

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, February 13, 2025 at **7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Welcome to the Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting – February 13, 2025
- 1.2 Call to Order
- 1.3 Approval of Agenda

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

- 2.1 Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement - Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services Board acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

None

4. **BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes from January 09th, 2025
- 4.2 Big Brothers Big Sisters Grant – Final Report
- 4.3 BGC Wolf Creek Grant – Final Report
- 4.4 Volunteer Appreciation Events Information
- 4.5 Volunteer Appreciation Events Invitation
- 4.6 FCSS Managers Report – Verbal Update
- 4.7 Volunteer Programmer Report – January
- 4.8 Community Engagement Programmer Report – January
- 4.9 Youth Programmer Report - January
- 4.10 FCSS Client Statistics - January

5. **CONFIDENTIAL**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting Scheduled for: March 13th, 2025 at 7:00 pm



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, January 09, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Sands	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Brenda Dennis	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Dena Thomas	Public at Large
Glenda Brown	Public at Large
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Heather Johnson	Public at Large
Kimberly Burrell	Public at Large
Gloricel Cavago	Public at Large
Aaron Hoyte	Public at Large

ATTENDING

Sawyer Hick	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Manager
Sue Penner	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Asst

OTHERS ATTENDING

REGRETS

None

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thomas welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 6:54 pm.

Member Brown moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TREATY SIX LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement was read to recognize that the Town of Blackfalds is on Treaty Six territory.

PRESENTATIONS

N/A

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, January 09, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BUSINESS

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Member Thomas put her name forward for the Chair position, which was accepted, and was acclaimed for the next term.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Member Thomas put Member Brown's name forward for the Vice Chair position, which was accepted, and was acclaimed for the next term.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes of November 14th, 2024

Councillor Dennis moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from November 14th, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2025 Approved FCSS Budget

Manager Hick reviewed some of the changes made to the 2025 budget:

Revenues:

- Other Revenue increased from \$500 to \$1500
- Local Govt & Conditional Grants is new this year (transfer from 851 Lacombe County Cost Share Agreement \$5000)
-

Expenses:

- Salaries decreased by 8.93% from \$113,331 to \$103,212
- Overtime increased from \$3500 to \$9000
- Hourly wages decreased by 2.78% from \$209,033 to 203,221
- Employer contributions decreased by 16.15% from \$93,266 to \$78, 208
- Printing decreased from \$5000 to \$4000
- Contracted general services increased from \$11,950 to \$16,000 to provide more support towards seniors programming through contracted services.
- Program expenses increased from \$44,300 to \$47,350 to provide a budget line for seniors' week to be in line with youth week having its own budget line. Senior's programming was also increased. As well as other programming to provide FCSS with an opportunity to expand programming as needed while also addressing the needs within the Social Needs Assessment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- In past years the Municipal contribution to FCSS has been:

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MINUTES

	Budgeted	Actual
- 2022	210,172	208,693
- 2021	254,028	186,334
- 2022	244,346	242,008
- 2023	233,980	251,773
- 2024	269,468	in progress

Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award Nomination Form Criteria

Manager Hick presented the background for the establishment of this new award.

The criteria has been determined and a nomination form prepared for our 2025 Volunteer Recognition. The recipient of the award will be chosen through a selection process facilitated by an FCSS Board Representative, a family friend, and a past award recipient. This year the family friend will be Tyson Sather who spearheaded this award and Gary's son Trent Kroetsch will sit as the past recipient. We are looking for a board representative to assist with the selection process.

The "Family" have the finances to cover the cost of the volunteer recognition plaque for two more years and the Volunteer Programmer has the budget to cover future years costs.

The FCSS Board recommends this selection process for the Volun-Told Award as it is a similar process used for the Gloria House Mentor Award and Outstanding Group Awards which have an FCSS Board Member Representative, and Member Burrell assist with the selection process for this award.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FCSS Managers Verbal Update

- Manager Hick reported on the following:
 - Submitted application for Lacombe County FCSS for additional project funding for 2025 in support of seniors programming. This is in addition to the support we receive for Seniors Walking Club, seniors gentle exercise and More Than a Movie and we were notified that we will be receiving the requested amount of \$4000.
 - Golden Circle is providing supports to seniors of Thursdays from 1:00 – 3:30 pm in our office. We hope their hours and support increase with the hiring of a new support person.
 - Youth programs have started back up and we have seen an increase in participants.
 - Attended the LREMP Tabletop Exercise on November 27th which is in preparation for the live exercise in 2025. The FCSS Manager is responsible for managing the Reception Centre at either the Community Centre or Abbey Centre.

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MINUTES

Volunteer Programmer Report

- Volunteer Programmer filled volunteer shifts for several special events during the months of November and December.
- Snow Angel Program has 19 residents paired with a Snow Angel and 7 more on the waiting list. The decline in community volunteers has led to the launch of a NEW Neighbourhood Snow Angel Program. Participants receive a sign to display in their front window or door, indicating their involvement in the program. We are asking residents to be involved by looking for the sign and shoveling their front walks and driveway to "Spread the Kindness".
- Participated in the LREMP Tabletop Exercise on November 27th.
- Volunteer Christmas Open House held on December 2nd had a total of 63 in attendance.
- Business Christmas Challenge gathered an amazing 268lbs of food and \$720 for the Blackfalds Food Bank.
- The Volunteer Programmer attended the Stars of Alberta Awards on December 6th where our volunteer Robyn Devine received the prestigious award in the Breaking Barriers, fighting gender discrimination category.

2024 Volunteer Recap:

- 1789 volunteer hours were recorded in 2024
- 305 volunteer positions were held by Blackfalds residents in support of Town/FCSS initiatives and events.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- Jim Hurley Free Skate – Sunday's
- Snow Angel Program – winter months

Community Engagement Programmer Report

- There are 945 Facebook followers and 132 on Instagram.
- Thank you letters sent to all Winter Wear Fundraiser donors.
- The November 6th Interagency luncheon had 27 individuals in attendance representing 19 organizations.
- Received, screened and approved or rejected Christmas Bureau applications.
 - A total of 432 people were approved through the program which consisted of 254 children, 122 women and 56 men. A total of 126 hampers were picked up of which 103 went to families and 23 to singles or seniors.



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MINUTES

Youth Programmer

- BYC started back up and had a total of 53 participants.
- Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety had 10 registrants.
- Youth Cooking Club had 9 registrants

Chair Thomas adjourned the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Dena Thomas, Chair

Sue Penner, Admin Staff

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AGENDA

4.2 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: SAWYER HICK
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: Big Brothers Big Sisters Grant – Final Report

BACKGROUND:



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters**
OF LACOMBE AND DISTRICT

IGNITE POTENTIAL. IGNITE CHANGE.
WE ARE BIGGER TOGETHER.



2023
ANNUAL REPORT



MEET A MATCH

Meet Mentor Kathleen and Mentee Kogan. Kathleen and Kogan are one of BBBSLD's hybrid/community-based matches. They started their match as an in-school match back when Kogan was in grade 2! Kogan is now going into grade 11. The time Kogan and Kathleen spend together is always intentional. They often enjoy grabbing a bite to eat together, playing board games, or going for walks and talking to one another. Kathleen has been a great support for Kogan over the years. Kogan said that Kathleen always knows what to say and gives the best advice. It has been great to watch their match relationship grow over the years!



"I like going to Kathleen for advice"
-Kogan

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A GLIMPSE INTO 2023

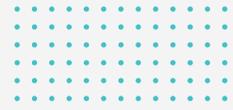
THANK YOU

"Having a mentor makes me feel cared for"
-Mentee, age 11



VISION

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE



BBBSLD is a strong, independent, innovative, diverse, volunteer-based organization that provides programs and services and role models to any child in need.

MISSION

WHAT WE DO

Our mission is to serve the youth of Lacombe and District through the provision of quality one-on-one volunteer relationships, and other related programs by partnering with community organizations, businesses, individuals, and families.



"My son enjoyed the break from
daily school routine.
It made him excited to go to school"
-Parent of a youth enrolled in
group programs

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

What a wonderful year we had here at Big Brothers Big Sisters. This past year showed us the incredible difference that can be made when everyone works together. Thank you to our funders, donors, volunteers, youth and families, partners, staff, Board of Directors, and the community. Your support has been invaluable. Thank you for making a difference and providing youth with the opportunity to reach their full potential.



Executive Director
Jen Harty

In 2023, our organization witnessed growth in various areas. There was an increase in program numbers, there was a rise in the number of mentors trained in developmental relationships, and continued growth in match relationships. Our organization facilitated 412 mentoring relationships. It is clear that now is the time to expand our impact and amplify our voice. Our team will remain innovative to consistently meet the needs of those we serve.



Board President
Bev Bachelder

A total of 4997 volunteer hours were dedicated to mentoring and BBBS Lacombe and District in 2023. This remarkable commitment showcases the generosity and trust in our mission, and for that, we are immensely grateful. With your continued support, we will continue to build and enhance our programs, offering mentoring opportunities, and ensuring we meet the needs of those we serve.

Thank you once again for making a difference and igniting the potential of the youth in our community.

Board of Directors

2023



Bev Bachelder

President

Travis Marcott

Vice President

Joey Ingram

Treasurer

Robert Saunders

Secretary

Emma Vockeroth

Director

Katie Camp

Director

Alina Schweer

Director

Pat Eeles

Director

Jen Buller

Director

"We introduced each other to new things and did things we wouldn't have done otherwise"
Mentee, age 13



IMPACT

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED **434**

TOTAL NUMBER OF MATCHES **412**

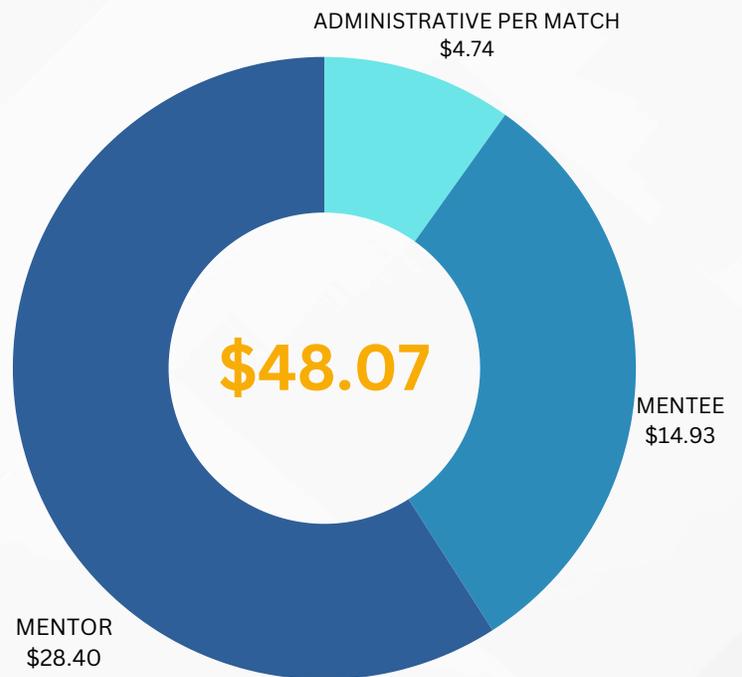
MENTORING PROGRAMS **9**

COMMUNITIES SERVED **6**

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS **116**

VOLUNTEER HOURS **4997**

MONTHLY COSTS PER MATCH



FINANCES



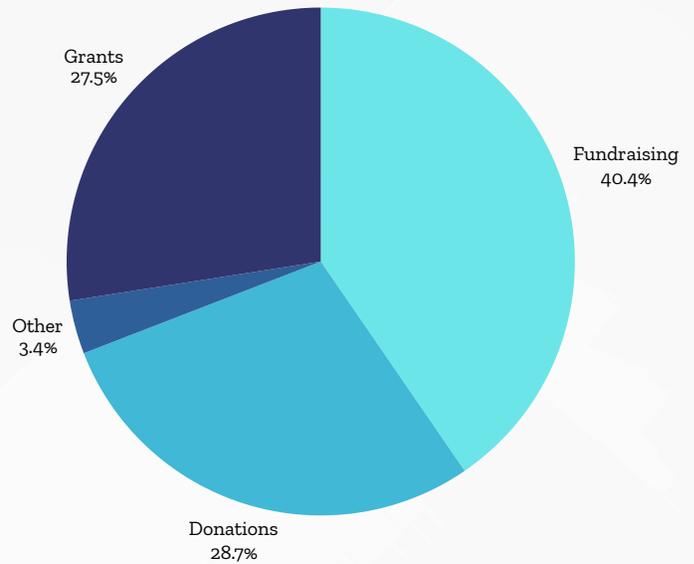
REVENUE

A significant source of our revenue continues to be fundraising which is 40.4% of our revenue.

Grant revenue is 27.47%. This includes United Way funding and grants from Blackfalds FCSS, Lacombe FCSS, and Lacombe County.

Donations are 28.7%.

70% of our revenue comes from fundraising and donations. These could fluctuate significantly year to year.

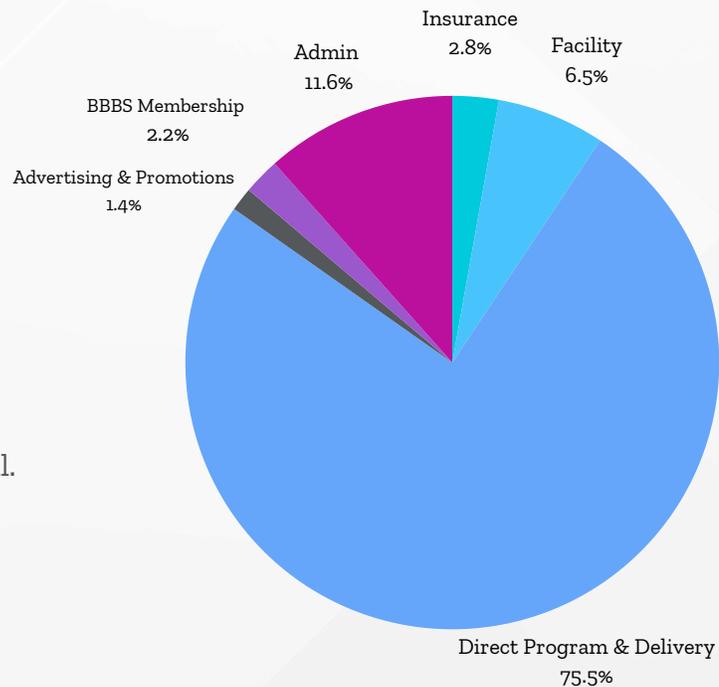


EXPENSES

Insurance is becoming more costly each year.

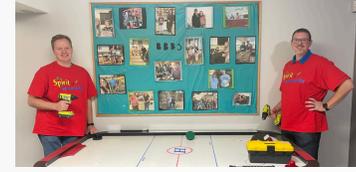
Our budget is prepared on monthly basis and monitored with the goal of ensuring we maximize the funds available for our programs.

On a \$20 donation, \$15.10 goes straight to helping the mentees in our programs ignite their potential.



Treasurer
Joey Ingram

A Glimpse into 2023...



A BIG

THANK YOU TO

Volunteers, donors, partners, families, Board of Directors, and BBBS team...

Thank you for the time, commitment, and dedication you give to Big Brothers Big Sisters
Lacombe and District.

Ignite Potential. Ignite Change. We Are Bigger Together.



Contact Us

 403-782-7870

 lacombe@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca

 lacombe.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca



Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

5018 Waghorn Street, Box 220, Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0

Phone (403) 600-9066 Fax (403) 885-0011

Email fcss@blackfalds.com

2024 FCSS Grant Funding Final Report

Please find enclosed a Final Reporting form for Blackfalds FCSS. This report is a requirement of FCSS funding and is an important part of evaluating for continuous improvement of the preventative social services we provide to Blackfalds. It is also a prerequisite for the approval of future funding.

The purpose of the final report is to provide a detailed account of what you accomplished and how. It should show what the impact of your program/project has had on the community. It is also an opportunity for service providers to reflect on their experiences so that they may apply their findings to future programs/projects.

Agency Name: Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District

Project Name: Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) School Mentoring and Traditional Mentoring programs

Report Completion Date: January 27th, 2025

Due Dates: January 31, 2025

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this application, please don't hesitate to contact me at (403) 885-6247.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sawyer Hick'.

Sawyer Hick
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Manager
Town of Blackfalds
403-885-6247
fcss@blackfalds.com

Name of Funded Agency: Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District

Name of Project: Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) School Mentoring and Traditional Mentoring programs

Project Timeline: January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024

Revenue		
	FCSS Contribution	\$8775

	Organizations Contribution	\$65737

Expenditures		
	FCSS Eligible Expenditures	\$38550
	(Actual amount as approved in application)	_____
	Other Expenditures	\$42576

	Revenue minus eligible expenditures	\$74512-81126

	Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(6614)

*** Please attach a full financial statement of revenues and expenditures. ***

Due Dates: January 31, 2025

1. Describe the program/project and discuss how it addressed the need identified in the community as described in your application.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District (BBBSLD) provides evidence-based mentoring programs designed to foster resilience, enhance executive function, and counter the impacts of adverse childhood experiences. Our diverse programming ensures that every child and youth is matched to a program that best suits their unique needs, increasing the likelihood of long-term success and positive outcomes.

Our Community-Based 1:1 Mentoring Program pairs youth with carefully screened and trained volunteer mentors. Matches dedicate 6-8 hours monthly to explore shared interests through activities like attending local events, volunteering, or engaging in recreational pastimes. These shared experiences not only help mentees develop meaningful relationships but also connect them to the broader community.

The In-School 1:1 Mentoring Program focuses on fostering connection in a school environment. Youth and mentors meet for one hour weekly, building trust and developing skills outside the classroom setting. This program also allows youth aged 14 and older to become mentors, giving them an opportunity to develop leadership skills while giving back to their community. These teen mentors also benefit from personalized support, increasing their own resilience and providing opportunities for skill development in leadership, communication, and decision-making.

Our Group Mentoring Programs, such as Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds and Game On, address development for youth in grade 5 and beyond. These programs focus on themes like mindfulness, self-care, communication, teamwork, and emotional health, while incorporating physical activity and life skills to promote mental and social well-being.

The Kids & Kops Summer Day Camp, a unique partnership with Lacombe Police Service, Blackfalds RCMP, and the Town of Blackfalds, offers youth a behind-the-scenes experience of law enforcement. Campers engage in team-building exercises, forensic science, and crime-solving scenarios while developing trust and respect for authority figures.

To further address community needs, BBBSLD also offers Adopt a Family during the holiday season. This program matches local families experiencing hardship with donors to fulfill wish lists and bring joy during a challenging time.

In 2024, BBBSLD facilitated 211 mentoring relationships in Blackfalds, reflecting the growing demand for mentoring in Blackfalds. This includes a decrease in Community-Based matches with youth moving and multiple match graduations and a steady number of In-School Mentoring participants compared to the previous year. Our group programs supported 189 youth, which is an increase of over 25% in participants, and the Kids & Kops Summer Camp engaged 9 participants from the community. Additionally, the Adopt a Family program aided 11 families, many of whom were referred by schools and connected with BBBSLD for the first time.

Strong from the Start and Developmental Relationship Training, developed in collaboration with the Search Institute, provides an essential foundation for all mentors and mentees. These trauma-informed, brain-development-focused trainings empower mentors to engage youth in a way that enhances their emotional and cognitive development. The Developmental Relationship training focuses on building safe, supportive, and positive relationships, addressing the specific needs of youth affected by trauma, and promoting their growth through healthy, constructive interactions.

Research highlights the transformative power of mentoring relationships. According to Mentor Canada's 2021 "State of Mentoring" report, youth with high-quality mentoring relationships are significantly more likely to report strong emotional health, improved decision-making, and a reduced likelihood of engaging in high-risk behaviors. Locally, our program data shows that 94% of mentees reported increased confidence, 93% reported better social skills, and 98% indicated they felt a stronger sense of belonging in their community.

Each mentoring relationship is built on a foundation of training and ongoing support. During enrollment, mentees, parents/guardians, and mentors participate in pre-match training, which includes essential topics such as healthy relationships, communication, boundaries, and decision-making. Regular check-ins by Mentoring Coordinators ensure that matches are progressing, with intentional focus on five key elements: challenging growth, expressing care, providing support, sharing power, and expanding possibilities.

By addressing the need for supportive, consistent relationships, BBBSLD is helping children and youth unlock their potential and envision a brighter future. Through mentorship, these young individuals not only overcome personal challenges but also grow into active, engaged participants in their community.

Supporting Statistics and Community Involvement	
Direct Programs Offered	Participant Numbers
Game On	116
Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds	73
Community-Based Mentoring	9
In School Mentoring	4
Kids & Kops Summer Day Camp Mentoring	9
Adopt – A – Family Program	22 youth, 47 ind., 11 families
Waiting List	14
Community Education and Awareness	Population Reached
Turn the Town Teal	12 businesses participated
40 Mentors in 40 Days Campaign	10 signs placed
Easter Barbeque	Approximately 150 attendees
Community Info & Expo Fair	Approximately 150 attendees
Festival of Wreaths – hosted at the Abbey Centre	16 Wreaths
Interagency Meetings	3
1 st Annual Duck Drop Fundraiser	150 attendees
Volunteerism	Participating Number
Community-Based Mentors	9
In-School Mentors	4
Board of Directors	4
Group Mentoring – Game On and Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds	5
Kids & Kops Summer Day Camp Mentoring	12
Adopt – A - Family	11
Fundraising	14
Staff Development	Staff Involved
Developmental Relationship Training	3
Palix Foundation Brain Story	2
Service Delivery Staff Training	1
Child Safety Protection	1
Geographical Area Served	
Blackfalds, Lacombe, Bentley, Eckville, Alix, Lacombe County	

2. Describe how your program/project has achieved one or more of the following:

- Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skill and become more resistant to crisis;

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District, we see every mentoring relationship as an opportunity to build resilience, independence, and hope in the lives of young people. In 2024, the power of these relationships continued to shine, showing us over and over again how meaningful connections can truly transform lives.

When youth are matched with a mentor, they gain more than just a friend, they gain someone who helps them navigate challenges, build confidence, and dream bigger. For example, one young mentee shared how her mentor's encouragement helped her face her fear of public speaking. By the end of the year, she gave a presentation at school. These moments of growth are what mentoring is all about, giving youth the tools and confidence to be leaders in their story.

The impact of our program is rooted in research. We know that children and youth who have strong developmental relationships are more likely to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. Through intentional training, our mentors learn how to create these relationships by listening, encouraging, and empowering youth to lead. This isn't just about short-term gains it is about setting kids up for a lifetime of success.

Families tell us their children are becoming more independent, better at handling conflict, and excited about their futures. One parent shared, "My daughter has shown so much growth and now can regulate herself and get through hard situations. Her mentor has been a big part of my daughter's growth." These relationships are a steady source of support, helping youth feel safe and capable, even in difficult times.

We also see the mentors grow. By being a part of a young person's journey, they not only give back to their community but also build meaningful connections that often impact their own lives.

At BBBSLD, we're proud to be part of this ripple effect. Through mentoring, we're not just helping children and youth get through the day we are helping them develop the strength, skills, and resilience to thrive for a lifetime.

- Help people to develop an awareness of social needs;

Building awareness of social needs is at the heart of everything BBBSLD does. Our organization believes that when a community understands its needs, especially the need for strong mentoring relationships, it becomes healthier, more connected, and more resilient.

One of our most impactful awareness initiatives continues to be our annual 'Turn the Town Teal' campaign each September. This community-wide effort brings businesses, organizations, and individuals together to advocate for mentoring by decorating storefronts with teal-colored materials and sharing our message. It's a visible and powerful reminder of the importance of mentorship, sparking conversations and inspiring action. Many people who joined the campaign share that they hadn't realized how much programming Big Brothers Big Sisters does in Blackfalds and how mentorship can change lives until they participated.

Beyond September, our ongoing community events and interactions are opportunities to shine a light on the social needs that mentoring addresses. At every event, whether it's a fundraising walk, a school presentation, or a partnership announcement, we emphasize the importance of mentoring and the role it plays in addressing larger social challenges. Highlighting stories of current matches helps people connect to the issue on a personal level, while conversations with families, mentors, and community partners deepen understanding and commitment.

Through our marketing and communications, we also work to inspire a broader awareness. From social media campaigns to newsletters, we share real stories and statistics that show the tangible impact of mentoring. These efforts not only increase awareness but also encourage people to get involved, either by becoming mentors themselves or supporting the program in other ways.

Ultimately, every interaction we have is rooted in the belief that raising awareness of social needs

isn't just a one-time effort it is a continuous process of education, inspiration, and connection. As more people understand the challenges faced by youth in our community, we see a ripple effect: stronger relationships, more mentors stepping forward, and a community that's better equipped to meet the needs of its members.

- Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people;

Our organization knows that strong relationships are at the core of a healthy and fulfilling life. Our mentoring programs are designed to help youth build interpersonal and group skills that not only enhance their ability to form friendships but also empower them to grow into confident and capable individuals.

Through our group mentoring programs such as Game On, Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds, and Kids and Kops the youth learn how to navigate social situations, communicate effectively, and build constructive relationships with their peers and adults. These programs create a safe and supportive space where young people can explore topics like teamwork, leadership, and self-esteem while practicing healthy interactions. Whether it's working together to solve a problem in Kids and Kops or sharing personal goals in Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds, these experiences help youth develop the tools they need to connect with others in meaningful ways.

The impact of these efforts is clear. Each year, we evaluate our programs to ensure they're making a difference. These numbers reflect more than just skills, but they tell the story of growing confidence, improved self-esteem, and the ability to navigate complex social situations. One mentee shared, "Before meeting my mentor, I didn't feel like I fit in anywhere. Now, I feel like I'm part of my school, and I'm not afraid to meet new people." Stories like this remind us why BBBS mentoring programs matter.

By focusing on relationships whether they are one-on-one or in a group setting we are giving youth the tools to succeed, not just in school but in life. Through connection, encouragement, and practical skills, they're learning how to foster friendships, lead others, and contribute positively to their communities.

- Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them;

Mentoring is more than about building relationships, it is about empowering individuals and communities to take ownership of their actions and decisions. Through the power of mentorship, youth gain the skills and confidence to shape their own lives while learning how their choices impact the world around them.

Mentors have the chance to better understand the needs of those around them and take meaningful steps to help. One mentor shared, "I've learned to be more confident and seen that I can support those in need with my presence." In fact, during our annual survey, 100% of mentors from Blackfalds agreed that their volunteer work makes their community a better place to live.

For mentees, mentorship is a pathway to personal growth and community engagement. With the guidance of their mentors, youth are learning to make thoughtful decisions and contribute positively to their communities. A 2021 report by Mentor Canada found that mentored youth are twice as likely to feel a sense of belonging to their community compared to those without a mentor. This sense of belonging encourages them to take on active roles in improving their neighborhoods, schools, and beyond.

Programs like Kids & Kops provide even more opportunities for youth to learn the value of giving back. Parent/guardians of Kids & Kops participants reported that, as a result of the program, their children better understood why it's important to help others, with 67% of respondents agreeing.

These statistics and feedback demonstrate how mentoring fosters a sense of responsibility that extends far beyond the individual.

Mentors and mentees are encouraged to participate in volunteer activities together, which not only deepens their bond but also builds a culture of service. Whether it's lending a hand at an event, advocating, or simply supporting one another, these relationships are at the heart of creating strong communities.

Through mentoring, people of all ages are learning that they have the power to make a difference not just in their own lives, but in the lives of others. This shared responsibility is what transforms communities and builds a brighter future for everyone.

- Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community.

Through mentoring, Big Brothers Big Sisters opens doors for youth to explore their passions, connect with their surroundings, and actively participate in community life.

Our Community-Based matches frequently attend local events, try new activities, and engage in volunteer work. These experiences not only strengthen their bonds but also inspire youth to see how they can make a difference. One match currently volunteered at Light Up Blackfalds while another has been actively helping at a senior's center.

Group mentoring programs further amplify this impact by helping youth discover opportunities within their communities. Programs like Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds, Game On, and Kids & Kops incorporate activities and discussions that connect youth with local resources and experiences. These programs are designed not only to develop skills but also to inspire a lifelong commitment to community involvement.

The research supports what we see every day in our programs. Search Institute's research on developmental relationships highlights that when young people experience strong, positive relationships, they are more likely to develop a sense of civic commitment and a desire to positively impact their surroundings.

By connecting youth with caring mentors, our programs provide a foundation for active community engagement. These relationships not only help youth recognize their own potential but also foster a culture of giving and participation that benefits the entire community. Through mentorship, we are planting the seeds for a brighter, more connected future.

3. Did you reach the intended population that you hoped the program/project would serve? Did the target group change or expand?

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District (BBBSLD) successfully reached its intended population, serving youth aged 6-17 who face adversity and benefit from consistent, supportive developmental relationships. Mentoring programs in Blackfalds accounted for 48% of the overall mentoring relationships facilitated by BBBSLD in 2024, reflecting the growing demand and community reliance on our services in the area.

Group mentoring programs, including Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds and Game On, continued to see significant growth, with an additional 37 youth served in 2024 compared to 2023. These programs remain crucial in addressing key developmental areas like self-care, teamwork, emotional health, and communication. Community-Based 1:1 Mentoring also maintains consistent engagement, and ongoing inquiries from volunteers indicate its continued potential for growth.

The Site-Based (in-school) 1:1 Mentoring program remains one of the most requested programs

from schools. The long-term consistency of matches in this program highlights its strong impact and alignment with the needs of participating youth.

BBBSLD has also begun responding to new requests for expanded programming. For example, Iron Ridge Secondary Campus has expressed interest in a Teen Mentoring program, which would provide older youth with opportunities to serve as mentors within their community. Additionally, a group mentoring pilot program ran at the Junior Campus and preliminary conversations have begun about re-launching group mentoring in 2025.

However, the rapid growth in demand presents challenges. Blackfalds mentoring programs currently operate at a budgetary deficit. BBBSLD is committed to ensuring high-quality programming that meets the needs of our community. Moving forward, we will analyze our organizational capacity and explore additional funding opportunities and community support to ensure we can say 'yes' to deliver additional impactful mentoring programs to youth who need them.

4. What impact did the program/project have on those it served? What impact did it have on the community? How do you know?

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District (BBBSLD) continues to prioritize outcomes-driven mentorship by regularly evaluating programs through surveys, match support conversations, staff feedback, and success stories. In 2024, 349 surveys were completed by mentees (298), mentors (12), and parent/guardians (39) using the Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Provincial Priority Measures framework. These surveys provide valuable insights into the impact of mentoring relationships, allowing us to refine practices, enhance program quality, and amplify outcomes for the youth we serve.

Through evaluation data and anecdotal stories, it was noted that mentored youth experience measurable improvements in social-emotional skills, resilience, and community connection. Specifically:

95% of mentees reported feeling more confident in their abilities.

95% of mentees agreed they are better able to handle challenging situations due to having a mentor.

Mentees demonstrated an increase in self-management, relationship-building, and problem-solving skills, especially in group mentoring programs like Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds and Game On.

Mentee Testimonies:

One mentee said that her mentor "makes me feel good and has helped me improve my social skills"

"My mentor helped me when I felt really sad or annoyed"

Mentors consistently share the growth they observe in their mentees and the fulfillment they feel as part of the program:

100% of mentors agreed that their mentee has more people they can turn to for support and advice.

100% of mentors felt that being a mentor made them feel more connected to their community.

When asked how they have benefited or gained from their mentoring experience, one mentor

shared: "I feel more connected & engaged in my community."

Parents and guardians echoed the transformational impact of mentoring programs, particularly in group settings:

Parent/Guardian Feedback:

"My son looks forward to visiting with his mentor and always shares positive feelings and activities that they do together. Teachers have also shared noticeable changes at school such as overall mood, interest in trying new things, confidence, peer interactions and friendships."

"My son was upset that it was summer, and he might not see his mentor. It showed he truly cared for the relationship they developed. He hasn't shown that for anyone outside of the family before."

When asked what are some noticeable differences you have noticed in your child's behavior and actions since being a part of BBBS:

"Confidence in himself!"

"My son has been in a better mood, especially on his days he has a match. "

When asked what do you think the most important part of your child's experience at Big Brothers Big Sisters was?

"Connection! Having a healthy adult to connect with outside of his homes that helps him to see his unique abilities and strengths."

BBBSLD mentoring programs foster a ripple effect, benefiting the broader community. Over the year, BBBSLD expanded its footprint in Blackfalds, where 47.95% of mentoring matches now take place.

Programs such as Kids & Kops and Adopt a Family strengthen relationships between youth, families, and key community stakeholders. These initiatives also promote greater understanding and collaboration within the community.

New programming requests, including expansion of group mentoring for older grades, demonstrate the need to continuously assess organizational capacity and funding to ensure sustainability. Despite running a deficit in Blackfalds programs, BBBSLD remains committed to meeting demand while exploring innovative funding partnerships.

The data and testimonials illustrate the profound impact mentoring relationships have on the youth, mentors, and the broader community. BBBSLD is not only fostering individual growth but also strengthening community bonds, one match at a time. Through careful evaluation and an ongoing commitment to adapting programs to community needs, BBBSLD continues to deliver meaningful outcomes for children and youth in Blackfalds and throughout Lacombe County.

5. What worked well and what didn't? Were there any unexpected successes or challenges? How do you know?

In 2024, Big Brothers Big Sisters continued to focus on building and adapting programs to meet the needs of the youth we serve. By leveraging lessons learned in previous years, we achieved significant successes while encountering and addressing challenges along the way.

What Worked Well

Serving Our Target Demographic:

We successfully served the demographic we committed to supporting, with the average ACE

(Adverse Childhood Experiences) score of the youth in our programs at 6.04. This demonstrates that we are reaching youth who are most in need of mentorship and support, aligning our efforts with our mission.

Group Mentoring Programs:

Programs such as Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds and Game On continued to thrive. We implemented two 2-day camps for each program, ensuring every youth had access. Parent/guardian and youth feedback highlighted these camps' positive effects on building resilience and confidence.

Kids & Kops Summer Mentoring Program:

This program remained a standout initiative, offering 24 youth a behind-the-scenes look into law enforcement. The program has been invaluable in building trust and understanding between youth and law enforcement professionals.

Mentor Training:

Developmental Relationship Training became standard practice in 2024, with enthusiastic participation from both new and experienced mentors. The training has proven instrumental in deepening the impact of mentorship.

Community Connection through the Duck Drop:

Our First Annual Duck Drop event brought connections to new families and potential volunteers, creating community engagement and expanding awareness of our programs.

Mental Health Support Integration:

Recognizing the ongoing need for mental health support, we integrate mindfulness and emotional regulation activities into our programs, tailored to the needs of our youth.

Challenges

Growing Demand and Budget Challenges:

The continued growth in demand for our mentoring programs has created significant budget challenges. While we successfully expanded group mentoring and camps to meet needs, these efforts required stretching our limited financial resources. Balancing the increased demand with budgetary restraints will remain a focus as we seek new funding sources and partnerships while continuing to deliver high-quality programs.

The reported deficit of \$6,614 was covered by our organization's reserve, which is maintained as part of our risk management strategy. Moving forward, we will adjust our budgeting process to account for increases in key expenses, ensuring more accurate forecasting.

Balancing Grants and Fundraising:

Finding the right balance between fundraising efforts and supporting mentoring relationships is an ongoing challenge. While raising funds is essential, it's just as critical to ensure we're dedicating enough time to quality assurance and supporting the heart of our programs which is our mentors and mentees. To address this, we're exploring more passive fundraising, donations, and grant opportunities to help lighten the load while maintaining our focus on impactful relationships.

Recruitment in Blackfalds:

Recruiting mentors in Blackfalds remains a persistent challenge. To address this, we are piloting new outreach strategies, including mentor spotlights in our donor newsletter and community presentations.

6. Based on your evaluation findings, what changes would you make to the program/project?

Based on evaluation findings we will continue to enhance support for youth waiting to be matched

by offering additional activities, access to community event tickets, and regular reassessments to ensure their evolving needs are met during the interim period.

To gain deeper insights into the challenges faced by the children and families we serve, BBBSLD incorporated questions assessing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) into our In-School Mentoring Program. While these questions are optional, we observed that the limited response rate impacted our ability to achieve the desired outcomes. Moving forward, we will focus on strategies to encourage higher participation rates. Our long-term objective is to make these questions a required part of the enrollment process, ensuring we gather the necessary information to implement leading practices and provide tailored support.

We have increased efforts to collect meaningful feedback through surveys and evaluations to better inform our programs. Specific examples include:

- Parent/Guardian and Youth Surveys: Expanding evaluations in general and within specific initiatives, such as the Kids & Kops program.
- Adopt a Family Surveys: Gathering feedback from both families receiving support and the donors providing assistance to strengthen and refine the program.
- Fundraiser Feedback: Capturing insights from fundraiser participants to improve event experiences and outcomes.

Feedback Examples:

- Kids & Kops Parent Feedback:
I would like to thank you and all the staff involved for all the organization and children's education during this week! I felt that everyone invested above and beyond, and put their hearts and souls into it. Thanks a million for all the hard work that was done with love!
- Adopt a Family Recipient Feedback:
Hi, I'm wondering if you would be able to reach out to the family that helped us out this Christmas? My boys were so happy with everything they got, and their faces just lit up! They said they had the best Christmas this year! We are all just so thankful. I truly didn't expect the volume of kindness that we were gifted. Please let the family know that their kindness and generosity will be cherished forever!

These insights not only validate the impact of our programs but also guide us in making thoughtful, data-driven improvements.

7. Were positive community partnerships formed as a result of this program/project? How will this help to sustain your program/project in the future? Please describe.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is incredibly fortunate to have built and strengthened meaningful community partnerships that amplify the impact of our programs and events. We continue to collaborate with the Blackfalds Peace Officers, and RCMP for our Kids & Kops Program along with our Duck Drop fundraiser. Their commitment has been instrumental in making this program successful year after year.

Partnerships with school liaisons, administrators, and districts are vital. These collaborations ensure referrals, connect parents and guardians with our programs, and allow us to provide the right supports for the youth we serve.

Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services ongoing advocacy for mentoring programs has been invaluable. FCSS provides us with connections and resources that strengthen our efforts.

The Blackfalds Bulldogs Hockey team are incredible role models, always stepping up to support events like Tim Hortons Smile Cookie week. This year they took the time to build a wreath for our Festival of Wreaths Fundraiser. Their presence inspires and motivates the kids in our programs.

Turn the Town Teal and Festival of Wreaths are longstanding community initiatives that continue to grow, with support from local businesses and individuals who help us raise awareness and much-needed funds. The Festival of Wreaths remains a highlight of the fall season, and we're deeply grateful for the businesses that create and display wreaths.

This year like many we received generous sponsorship to help with food for the Easter Barbeque, which played a significant role in its success and further strengthened community ties.

This year, we were also thrilled to see new connections grow through our programs and events:

The students at Iron Ridge Junior Campus came together as a class to support families in need for our Adopt a Family Program, showing the power of young people making a difference. Aspen Lakes Discovery Centre also joined as a donor, exemplifying how businesses are stepping up to brighten the holidays for local families.

Partnering with the Fall Year-End Slo-Pitch Tournament helped us run a successful 1st Annual Duck Drop Fundraising event while introducing us to new volunteers excited to support future initiatives. Local businesses like Avalanche Integrity supported the event as sponsors, helping to bring our vision to life. The Duck Drop drew families to enjoy activities like the Fire Truck and Police Car display. Many of these families connected with us for the first time, and we're excited to grow these relationships.

Volunteers are the heart of everything we do. They mentor youth, advocate in the community, and connect us to businesses and organizations that share our mission. These partnerships mean so much to us. They bring our community closer together and create opportunities for long-term collaboration, ensuring that we can continue delivering impactful programs and initiatives for years to come.

8. As a program Blackfalds FCSS strives to make the public aware of programs and events we have supported throughout the year. Please enclose copies of awareness and promotion items.

Enclosures:

- Promotional / awareness items
- Photographs or events / projects

Waiver:

I give permission to Blackfalds FCSS to use any photographs or projects or events that I have submitted for the promotion or evaluation of the services that Blackfalds FCSS provides. I can, at any time, opt out of this media consent by providing written notice to the FOIP Office at the Town of Blackfalds 403.885.6248.

Name: Brianna Berthiaume

Name: _____

Position: Executive Director

Position: _____

Signature 

Signature _____

**Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association
of Lacombe and District
Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2023
(Unaudited)**

Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District
Financial Statements
For the year ended December 31, 2023
(Unaudited)

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5820B Highway 2A
Lacombe AB T4L 2G5 Canada

Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report

To the members of Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District (the "Association") that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District as at December 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

BDO Canada LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Lacombe, Alberta
June 13, 2024

Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District
Statement of Financial Position
(Unaudited)

December 31	2023	2022
Assets		
Current		
Cash (Note 2)	\$ 93,737	\$ 118,512
Accounts receivable	1,358	535
	95,095	119,047
Property (Note 3)	200,888	215,658
	\$ 295,983	\$ 334,705
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 11,593	\$ 3,465
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	15,217	10,448
Current portion of long-term debt (Note 5)	9,860	39,398
Current portion of deferred capital contributions (Note 6)	11,472	11,472
	48,142	64,783
Long-term debt (Note 5)	81,713	91,573
Deferred capital contributions (Note 6)	134,103	145,575
	263,958	301,931
Net assets		
Unrestricted	68,286	75,136
Capital	(36,261)	(42,362)
	32,025	32,774
	\$ 295,983	\$ 334,705

Approved on behalf of the board:

 , Director

 , Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
(Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31

	Unrestricted	Capital	Total 2023	Total 2022
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 75,136	\$ (42,362)	\$ 32,774	\$ 39,324
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year	(749)	-	(749)	(6,550)
Deferred contributions recognized	(10,116)	10,116	-	-
Debt retirement recognized	(1,356)	1,356	-	-
Principal loan payments	(9,399)	9,399	-	-
Amortization	14,770	(14,770)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 68,286	\$ (36,261)	\$ 32,025	\$ 32,774

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District
Statement of Operations
(Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Revenue			
Donations	\$ 44,500	\$ 72,139	\$ 54,516
Fundraising	90,000	118,817	105,332
Grant revenue	73,900	93,318	70,762
Other revenue	-	664	284
	<u>208,400</u>	<u>284,938</u>	<u>230,894</u>
Expenditures			
Advertising and promotion	6,600	10,398	9,070
Amortization	-	14,770	14,915
BBBS Membership	6,500	5,242	4,901
Bookkeeping	6,500	6,900	6,824
Community recovery grant expenses	-	28,350	-
Conference and travel expenses	-	3,859	3,332
Insurance	11,000	6,649	8,493
Interest and bank charges	100	777	535
Interest on long-term debt	-	4,261	5,081
Office	4,200	8,765	6,817
Professional dues	350	1,372	1,698
Professional fees	6,000	9,653	5,618
Program expense	4,000	21,999	21,849
Salaries and related benefits	160,931	155,600	140,180
Telephone and utilities	11,400	7,092	8,131
	<u>217,581</u>	<u>285,687</u>	<u>237,444</u>
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year	\$ (9,181)	\$ (749)	\$ (6,550)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District
Statement of Cash Flows
(Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31	2023	2022
Cash flows from operating activities		
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year	\$ (749)	\$ (6,550)
Adjustment for non-cash item		
Amortization	14,770	14,915
	<u>14,021</u>	8,365
Change in non-cash working capital items		
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	(823)	639
Increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	8,128	451
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	4,769	(6,273)
	<u>26,095</u>	3,182
Cash flows from financing activities		
Repayment of long-term debt	(39,398)	(8,960)
Recognition of deferred capital contributions	(10,116)	(10,116)
Recognition of deferred debt repayment	(1,356)	(1,356)
	<u>(50,870)</u>	(20,432)
Decrease in cash during the year	(24,775)	(17,250)
Cash, beginning of year	118,512	135,762
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 93,737</u>	<u>\$ 118,512</u>
Cash consists of:		
Unrestricted cash	\$ 93,098	\$ 112,518
Externally restricted cash - casino	639	5,994
	<u>\$ 93,737</u>	<u>\$ 118,512</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District

Notes to the Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

December 31, 2023

Nature of operations

Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District (the "Association") is incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta for the purpose of providing mentoring programs to children in the City of Lacombe and surrounding area.

The Association is registered as a charity organization and is tax-exempt under Section 149(1)(f) of the Canadian Income Tax Act.

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

The financial statements are prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

The significant accounting policies used are as follows:

Property

Property is recorded at cost. The Association provides for amortization using the following methods at rates designed to amortize the cost of the property over its estimated useful life. The annual amortization rate and method is as follows:

Asset	Method	Rate
Buildings	Straight-line	20 years

Revenue recognition

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Contributions specified for capital purposes are recorded as deferred capital asset contributions. These deferred contributions are taken into income as the related capital costs are amortized.

Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned.

Accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenue and expenditures during the reported period. Estimates include the useful life of property, plant, & equipment. These estimates are reviewed periodically and are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District

Notes to the Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

December 31, 2023

1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Contributed services Volunteers contributed time to assist the Association in carrying out its activities. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

Reserves It is the Association's policy as a part of their risk management strategy to maintain an operating reserve equal to six months' operating expenses. These funds are internally restricted and can be used only by obtaining approval from the Board of Directors.

Financial instruments Arm's length financial instruments are recorded at fair value at initial recognition.

Related party financial instruments quoted in an active market or those with observable inputs significant to the determination of fair value or derivative contracts are recorded at fair value at initial recognition. All other related party financial instruments are recorded at cost at initial recognition.

In subsequent periods, equities traded in an active market and derivatives are reported at fair value, with any change in fair value reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at cost or amortized cost less impairment. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale or issue of financial instruments are expensed for those items measured at fair value and charged to the financial instrument for those measured at amortized cost.

Financial assets are tested for impairment when indicators of impairment exist. When a significant change in the expected timing or amount of the future cash flows of the financial asset is identified, the carrying amount of the financial asset is reduced and the amount of the write-down is recognized in net income. A previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, provided it is not greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously, and the amount of the reversal is recognized in net income.

Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District
Notes to the Financial Statements
(Unaudited)

December 31, 2023

2. Cash

Included in cash are restricted funds held by the Association. The operating reserve is internally restricted by the Board of Directors. The casino funds are externally restricted by legislative requirements. The balances are as follows:

	2023	2022
Unrestricted cash	\$ 93,098	\$ 112,518
Casino funds	639	5,994
	\$ 93,737	\$ 118,512

The Association's credit facility includes an authorized revolving line of credit of \$30,000 bearing interest at the Credit Union's prime plus 1.50%, of which none was used at year end. These facilities are secured by general security agreement providing a first charge and interest on all the present and after-acquired personal property. Prime rate at December 31, 2023 was 7.20% (2022 - 6.45%).

3. Property

	2023		2022	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net	Net
Land	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Buildings	283,822	105,250	178,572	192,763
Shed	4,021	1,705	2,316	2,895
	\$ 307,843	\$ 106,955	\$ 200,888	\$ 215,658

Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District
Notes to the Financial Statements
(Unaudited)

December 31, 2023

4. Deferred revenue

	2023	2022
Casino and raffle funds	\$ 627	\$ 5,983
Community recovery grant	12,000	-
Landlord of the month	-	1,000
Night Among the Stars	2,590	3,465
	\$ 15,217	\$ 10,448

5. Long-term debt

	2023	2022
Servus Credit Union mortgage, bearing interest at 4.8%, payable in monthly blended payments of \$1,170 maturing August 31, 2026.	\$ 91,573	\$ 100,971
CEBA loan repaid in the year	-	30,000
	91,573	130,971
Less current portion	9,860	39,398
Long-term portion	\$ 81,713	\$ 91,573

The Association is required to meet a specified debt to equity, current and annual debt service coverage ratios under its lending agreement. The Association is in compliance with these covenants as of the balance sheet date.

The mortgage is secured by a general security agreement specifically pledging all present and after acquired property.

Estimated principal repayments are as follows:

2024	\$ 9,860
2025	10,343
2026	10,851
2027	11,383
2028	11,942
Subsequent years	37,194
	\$ 91,573

Big Brothers & Big Sisters Association of Lacombe and District
Notes to the Financial Statements
(Unaudited)

December 31, 2023

6. Deferred capital contributions

The Association has received restricted contributions for the purchase of capital assets. These contributions are amortized on a declining balance over the useful life of the asset for which the contributions were received.

	Balance, beginning of year	Current amortization	Balance, end of year
Deferred contributions	\$ 126,583	\$ (10,116)	\$ 116,467
Debt repayment	18,992	(1,356)	17,636
	\$ 145,575	\$ (11,472)	\$ 134,103

7. Financial instruments

Transactions in financial instruments may result in an entity assuming or transferring to another party one or more of the financial risks described below. The required disclosures provide information that assists users of financial statements in assessing the extent of risk related to financial instruments.

Interest rate risk

The Association is exposed to interest rate risk. Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The company is exposed to interest rate risk on its fixed and floating interest rate financial instruments. Fixed-rate financial instruments subject the company to a fair value risk, while the floating-rate financial instruments subject the company to a cash flow risk. This exposure may have an effect on its earnings in future periods. The company reduces its exposure to interest rate risk by regularly monitoring published prime interest rates which have been relatively stable over the period presented. In the opinion of management the interest rate risk exposure to the company is low and is not material. There have not been any changes in the risk from the prior year.

2024 Year in Review!



Trivia Match Activity at Blackfalds Community Centre



Mentor Dena & Mentee Bronx



Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds (Junior Edition) Program Launch @ IRJC



Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds



Kids & Kops Summer Camp



Walk for Kids'Sake

2024 Year in Review!



Game On



Turn the Town Teal



**Mentor Jocelynn &
Mentee Lacey**



Blackfalds Family Easter Event



**Mentor Louise &
Mentee Guardian**



**Mentor Amanda &
Mentee Abby**



BBBS Great BIG Christmas Dinner



**First Annual Rubber Duck Drop Fundraiser
Hosted in Blackfalds**

HOW TO BECOME A MENTOR

1. APPLICATION

We want to get to know you. Tell us what makes you excited to mentor.

2. PAPERWORK

Complete your Vulnerable Sector Check with your local police.

3. INTERVIEW & REFERENCES

You will need to do an in-person interview with our team, plus we will check your references and more depending on your program's requirements.

4. ORIENTATION & TRAINING

Learn how and why we do what we do, and get all the tools you need to have a successful mentoring experience. This pre-match training may also include specialized training depending on your specific program requirements.

5. LETS MAKE A MATCH

Our Caseworker will contact you to set up an initial match meeting and help you get started and will be supporting you throughout your volunteer experience.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

403-782-7870

5103 49 STREET
LACOMBE T4L 1J4

lacombe@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca



SMALL ACT. BIG IMPACT.



#BIGGERTOGETHER

PROUDLY FUNDED BY:



**Big Brothers
Big Sisters**
OF LACOMBE AND DISTRICT



Community-Based Mentoring

Meet for a few hours, a couple times each month and provide a youth with a role model to talk to and share experiences with. Through regular activities, a relationship is developed between the mentor and the mentee, built on trust and common interests. The results is a life changing experience for both the mentor and the mentee.

This program is either 1:1 relationship or we also provide Couples Matching. Couples Matching provides a unique opportunity to work together mentoring one child. The commitment is the same as 1:1 mentoring match, and the mentee benefits not only from adding two new caring people into their life, but also gets to see first-hand how two adults interact in a healthy loving relationship.



In-School Mentoring

Spend one hour a week with a youth doing non-academic activities in their school. Be someone a child can talk to and learn from. Sharing interests with them, encouraging them, building on their strengths, all of which can lead to improve self-esteem and a more positive outlook on their life.

Virtual Mentoring

This mentoring program provides lots of flexibility to volunteer mentors. Mentoring can occur during a break during the school or work day. When mentors or mentees are on vacation there is still opportunity to connect and develop the relationship.

There are a numerous of virtual activities to partake in. The result is a life-changing experience for both the mentor and the mentee.

WE BELIEVE IN THE VALUE OF MENTORING

Studies show that mentoring helps kids stay in school, avoid risky behavior, and grow up having more respect for family, peers, and community. Helping children reach their full potential can lead to positive community outcomes like safer schools and neighborhood's, reduction in poverty and unemployment, and a new generation of civic-minded adults.

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

\$18:1

\$1 INVESTED IN MENTORING by Big Brothers Big Sisters returns up to \$18 to society. Changing the course of young lives changes the future of communities. By every measure, Big Brothers Big Sisters returns positive results in the mental health, employment and civic engagement of the recipients of our program.

*Social return on Investment Study assessed the economic benefits of our programs by the Boson Consulting Group, 2013.

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, February 13, 2025 at **7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

4.3 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: SAWYER HICK
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: BGC Wolf Creek– Final Report



Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

5018 Waghorn Street, Box 220, Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0

Phone (403) 600-9066 Fax (403) 885-0011

Email fcss@blackfalds.com

2024 FCSS Grant Funding Final Report

Please find enclosed a Final Reporting form for Blackfalds FCSS. This report is a requirement of FCSS funding and is an important part of evaluating for continuous improvement of the preventative social services we provide to Blackfalds. It is also a prerequisite for the approval of future funding.

The purpose of the final report is to provide a detailed account of what you accomplished and how. It should show what the impact of your program/project has had on the community. It is also an opportunity for service providers to reflect on their experiences so that they may apply their findings to future programs/projects.

Agency Name: **BGC Wolf Creek**

Project Name: **BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds**

Report Completion Date: January 27, 2025

Due Dates: January 31, 2025

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this application, please don't hesitate to contact me at (403) 885-6247.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sawyer Hick'.

Sawyer Hick
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Manager
Town of Blackfalds
403-885-6247
fcss@blackfalds.com

Personal information provided to the Town of Blackfalds is collected under the authority of Section 33 (c) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). The information collected on this form will be used for the sole purpose of reviewing and administering grant applications. Collected personal information is protected from unauthorized access, collection, use, and disclosure in accordance with the FOIP act, and can be reviewed and corrected upon request. Questions regarding the collection, use & disclosure of personal information may be directed to: FOIP Coordinator - Ph: 403-885-6248, Town of Blackfalds, 5018 Waghorn Street, Blackfalds AB, T0M 0J0.

Name of Funded Agency: **BGC Wolf Creek**

Name of Project: **BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds**

Project Timeline: September – December 2024

Revenue	
FCSS Contribution	\$15,000.00
Organization's Contribution	\$55,556.23
Expenditures	
FCSS Eligible Expenditures	\$15,000.00
(Actual amount as approved in application)	
Other Expenditures	\$38,996.35
Revenue minus eligible expenditures	\$0
Surplus/(Deficit)	**\$16,559.88**

*** Please attach a full financial statement of revenues and expenditures. ***

**** The reason for the surplus is that the bus acquired for Blackfalds was purchased by our Foundation and then given to the Blackfalds location. This had to be reflected in our income which means that our financials show a \$20,000 gift-in-kind donation in our income. It is not cash, but an asset. If you are to subtract the bus donation, you would see that our actual bottom line would be -\$3,440.00. We are currently sitting at a deficit.**

Due Dates: January 31, 2025

1. Describe the program/project and discuss how it addressed the need identified in the community as described in your application.

BGC Wolf Creek, in partnership with Wolf Creek Public Schools, conducted a Needs Assessment in early 2024 that identified the need among families in Blackfalds for the following: Before School Care, After School Care, and full-day programming during Professional Development Days, school breaks (spring, fall, winter), and throughout the summer. In response to the very strongly expressed need for each of these potential options, BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds moved forward and began offering **licensed child care programs** in September 2024.

a. After School Program (Needs Assessment - 84% indicated need)

The After School Program was launched at the beginning of the school year. Located in the new Iron Ridge Secondary Campus, children are welcomed each day after school to the Club, where they engage in safe, fun, interesting, and educational activities that are a combination of both planned (often based on suggestions from the children) and child-directed pursuits. Club members are supported by qualified and enthusiastic staff members. There is a mix of individual and group play, opportunity for physical activity, and areas for quiet moments, depending on what each child may need that day. Each day is organized around a central theme which engages the interest and enthusiasm of the children who attend. The program also offers a small, healthy snack to feed hungry tummies after a long day at school. Children are provided with transportation to the Club from 3 schools in Blackfalds via our new BGC Wolf Creek bus, which has been very helpful to parents who might otherwise have difficulty getting their children to our site. This program began strongly and has continued to grow over our first 4 months of program delivery.

b. S.O.D. (School's Out Day) Program (Needs Assessment - 71% indicated need)

The S.O.D. Program runs in a very similar way as the After School Program but is a full-day program offered on Professional Development Days when school is not in session. This program also began strongly and has been well used over our first 4 months of program delivery - so much so that we have had a waiting list for children whose parents wish to register them for these days. Most of the time, we are able to accommodate those on the waiting list due to changes in plans by other families.

c. Spring/Fall/ Winter Break Program (Needs Assessment – 79% indicated need)

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds will be offering 2 weeks of full-day programming in the next couple of months. The first week will be held in February during Teachers' Convention and the second in March during Spring Break. This program will run in a similar manner as the S.O.D. Program, with a full-day program and themed activities being offered to children during these weeks when school is not in session – times when parents need child care. Based on the success of the S.O.D. Program, we anticipate that this program will

experience the high level of usership we are seeing in our other programs.

d. Summer Camp (Needs Assessment - 82% indicated need)

Plans are already underway for our first Summer Camp experience in Blackfalds in July and August 2025! We are excited to make this opportunity available to the families in this community, as we know how valuable and well-received it has been in other communities where we have offered it. Each week is jam-packed with a wide range of both on and off-site activities (within the town, as well as further afield) that revolve around fun themes that appeal to children. Community members of all kinds are welcomed to share their interests and talents at Summer Camp, as we provide unique opportunities and experiences to the children who attend. 8 weeks of full-day programming makes planning summer much easier for parents who work and who need child care during this time. Summer Camp is also a licensed child care program which differs from other programming that is offered in the community, so there is no duplication of services. More details and information will soon be available regarding Summer Camp.

e. Before School Program (Needs Assessment - 39% indicated need)

While we are not offering Before School Care at this time, it is definitely on our radar. We are considering the options regarding this program (i.e. usage, staffing, etc.) and will move forward if it seems that this is a need that we can confidently meet in supporting families in the community.

f. Counselling Program

While not emphasized in our initial grant application, we have made the services of our child and family counsellor available to families in Blackfalds. We initially offered this service in October by opening sessions a half day/week. However, there has been so much need, and requests for support, that we have now increased our availability to a full day/week. We provide this service at **no cost** to individuals and offer it as another way to provide support to children, youth, and families in the community who might derive benefit from a counselling program.

Supporting Statistics and Community Involvement	
Direct Programs Offered	Participant Numbers
1. After School Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1325 visits • 51 individual youth • 19 (average attendance) • 69 program days • 37 subsidized children

Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

Community Group Grant Final Reporting

Page 5 of 6

2. S.O.D. (School's Out Day) Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 175 visits • 52 individual youth • 22 (average attendance) • 8 program days • 37 subsidized children
3. After School Program + S.O.D. Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1500 visits • 71 individual youth
4. Counselling Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 individuals • 38 sessions
Community Education and Awareness	Population Reached
1. Booth at Blackfalds Fall Registration Night	Community Members
2. Booth at Iron Ridge Elementary Welcome Back Night	Parents/Students/Teachers
3. Booth at Iron Ridge Elementary Parent/Teacher Night	Parents/Students/Teachers
4. Booth at Iron Ridge Intermediate Open House	Parents/Students/Teachers
5. Booth at St. Gregory Catholic School Parent/Teacher Night	Parents/Students/Teachers
6. Planned attendance at Light Up Blackfalds (cancelled due to cold)	-
7. Promotion in Blackfalds Winter Programming & Activity Guide	Community Members
8. Promotion in Blackfalds Summer Programming & Activity Guide	Community Members
9. Promotion in school newsletters	Parents/Students/Teachers
10. Booth at Abbey Centre	Community Members
11. Club site tours	Parents/Community
12. Social Media	Parents/Community
Volunteerism	Participating Number
1. 2 students were initially referred to us by the school social worker to help in the After School Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We currently have 1 individual who is volunteering with the program. 	1
2. During our Summer Camp, we anticipate welcoming a wide variety of volunteers into the program related to our themed weeks (e.g. sports teams, special guests, community members, etc.)	To be determined
3. BGC Wolf Creek Board of Directors	8
4. BGC Wolf Creek Sub-Committees	6
5. BGC Wolf Creek Fundraising Volunteers	10
Staff Development	Staff Involved
1. BGCU online training with BGC Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each new staff member must complete this training during their first 3 months of employment with our agency
2. Fall Staff Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Club staff members participated in BGC Wolf Creek's staff training before fall programming began

3. Child Care Certification Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each new staff member must complete this certification if they do not already have it prior to beginning employment with our agency
4. Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Program Manager participated in BGC Wolf Creek's most recent Strategic Planning process
Geographical Area Served	
1. Town of Blackfalds and County of Lacombe	

2. Describe how your program/project has achieved one or more of the following:

As specified in our grant application, BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds impacts 3 out of the 5 indicated areas of social sustainability in the community.

a. Help people to develop independence, strengthen coping skills and become more resistant to crisis

Club programming is intentional, and activities are chosen to maximize opportunities for children to learn and grow to reach their full potential. Choice-based activities are offered, and children are encouraged to explore and participate in areas of interest, as well as grow in confidence to try new things. Children are supported in recognizing and managing emotions through self-care routines, daily journal writing, and accessing calming spaces that are strategically placed throughout the program room. Corporately, Club members engage in problem solving games, conversations around feelings, learning tools to handle bullying, and practicing calm down techniques. Positive reinforcement is a crucial part of each day's interactions.

The Counselling Program also impacts this area on a broader level, as it often involves not only the child, but also the family. As we strengthen and support the children in our programs, the effects ripple into each family, and then further out into the community.

b. Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people

Club programming emphasizes the development of positive relationships in each interaction that takes place, whether it be staff/children, staff/staff, children/children, staff/parents, BGC Wolf Creek/community, etc. We are very intentional in developing caring and understanding relationships throughout our Club and, in fact, showing kindness and respect is one of the phrases that you will hear in each one of our Clubs every day.

We encourage the development of the skills that lead to positive relationships through introducing games and play that require children to take turns. Children are also encouraged to develop their own games and activities that they might then share with the rest of the group. Opportunities for children to take on leadership roles are offered each day and Club members engage in group discussions about behaviour expectations frequently, to allow for review, as well as give opportunity for kids to participate in determining what is important to their group. Older children are provided with opportunities to engage with younger children in a mentoring capacity that helps build relationships in the program.

The Counselling Program, once again, also is an important piece in supporting impact in this area. As individuals develop healthy tools, skills, and relationships that begin in their own families, the unfolding results also impact other relationships outside the family.

c. Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds provides programs and services that contribute to an enhanced quality of life for citizens in this community – from our youngest most vulnerable to our most senior.

Our Club kids are encouraged to actively participate in the community through a variety of programming options. Not only do we provide our Club children with opportunities to learn about and engage with the many things Blackfalds has to offer (Abbey Centre, playgrounds, parks, etc.), but we also promote activities and services of other agencies. Busy and engaged children are more likely to have a sense of pride in their community and be part of making their hometown something that is valued.

Our licensed child care programs also support parents who work – easing the worry and stress of finding reliable child care at a time when it can feel that spaces are limited. We are affordable, which is a major consideration in these days of soaring costs. Families will not be turned away due to financial considerations; government subsidy is available, as well as Club subsidy in some cases. It is a difficult time for young families, and we are here to help. By providing safe, fun, and affordable child care to families, we support their ability to engage more fully in the community.

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds programming intentionally stretches beyond the walls of our Club and encourages our children and their families to be active participants in the community. Our programs enhance the quality of life for the children who participate, their parents who have reliable Out of School Care, and the community, at large, as we build into the development of young citizens who learn about their community and engage with it in positive ways.

3. Did you reach the intended population that you hoped the program/project would serve? Did the target group change or expand?

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds not only reached the intended population that we had hoped to serve, but we expanded our reach. Firstly, regarding our After School Program, we had initially intended to provide transportation from the Iron Ridge Elementary School to our Club site at the new high school. However, very quickly, this plan expanded to include bussing from Iron Ridge Junior Campus, as well as across town from St. Gregory's. This adaptation enabled more children to access programming. Secondly, as mentioned above, we had initially offered the Counselling Program for a half day/week, but due to increased demand, we are now making it available for a full day/week. Finally, we are now experiencing a wait list on some days of registration for programming due to increased usage by families. We anticipate that we will continue to experience continued growth as families become more familiar with our programs and as we expand our programming options to more effectively meet the needs of this community.

4. What impact did the program/project have on those it served? What impact did it have on the community? How do you know?

After only 4 months of program delivery in Blackfalds, we are happy to share the impact of programming on the children, families, and community we serve that have been observed, so far.

a. Children

Staff have observed that the program has impacted the children in many ways. They

are enthusiastic in their participation and enjoyment of program activities, knowing that each day is filled with discovery and fun. While enjoying each day, children are also learning important life skills. New opportunities are offered, and children are supported as they reach out and explore outside their comfort zone, which builds self-confidence. Children are settling in and becoming accustomed to the routines of the program, which provides security and reassurance that the Club is a safe and friendly place where they are seen, heard, and valued. Club members are also learning and growing in the building of positive relationships, as they are supported in this each day during both formal and informal activities that bolster this goal for our kids.

For some children, more individualized approaches have been helpful. Through communication with parents, staff have found ways to help support a variety of children's needs. This has involved the utilization of sensory toys and calming techniques, visual timers, and set "get ready" times for children who struggle with transition. By adding these small changes in the way the program runs, staff are able to help meet various needs of the children they work with.

b. Families

The following thoughts were shared by a parent of a child who attends our programs. *"The BGC after school/SOD program has been an amazing opportunity both for my family, and the community. Finding local subsidized child care that includes transportation to both of my children's schools, snacks, structured play/activities with qualified staff, and endless fun has my children coming home every day with smiles and has left me with peace of mind. The themed days that are carefully planned out month after month have my children excited for what every day may bring. Blackfalds struggles to provide enough subsidized care opportunities for the many young families in town, so the Blackfalds BGC program has provided a great option for parents and caregivers to consider while looking for who to trust with the care of their children. We genuinely love the program and look forward to what adventures lay ahead - the Summer program as well!"*

(BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds Parent)

It is very gratifying to hear these thoughts from our parents, as this reinforces that we are on the right track and are helping to support families in ways that have the most impact.

c. Community

The community is appreciative of the additional provision of Out of School Care. While advertising at schools, a number of parents have expressed how they know someone who goes to the program and benefits from it. Many parents who utilize our resources have communicated the lack of room in Out of School Care programs in the community and how BGC gives more options.

****Important to note****

Our agency completes quantitative evaluation in the first six months of each year. Program delivery in Blackfalds did not begin until September; therefore, it did not fall under our evaluation timeline for 2024. However, we will have more quantitative data to share with you in the future.

We will be completing in depth surveys in February/March of 2025 among our Club members, as part of the national BGC Canada Learning & Impact initiative. These are completed, collated, and assessed by each individual Club, with the results showing outcomes in the areas of positive relationships, healthy living, lifelong learning, and leadership skills. From these specific Club results, we then adjust programming to best meet the needs of our members. In addition, we survey parents, school personnel, and community stakeholders in the spring of each year, the results of which are also used to inform our knowledge of impact and guide our decisions moving forward. Having only begun program delivery in September of 2024, we did not, yet, have access to this fulsome pool of quantitative data, but we will make that available to you as part of our next report.

5. What worked well and what didn't? Were there any unexpected successes or challenges? How do you know?

BGC Wolf Creek program delivery is a constant mix of establishing routines and providing a place where children know what to expect each day – with keeping our finger on the pulse of the status of programs to know and understand what is working and what changes may need to be made. In light of that, the following are the successes and challenges that we have observed after 4 months of program delivery.

a. Successes

Even so early in the life of our presence in this community, we have several successes of which we are very proud!

• **Opening the BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds Site**

Our most important success is having navigated the many hurdles that needed to be overcome to open our BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds site! As you would know, this took the teamwork of many partners, including the Town of Blackfalds, Wolf Creek Public Schools, Blackfalds FCSS, parents, community members, BGC staff, etc. As we learned more about the community and the needs of families, we kept doing the one next thing and working through each challenge that arose. Ultimately, we addressed the many areas that needed to be considered, and we were able to open our doors at the beginning of the school year in September.

• **Bus Transportation**

Solving the many challenges that arose regarding the provision of transportation for children to our Club site was not for the faint of heart! This was a huge undertaking from finding and purchasing a bus - to ensuring the bus was safe - to managing the parking and pick-up challenges at each school - to making sure the bus would start when the weather got cold. It required and still requires ongoing monitoring to ensure that all is working as we had hoped, and this transportation is something on which our families can confidently rely. This has been another success!

• **High Attendance**

While we had moved forward in opening our Club site in Blackfalds based on stated need and projected usage, attendance has met and even exceeded our expectations over our first few months of program delivery. We are experiencing an average of 19 children/day at the After School Program and 22 children/day at the S.O.D. Program. We anticipate this attendance number will continue to increase, as some days we have children on a waiting list.

• **Implementation of Daily Registration**

In our licensed child care program, we have made the option of daily registration available to our families. Parents love the fact that they can register for however many days/week they need our program, whether that be 5 or, perhaps, 1 or 2 days. This is particularly convenient for families whose children are involved in other activities or for parents whose work schedule is not necessarily the same each week. This type of arrangement was previously not available in Blackfalds, as parents had to register by the month and pay for the month regardless of how many times they needed a program. We are here to serve the families of this community, and this has been a measure that has been very helpful to them.

b. Challenges

- **Staffing**

Staffing our programs was a major challenge over the course of the first 2 months of program delivery. It felt like there was a constant changeover of staff coming and going at all levels of staffing – management through to program assistants. While this would be a challenge at any time in the life of an organization, it was especially challenging when we were so new and had not yet established routines and relationships with our families. We are pleased to say that we seem to have reached a more stable position with staffing which allows us to really begin to settle in with our programs and provide the security children need in knowing what to expect each day.

- **Extreme Behaviours**

Staff members are faced with extreme behaviours among some of the children who attend the programs. As stated above, staff changeover had been high over the first 2 months of program delivery, so that may very well have played into these challenges, as children would often have new faces in the program, which also meant routines were not necessarily established. This does not create an atmosphere conducive to managing challenging behaviour.

As well, some children with behaviour issues would have aides at school, but their aides would not accompany the children to our Club. We understand the process for accessing an aide can be very long and drawn out, and because it is such an onerous thing, parents may not work through that process. The most difficult situation is that we want the children to attend – parents want their children to attend – but, in some cases, without the presence of an aide for some of our little ones, we have to suggest that our Club is probably not the best fit for them. This has been a challenge that has been hard on our hearts.

To respond to the challenges of behavioural difficulties, our staff engage with the agency Director of Child Care on a regular basis to obtain coaching ideas and encouragement. We also have weekly meetings among our Program Managers from all of our sites who offer peer support to each other. As well, the agency has accessed the services of ICC (Inclusive Child Care), a program offered by the Government of Alberta that “*assists child care programs and educators to build their capacity and confidence to include children who have extra support needs, increase families’ access to inclusive child care, and prevent the exclusion or removal of children from child care programs.*” We have received valuable input and guidance from their knowledgeable staff at our other Clubs and we are confident that their

observations and input will help the Blackfalds Club succeed in supporting the children here.

- **Limited Access to the Gym**

We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to have space available in the brand new high school where our Club is located. The support from the school board and the onsite school administration and staff has been incredible. While we are most appreciative of the welcome we have received and the space that we have so generously been given, we are finding that the limited access to the gym is challenging, especially during these winter months. Our children need room for active play and time to burn off energy, but the scheduling for the gym is tight and often it is not available for our use. We completely understand this and look forward to the upcoming months when we can access the many outdoor opportunities located close to our Club site (e.g. various playgrounds, Abbey Centre, etc.)

6. Based on your evaluation findings, what changes would you make to the program/project?

Based on our evaluation of programming, so far, the following areas are ones to which we would consider making changes.

a. Before School Care

As mentioned above, we are considering the option of offering Before School Care to the families of Blackfalds. There have been numerous requests for this option to be made available; however, we need to determine as well as we can what the actual usage would be. Sometimes we have received indication that this would be a “nice” option, but then actual usage does not support the cost of making it available. Another consideration is that offering Before School Care would be another avenue for our agency to provide staff with the opportunity for full time hours. We will continue to consider this.

b. Kinder Care

There also seems to be a need for Kinder Care in the community. Kindergarten is only half days and parents must find child care on the half day when their children are not in school. At this point, BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds does not have a half-day program and kindergarten children are only able to access our full-day programs (i.e. S.O.D. Program, School Break Programs, Summer Camp, etc.) If we had some type of Kinder Care Program, we could better support families with younger children, as well as increase access and capacity at our Club.

c. Application for ICC (Inclusive Child Care)

As was indicated above, we have completed an application for assistance from ICC regarding support for staff members in managing group behaviours, challenging behaviours, etc. We are expecting that this will be very valuable to children, families, and staff alike in creating a safe, warm, and welcoming environment in our Club.

7. Were positive community partnerships formed as a result of this program/project? How will this help to sustain your program/project in the future? Please describe.

BGC Wolf Creek strongly believes in the value of partnering with other agencies in each community in which we deliver programming. We in no way want to duplicate services and are intentional in building on our collective strengths. As a result, we have formed very positive relationships that enable us to support each other, as well as members of the community.

A major partnership is with the school divisions whose students we welcome to our programs. Wolf Creek Public Schools has a very long history of supporting our agency, as we have worked together for over 20 years. This year, we have also forged a partnership with the Red Deer Catholic School Division and their students. Both school divisions have been very welcoming and supportive as we jointly work to meet the needs of children. We are also thankful for the partnerships we have with Blackfalds FCSS, the Town of Blackfalds, the County of Lacombe – all of whom provide support in a wide range of ways, whether it be financial, community knowledge, guidance, data, or simply cheering us on. The community has become a collective partner, as was seen during our recent Santa’s Bids for Kids fundraising event. Citizens and small businesses alike participated through the donations of goods and services, as well as bidding on the auction items themselves.

With strong partnerships such as those we have established over the past year of working toward and then opening the BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds Club, we know that we are situated well as we look to the future. We have key players in the community partnering with us, which strengthens our ability to determine, understand, and meet the needs of families in the community. Based on the success of the last several months, the future looks bright!

8. As a program Blackfalds FCSS strives to make the public aware of programs and events we have supported throughout the year. Please enclose copies of awareness and promotion items.

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is eager to recognize the valued support extended to our agency by Blackfalds FCSS. At this point, our promotions have primarily been through social media on our Facebook page: BGC Wolf Creek – Blackfalds. (Please see a very recent post with specific mention of Blackfalds FCSS.) In addition, we have posters hung throughout our programming space acknowledging valued support from your agency. Also, Blackfalds FCSS will be acknowledged in our upcoming BGC Wolf Creek Annual Report (which . Thank you from all of us for extending a warm welcome to BGC Wolf Creek and for providing support as we took our first steps in settling in as a resource for families. It is a partnership that impacts the community in so many ways. We join you in *“investing in people, our most valuable resource.”*

Waiver:

I give permission to Blackfalds FCSS to use any photographs or projects or events that I have submitted for the promotion or evaluation of the services that Blackfalds FCSS provides. I can, at any time, opt out of this media consent by providing written notice to the FOIP Office at the Town of Blackfalds 403.885.6248.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Position: _____

Signature _____

Signature _____

Ponoka Youth Center Association

Departmental Income Statement 01.01.2024 to 12.31.2024

	<u>Blackfalds</u>	
REVENUE		
Revenue		
Children Services Subsidy		9,369.52
Miscellaneous Donations	230.00	
Donations In Kind	<u>20,000.00</u>	
Total Donations		20,230.00
Interest Revenue		302.92
FCSS	15,000.00	
United Way 2023/24	2,065.72	
Grant: BGCC Summer Snacks	786.52	
Mand. Employer Contr (MEC)	276.15	
Retention Stability Grant	<u>2,903.77</u>	
Total Grants		21,032.16
Program Fees: After School Program	<u>18,136.35</u>	
Total Program Fees		18,136.35
Fund-raiser - Summer Program	-45.72	
Fundraiser: SB4K Auction Payment	<u>1,531.00</u>	
Total Fund Raiser		1,485.28
Total Revenue		<u>70,556.23</u>
TOTAL REVENUE		<u>70,556.23</u>
EXPENSE		
Administration Expenses		
Advertising		445.53
Board & Volunteer Appreciation		343.00
Conferences		100.00
Insurance		1,117.81
Bank/Finance Charges	-8.41	
Merchant Fees	<u>300.71</u>	
Total Banking Charges		292.30
Licenses, Registrations, Fees		400.00
Mileage		2,720.40
Transportation Expenses		3,119.25
Computer and Technology		1,288.20
Office Supplies	76.76	
Office Capital	192.44	
Photocopier R&M	<u>78.04</u>	
Total Office expenses		347.24

Capital Expenditures	99.60
Telephone	<u>395.26</u>
Total Facility Costs	494.86
Wages - Retention Stability	2,064.99
Wages: Program Director	11,026.96
Wages: Receptionist	848.26
Rimbey/Lacombe Admin Expenses	4,416.18
Wages: Director of Childcare	<u>1,454.45</u>
Total Administration Expenses	<u>30,479.43</u>
After School Program Expenses	
ASP: Program Expenses	888.12
ASP: Snacks	1,189.97
ASP: S.O.D Program expenses	157.24
ASP: Capital Equipment / WW	7,171.00
Float Staff	380.40
ASP: Wages: Assistant	7,749.77
ASP: Assistant #2 Wages	<u>2,011.20</u>
Total After School Program Expenses	<u>19,547.70</u>
Summer Program Expenses	
SP: Wages Program Coord	<u>1,462.50</u>
Total Summer Program Expenses	<u>1,462.50</u>
Payroll Expenses	
Banked Hours	0.00
Total EI	515.31
Total CPP	1,116.22
Total Vacation Pay	<u>875.19</u>
Total Payroll Expenses	<u>2,506.72</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>53,996.35</u>
NET INCOME	<u><u>16,559.88</u></u>

Generated On: 01.20.2025

A major partnership is with the school divisions whose students we welcome to our programs. Wolf Creek Public Schools has a very long history of supporting our agency, as we have worked together for over 20 years. This year, we have also forged a partnership with the Red Deer Catholic School Division and their students. Both school divisions have been very welcoming and supportive as we jointly work to meet the needs of children. We are also thankful for the partnerships we have with Blackfalds FCSS, the Town of Blackfalds, the County of Lacombe – all of whom provide support in a wide range of ways, whether it be financial, community knowledge, guidance, data, or simply cheering us on. The community has become a collective partner, as was seen during our recent Santa’s Bids for Kids fundraising event. Citizens and small businesses alike participated through the donations of goods and services, as well as bidding on the auction items themselves.

With strong partnerships such as those we have established over the past year of working toward and then opening the BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds Club, we know that we are situated well as we look to the future. We have key players in the community partnering with us, which strengthens our ability to determine, understand, and meet the needs of families in the community. Based on the success of the last several months, the future looks bright!

8. As a program Blackfalds FCSS strives to make the public aware of programs and events we have supported throughout the year. Please enclose copies of awareness and promotion items.

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is eager to recognize the valued support extended to our agency by Blackfalds FCSS. At this point, our promotions have primarily been through social media on our Facebook page: BGC Wolf Creek – Blackfalds. (Please see a very recent post with specific mention of Blackfalds FCSS.) In addition, we have posters hung throughout our programming space acknowledging valued support from your agency. Also, Blackfalds FCSS will be acknowledged in our upcoming BGC Wolf Creek Annual Report (which . Thank you from all of us for extending a warm welcome to BGC Wolf Creek and for providing support as we took our first steps in settling in as a resource for families. It is a partnership that impacts the community in so many ways. We join you in *“investing in people, our most valuable resource.”*

Waiver:

I give permission to Blackfalds FCSS to use any photographs or projects or events that I have submitted for the promotion or evaluation of the services that Blackfalds FCSS provides. I can, at any time, opt out of this media consent by providing written notice to the FOIP Office at the Town of Blackfalds 403.885.6248.

Name: Beth Reitz

Name: Kelly Sperber

Position: Executive Director

Position: BOARD TREASURER

Signature 

Signature K Sperber

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

4.4 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: SAWYER HICK
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: Volunteer Appreciation Events

BACKGROUND:

FCSS Staff are currently in the process of working on plans to honor and celebrate our valued community ambassadors. These outstanding volunteers are essential to the Town of Blackfalds, contributing through special events, community programs, local organizations, and serving on our Town boards, committees, and commissions. Volunteers are truly the backbone of our community, and we are committed to recognizing their hard work and dedication in a meaningful way.

It is our intention to offer recognition similar to last year:

1. The selection process will be carried out the same as in past years:
 - Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award (Town Council)
 - Gloria House Mentor Award (FCSS Board)
 - Outstanding Group Awards (FCSS Board)
 - Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award (Town Council)
 - Leaders of Tomorrow Awards (The Mayor, FCSS Youth Programmer and a FCSS Board Representative)
 - Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award (FCSS Board Representative, a family friend and a past award recipient)
2. Awards presentation during National Volunteer Week: Blackfalds FCSS will be hosting *Best of Blackfalds* including appetizers from our *best food restaurants*, beer tasting, cash bar, live music and awards presentation highlighting our *best community ambassadors* and the contributions they make to our community. The Best of Blackfalds is scheduled to take place on the evening of April 17; awards presented will include:
 - Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award,
 - Gloria House Mentor Award,
 - Outstanding Group Award (adult category), and
 - Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award.
3. Awards presentation during National Youth Week: Our Oscar themed Youth Recognition Night is scheduled to take place May 1. will be a Red-Carpet, complete with VIP lanyards, paparazzi, a Walk of Fame, and invitees will be asked to wear their Oscar worthy ensemble. There will be appetizers, small performances from the IRJC school band, youth dancers, as well as the awards presentation. Awards presented will include:

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
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AGENDA

- Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award,
- Leaders of Tomorrow (elementary, junior high and high school category),
- Outstanding Group Award (youth category), and
- Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award.

All marketing efforts for National Volunteer Week will be conducted through the Town's regular social media channels, including the Blackfalds FCSS Facebook page, the website events calendar, and the FCSS Volunteer Newsletter.

It is our hope that an FCSS Board member will participate in the selection process for the Leaders of Tomorrow awards. Also, **we are accepting volunteer award nominations until March 1, 2025.** If you know someone in our community who selflessly gives their time, please consider nominating them.

ATTACHMENTS: Volunteer Events Invitation

FCSS VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMER UPDATE

Month of January:

- **Volunteer Recognition Planning:**
 - National Volunteer Week taking place April 27 – May 3, 2025
 - Blackfalds FCSS will be hosting *Best of Blackfalds* including appetizers from our *best food restaurants*, beer tasting, cash bar, live music and awards presentation highlighting our *best community ambassadors* and the contributions they make to our community. The 18+ event is scheduled to take place on the evening of April 17; awards presented will include:
 - Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award,
 - Gloria House Mentor Award,
 - Outstanding Group Award (adult category), and
 - Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award.
 - Our Oscar themed *Youth Recognition Night* is scheduled to take place May 1. There will be a Red Carpet, complete with VIP lanyards, paparazzi, a Walk of Fame, and invitees will be asked to wear their Oscar worthy ensemble. There will be appetizers, small performances from the IRJC school band, youth dancers, as well as the awards presentation. Awards presented will include:
 - Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award,
 - Leaders of Tomorrow (elementary, junior high and high school category),
 - Outstanding Group Award (youth category), and
 - Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award.
 - Nominations Now Open (deadline to nominate is March 1) – If you know someone in our community who selflessly gives their time, please consider nominating them. Visit www.blackfalds.ca/volunteer for details!
 - Selection process will be facilitated by:
 - Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award (Town Council)
 - Gloria House Mentor Award (FCSS Board)
 - Outstanding Group Awards (FCSS Board)
 - Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award (Town Council)
 - Leaders of Tomorrow Awards (The Mayor, FCSS Youth Programmer and a FCSS Board Representative)
 - Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award (FCSS Board Representative, a family friend and a past award recipient)
 - Nominee Assessment forms will be submitted electronically to the Volunteer Programmer
- **Seniors Programming:** Volunteer Programmer is currently exploring various options for information sessions to be held this spring. We are considering partnering with Servus Credit Union to host a session on wills and estate planning, collaborating with a local real estate agent and Lacombe Foundation to offer tips for seniors looking to sell their homes and to discuss future living arrangement options, as well as, offering a session focused on tenant rights and responsibilities. Stay tuned!

Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:

- Jim Hurley Free Skate on Sunday's (3 volunteers, rotating Sunday's)
- Snow Angel Program
 - 28 volunteers are supporting 18 locations
 - 5 residents participating in the Neighbourhood Snow Angel Program
 - 4 on the waitlist

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. The monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In January, the newsletter was emailed to 293 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 61%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Snow Angel Program – Winter months
 - b. Winterfest – February 17

FCSS Board Update: December 2024

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 964 followers at the close of December

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

- 145 followers at the close of December

Abey Center Membership Assistance Program

- 2 applications received, screened and approved in December.
- Thrilled to report that
 - 17 Applications received, screened and approved
 - 16 Applicants were fulfilled (one resident became unreachable)**A total of 17 adults and 30 children benefited from this program!**

Christmas Bureau Program:

- 2024 was Great! Both pickup and delivery went smoothly.
- The partnership between Blackfalds FCSS and The Beyond Food Community Hub continues to be strong.

Total number of Blackfalds residents accessing the Program: 432

Total number of Children: 254

Total number of women: 122

Total Number of men: 56

Number of Total Christmas Bureau Hampers: 126

Number of Family Hampers: 103

Number of single or Seniors Households hampers: 23

45 -delivers

40 - 10 am pickups

40 - 5 pm pickups (1 no-show)

BLACKFALDS FCSS

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
SUPPORT SERVICES

403.600.9066

jpocock@blackfalds.ca

Jan Pocock, Community Engagement Programmer

Drop in 50+ Walking Club

- 38 unique participants in Dec with an average of 24 daily walkers.
- 24% from Lacombe County & 15% from the City of Lacombe and 61% from the Town of Blackfalds
- At the last walking session of the year Santa walked with the participants and everyone went home with a Pie!

It's More than a Movie

- **Watched: Christmas with the Kranks**
- This was the Christmas party, so we gathered to eat pizza, and some still had enough room to enjoy popcorn during the show.
- 14 L pizza / 2 gluten-free pizzas = **\$299.45**
- **32 residents attended.**

T.O.B All Staff "Reindeer games" Food drive:

- TOB staff challenge supporting the Food Bank with a pizza party and trophy prize for the winner.
- 3 "judges" scored which department brought in the most donations.
- These points were added and then averaged among the three judges' tallies, the winner of the 2024 challenge was the ABBEY center.
- The 2024 winner's name was added to the trophy.
- 593 pounds of food & \$50.00 was raised



FCSS Board Update: January 2025

Christmas Bureau Program: Final reporting

- Christmas Bureau
432 Total users – 254 children, 122 women, 56 men
126 Hampers distributed (103 family hampers, 23 single or seniors' hampers)

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- Re-applied to be a host site in 2025.
- Re-applied for 2005 Efile numbers and passwords.
- Re-submitted application for 2025 COIN number.
- This year, the CVITP program requires that every volunteer obtain a RepID number. To receive this number, volunteers must sign in through their personal CRA account. This means that all volunteers need to submit not only their SIN numbers, background checks, and accounting experience but also their personal tax lines, which include 15000, as well as a random line number. Additionally, they must use their banking login information. While our volunteers and I understand and agree to this new requirement, it adds yet another barrier imposed by the government for those who provide this valuable and free service through CVITP.
- Requested a dedicated computer, printer, and office space to run this program.

Interagency Meeting:

- 30 people in attendance
- 19 unique community organizations represented.

In Office Connections:

- 1 local senior who is having surgery, needed to “log in and watch” 2 webinars about her upcoming surgery. This resident is elderly and does not have access to a computer, we logged in with the patient information that was given/supplied by the “women's health clinic”, printed off the transcripts of the webinars, and printed a checklist of “what to bring” & “what to expect” to the surgery. As an organization, I am proud that residents know that they can come to us for assistance with a wide variety of “issues”. We cannot solve this problem but together we can brainstorm a way to help her out at this moment in time. Large organizations and government bodies need to realize that not everyone is tech-savvy and have access to computers or reliable internet!

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 981 followers at the close of January

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

- 153 followers at the close of January

More than a Movie:

- We had a wonderful gathering of community seniors, during which we watched the movie "Interstellar." While the movie was a bit long and very much in the sci-fi genre, it wasn't their favourite film choice ever. However, it did introduce many attendees to a different genre than they were used to.
- We frequently have two ladies who pop popcorn for our movie program. Unfortunately, both were unable to attend the January movie, so they arranged for a substitute "popcorn lady" to fill in for them. This demonstrates their strong commitment to the movie program and highlights the importance of creating purposeful roles for seniors in our community.
- **17 guests attended**
 - 15 from the Town of Blackfalds
 - 1 City of Lacombe
 - 1 County of Lacombe

50+ Walking Club:

- This staple program continues to be very popular!
 - Average of 30 walkers per Tuesday.
 - We have 8, 75+ year old walkers who come regularly
 - 70.5% of the Walkers are from the Town of Blackfalds
 - 13.6% are from the City of Lacombe
 - 15.9% are from the County of Lacombe
- In the Month of January we focused on Fall Prevention exercises and strategies, such as functions strength & balance exercises
- One Tuesday we had one walker with a cane, two with poles and two with walkers!!!!

Abbey Center Membership Assistance Program:

- **3 applications were screened & approved**
 - 2 applications were approved.
 - Total: 2 adults and 4 children have access to the Abbey Center amenities for a two-month period.

BLACKFALDS FCSS

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
SUPPORT SERVICES

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jpocock@blackfalds.ca

Jan Pocock, Community Engagement Programmer

Outer duties:

- Attended the webinar offered by FCSAA on living wage vs minimum wage
- Exploring the fridge magnet/ emergency responder fridge magnet initiative
- Camp Curious Champion application and program review
- Updated budget tracking sheets for the 2005 year
- 2-week vacation from January 30 - Feb 13 😊



The track is full of ACTIVE engaged citizens!

Youth Programmer January Report

Blackfalds Youth Crew (BYC)

Instructor: *Annette*

Blackfalds Youth Crew fosters positive peer relationships, offers mentoring and leadership opportunities, and enhances social support in the community. Staff and volunteers create a safe environment for youth to feel empowered and valued while building social skills, positive values, and self-esteem through various activities.

BYC Schedule: **BYC Mondays:** Grade 4-6 | 4:00-6:00 pm Grade 7-12| 6:30-8:30 pm

BCY Homeschool Thursdays: Grade 4-9 | 1:00-3:00 pm

Date, Time, and Details (max 15)	Grade 4-6	Grade 7-12	Homeschool	Total Youth
Ping Pong & Pizza *Youth connected with peers by playing a friendly game of ping pong and making their pizzas.	15	9	15	39
Beat the Winter Blues *The youth had the chance to go sledding with friends and try out snowshoes, and then they warmed up with hot Coca-Cola and marshmallows!	15	7	12	34
Cornhole and Cookies *Community youth learned to play cornhole and then had the chance to bake and share cookies.	14	9	8	31
Let it Glow * Youth had the opportunity to paint a glow-in-the-dark calming jar and participate in a variety of other neon activities.	15	12	9	36
	Waitlist			
	2			
			Total Youth Registered	140



Inspiring Virtues: Youth in Prime

Promote self-esteem, positive self-image, and nurturing leadership. Youth learn strategies to handle peer pressure, bullying, self-care, and a healthy lifestyle.

Date, Time, and Details (max 15)	Registered/Attended
Grade 5-8 January 16-February 13 6:00-7:30 pm	7
	2 Canceling on the start day.

Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety

Instructor: *Annette*

Home Alone is an interactive safety training program for youth. Safety, first aid, and comfort skills are covered in this course through interactive games and role-playing. The class continues to be offered on a nearly monthly basis throughout the school year for youth grades 4 – 6.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered / Attended (max 15)
Grade 4-6 January 15 4:00-6:00 pm	13

Youth Cooking Club

Instructor: *Annette*

The Youth Cooking Club is a program created by Alberta Health Services aimed at teaching young people about healthy eating, based on Canada's Food Guide. Participants will learn essential cooking skills while working both independently and as a team, with a strong emphasis on kitchen and food safety. Youth will also showcase their skills to family and friends during a final celebration.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered/Attended (max 10)	Waitlist (max 10)
Grade 5-7 January 30-March 19 4:30-6:30 pm (no session February 19)	10	6

Youth Programmer Initiatives:

- Pink Shirts provided to TOB new employees
- Meet with the Social Worker of Iron Ridge Secondary School to discuss future collaborations.
- Preparing for BYC Bingo at Winterfest
- Organizing the Spring Easter Event
- Securing Spring and Summer program partners
- Early stages of organizing Youth Week in May
- Creating Life Literacy Camps programs for July and August

Client Statistics for January 2025

Referrals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
FCSS Sawyer	2											
FCSS Cara	5											
Snow Angel Program	3											
FCSS Jan	9											
FCSS Annette	2											
Income Tax Return Inquiries	0											
Employment Support	1											
FCSS Event Movie	5											
FCSS Subsidized Programs	1											
Back to School	0											
Winter Wear	0											
Christmas Bureau	0											
Abbey Assistance Program	2											
Food Bank	5											
Low Income Inquiries	3											
Housing	1											
Fax	21											
Printing/Photocopying	23											
Seniors Assistance Programs	5											
Telephone	1											
BOLT	1											
Golden Circle	16											
General Inquiries	36											
Number of Clients	142											

Job posting updated weekly. Beyond Food Lunchbox Program emails sent weekly.

Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter for:

February - 237 sends with an open rate of 69%