Dear Friends of Closer To Home,

Summer is almost here and that means vacation, sun, and tons of other fun events happening around the city. In this edition of the Closer to Home quarterly newsletter, you can read about the Hockey Day in Canada event which helped fund recreation activities for our kids in care, and a whole week of great upcoming June activities during Aboriginal Awareness Week. We will also tell you all about our Homework Club Program, and how you can volunteer to be a Homework Club Tutor for the upcoming school year!

We hope you will kick off your summer with us at Closer to Home's Annual Stampede Breakfast on July 5, 2012. Don't forget your sunscreen!

Aboriginal Awareness Week

June 17 - June 23, 2012
Peweke Open House during Aboriginal Awareness Week

June 21 is National Aboriginal Day in Canada, which honours and celebrates our nation’s original peoples. Week-long celebrations highlight the history of Canada’s First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. In Calgary (“Blackfoot country”) we highlight the culture and traditions of the Treaty 7 nations that have made this city their home.

This year Closer to Home Community Services will be marking the occasion with an open house at Peweke for other agency personnel on June 18 from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Come join us for a tour of the house, lunch and information about our Aboriginal programs. For details, please contact Kandi Santerno at 403-472-2723.

Closer to Home Community Services will also be hosting a child’s craft table at a free family Aboriginal Week event on June 23, 2012 at Shaw Millennium Park. The event begins at 10:00am and will include a pow wow, performers, games, art and crafts tables, traditional arts and crafts, an “ask an Elder” booth, a children’s craft center and more.

Aboriginal Awareness Week Events
Cultural celebrations happening around Calgary in June

Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary BBQ & Open House
When: Monday, June 18, 2012, 11:30am - 1:30pm
Where: 427 – 51 Ave SE
Contact: info@afccalgary.org

Native Counselling Services of Alberta Open House
When: Wednesday, June 20, 2012, 11:00am - 2:00pm
Where: 614 - 6 Ave SW, 2nd Floor
Contact: Barb 403.237.7850

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City of Calgary / CAUAC Chief David Crowchild & Youth Achievement Award Ceremony
When: Thursday, June 21, 2012, 12:00pm - 2:00pm
Where: City Hall Municipal Plaza, 800 Macleod Trail SE
Contact: Lorna 403.268.5149

Committee for the Awareness of Native Employees
Traditional Food, Dancing & Drumming
When: Thursday, June 21, 2012, 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Where: Harry Hays - Atrium, 220 - 4 Ave SE
Contact: Victoria 403.691.6460

Aboriginal Awareness Week Gala
Keynote Speaker: Susan Aglukark
When: Thursday, June 21, 2012, 5:30pm - 9:00pm
Where: Carriage House Inn, 9030 Macleod Trail South
Tickets: $125 each
Contact: info@afccalgary.org

10th Annual Golf Tournament Métis Nation Region 3
When: Friday, June 22, 2012, 8:00am
Where: Lakeside Golf Club, 555 Lakeside Greens Drive, Chestermere, AB
Contact: Joe or Marlene 403.569.8800

Indigenous Potluck Fest
When: Friday, June 22, 2012, 12:00pm - 2:00pm
Where: Awo Taan Healing Lodge Parent Link Centre, #100, 1603 - 10 Ave SW
RSVP: info-parentlink@awotaan.org

Aspen Open House BBQ
When: Friday, June 22, 2012, 12:00pm - 2:00pm
Where: 2115 - 27 Ave NE
Contact: Charlotte 403.219.3477

Family Day Events (FREE Admission)
*Bring your own lawn chairs. No onsite parking available; close to city parking for a fee.*
When: Saturday, June 23, 2012, 10:00am - 9:00pm
Where: Shaw Millennium Park, 1220 - 9 Ave SW
- First People’s Art Market, 10:00am - 7:00pm
- Kid’s Corner, 11:00am - 3:00pm
- Entertainers Stage, 10:00am - 3:00pm
- Resource Fair, 11:00am - 2:00pm
- Children’s Story Corner, 1:00pm - 3:00pm
- Children’s Initiation Pow-Wow, 4:00pm - 9:00pm

Save the date for CTH’s annual Stampede Breakfast
Kick off the 100th anniversary of The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth with us!
Spring is here and summer is quickly approaching. That means Closer to Home has begun planning for our annual Stampede Breakfast in July, and we want you to be there! It will be a great morning of friends, family and delicious, steaming hot pancakes served up again this year by Calgary’s own Batter Boys. Come join in on the fun and witness the happiness on the kids’ faces as they enjoy fluffy pancakes, face painting and music. This year’s event is once again sponsored in-part by Crystal Glass and Greco’s Pizza, also located at 3507 – 17 Ave SW.

When: Thursday, July 5, 2012 from 9am -11am
Where: Closer to Home’s parking lot, 3507A - 17 Ave SW, Calgary, AB

Stop by with the kids or even on your way to work for good food and good times. Kick off the 100 year anniversary of the Calgary Stampede on a full stomach. And don’t forget your cowboy hat!
Mother's Day 2012
Recognizing great moms on this special day

For those of us who are lucky enough to have great moms, Mother’s Day is a time to show these special women in our lives our thanks, love and recognition for all they do for us. A mother’s love can be a salve when we’ve scraped our knees or had our hearts broken. Awesome mothers are our cheerleaders when we succeed – getting our driver’s license, receiving a promotion at work. Hers may still be the voice in your head asking if you brushed your teeth this morning, or reminding you to look both ways before crossing the street.

The staff members at Closer to Home have the pleasure of working with great moms every day, including teaching parents, foster parents and community parents. From all of us at Closer to Home, Happy Mother’s Day, and thanks!

Here are a few questions some kids in our after-school programs answered about their moms:

If you could change one thing about your Mom, what would it be?

• "She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I’d get rid of that."
• "I’d make my Mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me."
• "I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on her back."

What kind of little girl was your Mom?

• "My Mom has always been my Mom and none of that other stuff."
• "I don’t know because I wasn’t there, but my guess would be pretty bossy."
• "They say she used to be nice."

Homework Club
Helping at-risk kids make the grade

Trends show that children and youth are more likely to engage in high-risk activities during the after-school hours of 3pm to 6pm. Closer to Home is always looking for volunteers to help facilitate our Homework Club program that increases the likelihood of young people becoming involved in pro-social activities, learning life skills and developing effective study habits while minimizing opportunities for high-risk activities, behaviours and choices.

Homework Club is for students in grades one through six who have been identified as vulnerable or at-risk. The program connects participants with positive peers, teaches life skills and problem solving, and helps students develop effective and functional social and community skills through safe and fun recreational activities.

Students also receive help identifying their academic areas of difficulty and, together with the Closer to Home program facilitator, develop individualized study programs to meet their own academic needs.

Closer to Home facilitates three Homework Clubs in southwest Calgary in partnership with the City of Calgary, Calgary Housing Company, Bethany Chapel and Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church. Each club has 20 to 45 regular participants.

Having committed volunteers in each of the clubs ensures a safe and supportive environment for all participants. Volunteers help students with reading, writing and homework as well by role modeling appropriate social skills.

If you are interested in volunteering as a Homework Club Tutor for the September 2012 school year, or any of the other after school programs facilitated by Closer to Home Community Services, please call us at (403) 543-0550 or email info@closertohome.com.
Donor Appreciation
Closer to home would like to recognize our supporters from the last quarter

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Do you wish to receive further correspondence from us such as our quarterly newsletter, donor recognition, or upcoming events? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*For credit card donations, we will call you during business hours to verify information

Donor privacy information: Closer to Home Community Services respects the personal privacy of our donors. We do not sell or share our donor list with other organizations. We use your donor information to support the processing of your gift and for ongoing fundraising activities. As part of our recognition program, we will publish donor names in Closer to Home publications such as our annual report or quarterly newsletters. If you prefer to remain anonymous, please contact our Fund Development Department at (403) 543-0559 ext 225. If you do not wish to receive further correspondence from our agency, please check the box provided above.

Please send completed form to:
Charitable Registration #: 89235 5759 RR0001
3507A –17 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2E 0B6

Please visit our website at closertohome.com
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