________________
Address__________________________
City___________________________
Province_____ Postal Code____________
Primary Ph_______________________
Alternate Ph_____________________
Email__________________________

Payment options:
- My cash donation is enclosed.
- My cheque payable to Closer to Home is enclosed.
- I would prefer to pay by credit card.
  (For credit card donations, we will call you to verify your information and complete your donation using CanadaHelps.org).
  Name on Card____________________
  Phone Number____________________

- I would like to remain anonymous. Please do not recognize my name in CTH publications.

Yes, please contact me:
- I would like to make a donation over the phone.
- I am interested in hosting a community fundraiser.
- I would like someone from Closer to Home to speak to my group.
- I am interested in becoming an Adopt-a-Family donor.

Please return your form and donation to:

3507A - 17 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T3E 0B6
(403) 543-0550 Ext. 250
www.closertohome.com

Charitable Registration Number 898235759 RR 0001  ARTC2016
Our family of donors, partners and supporters play a vital role in fulfilling our mission of empowering families to stay together. You are making a direct impact in the community, helping build a stronger, healthier city.

Thank you for your support!
# Our Donors, Partners & Supporters

April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

## Individuals
- Layl Alnawwab
- Kate Andrews
- Steven & Christa Arseneault
- Janice & Dave Besson
- Rejeanne Bischoff
- Lisa Barrett & Trish Bowie
- Scott Coulthard & Brandy Bursey
- Dave Clark
- Demitropoulos Family
- Donald & Linda Druska
- Henry Dunfield
- James Evans
- Koral Evans
- Cathy Fisher
- Beverly & Larry Flug
- Laurel Friessen
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- Aileen Glasgow
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- Eric Lumsden
- Geoffrey & Marilyn McMillan
- Andrew McQuiston
- Corey Michaud
- Sharon Miller
- Kristina Mitchell
- Kaitlin Nelson
- Karen Olivier
- Barb O’Neill
- Ashley O’Reilly
- Erin O’Reilly
- Pamela Pizarro & Family
- James Poirier
- Mehran Pooladi-Darvish
- Amber Quarrington
- Radulof Family
- Aida Rafie
- Minoush Rafie
- Leona Schaap
- Justin Senft
- Laura Sletmoen
- Connie Sorensen
- Stevenson-Rosluk Family
- Prakash Thapaliya
- Danial Thomas
- Chad Thompson
- Jen Vandenbroek
- John Wilbeck
- Melanie & Shawn Wilson
- Lora & Terry Wyman

## Corporations
- Accurate MWD Systems Ltd.
- Alggin Employees
- Bellatrix Exploration Ltd.
- Bones, Barks N’ Baths
- BrightPath McKenzie Towne Learning Centre
- Calgary Co-op
- Richmond Rd. Centre
- Calgary Hitmen
- Calgary Marriott Downtown Hotel
- Canbriam Energy Inc.
- Code Hunter LLP
- Deerfoot Carpet
- Employees at Twin Butte Energy Ltd.
- Employees at AECOM Canada – Quarry Park Office
- Everybody Benefits Inc.

## Organizations, Foundations & Religious
- Glamorgan Bakery
- Greco’s Pizza & George’s Lounge
- Imperial
- Jacobs Canada Inc.
- Matthew W. Kirk
  - Professional Corporation
- McQuiston Executive Wealth Group at RBC Dominion Securities Inc.
- MEG Energy Corp.
- NorthWest Healthcare Properties
- Rangeland Engineering Ltd.
- Sponsor Energy
- Stantec
- Starbucks Westbrook
- Striker Exploration Corp.
- Sureway International Inc.
- Vogel LLP
- ALIGN Association of Community Services
- Bethany Chapel
- Brown Bagging for Calgary’s Kids
- Calgary Academy
- Calgary Food Bank
- Shaw Charity Classic
- Calgary South Rotary Partners
- Calgary Transportation Club
- Cenovus Employee Foundation
- Cirque du Soleil
- Common Ground
- Communications Staff at Alberta Health Services
- Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church
- First Books Canada
- Kids Up Front Foundation
- Kiwanis Club of Calgary Chinook
- Melcor YMCA at Crowfoot
- PricewaterhouseCoopers Canada Foundation
- Project Warmth Society of Alberta
- RBC Foundation
- Rosscarrock Community Association
- Rotary Club of Calgary Centennial
- Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology
- Samaritan Club of Calgary
- Samaritan’s Purse
- Scarboro United Church
- Shaganappi Health Clinic
- The Calgary Foundation
- United Way of Calgary, Donor Choice Program
- Village Square Leisure Centre
- YMCA Calgary

## Government
- City of Calgary
- Office of Councillor Evan Woolley

## Partners:
Closer to Home is proud of our community partnerships including: Brown Bagging for Calgary’s Kids, Calgary Housing Company, HomeFront, churches and faith groups in SW Calgary, and many more.

Follow us: @CloserToHomeYYC
### Balance Sheet
As at March 31, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$59,947</td>
<td>$353,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term investments</td>
<td>$303,346</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>$43,795</td>
<td>$44,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>$47,572</td>
<td>$64,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current assets</td>
<td>$454,660</td>
<td>$762,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets held for sale</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$217,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$1,385,467</td>
<td>$1,716,725</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable &amp; accrued liabilities</td>
<td>$279,707</td>
<td>$510,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>$6,008</td>
<td>$33,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current portion of mortgages payable within one year</td>
<td>$64,692</td>
<td>$62,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td>$350,407</td>
<td>$606,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mortgages payable</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>$1,062,771</td>
<td>$1,128,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred capital contributions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred contributions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deficiency of net assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$(280,392)</td>
<td>$(208,383)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total deficiency of net assets</td>
<td>$(1,665,859)</td>
<td>$(1,925,108)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This financial information is extracted from the March 31, 2016 audited financial statements. A complete set of audited financial statements is available upon request.
## Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended March 31, 2016

### CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating activities</th>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deficiency of revenue over expenses</td>
<td>(72,009)</td>
<td>(54,469)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items not affecting cash</td>
<td>64,495</td>
<td>75,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization</td>
<td>(7,514)</td>
<td>20,811</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Changes in non-cash working capital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(184,250)</td>
<td>31,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(191,764)</td>
<td>52,226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Investing activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(55,237)</td>
<td>(10,435)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3,346)</td>
<td>(300,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(58,583)</td>
<td>(310,435)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Financing activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19,988</td>
<td>9,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(63,101)</td>
<td>(60,290)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(43,113)</td>
<td>(50,302)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Increase (decrease) in cash for the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 $</th>
<th>2015 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(293,460)</td>
<td>(308,511)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>353,407</td>
<td>661,918</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cash - Beginning of year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59,947</td>
<td>353,407</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cash - End of year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59,947</td>
<td>353,407</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3507A 17 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T3E 0B6

Phone: (403) 543-0550
Fax: (403) 246-6406
Email: reception@closertohome.com
closertohome.com

Follow us: 📩 Facebook @CloserToHomeYYC

Credits:
Thank you to staff and volunteers who helped compile this year’s Report to the Community.

Closer to Home is accredited by the following organizations:
Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF – Accredited)
Teaching-Family Association (TFA – Accredited Sponsor Site)