

VitalNews

Office Renovations

The office is currently under renovations! Our temporary office is down the hall in bay 108. A big thank you to our Board Chair, Michael Ancil and his incredible Medicine Hat Monumental Co Ltd. staff, Mike, Damien and Mike as well as Kelly and Glenn for all of their hard work!



Spring Grant Writing Workshop

We are excited to present grant writing workshops for organizations who are interested in applying for a CFSEA spring grant. We encourage all past and future applicants to attend the workshop for the criteria and application has recently been updated. Workshops will be held in Bow Island, Brooks, Medicine Hat and Oyen. For any questions please contact our office.



Meet Board Director Myrna Stark!

Myrna and Mike Stark have been married for 23 years. Mike has spent nearly his entire life in Medicine Hat and Myrna has been able to call our community her home for over 23 years. They have four sons, Matthew, Nathan, Zachary and Joshua; three of which are away at University and one who is still at home.

With her master's degree in Marketing Myrna founded Sandfly Marketing Inc. more than 14 years ago and thanks to the community she continues to operate with great success today. Myrna enjoys being involved in the community both through sports; volunteering and working. She also enjoyed teaching at the Medicine Hat College in the Business Department for three years.

Myrna accepted the Board Director nomination in July 2018.

"I was looking forward to working with a team of bright and creative *movers and shakers* who want to support a vibrant, healthy, caring community. I have worked with Chris in the past through other community initiatives and recognize that she always seems to have her thumb on the pulse of what is happening in our community." says Myrna.

Myrna's boys have also benefited from the CFSEA grants through the American Legion Baseball program which receives funding from the John Ignatius TX Ranches - Baseball Fund.

"Through my work with the non-profit sector I can confirm how the funds received from the CFSEA have impacted various programs and services within our community." says Myrna.

Myrna is also a member of our Community Leadership



Committee. We are so grateful to have such an engaged community member as a part of the Community Foundation team!

Meet our Regional Development Manager

To determine the feasibility and appetite of establishing local community funds outside of Medicine Hat, CFSEA contracted former staff member, Marlene Watson in spring of 2018. Some may remember Marlene as Office Manager at CFSEA a number of years ago. Marlene tackled the project with energy and enthusiasm. The result was the establishment of three new rural community funds: Brooks and District, County of Forty Mile and Prairie Crocus (Special Areas 3 and Acadia Valley). She accepted the position of Regional Development Manager in August 2018 and will be working closely with the Advisory Committees of the newly established community funds.

"I didn't realize how homesick I was for the Community Foundation until I came back. It is wonderful to be back at the Community Foundation working with great people, doing great things," says Marlene.

Marlene will be travelling throughout the region connecting and re-connecting with organizations and individuals that want to be part of this exciting new initiative.

During her time away from work, Marlene can be found delivering library books for the Medicine Hat Public Library and hanging out with her family!



CFSEA Regional Development



Front row: Diana Walker, Linda Bingeman, Chair **Back row:** Jean Kimber, John van Otterloo, Lorraine Guckert, Elaine Michaels, Stacey Scheuerman & Marlene Watson, Regional Development Manager.

The Prairie Crocus Fund Advisory Committee met in December 2018 to discuss plans to raise awareness and donations for the fund. A fund agreement was signed with CFSEA, ensuring all donations to the fund are never spent. The investment income will support the charitable needs of Special Areas 3 and MD of Acadia for generations to come. With the support of an anonymous donor CFSEA will be hiring three (3) Community Fund Coordinators to help grow and promote each of the rural community funds.

Stay tuned for the announcement of our new team members!

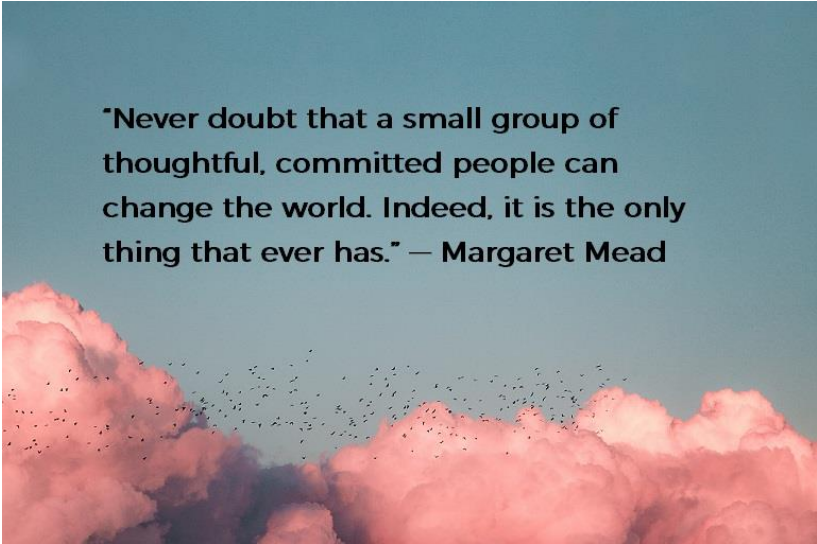
Youth in Philanthropy

The CFSEA's Youth in Philanthropy (YiP) program is a leadership development initiative for local high school students. YiP encourages students to experience philanthropy through the granting and giving process. Students research community needs then identify and select appropriate charity(s) to receive funding.

Thank you to our donors who have designated their family fund distributions to the Youth in Philanthropy Program and for inspiring leadership for our local youth.

The 2019 YiP has a different timeline compared to past years. The program will begin in January and grants will be awarded by the end of March.

If your school or youth group is interested in participating in the 2019 YiP program please contact our office!



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead

Donor Profile

The **Care Beyond Cure Fund** was established in 2015 by members of the Medicine Hat Hospice Palliative Care Society shortly after the group dissolved. The vision for the fund was to help support the Palliative Bed Program in partnership with the Covenant Foundation.

The bed program was launched by the Medicine Hat Regional Hospice Palliative Care Society in 1998 and was funded through the annual Trees of Light Fundraiser.

The program is designed for palliative patients at the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital who would like to receive their care in the comfort of their own homes.



Les Pearson, Janice Dynes, John Piea & CFSEA staff member Niki Gray

At that time, a hospital bed is delivered to the patient's home by MEDChair Medicine Hat at no cost to the individual. The beds are maintained and kept in next to new condition with the help of the funds received from the CFSEA **Care Beyond Cure Fund** each spring.

There are currently eight beds in Medicine Hat available for palliative patients in our community and the group is about to purchase two more! If you are interested in making a contribution to the **Care Beyond Cure Fund** to benefit the Palliative Bed Program, please contact our office.



From our Board of Directors
and staff we wish you a Happy New Year!

Mark Your Calendars

February 8 - Grant Writing Workshop - CFSEA Office 12pm-1pm
February 6 - Grant Writing Workshop - Bow Island Town Office 4:30pm-5:30pm
February 7 - Grant Writing Workshop - Brooks Public Library 12pm-1pm
February 25 - Grant Writing Workshop - Oyen Big Country Adult Learning Council 4pm-5pm
March 15 - Grant Application Deadline 4:30pm
March 16 - Board Leadership Southeast Alberta Workshop

Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society

The Medicine Hat Women's Shelter received a Vital Impact Grant in 2017 for their Engaging Men and Boys Campaign. A campaign to stand up against violence and gender equality.

While the MHWSS and their volunteers brainstormed ideas for the campaign, they created the Truenity (True-Identity) movement. This movement mission is to educate men and boys on family violence, respect and true identity through grassroots partnerships, media presence and graphic product - with the ultimate goal of creating a culture where men speak out and advocate for the equality and safety of women and girls.

The initiative was kicked off in November 2018 to raise an awareness campaign called "What We Say Matters", promoting the message that our words have power in building people up or tearing them down. A campaign video was created and can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZaT52ZApfo>

"We are thrilled to see the movement organically moving through local communities and our goal for the future of Truenity is to continue to grow the movement through continued conversation and working with individuals and groups within the community who are passionate about making change. Our hope is for a lot more growth and longevity of the campaign message." says Executive Director Natasha Carvalho.

5 REASONS TO GIVE TO CHARITY



BENEFIT WITH A TAX DEDUCTION

When you give to a qualified charitable organization you are able to claim the donations you made on your income tax return. The glory of charitable donations is that you are both giving and receiving at the same time.
<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/dnrs/svngs/clmnglb2-eng.html>



GIVING MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD

Donating to a charity is a major mood-booster. Knowing that you're helping others is empowering and, in turn, can make you feel happier and more fulfilled. Numerous studies have shown that it makes us happier giving money to a charity than if we were to spend that money on ourselves.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK

Charity is a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community you live in. Donations to the Community Foundation can benefit all charities across Southeastern Alberta through grants or by designating funds to your favourite local organization.



EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS

Bringing about impact and change is not simply a matter of money. It is also a matter of individuals sharing their time and talents to make a difference in their community. If you are unable to make donations, volunteering is always a great option.



ENCOURAGE FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Your own charitable donations can inspire the people in your life to give to causes important to them. It could even bring about a family-wide effort to help support a specific cause or need in our community.

For a donation calculator please follow this link to the Canada Revenue Agencies website. <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/dnrs/svngs/clmng1b2-eng.html>

Please help us spread the word about our donors, their impact and the work of the Community Foundation by forwarding this newsletter to your family and friends.

Contact us:

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P: 403-527-9038

W: www.cfsea.ca

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