

Winter 2014

Closer to Home

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Uniting vulnerable children, youth & families

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Thank You, Adopt-a-Family Donors!

While the holidays are usually a time of joy, it can also be a time of emotional and financial challenge for many low-income families. Thanks to the generous support of our donors this year, we were able to provide gifts, toys and grocery gift cards to all families needing support: 110 families, including 270 children! Thanks to all of you who made 2013 a more festive season for our children, youth and families!

Thank you donors for sharing the spirit of giving! We hope your co-workers, classmates, friends and families will join you again in 2014!

Interrupting Domestic Conflict: Calgary Herald Christmas Fund 2013

Back in late November, the Calgary Herald announced that Closer to Home was selected as one of its 2013 Christmas Fund recipients. In the following weeks leading up to Christmas, Closer to Home, along with 12 other local charities, was profiled in the newspaper and in stories told by the Calgary Herald's media partners, UP! 97.7FM and Global TV. (If you missed these stories, you can see them on our website at www.closetohome.com/2014/02/13/calgary-herald-christmas-fund-2013).

Over \$1.2 million was raised through this year's campaign and was divided among the 12 charities in Calgary. In addition, a portion of this year's Christmas Fund was directed to the Calgary Foundation's flood relief efforts, which was new to the campaign this year.

Closer to Home's share of just over \$95,000 was presented in the form of a life-size cheque at the closing reception at the Calgary Herald Building on January 28, 2014. These funds will be directed towards the Domestic Conflict Response Team (DCRT) – a collaboration with Closer to Home, HomeFront, Calgary Police Service and Calgary and Area Child and Family Services. The project is designed to reduce the recurrence of domestic violence by supporting families and providing them with the tools to successfully end the cycle of abuse and violence in their lives. To learn more about the project, visit the HomeFront website at homefrontcalgary.com/main/domestic-conflict-response-team/.

As Jody Hoogwerf, Program Manager said to a Herald employee on the day of the closing reception, "This cheque represents the interruption of over 100 instances of domestic conflict this coming year in Calgary."

Closer to Home would like to thank the Calgary Herald and its partners for the opportunity to be chosen as one of the recipients of the Christmas Fund in 2013. And, we would like to especially thank the Calgary Herald employees and the citizens of Calgary for their tremendous support of Closer to Home throughout this campaign.

We can help. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic conflict, please call 911 or contact any of the following:

HomeFront

www.homefrontcalgary.com

Awo Taan Healing Lodge

www.awotaan.org

Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter

www.calgarywomensshelter.com

Discovery House Family Violence Prevention

www.discoveryhouse.ca

Peer Support Services for Abused Women

www.pssaw.org

Youville Women's Residence

www.youville.net

The Buying Time Program

A family assistance fund designed to help families with immediate emergency aid

Since 2009, it has been caring and generous donors that have helped Closer to Home's Adopt-a-Family initiative become a huge success. Hundreds of families in need benefit from the substantial outpouring of support in our community, including many toys, gifts and gift-cards. Similar momentum is building this year with CTH distributing numerous Christmas gifts to families in need, helping to make Christmas a more joyful and merry season for all.

On behalf of each child and family member that we were able to serve through Adopt-a-Family, we would like to sincerely thank you. You sent a powerful message of hope to these families and this was made possible with your kind and generous support.

After receiving feedback from the beneficiaries of this program, and drawing from our own experiences, we know that vulnerable families need support not only during the holiday season but also throughout the entire year. Families come to CTH for help when they find themselves in the midst of challenges that seem insurmountable often due to financial constraints.

Our community practitioners from the West Central Resource Centre, who work directly with vulnerable families in our community, mention how much

happiness their Christmas gifts bring them but also explain how clients need assistance throughout the rest of the difficult times, 365 days a year. According to our community practitioners, families in need often come to us for help to fulfill their basic needs which largely remain unfulfilled or insufficient, even after accessing all available resources. These needs range from baby supplies to bus tickets for their daily commute. For as little as \$50/month you can contribute to building strong, healthy and independent families in our community. And in turn, our community practitioners continue to work side by side with these families to plan and help them move towards positive change.

Your monthly donations will go to the 'Buying Time' program, a family assistance fund established by Bow Trail Resource Group. This program assists individuals and families with immediate emergency aid while they wait for more sustainable, longer-term support. Closer to Home administers the financial wing of this program and, most importantly, ensures that the right family benefits from the right support.

We are happy to work with you to identify a family that you would like to support and in what way.

"When I needed their help, Closer to Home really came through for me. My children and I were about to be evicted because I was \$125 short on rent. The ladies at the West Central Resource Centre helped me pay my rent and me and my family have a home for Christmas. What an amazing gift for us! I can't thank them enough."

~Anonymous WCRC Client

To learn more about the Buying Time program or to discuss other ways you can support families in need, please contact Kaitlin Nelson at (403) 543-0550, ext. 235. Or, you can visit www.closertohome.com/donate or complete the donation form in this newsletter.

Donate today and know that the right supports at the right time can make all the difference in a child's life. Your monthly donation is a simple, cost-effective method to support the life-changing work that takes place through Closer to Home. Your regular monthly gifts help provide hope and healing to vulnerable children, youth and families.

Questions?
Please contact our Fund Development staff at (403) 543-0550 ext. 235

Where your support is needed:	How much is needed:	How donations are used:
Payment of utilities bill	\$150/month (upgrade to \$200/month)	Directly pay incurred bills for a specific family in full, once or on a monthly basis or Contribute minimum charge (\$150) or a fixed amount to cover utility bill of a family, once or on a monthly basis
Baby Supplies: Baby food, formula, diapers, wipes	\$50/month	Gift cards to stores (Walmart, Superstore, Co-op, Safeway, Shoppers)
Grocery	\$50/month (upgrade to \$75/month)	Gift cards to stores (Walmart, Superstore, Co-op, Safeway, Shoppers)
Bus Tickets: Monthly bus passes, tickets (book of 10), senior yearly passes For more info on fares: www.calgarytransit.com/html/fares.html	\$94/month (upgrade to \$100/month)	Buy a bus pass or ticket according to the need of the family, once or on a monthly basis

Adopt-a-Family 2013 Story:

Dear Closer to Home...

Subject: In need of a Christmas adoption

Dear Closer to Home,

Hi, my name is Molly*. I am a mom of 2 boys trying to make it through school, I am living on a grant that is \$1,500 dollars a month, my rent is \$1,300 and my daycare is \$240 so I am barely hanging in there. My boyfriend helps me when he can (he is not the father of my kids). Christmas is coming, along with my son's 3 year remission from cancer and I was hoping to be able to buy them gifts and give them a nice Christmas but I am unable to. I was wondering if you had any empty spots open for my family to be adopted?

A little bit about us, I was young when I had kids (19 years old) and ever since then I have had very bad luck with my health. I am in school after being on medical leave for so long because I am trying to give my boys a better life. My oldest son is 8 years old he lives with asthma which we have finally learned to control. My youngest son who is 7 years old, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2010 which was cancerous, he underwent brain surgery and then did treatment only radiation. He has been in remission for almost 3 years. My kids are my life and they make my world no matter what goes on in their life.

If you don't have any spots left it is alright, I was just hoping

Thank you very much,

Molly

*Names have been changed

Subject: Forever Grateful

Dear Closer to Home,

I came to Closer to Home with a great deal of shame. I spoke with Minoush (WCRC Coordinator at CTH) on more than one occasion and I must say she made me feel very welcome. During the holiday, I did not expect anything for my family from this organization. I was happy with whatever we could scrape together. When CTH called me and told me to come and pick up my Christmas packages my mouth dropped. Whoever the donor was, outdid my expectation in an incredible way. On Christmas morning when my children opened their gifts, they were so happy and excited. The donor also sent means that I may purchase food and clothing items for my family. On Christmas morning my husband and I had tears in our eyes. What a wonderful feeling to give our children a nice Christmas. They don't fully understand our struggle. I pray that by the time they are able to understand, our situation will have changed at least to some degree.

I know that the donors are anonymous but PLEASE let them know that our family is TRULY, TRULY, grateful! We do not take their generosity lightly or for granted. Our prayer is that our God blesses them for their kindness... not only this year, but each year to come. Thank you again, you will never be forgotten.

Forever Grateful,

Molly & Family

PS - It put a smile on my boys' faces and that is why I never give up in life.

Save On Your Energy Bill

Empower Closer to Home

For a limited time, Sponsor Energy is offering a special pre-approved rate of 7.25 c/kWh to residential customers who choose Closer to Home as their charity of choice. This offer expires March 31, 2014!

Switch your energy provider to Sponsor Energy and take advantage of significant savings while supporting Closer to Home Community Services. Closer to Home is a charity partner with Sponsor Energy, an innovative power company that donates 50% of its profits to local charities.

Sign up by visiting www.sponsorenergy.com and clicking on the "Sign Up Now!" button. Enter Closer to Home in the "Referred by" and "Community Partner" fields. You will then be eligible for the special pre-approved rate.

For more information visit

www.closetohome.com/donate/sponsor-energy-partnership

or contact Kaitlin Nelson at (403) 543-0550 ext 235



sponsorenergy
Use your POWER for GOOD!

Closer to Home
COMMUNITY SERVICES



Donor Appreciation

Closer to Home would like to recognize our supporters from the last quarter
(October 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013)

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Andrew McQuiston
- Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd
- ATB Financial
- Barb Henning
- Baxters Welding
- Brydon, Perry & Volk Families
- Cargill Limited
- Cenovus Energy
- Chris Larsen & Shea Stiles
- Clean Air Services Inc.
- Connie Sorensen
- Crystal Glass Employees
- Daniel Washbrook
- Danielle Harris
- Deerfoot Carpet
- Derek Gilliland & Sylvia Gray
- Drive for Zoe
- Elmien Wingert
- Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church
- Eric Lumsden
- Erin O'Reilly
- Geoffrey & Marilyn McMillan
- George Demitropoulos
- Giffunds Canada
- Glamorgan Church of God
- H2Safety Services Inc.
- Hays Specialist Recruitment
- James D. Lytle, P. Eng.
- Jennifer Head
- Jim Washbrook
- Joanne Rawlinson
- John & Laurie Maher
- Julie O'Brien & Family
- Julie Vy Huynh
- Jytte Maleski
- Kaitlin Nelson
- Kane Family
- Karen Olivier
- Karen Shelton
- Kevin & Melodie Haughton
- Kids Up Front Foundation
- Kim and Matt Pumphrey
- Laurel Friessen
- Laurie-Anne Wilson
- Lea Austen
- Liane Erickson
- Linda Kolner
- Lora & Terry Wyman
- Maureen Androsoff
- Melissa Hicks
- Michael & Rita Collins
- Minoush Rafie
- Nicole Jordan
- OrionHealth
- Parsons Family
- Pohl Family
- Point & Feather
- Price Waterhouse Coopers
- Randy Korver
- Re/Max Complete Realty
- Robert Warren School
- Robin Dezall
- Roxanne LeBlanc
- Ryan & Kate Andrews Hoult
- Samaritan Club of Calgary
- Sarah Campbel Sinclair
- Scarboro United Church
- Shaw Communications
- Sheldon Psychology Group
- Simon Lift Systems
- Sponsor Energy
- Sport Chek Shawnessy
- Stantec
- Stone Source International
- Stuart Turner
- Terry Koch
- The City of Calgary
- The Excellence In Literacy Foundation
- The Lyons Family
- Tina Chapman
- Voodoo Lounge
- Winsport

Yes! Closer to Home can count on my support

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Email _____ Phone # _____

Donation: \$250.00 \$100.00 \$75.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 Other Amount \$ _____

Cheque Visa American Express Mastercard

Card # _____ Name on Card _____

Expiry Date _____

*For credit card donations, we will call you during business hours to verify information. All credit card donations are processed through the Canada Helps Website

Does Closer to Home have your permission to publish your name in the Donor Recognition section of CTH publications such as our quarterly newsletter? Yes No

Please send completed form to:
3507A - 17 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T3E 0B6

Charitable Registration #: 89823 5759 RR0001



Please visit our website at www.closertohome.com

To be added to our email mailing list, email reception@closertohome.com

To be removed from our mailing list, email reception@closertohome.com