Closer to Home has been empowering families for 20 years!
Join us in our Celebration

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Closer to Home Community Services (CTH).
We were established in 1995 as a charitable organization to bring services “closer to home” by providing community outreach to build stronger and healthier families.
Twenty years later, CTH has evolved and grown to address many critical community issues and now offers a continuum of services ranging from early intervention and early childhood development to supports for children who have been temporarily removed from their family and more.
We will be celebrating these achievements during our annual Report to the Community Meeting on November 5, 2015.
The Closer to Home family would like to invite you to attend this meeting being held at the Marda Loop Communities Association hall located at 3130 - 16 Street SW at 5:00 pm.
Please stay tuned and check our website www.closertohome.com for further details.

Give the Gift of Christmas

Adopt a family and give the gift of Christmas to low-income families this holiday season.

Our annual Adopt-a-Family initiative, presented by McQuiston Executive Wealth Group, serves local families who are experiencing financial hardship and provides food, toys and clothing during a sometimes difficult time of year.

Last year, 90 families with 240 children had a magical Christmas, thanks to the generous support of our donors.

We are expecting that the number of children and families requiring help will increase this year due to our increasing population and the economy.
Let’s give in whatever way possible, small or big, and help make Christmas a little more festive for these families. Your donation goes a long way in helping them have a brighter holiday season.
If you would like to donate or know more about our Adopt-a-Family initiative, please email us at aaf@closertohome.com or call us at (403) 543-0550 Ext. 250.

Programs in the Community

Closer to Home’s West Central Community Resource Centre (WCCRC) is launching various programs for children and families starting this fall. From supporting kids with homework help, to teaching parenting skills to new parents, WCCRC offers a wide variety of services tailored to the needs of children and families in the community.

Some WCCRC programs this fall include:

Homework Club
This program connects children/youth with positive peers, teaches life skills and problem solving, and helps participants develop effective/functional social and community skills. Students receive help identifying their academic areas of need and develop individualized study programs that meet each individual’s academic goals.

Dream It, Be It
Dream It, Be It is for girls in secondary school who face potential obstacles to their future success. It provides girls with access to professional role models, career education and the resources to live their dreams. Soroptimist clubs will work in partnership with girls in small groups or a conference setting to provide them with the information and resources they want and need to be successful. The topics covered include career opportunities, setting and achieving goals, overcoming obstacles to success and moving forward after setbacks or failures.

Women’s Group
The Women’s Group offers a safe, interactive, supportive, learning environment for women of diverse cultures to connect with others that may be living in similar circumstances, whether they are a newcomer to Canada, single parent, have limited English or simply feel isolated in the neighborhood. The program is set up to encourage learning, build positive relationships and foster the skills of working independently as well as in a team.
A detailed list of programs offered by the WCCRC can be found on our website www.closertohome.com.

Summer in the City 2015

On behalf of these youth who had the opportunity to attend Closer to Home’s Summer in the City camp this year, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all our donors, partners and volunteers who contributed to make it possible.

See you next summer.
Creating Hope for Families... Every Single Day

It is incredible how Closer to Home’s staff work to empower families, every day.

Recently, a mother and her child with special needs walked into Closer to Home’s West Central Community Resource Centre (WCCRC). In 90 minutes, the staff worked to change a crisis situation into one of hope for this family.

Mom was doing the best she could for her child. She worked three part-time jobs and shared accommodation with a roommate, as she had to leave her previous home due to mold.

It appeared that Mom was managing, until her roommate became physically abusive towards her child. Her child was no longer safe, and they were forced to move out of the place.

Mom had nowhere to go and no family in Calgary, no friends and a limited network she could call upon for support. If she didn’t get help, she and her child would be sleeping in her car that evening.

Mom walked into a church that often partners with Closer to Home and the church suggested that she go to the West Central Community Resource Centre.

The Mom together with her baby visited WCCRC and explained the situation to the staff. After fully understanding the sensitivity of the situation, the staff called different shelters looking for a place for this family to sleep. Most shelters would not take the family. Not willing to take no for an answer, the staff advocated tirelessly for Mom and child.

Finally, they found a solution and a shelter willing to work with them and the family. Within a short and intense period of time, the staff found a place for the family. They would have a safe, warm bed to sleep in that evening.

Now that the family has been connected with the shelter, the Mom will receive support in securing affordable housing as well as other supports. The family has also been assured that Closer to Home is always there for her and available to assist if needed in future.