

**TOWN OF BLACKFALDS**  
**BLACKFALDS & DISTRICT FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES BOARD**  
Tayles Room, Lower Level, Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street  
Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

**AGENDA**

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1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Welcome & Introductions
  - 1.2 Call to Order
  - 1.3 Approval of Agenda
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2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

- 2.1 Treaty Six Land Acknowledgement – the Blackfalds FCSS Board acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saukteaux (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.
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3. **PRESENTATIONS**

- 3.1 N/A
- 

4. **BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Big Brother Big Sisters – Annual Report
  - 4.2 Big Brothers Big Sisters Grant - Final Report
  - 4.3 Iron Ridge Elementary Campus Grant - Final Report
  - 4.4 Iron Ridge Junior Campus – Final Report
  - 4.5 Volunteer Appreciation Events
  - 4.6 Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2024
  - 4.7 FCSS Managers Update
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5. **CONFIDENTIAL**

- None
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6. **ADJOURNMENT**

- 6.1 Next meeting scheduled for March 14th, 2024, at 7pm

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**4.1 PRESENTATION**

**MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD**

**FROM: RICK KREKLEWICH**  
**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ISSUE: BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS FINAL REPORT – GRANT FUNDING.**

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**4.2 PRESENTATION**

**MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD**

**FROM: RICK KREKLEWICH**  
**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ISSUE: IRON RIDGE ELEMENTARY CAMPUS FINAL REPORT – GRANT FUNDING.**

**TOWN OF BLACKFALDS**  
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**4.3 PRESENTATION**

**MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD**

**FROM: RICK KREKLEWICH**

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ISSUE: IRON RIDGE JUNIOR CAMPUS FINAL REPORT – GRANT FUNDING.**

**TOWN OF BLACKFALDS**  
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**4.4 PRESENTATION**

**MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD**

**FROM: RICK KREKLEWICH**  
**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ISSUE: VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENTS.**

The FCSS Staff is currently in the process of working on plans to honor and celebrate the contributions made by our valued community ambassadors. These exceptional volunteers play a vital role in the Town of Blackfalds, whether it be through their involvement in special events, community programs, local organizations, and groups, or as members of our Town boards, committees, and commissions. Volunteers truly serve as the backbone of our community, and we are committed to recognizing and appreciating their efforts in a meaningful way.

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

1. 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)
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 18**; awards presented will include:

  - Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award,
  - Gloria House Mentor Award, and
  - Outstanding Group Award (adult category).
3. Awards presentation during National Youth Week:

Our Oscar themed Youth Recognition Night is scheduled to take place **May 2**. 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), and
  - Outstanding Group Award (youth category).

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.

**Future Meetings/Events:**

- FCSS March 14, 2024

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It is our hope that an FCSS Board member will participate in the selection process for the Leaders of Tomorrow awards. As well, **we are accepting volunteer award nominations until March 1, 2024**. If you know someone in our community who selflessly gives their time, please consider nominating them.

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**4.5 PRESENTATION**

**MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD**

**FROM: RICK KREKLEWICH**  
**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ISSUE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 11, 2024.**

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**4.6 BUSINESS**

**MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD**

**FROM: SUE BORNN  
FCSS MANAGER**

**ISSUE: FCSS MANAGERS REPORT**

Volunteer Programmer Update:

- **Seniors Active Programming:**
  - **Drop-In 50+ Walking Club:** FCSS staff facilitates the 50+ Walking Club on Tuesday and Thursdays at the Abbey Centre. During the month of January 55 people participated (including: 9% were Lacombe County residents), 7 dates offered, 128 track admissions were purchased, and the Seniors Plus (75+) admission was utilized 39 times. Participants tracked their distance walked and as a group they walked 6427 laps in January.
  - **Seniors Funding:** The Volunteer Programmer was successful securing 91% of the funds that were needed to support our seniors' initiatives thanks to Lacombe County FCSS Grant Funding and Blackfalds & District Agricultural Society.
- **It's More Than Just a Movie** (monthly event) – The January event showcasing 'Cool Runnings' was attended by 18 individuals.
- **Volunteer Recognition Planning:**
  - National Volunteer Week April 16-22, 2024
  - Best of Blackfalds (April 18) 18+ event with the evening to include local businesses supplying a variety of appetizers, live music, beer tasting, cash bar and the presentation of the Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award, Gloria House Mentor Award, and the Outstanding Group (adult) Award.
  - Youth Recognition Night (May 2) Red-carpet youth event to include appetizers, performances and the presentation of the Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award, Leaders of Tomorrow Awards, and the Outstanding Group (youth) Award.
  - Nominations Now Open (deadline to nominate is March 1) – see below for nomination forms:
    - [Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award](#)
    - [Gloria House Mentor Award](#)
    - [Outstanding Group Award \(Youth and Adult\)](#)
    - [Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award](#)
    - [Leaders of Tomorrow Awards \(Elementary, Junior High, Highschool\)](#)
  - 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)

**Future Meetings/Events:**

- FCSS March 14, 2024

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- Nominee Assessment forms will be submitted electronically to the Volunteer Programmer
  - **Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:**
    - Snow Angel Program
      - 34 volunteers are supporting 23 locations
      - 5 locations on the waitlist
      - 6 volunteers are hoping to be paired with a resident close to their home

**ONGOING INITIATIVES:**

1. The monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**
  - a. In January, the newsletter was emailed to 276 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 51%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
  - a. Jim Hurley Free Skate – Sunday's
  - b. Snow Angel Program – Winter months
  - c. Blackfalds Health Professional Attraction & Retention Committee
  - d. Winterfest – February 19

Youth Programmer Update:

**Blackfalds Youth Crew**

Offered Mondays from 3:45 - 5:45pm for youth grades 4 -6, Tuesdays from 5:00 - 7:00 pm for youth grades 7 – 12, and now Thursdays from 1 – 2:30 pm for homeschooled youth grades 4 - 9.

- January 1, 2, and 4 there was no BYC due to Winter Break,
- January 8 saw 4 youth in attendance, January 9 saw 11, and January 12 saw 12,
- January 22 saw 20 youth in attendance, January 23 saw 4, and January 25 saw 9,
- January 29 saw 15 youth in attendance, January 30 saw 14.

Youth participated in a variety of scheduled activities, including a movie & popcorn, slime making, games in the Abbey Centre field house, and hot chocolate & tobogganing. Unscheduled activities, such as plasma cars and board games, are available to youth once the scheduled activity has been completed.

**Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety** was scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup> however, due to staff illness, the class is rescheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup> with 15 youth registered between both make-up dates. The class continues to be offered on a nearly monthly basis throughout the school year for youth grades 4 – 6. The next regular course is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Cooking Club** is an Alberta Health Services program geared towards teaching youth about healthy eating, according to the Canada's Food Guide. Youth learn how to cook/bake while staying safe in the kitchen. This 8-week program started January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Mission Impossible** is an obstacle course developed by FCSS Youth Programmer to advance youth physical coordination and social skills. Obstacle courses will get progressively harder to allow for youth skill development. The program has 15 registered youth, with full attendance and engagement.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring:** FCSS Youth Programmer is mentoring a young student at one of the Blackfalds community schools. Mentoring takes place once a week for one hour. Mentee and youth programmer are engaged throughout the whole meet time and have developed a solid relationship. FCSS Youth Programmer has seen positive change in the mentee regarding school.

**Future Meetings/Events:**

- FCSS March 14, 2024

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**FCSS Youth Programmer initiatives during the month of January:**

Youth Resource Guide creation for the Youth Action Coalition.  
Connected The Robb Nash Project (TRNP) with interested schools.  
Pink Shirt Day- information sharing & Pink Shirt order.

**Community Engagement Programmer Update:**

**Christmas Bureau Program: Final reporting**

- Christmas Bureau
  - 463 Total users – 271 children, 127 women, 65 men
  - 124 Hampers distributed (103 family hampers, 21 single or seniors' hampers)

**Community Volunteer Income Tax Program**

- applied to be a host site.
- applied to Efile numbers and passwords.
- submitted application for 2024 COIN number.

**Interagency Meeting:**

- 17 people in attendance
- 15 unique community organizations represented.

**Family Easter Event:**

- The date and location secured- ***March 23, Community Centre, 12-2 pm***

**In Office Connections:**

- 4, CPP applications (Servus Canada Account created & online application completed)
- 1 Jury duty exemption (82-year-old woman, assisted with online exemption form)

**Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:**

- 655 followers at the close of January

**Blackfalds Instagram Page:**

- 32 followers at the close of January

**Outer duties:**

- Tuesday 50+ Walking Club
- More than a Movie event
- Spring/Summer guide submissions
- CRA Outreach Information Session: Free | Tuesday, January 23 @ Blackfalds Community Centre- information & Discussion surrounding disability Tax credits, new to Canadian returns, residency, Canada Workers benefits, and Canadian Child Tax benefit.

***Future Meetings/Events:***

- FCSS March 14, 2024

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- Reindeer Games/Town Office Food Drive challenge, arranged Pizza Party for the Abbey Centre challenge winners.
- Launched Blackfalds FCSS Instagram Page
- Dealing with the uncertainty of a management change within the office.

FCSS Administrative Assistant Update:

**Client Statistics for January 2024**

Referrals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
FCSS SueB	7											
FCSS Cara	3											
FCSS Jan	3											
FCSS Sierra	16											
Income Tax Return Inquiries	1											
Employment Support	1											
FCSS Event Movie	4											
FCSS Subsidized Programs	0											
Tools for Schools	0											
Winter Wear	0											
Christmas Bureau	0											
Food Bank	4											
Low Income Inquiries	5											
Housing	0											
Fax	13											
Printing/Photocopying	13											
Seniors Assistance Programs	7											
Telephone	0											
BBBS	0											
BOLT	2											
Golden Circle	3											
General Inquiries	52											
Reaching Home												
Mental Health Therapist												
Affordability Grant Help												
<b>Number of Clients</b>	<b>134</b>											

Job posting updated weekly. Lunchbox emails sent weekly.  
 Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter for January - 195 sends with an open rate of 88%

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FCSS Managers Update:

- FCSS Manager position will be advertised this week.
- Tim Moorhouse of Moorhouse and Associates should have a final report to us next week as it is still with their graphic designer.



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**Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board**  
Meeting held Virtually via Microsoft Teams  
Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim Sands	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Brenda Dennis	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Sheila Giffin	Public at Large, Acting Vice-Chair
Glenda Brown	Public at Large,
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Melissa MacLeod	Public at Large
Annette Bugutsky	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Cliff Soper	County of Lacombe Resident

**ATTENDING**

Rick Kreklewich	Town of Blackfalds Director of Community Services
Sue Bornn	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Manager
Sue Penner	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Asst

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

Tim Moorehouse  
Moorehouse & Associates

**REGRETS**

Dena Thomas                      Public at Large

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Sheila Giffin welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 6:59 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**

Mr. Tim Moorhouse of Moorhouse & Associates joined the board via Teams to discuss the latest updates with the Social Needs Assessment. He outlined to the board the areas where

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updates have been made and ensured that a footer containing the project title and date will be added to the final document.

Once he has a document that he is happy with it will be sent to the Board hopefully by January 19<sup>th</sup>. Councillor Sands asked that Mr. Moorhouse ensure the final document has correct spelling and grammar to help push this document forward to Council. Member Gilchrist asked to ensure that it is a professional document.

### **BUSINESS**

#### **Minutes**

#### **Approval of Minutes from December 14, 2023**

Councillor Dennis moved That the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends that Council adopt the minutes from December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **FCSS Managers Report**

- The Volunteer Christmas Open House was well attended with 60 volunteers of all ages in attendance – a thank you to our board members who attended.
- Our Volunteer Programmer reported 2092 volunteer hours in 2023.
- The partnership between Blackfalds FCSS and The Beyond Food Community Hub continues to be strong with 463 residents accessing the Christmas Bureau which provided 124 hampers to families, singles, or seniors. Staff reported an increase in people stopping into the FCSS office with larger cash and gift cards donations for the Christmas Bureau.
- The Town of Blackfalds staff participated in the “Reindeer Games” food drive. This resulted in 600+ food items being donated to the Food Bank and \$200 in cash.
- Director Kreklewich advised the board that this is Manager Bornn’s last FCSS meeting as she is off on a new work adventure. The members of the board thanked Sue for all she had done and stated that she was amazing to work with.



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Vice-Chair Giffin adjourned the the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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Sheila Giffin, Vice-Chair

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Sue Penner, Admin Staff



## 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](mailto:fcss@blackfalds.com)

### 2023 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 of Lacombe and District

Project Name: Blackfalds Mentoring Programs

Report Completion Date: January 30, 2024

Due Dates: January 31, 2024

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 blue ink that reads 'Sue Bornn'.

Sue Bornn  
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Manager  
Town of Blackfalds  
403-885-6247  
[fcss@blackfalds.com](mailto: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: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District

Name of Project: Blackfalds Mentoring Programs

Project Timeline: 2023

<b>Revenue</b>		
	FCSS Contribution	\$ 15,000
	Organizations Contribution	\$ 23,113
<b>Expenditures</b>		
	FCSS Eligible Expenditures	\$ 36,150
	(Actual amount as approved in application)	
	Other Expenditures	\$ 2,030
	Revenue minus eligible expenditures	\$ 38,113 - \$38,180
	<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$ 67)</b>

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

Due Dates: January 31, 2024

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 mentoring programs that aim to enhance executive function and mitigate the negative impacts of adverse childhood experiences. BBBSLD offers a range of programs that are tailored to the unique needs of children and youth. Providing a diverse range of programs aims to increase the likelihood of successfully matching children and youth in the program that best meets their specific needs. Community-Based 1:1 Mentoring is where a youth is matched with a volunteer mentor, and they foster a deep connection by spending approximately 6-8 hours a month engaging in like-minded community activities. In-School 1:1 Mentoring takes place within the school, but the youth and volunteer mentor meet outside of the classroom setting. Furthermore, in-school mentoring allows youth aged 14 and older to begin mentoring within the schools. Additionally, our Group Programming – Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds (previously known as Go Girls) and Game On, focus on holistic development. The topics revolve around healthy friendships, mindfulness, self-care, physical activity, life skills, communication, teamwork, and discussions on emotional health. Through this wide-range approach, BBBSLD is committed to helping the children and youth enrolled in these programs reach their full potential.

During the enrollment process, all parties – mentee, parent/guardian, and mentor go through a pre-match training. Pre-match training plays a vital role and encompasses the key stages of relationships that contribute to the success within relationships. The key stages include healthy relationships, voices and choices, circle of support, and boundaries. Once a mentoring relationship has been created, check-ins are completed to ensure the relationship is developing in all aspects. This is done through evaluating the matches intention on challenging growth, expressing care, providing support, expanding possibilities, and sharing power.

Research demonstrates that youth feel they have high-quality relationships with their mentor when they share attributes, receive emotional engagement and support, and have a long-lasting relationship with their mentor (Mentor Canada, 2021). In 2023, BBBSLD facilitated 174 mentoring relationships in Blackfalds.

<b>Supporting Statistics and Community Involvement</b>	
<b>Direct Programs Offered</b>	<b>Participant Numbers</b>
Site-Based (In-School) Mentoring	4
Community-Based Mentoring	20
Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds (Go Girls)	64
Game On	79
Kids & Kops Summer Day Camp Mentoring Program	7
Adopt-a-Family Program	8 families, 17 children/youth
Waitlist Group Programs	11 participated (16 on the waitlist)
<b>Community Education and Awareness</b>	<b>Population Reached</b>
Interagency Meetings	3
40 Mentors in 40 Days Campaign	8 signs placed around town
Turn the Town Teal Campaign	6 businesses participated

Festival of Wreaths (hosted at the Abbey Centre)	11 businesses participated
Easter Community Barbeque	150+
Community Info & Expo Fair	20+
<b>Volunteerism</b>	<b>Participating Number</b>
Site-Based (In-School) Mentoring	4
Community-Based Mentoring	21
Group Mentoring (Game On and Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds)	3
Kids & Kops Summer Mentoring	18 (across the county)
Adopt-a-Family Program	6
Board of Directors	3
<b>Staff Development</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>
Indigenous Canada Course (In Process)	2
Queer Lens Mental Health Training	3
Palix Foundation Brain Story Certification (In Process)	2
Developmental Relationship Training	1
<b>Geographical Area Served</b>	
Alix, Bentley, Blackfalds, Clive, Eckville, and 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;

Through supportive mentoring relationships, youth can gain personal responsibility and learn to navigate their own path. Research conducted by the Search Institute consistently shows that young people thrive when they are supported by a strong web of developmental relationships. Young people who experience developmental relationships across different parts of their lives are more likely to demonstrate increased academic growth and learning, enhanced social-emotional development, heightened sense of personal responsibility, and a reduced likelihood of engaging in high-risk behaviors.

When mentoring relationships are formed through BBBSLD, the volunteer mentor is becoming a part of the mentee's web of developmental relationships. This contributes to the mentee reaching their full potential.

- Help people to develop an awareness of social needs;

Our organization is continually working towards developing an awareness of social needs. Emphasizing current matches and the need for mentors is vital for bringing an awareness of social needs. During the month of September, BBBSLD hosts our 'Turn the Town Teal' campaign. This involves various businesses and organizations advocating for mentoring through decorating their storefront with Big Brothers Big Sisters posters and teal colored material.

Further meaningful impact is made through various community events, interactions, and marketing strategies. Greater awareness contributes to a healthier community.

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

BBBSLD offers a variety of group mentoring programs – Game On, Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds (Go Girls), and Kids and Kops. These programs are built to provide youth with the tools to build and learn healthy interactions with peers.

Peer relationships play an important role in the development of young individuals. When there is focus on strengthening peer relationships through programs, it has been reported that there is improvement in self-confidence, life-skills, academic motivation, and leadership skills (Search Institute, 2021).

During BBBSLD's yearly survey evaluation, it was recognized that 198 youth responded to the survey question "As a result of having a mentor, I have a better understanding of healthy friendships and relationships." Of these responses, 95% responded positively.

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

According to the 'Mentoring Supports Youth's Mental Health and Well-Being' report conducted by Mentor Canada in 2021, mentored youth were twice as likely to report feeling that they belonged to their community in comparison to non-mentored youth. Mentoring relationships have an impact on the community. Youth having an individual in their life to guide them through community interactions, will have a positive impact on the community as a whole.

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

Through Community-Based mentoring youth are introduced to activities within the community, leading them to witness the different opportunities that are available to them. When mentoring relationships are engaged and active participants in the community, connections between youth, volunteers, and the community are being

developed.

When completing a match check-in with a youth enrolled in the Community-Based program, she spoke about how she and her mentor volunteered in Blackfalds for one of their matches. During the holiday season, this match relationship bought gifts and donated them. This mentee emphasized that when she seen how happy those who received the donation were, it made her happy. Furthermore, the mentee described how nice it was to give back to the community. Soon, this mentoring relationship is going to volunteer with seniors.

BBBSLD's group mentoring programs provide an additional avenue for youth to discover what is available to them in their community and establishing connections.

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

BBBSLD did reach the intended population. BBBSLD provides a diverse range of programs that aim to increase the likelihood of successfully matching children and youth in the program that best meets their specific needs.

In 2023, mentoring programs in Blackfalds represented 42% of the overall Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs. Group mentoring programs seen an increase in number of youths participating, with an additional 27 youth served compared to 2022. Community-Based 1:1 mentoring maintains consistency and the volunteer inquiries for this program displays promising potential for growth. Site-Based (in-school) 1:1 mentoring is still a program that is requested from the schools. The current mentoring relationships in this program have been consistent which speaks to the impact of this program.

In 2022, there was brief discussion regarding facilitating group mentoring with the Junior Campus and in 2023, our organization met with the Junior Campus to discuss further details. A curriculum has been developed and the intention for 2024 is to initiate a high-quality group mentoring program to the Junior Campus.

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

Mentoring relationships within BBBSLD actively contribute to their growth and effectiveness by engaging in yearly surveys aligned with the Family & Community Support Services Provincial Priority Measures. These surveys play a crucial role in measuring the outcomes of mentorship programs and strengthening mentoring practices. A total of 261 surveys were completed by mentees, mentors, and parent/guardians.

Game on and Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds received this feedback from parents/guardians: "This program was the highlight of her day when the program was in place."

"My son said it was fun. He enjoyed the break from daily school routine. Made him excited to go to school."

"The program was great and as a teacher, and a parent, it was really cool to see how engaged the kids were and how much they looked up to group leader. He handled them very respectfully and age appropriately."

Mentors responded to the questions "As a result of BBBS, my mentee has more people that they can turn to for support/advice", with 92% agreeing. Additionally, 84% agreed to the questions "As a mentor, I am helping my mentee feel more confident."

Through surveys conducted with mentees enrolled in the Community-Based and Site-Based mentoring programs, it was identified that having a mentor has helped them feel they can make a difference and displayed growth in social awareness and confidence. Mentees were asked the question "Can you share a personal story from your mentoring relationship where you felt like you belonged in your community, or where you felt confident to be yourself?" The answers received included:

"When I was selling girl guide cookies in the community I felt confident and brave to ring my neighbours doorbell to ask if they wanted to buy any."

"Hanging out at the legion and helping them."

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

Our organization continues to navigate ways to enhance our programs to further support those we serve. This includes adapting curriculums to best meet the needs of the youth enrolled in our programs. This requires our team to be innovative and establish strong communication with one another.

The Kids & Kops Summer Day Camp was a highly requested program again in 2023. This program served 24 youth. These youth were provided with opportunities that allowed them to see what is like in the day of a police officer. The demand for group mentoring programs in 2023 was significant, requiring our team to strategize on delivering additional programming. Regarding Game On and Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds, our organization effectively implemented two 2-day camps per program. There was an observed increase in Community-Based mentoring relationships actively participating within the community. Through the completion of match check-ins, it was recognized that mentoring relationships were volunteering in the community. This included delivering Turn the Town Teal thank you certificates to participating businesses and organizations and decorating cookies for Tim Horton's Smile Cookie.

Our organization introduced the Developmental Relationship training to volunteers in 2022, but it was

in 2023 that we witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of volunteer mentors completing this training. This increase has ranged from experienced mentors who have been matched for multiple years to new mentors who are just beginning their mentoring journey. Led by our staff, this training was a pivotal step in enhancing the mentorship experience.

Optimism for growth in our Site-Based 1:1 mentoring program remains, and our team will continue to work towards finding solutions to overcome this challenge. As mentioned, the current mentoring relationships in this program have been consistent which speaks to the impact of this program. Currently there are 16 youth waiting for a mentor in Blackfalds.

The Adopt-a-Family program experienced a decline in numbers, and we suspect it may have been due to a statement that was added to the application. It stated, "Please note that if you choose to participate in our Adopt a Family program, it makes you ineligible to participate in similar programs such as the Blackfalds Christmas Bureau."

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

To assist in identifying the societal barriers being faced, BBBSLD began adding questions to our In-School mentoring programs to assess Adverse Childhood Experiences. These questions were optional for the parent/guardians to answer and because they were optional, it was acknowledged the intended outcome was not being achieved. As an organization, we will continue navigating methods to motivate parent/guardians to respond to these questions. This will continue to assist us with leading practices in all mentoring areas. In upcoming years, the intended outcome is to have these questions be required during the enrollment process.

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.

Our organization is very fortunate to have many different community partnerships. BBBSLD partners with the Peace Officers in Blackfalds for Kids & Kops. This partnership strengthens the program and establishes teamwork to meet the needs of the youth enrolled. For school-based programs, partnerships with the school liaisons, administration, and school districts are crucial in the success of these programs. They provide referrals and connect parent/guardians with the programs offered. Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services continue to advocate for mentoring, being mentors themselves to youth in our Site-Based program and supporting our organization in many different ways.

The Servus Credit Union Public Library in Blackfalds organized a Lego activity for both matches and those on the waitlist. Collaborations like these provide opportunities for youth to connect with additional community resources. The Blackfalds Bulldogs are another valued partnership. They are always ready to step up and decorate cookies during Tim Hortons Smile Cookie. When the Bulldogs are around, they can be seen as role models to the youth.

Volunteers form the foundations of BBBSLD. Volunteers support the youth enrolled in our programs, advocate out in the community, and help connect us to other businesses/organizations within Blackfalds.

Project partners are the key to making a difference in the community. BBBSLD is privileged to work with and alongside many different businesses and organizations.

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.

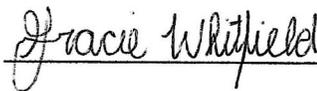
Name: Jen Harty

Name: Gracie Whitfield

Position: Interim Executive Director

Position: Mentoring Coordinator

Signature 

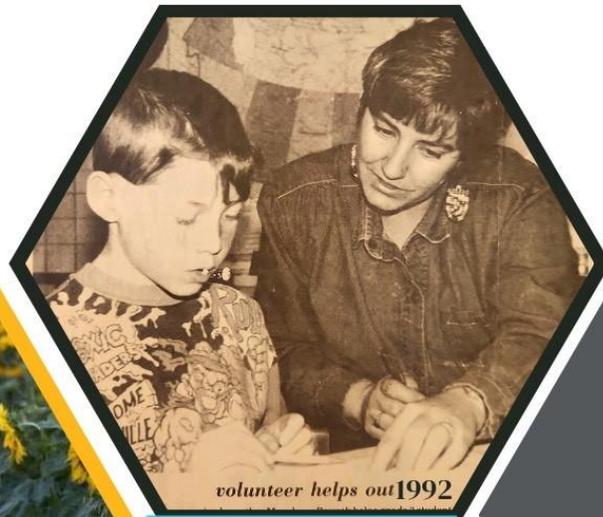
Signature 



Big Brothers  
Big Sisters  
OF LACOMBE AND DISTRICT

# 2022 Annual Report

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**Executive Address**

**Board of Directors**

**What Impact We Made in 2022**

**Our Theory of Change**

**Financial Report**

**Thank You to Our Funders & Partners**

**Contact Us**



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“When I am with my mentor, all of my stress goes away and I can really connect with her”

-Mentee, age 16  
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# Vision And Mission



## Vision



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



## Mission



- 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 match with Brielle is very strong and trusting”  
- Mentee Katelynn

# Message from the Board President and Executive Director

This past year has shown us how much everyone truly believes in our mission and vision through the unwavering compassion and generosity of our donors, funders, volunteers, children and families, partners, Board of Directors, and staff. Our community walks alongside us in our journey to help youth develop their full potential.

In 2022 we were able to finalize our next three-year strategic direction which has helped us to refresh our vision and continue our journey towards our Theory of Change. This year saw the implementation of the national Needs Registry and the beginning of our Developmental Relationship Framework. It is evident we are at a time where we need to increase our impact, amplify our voice, and enhance our sustainability. Our organization knows the impact of developmental relationships, providing opportunities for skill development, and for children to feel safe in their journey.

This year brought forth the opportunity to run Kids & Kops Summer Day Camps, enhance our group mentoring programs to meet the needs of each individual school, and host our Great BIG Christmas Dinner once again. Program evaluation was utilized from the perspectives of the youth, families, volunteers, and community to help us strengthen existing programs and look at where we can build new mentoring pathways. Mentorship continues to thrive in the communities served.

Thank you for the 4621 hours dedicated to mentoring directly and indirectly through supporting all our organizations marketing, fundraising, and community initiatives. Because of you, the youth in our programs are empowered to succeed. Thank you for helping ignite the power and potential of young people.



**Big Brothers  
Big Sisters**



**Board President  
Bev Bachelder**



**Executive Director  
Brianna Berthiaume**



# 2022 Board of Directors



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**BEV BACHELDER**  
PRESIDENT

**TRAVIS MARCOTT**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**JOEY INGRAM**  
TREASURER

**ROBERT SAUNDERS**  
SECRETARY

**EMMA VOCKEROTH**  
DIRECTOR

**KATIE CAMP**  
DIRECTOR

**SANDY WILLIAMS**  
DIRECTOR

**ALINA SCHWEER**  
DIRECTOR

**LEANNE SIMPSON**  
DIRECTOR

**PAT EELES**  
DIRECTOR



“(Mentor) Tania is amazing, kind, helpful, and beyond caring. She goes above and beyond and may be the best person placed on this earth”  
-Nicole & Sydney

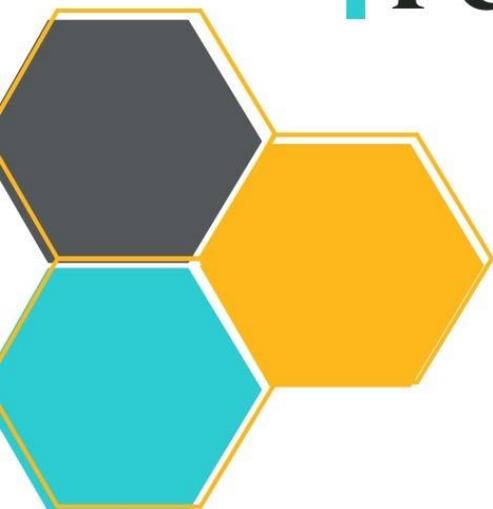
# Impact

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<b>Total Matches Served</b>	<b>344</b>	• Community and In-School Mentoring, Group Mentoring, Summer Mentoring
<b>Total Youth Served</b>	<b>362</b>	• Unique individuals including wait-list and special events
<b>Mentoring Programs</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>Communities Served</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>Adopt a Family</b>	<b>34 Families</b>	• 81 Youth
<b>Total Volunteers</b>	<b>107</b>	
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>4621</b>	

---

## Monthly Costs Per Match



# THEORY OF CHANGE



## Who do we serve?

Young people who face adversity AND are in need of an additional consistent and supportive developmental relationships.

## How do we ignite potential?

- By intentionally recruiting volunteer mentors based on the needs of our communities young people
- Match young people with a professionally screened volunteer mentor
- Train, monitor and support the match with a professional caseworker
- Build a developmental relationship that expresses care, encourages growth, provides support, shares power, and expands possibilities.
- Graduate the match relationship to natural supports

## What is our Impact?

- Stronger, healthier relationships
- Social inclusion
- Civic engagement
- Academic and employment success
- Physical and mental wellness
- Confidence
- Self esteem
- Happiness

## Jeni & Blaze



Jeni and Blaze started matching in the Community-Based program in 2021 and then switched to In-School in the fall of 2022 where they will still meet in the community every once in awhile.

Through the Community-Based Program, Blaze had the opportunity to meet Jeni's children and it is always a highlight when he gets to see them. Blaze goes to cheer them on at their sports and has gained positive relationships with each of them.

Switching to the In-School Program has had a very positive impact on Blaze in different areas. When Jeni and Blaze meet in-school, Blaze seems to be a lot more focused and engaged in the activities they do together. Blaze really enjoys getting to bake cookies with Jeni and then giving them to his class. This displays the kindness that Blaze has.

Jeni is always making sure to open Blaze up to new opportunities. Some of those opportunities include going fishing, community clean up in Blackfalds, and biking.



# Finances

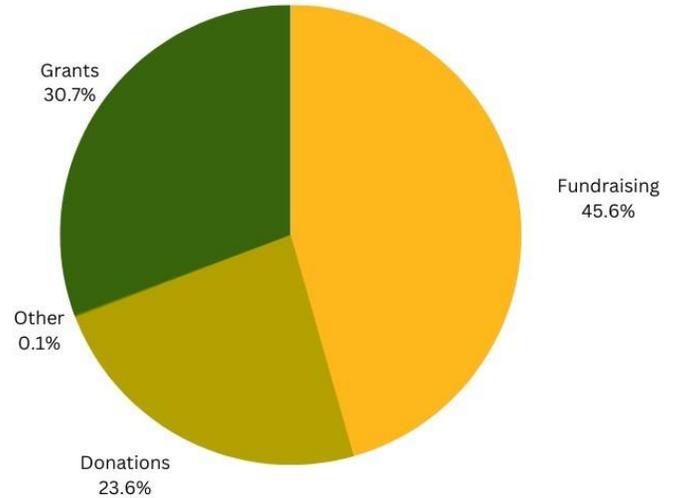
## REVENUE

Fundraising continues to be a significant source of our revenue and is 45.62% of our revenue.

Donations are 23.60%

Grant revenue is 30.64% and includes United Way funding, and grants from FCSS (Lacombe and Blackfalds) and the county of Lacombe.

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



## EXPENSES

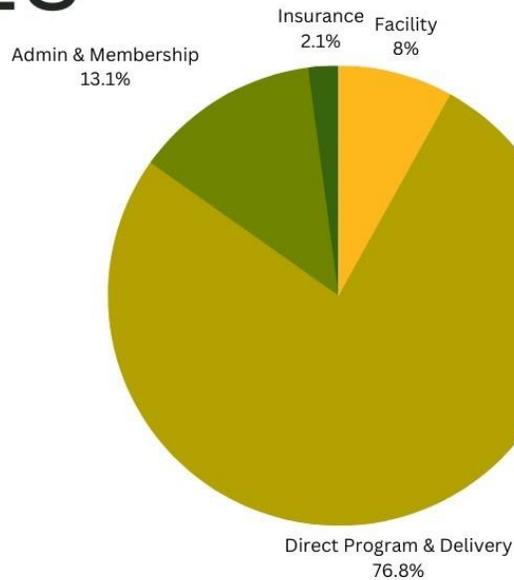
For every dollar we receive, 76 cents goes directly to our programs and is spent all in Central Alberta.

Insurance is becoming more costly each year.

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

### What it Means?

On a \$20 donation, \$15.20 goes straight to helping our Littles ignite their potential!



**Treasurer  
Joey Ingram**



# Elco & Colby: A Friend for Life

## By Kathy Van Dijk



Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) plays such a vital role in our community. This can be seen through the relationship between the mentorship program participants, Elco and Colby. Elco initially became a part of BBBS as a board member. Over time, he decided to take the opportunity to walk out the heart of the organization by volunteering as a mentor. After his first match fell through due to an unexpected move, he matched with Colby in 2011, and the rest was history. During grade 2, Colby was diagnosed with ADHD. His 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher suggested BBBS to his mother. While Colby was hesitant to try new things at the time, He never regretted the decision to get matched with a Big Brother. Colby stated it was “One of the best decisions I’ve made.” Elco and Colby quickly built a relationship through their visits every 1-2 weeks by building obstacle courses in the school gym, playing crib, fishing, and participating in Kids & Kops Camp through BBBS, to name a few.

Once Colby began junior high, the Big Brother Program at his school was only available in a limited capacity. However, Elco continued to make the effort to keep visiting regularly by taking Colby out for lunch every few weeks. Colby and Elco’s families would come together for the BBBS Christmas dinners, where they could interact and get to know one another. When Colby graduated high school during the pandemic, Elco brought a stereo and played “Celebrate” by Kool and the Gang to show him support amid a challenging time.

Over the past 12 years, the two have prioritized their relationship and maintained communication regardless of distance and as Colby phased out of the program and entered adulthood. Elco mentioned how he particularly enjoyed his time with Colby and that if they ended their relationship once their partnership was complete, it would have been a difficult goodbye. He desired to continue seeing how Colby’s life moved forward into adulthood and beyond. Colby said, “Elco has been like another father figure to me. [He’s] certainly someone I look up to. We complement each other; my chaotic to his tranquility.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters is an incredible opportunity to enhance our community. It plays a significant role in walking alongside children and their families, who may struggle or lack a support system. It gives them the resources to find people to support and encourage them throughout life’s uncertainties.



“I’ve made a friend for life” - Colby





# Contact Us



403-782-7870



[lacombe@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](mailto:lacombe@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca)



[lacombe.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca](http://lacombe.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca)

# THANK YOU

To our donors, partners, volunteers, families and team.  
 YOU help youth facing adversity.  
 YOU provide a support system.  
 YOU ignite potential with mentoring.  
 YOU open doors.  
 YOU champion leading practices in mentoring programs.



# Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

5016 Waghorn Street, Box 220, Blackfalds, AB TOM OJO

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

Email [fcss@blackfalds.com](mailto:fcss@blackfalds.com)



## 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: **Iron Ridge Elementary Campus**

Project Name: **Social Emotional Programming**

Due Dates: **January 31, 2024**

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

Regards,

**Sue Bornn**

Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Manager

Town of Blackfalds 403-885-6247

[fcss@blackfalds.com](mailto: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, TOM OJO.

Name of Funded Agency: **Iron Ridge Elementary Campus**

Name of Project: **Social Emotional Programming**

Project Timeline: **Sept. 2023-June 2024**

**Revenue**

FCSS Contribution **\$8500.00**

Organizations Contribution  
**\$56,813.00**

**Expenditures**

FCSS Eligible Expenditures **\$8500.00**

*(Actual amount as approved in application)*

Other Expenditures **\$0**

**Revenue**

minus eligible expenditures **\$0**

Surplus/(Deficit) **\$8500.00**

Due Dates: Jan. 31, 2024

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

Our School Social Worker programming is very proactive in developing working relationships with parents, students, and staff including counseling and consultation programming skills. The primary focus of the School Social Worker program is to help children and families become positive, contributing members of society, School Social Worker programming not only counsel students and families. This programming also helps to develop skills that will enable students and families to overcome difficulties, cope with challenges and develop skills for long-term resilience. This in turn benefits the community at large.

For many individuals, school is the natural initial point of access for making contact and referrals for these services. Many students can be served by the SSW and the programming in our school which helps keep the outside referral rate down and supports the community.

**Supporting Statistics and Community Involvement**

<b>Direct Programs Offered</b>	<b>Participant Numbers</b>
Roots of Empathy, Rainbows, and other groups upon request. Where there are specific needs that arise to target at risk students which may include art therapy, anxiety, and trauma. The skills & knowledge taught in these programs permeate to all classrooms as a common language & skills set.	Up to 450 students
<b>Community Education and Awareness</b>	<b>Population Reached</b>
We have 5 half day kindergarten programs (3 in the AM & 2 in the PM). We have 5 grade 1 classrooms, 5 grade 2 classrooms, 4 grade 3 classrooms and 4 Pre-K classrooms.  There are several "special needs" students enrolled in our classrooms which require the support of educational assistants.	We are Pre-K to Grade 3 School with approximately 450 students enrolled. We have new students throughout the year.
<b>Volunteerism</b>	<b>Participating Numbers</b>

**Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services**  
Community Group Grant Final Reporting

<p>We are fortunate to have parents and grandparents support our school by volunteering to help on field trips, read with students, organize and deliver hot lunch and to help out in the classroom. We also have a volunteer fundraising board that is raising money for our replacement playgrounds called FIRES. We receive 1 mentor from Big Brother and Big Sisters but many are on a wait list</p>	<p>Normally average about about 5 per week</p>
<p><b>Staff Development</b></p>	<p><b>Staff Involved</b></p>
<p>Trained in Rainbows, URStrong, Roots of Empathy, Expressive Arts, Zones of Regulation, 7Habits, anxiety &amp; trauma</p>	<p>Up to 50 staff depending on the program</p>
<p><b>Geographical Area Served</b> Town of Blackfalds and the rural area of Burbank *New Ward &amp; boundaries are in 2024</p>	

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;

The School Social Worker facilitates groups that will have a long lasting impact on the students that participate in these groups. The School Social Worker at IREC has facilitated the following groups: Roots of Empathy, Rainbows, URSTRONG, Zones of Regulation, and other groups upon request where there are specific needs that arise to target at-risk students which may include art therapy, anxiety, and trauma.

- Help people to develop an awareness of social needs;

The School Social Worker will assess the needs of the school population and provide the appropriate services for students and families. Once there is an understanding, needs can be addressed through 1-1 counseling support, group intervention planning, collaborative service delivery, and appropriate outside referrals to best meet the needs of the students and their families.

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

Interpersonal and group intervention service delivery continues to be one of the main goals of the School Social Worker program at IREC.

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

By empowering students and families through the School Social Worker program they will develop an awareness of the services that are available to them to help meet their social and emotional needs.

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

The School Social Worker at IREC continues to work with other School Social Workers at IRJC, and IRIC; as well as Children's Mental Health, Child and Family Services, Big Brothers and Big Sisters with the In-School Mentoring Program, partners with the Beyond Food Community Hub, as well as FCSS in Blackfalds.

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

We feel that we continue to reach the intended population and also to target those students who are at risk. The importance of coordinated services in Blackfalds is key to providing collaborative support to families in the 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?

The IREC School Social Worker program seeks to create healthy families with intervention, referrals, education, and awareness of support to students and their families. This is done through individual counseling as well as group intervention as well as classroom instruction (Roots of Empathy is an example). The counseling services offered to students and their families can cover many areas, but are not limited to social and emotional issues, but also cover areas such as domestic violence, family conflict, suicide prevention, sexual abuse, etc. Collaboration with other agencies is key with FCSS, the other School Social Workers at IRIC and IRIC, mental health services in Blackfalds, Child and Family Services, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and the Central Alberta Sexual Assault Center.

Having the School Social Worker program at IREC allows the structure and ability to immediately intervene when there is a crisis, as well as support students and families with ongoing concerns. Early intervention has always been key at IREC in supporting students and families to increase capacity to cope and be resilient. The IREC School Social Worker is very proactive in developing working relationships with parents, students, families, and staff. It is the primary focus of the School Social Worker program to help children and their families become positive, contributing members of society. This as a whole benefits the community at large.

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:

- We highlight & promote our School Social Worker program at School Council meetings
- We take data on this program and include it in our year plan when reporting to the government.
- We highlight this program on our website at:  
<https://irec.wolfcreek.ab.ca/programs/school-social-worker>

**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.

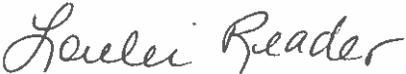
Name: Maureen Schlemko

Position: Principal

Signature: 

Name: Lorelei Reader

Position: School Social Worker

Signature: 

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

Communication and a team approach are keys to success. This is evident with all Wolf Creek schools in Blackfalds, collaborative service providers that work with the School Social Worker program, students, families, and staff that access services through the School Social Worker program.

The challenge that remains is that there is still a lack of services for families. Our families deal with long wait times to get outside services such as mental health and doctors. The School Social Work program is one of the only ways that families can get some kind of services in a relatively quick manner albeit initial services not in depth services. Our hope is the funding will increase dramatically in all areas of mental health in order to provide many levels of service for families.

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

At this point there are no changes that we feel are necessary. Continuing to have the School Social Worker be a full time position is key to providing effective support to all students and families at IREC.

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.

Positive community partnerships are key to the School Social Worker position. Continued support with FCSS, Mental Health services, Child and Family Services, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Blackfalds Food Bank, just to name a few are all key partnerships to this program. It's about providing collaborative support to all families as many of these community partnerships also serve the same families at IREC.



## 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](mailto:fcss@blackfalds.com)

### 2023 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: Iron Ridge Junior Campus

Project Name: School Social Worker Program Funding

Report Completion Date: January 11, 2024

Due Dates: January 31, 2024

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 blue ink that reads 'Sue Bornn'.

Sue Bornn  
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Manager  
Town of Blackfalds  
403-885-6247  
[fcss@blackfalds.com](mailto:fcss@blackfalds.com)

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Name of Funded Agency: Iron Ridge Junior Campus

Name of Project: School Social Worker Program Funding

Project Timeline: September 2023 – June 2024

<b>Revenue</b>	
FCSS Contribution	\$ 7,706.51
	_____
Organizations Contribution	\$ 75, 000 estimated
	_____
<b>Expenditures</b>	
FCSS Eligible Expenditures	\$
(Actual amount as approved in application)	_____
Other Expenditures	\$
	_____
Revenue minus eligible expenditures	\$
	_____
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$</b>
	_____

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

Due Dates: January 31, 2024

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

The 2023 FCSS Grant allowed for the school social worker to increase their FTE and be available fulltime within the school. The School Social Worker at Iron Ridge Junior Campus is utilized by students, families, and teachers to help enhance the development of a student's educational, social, emotional and behavioral experiences. The School Social Worker provides assistance to students on an individual basis and may also facilitate group/classroom sessions dependent on the needs within the school. The School Social Worker is a referral source to a variety of community agencies and plays a major role in advocating effectively in support of students and their families.

<b>Supporting Statistics and Community Involvement</b>	
<b>Direct Programs Offered</b>	<b>Participant Numbers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with teachers, families, students</li> </ul>	Estimated 150
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation and organization of universal and targeted food programs within school</li> </ul>	310
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools clubs - QSA, Lunch Connect</li> </ul>	Estimated 100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual based counseling</li> </ul>	Estimated 100
<b>Community Education and Awareness</b>	<b>Population Reached</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working collaboratively with community agencies to offer programs within building and bring awareness to supports available in community.</li> </ul>	Estimated 310
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community referrals (Family Resource Network, FCSS, Food Bank, ANAM, AHS Mental Health, Private therapists, ect)</li> </ul>	Estimated 200
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing school wide activities for Bullying and Mental Health week as well as Pink shirt day and Orange shirt day.</li> </ul>	Estimated 310
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Teacher Interviews and Open House (inviting community organizations to attend and promote supports available)</li> </ul>	Estimated 400
<b>Volunteerism</b>	<b>Participating Number</b>
<b>Staff Development</b>	<b>Staff Involved</b>
Blackfalds, Alberta	

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;
- Help people to develop an awareness of social needs;

- Help people to develop interpersonal and group skills which enhance constructive relationships among people;
- Help people and communities to assume responsibility for decisions and actions which affect them;
- Provide supports that help sustain people as active participants in the community.

The social work program thrives on enhancing interpersonal relationships as connection is the fundamental foundation to community and individual wellbeing. This program is not limited to youth and offers support and referrals to families as well. Connecting and advocating for youth and families brings awareness to social needs and sparks conversation around how to support our young community members. The individual based counseling provided in the schools allows youth to have a safe, confidential space to talk through the issues they are facing and build a toolbox of coping skills to overcome current and future problems. Through group based engagement and classroom education, the program works to eliminate the stigma around mental health and build onto the resiliency of our students. Building capacity between youth and their families will improve family wellness and serve to enhance relationships and interpersonal skills within the community.

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

Yes, we reached the intended population and the target group did not change.

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

The school social worker provides quick and accessible mental health support and referrals for families and can act as a stepping stone to more intensive supports. This support can be accessed with minimal barriers as the support is located within the school. By having the school social worker in the building fulltime, students are able to interact in hallways and classrooms which makes it easier for students to reach out when they are struggling.

This program provided a positive outcome to the students, staff and families Iron Ridge Junior Campus serves. Each year a survey is completed by students and here are some quotes from students last year regarding the social work program:

- "It has helped me for many years and it gives me a safe place to talk about my feelings and problems, it also helps provide possible solutions."
- "It really helped me just learned how to deal with situations better and more efficiently. It gave me a safe space to be open and talk."

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

Despite the increase in social worker time, it was still difficult for social worker to provide group programming due to the high level of need for individual based counseling. The school social worker would have liked to offer group based learning through targeted groups capturing trending issues such as anxiety, low self-esteem, and social skills.

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

There are no changes to make to the program/project.

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.

Iron Ridge Junior Campus strongly values community partnerships and each year strives to build and strengthen those relationships. This year IRJC partnered with BBBS to run a targeted pilot program for the students which will be offered in the spring of 2024. The school social worker also partnered with FRN to offer a universal connections program starting in January. Inviting agencies into our building open doors for agencies to reach students and families they may not be able to reach in community. This partnership allows for social worker to use other programs and alleviate some of the workload of organizing and implementing a new group.

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





Please join us on Thursday, August 31 from 3:30-5:30 to meet your new homeroom teacher, find your locker, and tour the school. This is going to be a great event with tons of community partners involved, free giveaways, door prizes, and free hot dogs! Bring the family. It's going to be a super event!

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You are welcome to bring your school supplies at this time to leave in your locker. While you're here, enjoy a free hot dog and drink as you meet a few new faces and connect with some of our school & community partners.

Our Open House has become a wonderful event where students and parents can also connect with many of our important community partners and we are thrilled with the outpouring of support this year! Community supports such as Blackfalds Town Council, The Abbey Center, Family Resource Network, Big Brothers/Sisters, Blackfalds Library, The Food Bank Society, Youth Unlimited (just to name a few) will be on hand to share information on how they can support you and your family this year.

Students, make sure to grab a "Passport" from one of our Student Ambassadors when you arrive and fill it up to enter to win one of our door prizes!

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**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: Trish Pfeifer

Name: Holly Tomyn

Position: School Social Worker

Position: Assistant Principal

Signature 

Signature 

