

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

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1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Welcome to the Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting – May 9, 2024
- 1.2 Introduction of the new FCSS Manager Sawyer Hick
- 1.3 Call to Order
- 1.4 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 April 11, 2024
- 4.2 Discussion 2024 FCSS Grant Requests
 - Iron Ridge Elementary Campus Grant Application
 - St. Gregory the Great Grant Application
 - Beyond Food Community Hub Grant Application
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters Grant Application
- 4.3 Additional Grant Information
- 4.4 Social Needs Assessment
- 4.5 FCSS Managers Report – Verbal Update
- 4.6 Volunteer Programmer Report
- 4.7 Community Engagement Programmer Report
- 4.8 Youth Programmer Report
- 4.9 FCSS Client Statistics

5. **CONFIDENTIAL**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting Scheduled for: June 13th, 2024 at 7:00 pm

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Sands	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Brenda Dennis	Town of Blackfalds Councillor
Sheila Giffin	Public at Large
Glenda Brown	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Cliff Soper	County of Lacombe Resident

ATTENDING

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

OTHERS ATTENDING

N/A

REGRETS

Dena Thomas	Public at Large
Melissa MacLeod	Public at Large
Annette Bugutsky	Public at Large

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Giffin welcomed all attending and called the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting to order at 7:00 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, April 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes from February 8th and March 14th

Member Soper moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from February 8th and March 14th.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

New Award – Volun-Told Award

Cara Kroetsch is our FCSS Volunteer Programmer and on August 15th, 2023, her husband Gary passed away quite unexpectedly. Cara and Gary had a large friend group who like to refer to themselves as the “Framily”. Last fall Manager Bornn was approached by a couple of Framily members who asked if they could establish a new award to be presented this year along with the other awards at the Best of Blackfalds event. Their group is prepared to cover the cost to set up this award.

The intent of this award is:

Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award

Honours an individual who selflessly answers the call to volunteer without seeking recognition or anything in return. This award is dedicated to someone who is consistently reliable and hardworking, even when asked to volunteer without the option of saying “no”.

Gary assisted with many Town related events for years as well as a Snow Angel Program and often mentioned there should be a Volun-Told Award. The Volun-Told Award will be presented to Gary’s sons Taylor and Trent on April 18th at the Best of Blackfalds Volunteer event.

Criteria details will be worked on this summer for next year’s recipient.

2024 FCSS Grant Requests – Grant Funding Allocation

FCSS received four grant requests and information was included in the agenda package on past year’s funding allocations. Requests were as follows:

- Iron Ridge Elementary: \$8,750.00 to equal .1 FTE and \$34,000 to add .4 to equal at full time position. These positions support families in crisis.
- St. Gregory: \$3,500 to support the Rainbows Program which is grief and loss program for youth and their families.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters: \$15,500 which is a program that provides mentoring relationships.

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

- Beyond Food Community Hub: \$27,711.25 to address three pillars of need. Seniors Cooking Together, Bridging Diversity and Collective Kitchen Program.

The Board asked Director Kreklewich to investigate any funding that Beyond Food Community Hub is currently receiving from the Town and bring this information to the May meeting.

FCSS Managers Update

- Our new FCSS Manager is Sawyer Hick who will start on May 6th, 2024. Sawyer lives in Blackfalds and comes to us from Alberta Health Services in Red Deer. Sawyer has experience working as an Addictions Counsellor, Foster Care Support Worker and Child and Youth Care Counsellor and has an extensive educational background including a Bachelor's Degree in Child and Youth Care and a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Clinical Study of Addiction. She is currently working on attaining her Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology
- Director Kreklewich handed out the latest copy of the Social Needs Assessment from Moorhouse Consulting. Board members are asked to proof this latest copy and bring any changes to the May meeting. Please note this is a confidential document.

Volunteer Programmer Report

The Drop-in 50+ Walking Club had 67 people attend during the month of March.

It's More Than Just a Movie (monthly event) – the March event showcased 'Moneyball' and had 24 participants.

Board members were reminded that National Volunteer Week is April 16-22, 2024, with the Best of Blackfalds 18+ event taking place on April 18th. Members were asked if there were any members attending that we had not heard from. Planning for Youth Recognition Night on May 2nd continues.

Community Engagement Programmer Report

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program started on March 1st and has been extremely successful so far with approximately 48 tax related appointments made and with clients returning to pick up their information this is actually 96 visitors!

The Free Family Easter Event was held on March 23rd from noon to 2:00 pm at the Community Centre with 213 people in attendance.

FCSS Facebook Page had 695 followers at the close of March.

Youth Programmer

BYC continues to see an increase in participants. Continuing programs are Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety, Youth cooking Club, Mission Impossible.



TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board
Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Vice Chair Giffin adjourned the the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Sheila Giffin, Vice Chair

Sue Penner, Admin Staff

Memorandum of Understanding between

**Town of Blackfalds,
Blackfalds FCSS**

&

Blackfalds Food Bank Society

Hereinafter referred to as "Blackfalds FCSS"

Hereinafter referred to as "Food Bank"

Box 220

Box 220

Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0

Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0

Contact: Sue Bornn, FCSS Manager

Contact: Karie Ackermann, Executive Director

& Myron Thompson, CAO

& Louise Rellis, Board Chair

November 22, 2021

1. Description of Partner Agencies

Blackfalds FCSS is a division operating within the Municipality of Blackfalds because of a funding partnership with the Government of Alberta. This funding enables a dedication to pursuing increased social prosperity of individuals, families, the community, and district.

The Food Bank is a local charitable organization dedicated to helping residents of Blackfalds and District living with food insecurity.

Blackfalds FCSS and the Food Bank have developed this Memorandum of Understanding to clearly outline the collaborative responsibilities of facilitating the 2021 Blackfalds Christmas Bureau.

2. Understanding for the facilitation of the 2021 Blackfalds Christmas Bureau

It is understood that Blackfalds FCSS and the Food Bank will work collaboratively to provide the Blackfalds Christmas Bureau program to eligible members of the Blackfalds community.

3. Blackfalds FCSS Commitments

Blackfalds FCSS will:

- a/ Provide application forms to residents wishing to access the Blackfalds Christmas Bureau.
- b/ Receive applications & determine eligibility.
- c/ Communicate application status with those eligible to access the program.
- d/ Confirm details (delivery & pick up dates & locations) of facilitating the program with those accessing.
- e/ Upon completion of the 2021 Christmas Bureau program will provide left over funding to the Blackfalds Food Bank Society in January 2022.

CORPORATE ACCESS NUMBER: 5016380494

Alberta

SOCIETIES ACT

**CERTIFICATE
OF
INCORPORATION**

**BLACKFALDS FOOD BANK SOCIETY
WAS INCORPORATED IN ALBERTA ON 2011/10/27.**



5. **QUORUM** - A quorum shall be two members of the Society eligible to vote, no business shall be transacted at any such meeting unless the requisite quorum is present at the commencement of such business.
6. **VOTING PROCEDURES** - Any member who has not withdrawn from membership, nor expelled, shall have the right to vote at any meeting of the society. Such votes must be made in person and not by proxy or otherwise.
7. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** - Board of Directors includes board members, directors, officers, and all other eligible voting members of the Society.
8. **NOMINATIONS** - Nominations for board positions may be received as needed by the Chairperson and addressed at the next scheduled meeting.
9. **BORROWING POWERS** - The Board may from time to time:
 - (a) Borrow money on the credit of the Blackfalds Food Bank; or
 - (b) Issue, sell or pledge securities of the Blackfalds Food Bank; or
 - (c) Charge, mortgage, hypothecate or pledge all or any of the real or personal property of the Blackfalds Food Bank, including book debts, rights, powers, franchises and undertakings, to secure any securities or any money borrowed, or any other obligation or liability of the Blackfalds Food Bank.
10. **MANAGEMENT BY THE BOARD** - The Board shall, subject to the by-laws or directions given it by majority vote at any meeting properly called and constituted, have full control and management of the affairs of the Blackfalds Food Bank pursuant to the respective offices held by the directors and officers of the Society.
11. **CHAIRPERSON** - The Chairperson shall be charged with the general supervision, direction, and control of the Blackfalds Food Bank, the calling of meetings thereof and shall preside at all meetings thereof. In the event of an even vote upon any subject properly before any Board, General Meeting or committee meeting, of which they are the Chairperson, the deciding vote will be held and exercised by the Chairperson.

**Blackfalds Food Bank Society
Officers and Directors contact**

Name	Position	Email	Phone	Address
Drewes, Tammie	Chair	tammiedrewes@gmail.com	403.318.7388	49 Alderwood Close, Blackfalds, AB T4M 0L9
Edwards, Jeanette	Vice Chair	jedwards3@shaw.ca	403.396.4563	#4 4808 Schular Avenue, Blackfalds, AB TOM 0J0
Bried, Jill	Secretary	jmbried@gmail.com	403.550.2504	66 Pine Crescent, Blackfalds, AB T4M 0E2
Robyn Devine	Treasurer	robyn.devine@icloud.com	780.814.8581	121 Ash Close, Blackfalds, AB T4M 0H9
Melissa Salomon	Director	melissa.salomons@gmail.com	403.305.3011	4961 Aspen Lakes Blvd. Blackfalds, AB T4M 0H9
Hanson, Shane	Director	shane_hanson@outlook.com	587.876.7134	46 Cambridge Close, Blackfalds, AB T4M 0A3
Jennifer Hartigh	Director	jenhartigh@gmail.com	403.318.9211	5309 Aspen Cres., Box 1656, Blackfalds, AB TOM 0J0

Blackfalds Food Bank Society

March 14, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Called to order at 6:34 pm

Present: Robyn, Shane, Tammie, Jill, Jeanette, Jennifer, Chris, Karie

Regrets: Melissa (late)

1. Minutes

Acceptance of February 8, 2023 minutes

- *Motion- Robyn, Second- Jennifer, All in Favour*

2. Agenda

Additions to the agenda-

- May 25 Garage Sale under new business
- Insurance Renewal under new business
- Bornn Payment under new business
- Bornn Bookkeeping practices/controls under new business
- Smile Cookie Week under new business
- In Camera- Salaries (at end)
- Signing Authority
- *Motion to accept agenda as amended-Jeanette, Second- Jennifer, All in Favour*

3. Reports to the Board:

- *Treasurer:* from Robyn
 - Jennifer will get access for next meeting and will start as Treasurer as of today
 - Robyn will still pay what needs to be paid until Jennifer gets access
 - Reports as emailed by Robyn
 - *Motion- Shane, Second- Jeanette, All in favour*
- *Executive Director report:* Chris
 - *Met with Jennifer Johnson last Thursday, she was impressed and happy to see the facility, idea is to help with advocacy etc. Echo was getting mentioned in Parliament, as she's going to bring it up to*
 - Qualicum Beach, news people were talking about the Food Bank as being proactive, innovative
 - Van is decaded, wasn't quite as envisioned, two logos were missing, will try and get the rest of them. It looks good, but it doesn't have the HUB and Food Bank logo on the side
 - Rest as in the report
 - *Motion- Robyn, Second- Shane, All in favour*
- *Fundraising Report*
 - Received \$5000 from Telus for kids cooking
 - Received \$5000 for Change the Cycle from ME Global
 - Applied for Canada Post \$25,000

- Position hiring- bouncing ideas back and forth, having another person was a good learning opportunity, it's a difficult position to fill, struggles with the hours etc, with the right person, it's very fitting. What is the goal of a new person, is it to fill Karie's role, will Karie phase out, or is it to be a good soldier/body? Original idea was for Karie to step away but Chris encouraged her to stay and work remotely, the two of them are working together, with the last one, the three are working together, we don't need to look for somebody with as much capacity as before. We need more funding for supplies and program costs. With some of the grants, it will cover the costs and will also change positions. With Aldora gone, Chris is doing things that he can be delegating. Client stopped by, who could be a good fit.
 - New posting- Class 5
 - No hardline,
 - Will be able to tweak the old one
 - Thrift store-
 - Need sustainability, need to start thinking of social enterprise
 - Many grants are for start up only
 - It has always been the plan, but it has been pushed back
 - A volunteer was asking about it, and was interested
 - Sea Can? Edmonton is having a sea Can market
 - Some thrift stores are making \$1000- \$10,000
 - Dumping fees are pricey- would need a sorting station
 - Would need to be volunteer run to be sustainable
 - Dad's Days Off house?
 - Thrift store might take a while
 - Upstairs is an issue, as needs proper exit etc, so would need to be invited up, couldn't be open to public,
 - Could confirm rules with fire chief. Could have a lower occupancy,
 - Are there other revenue opportunities from the kitchen? Yes, lots
 - Renting it out
 - Pre-made meals
 - Running classes
 - Cooking nights (team building)
 - Affordable Market- should be open until 7. Prices are increasing bananas (lettuce went up by nearly 100% in a month)
 - Establish more of a presence, with consistent opening times.
 - Maybe wait until after Standards of Excellence
 - It's needed in the community and it is a revenue piece, but there are a lot of moving pieces
- May 25 Garage Sale- BBQ last year raised \$1000, should do it again. Was great publicity etc, so would like to do it again. Shane will ask Stream-Flo for their bbq
- Insurance Renewal- need to have information and documents and arduous application submitted by May 13
- Bornn Payment – We have been doing by e-transfer, should we continue that or move to credit card etc. Stay with e-transfer
- Bornn Bookkeeping practices/controls- Jennifer and Melissa met with Chantel and Tiffany, can review the document at another date. Have a lot of confidence in Bornn

Blackfalds Food Bank Society

Annual General Meeting

November 12, 2023

Called to order at 6:37 pm

Present: Shane, Melissa, Jeanette, Robyn, Tammie, Jill, Jennifer, Aldora, Chris, Karie

Regrets:

1. Welcome Guests and Introductions

- a. Welcome to Jennifer Hartigh, potential new board member and introduce Aldora Exner

2. Review of Programs and Operation

- Review and summary of individual programs as given by Chris, and stats from Report.
 - Regular Food Bank Hampers- Lowest we've been for product on shelves and what is coming in from rescue. Meat is lower, no pickup from Cob's this week. Have an ideal list for hampers but things will not be able to be included. Giving season now but drying up in Jan and Feb. Product will evaporate quickly. 52% increase since January.
 - Emergency Food Bank Hampers
 - Lunchbox Since September 90-110/week. Initially thought it could stop after covid, but there was such a need, it couldn't end. It is about \$800 week but very hard to stay within in that budget due to inflation of groceries. Definitely a dire need in the community.
 - Good Food Box & Seniors Good Food Box
 - Prices are under review as it was once subsidized but that has been lost so it's losing money. Have more sponsored boxes vs purchased boxes. Could advertise that it is open to everyone.
 - Boxes for seniors are subsidized (currently \$5 but might go to at least \$10). The product that goes into them is leftover from the Affordable Market. Spillage so there isn't waste.
 - Snack Attack and the Pantry Program- relationship with the library
 - The Affordable Market- increasing options, pastries, soups (made about \$300 last time). Timing – lots of people have requested that is open later- tricky with kids. Sometimes it is a good turnout, sometimes not. (lots of chatter on social media). Guaranteed to have soup everyday.
 - Red Deer Food Bank trucks don't make money- only make money from catering.
 - Could consider selling soup/promoting at a market- need to be judicious with our time- is it worth it? Focus on key programs
 - Changing the Cycle- waiting to hear back from United Way
 - The Baby Bank- Woodynook Church is strong supporter
 - The Pet Food Bank- quite a bit available, could promote more
 - The Christmas Bureau- 65 families on the list so far. Deadline is Dec 4. Food Pillar (everything for a complete day of meals, breakfast and dinner), Gift Pillar (gift card, book, game, maybe teddy bear if toss happens at Bulldogs game),



MAH O'NEILL
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL
ACCOUNTANTS

Nicholas K. Mah CA *

Craig O'Neill CA *

* Denotes Professional Corporation

March 9, 2023

Confidential

Client Number: C643

Blackfalds Food Bank Society
5007 Broadway Ave. Back Door
Blackfalds AB T0M 0J0

Attention: Karie Ackermann, Chair

Dear Karie:

ENCLOSURES

We are enclosing:

Engagement letter

- One copy of our standard engagement letter.

Financial information

- Two copies of your compiled financial information of Blackfalds Food Bank Society for the year ended October 31, 2022.

Federal corporate tax

- One copy of your 2022 T3010 Registered Charity Information Return. There are no taxes owing or refundable.

Year end adjusting entries enclosed

- Our year-end journal entries and other relevant working papers are being provided to assist you in updating your accounting system. If you find after inputting our year-end entries that your general ledger does not agree to our closing balances, please contact our office so we may help you rectify the problem.

GST tax

- Please be advised that there is a GST refund of \$3,216 for the year ended October 31, 2022. Enclosed is a copy of the completed GST return that has been filed electronically for your convenience.

5026 - 49 Street
Innisfail, Alberta T4G 1M1
Phone 403-227-3550

www.mahoneill.ca

201, 536 Laura Ave
Red Deer County, Alberta, T4E 0A5
Phone 587-273-4243

BLACKFALDS FOOD BANK SOCIETY
Financial Information
Year Ended October 31, 2022

BLACKFALDS FOOD BANK SOCIETY
Statement of Financial Position
October 31, 2022

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 263,325	\$ 255,253
Term deposits	51,296	51,028
Accounts receivable	-	75
Goods and services tax recoverable	3,216	-
Wages recoverable	3,243	-
Grocery store gift cards	-	12,059
	<u>321,080</u>	<u>318,415</u>
EQUIPMENT (Note 4)	<u>208,187</u>	<u>48,691</u>
	<u>\$ 529,267</u>	<u>\$ 367,106</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,482	\$ 9,165
DEFERRED INCOME	60,000	11,951
UNAMORTIZED CONTRIBUTION	756	-
	<u>62,238</u>	<u>21,116</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted fund	258,842	297,299
Invested in equipment	208,187	48,691
	<u>467,029</u>	<u>345,990</u>
	<u>\$ 529,267</u>	<u>\$ 367,106</u>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

_____ Director

_____ Director

See notes to financial information

BLACKFALDS FOOD BANK SOCIETY
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended October 31, 2022

	2022	2021
REVENUES		
Donations	\$ 252,256	\$ 262,118
Grant Income	149,822	91,977
Amortization of capital contributions	84	-
Fundraising	-	2,030
	<u>402,162</u>	<u>356,125</u>
EXPENSES		
Program (Schedule 1)	186,936	97,863
General and Administration (Schedule 2)	95,456	51,010
	<u>281,392</u>	<u>148,873</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	120,770	207,252
OTHER INCOME		
Interest income	269	1,028
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 121,039	\$ 208,280

See notes to financial information

BLACKFALDS FOOD BANK SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Information

Year Ended October 31, 2022

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICY *(continued)*

Financial instruments policy

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

4. EQUIPMENT

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2022 Net book value	2021 Net book value
Equipment	\$ 133,039	\$ 24,845	\$ 108,194	\$ 48,485
Leasehold improvements	103,345	3,445	99,900	-
Computers	1,404	1,311	93	206
	<u>\$ 237,788</u>	<u>\$ 29,601</u>	<u>\$ 208,187</u>	<u>\$ 48,691</u>

BLACKFALDS FOOD BANK SOCIETY
General and Administration
(Schedule 2)
Year Ended October 31, 2022

	2022	2021
EXPENSES		
Advertising and promotion	\$ 3,743	\$ 10
Amortization of tangible assets	113	252
Insurance	2,514	1,610
Interest and bank charges	651	455
Memberships, licenses, fees	611	25
Office	13,126	7,947
Professional fees	2,500	2,500
Sub-contracts	63,779	37,631
Telephone	1,048	580
Wages and benefits	7,371	-
	\$ 95,456	\$ 51,010

See notes to financial information

Blackfalds Seniors' Club

Box 220
Blackfalds, AB
T0M 0J0

March 20, 2024

Dear Blackfalds FCSS,

RE: Letter of Support

On behalf of the Blackfalds Seniors Club, I am excited to provide this letter of support to the Beyond Food Community Hub, Blackfalds Food Bank (BFCH) in their application to Blackfalds FCSS for their In the Kitchen Project.

The In the Kitchen Project is going to be an excellent opportunity in Blackfalds as it will address the need for programming for seniors, newcomers and those needing food support. The project will encourage the development of increased social infrastructure for our senior residents to reduce isolation and loneliness and build the capacity of the BFCH volunteer program. Empowering senior citizens in the sharing of knowledge and skills will encourage relationship building, connecting seniors to each other and to others in the community which will in turn strengthen their natural support systems.

A valuable member of the community, the BFCH truly is a hub of opportunity, the place where people of all ages are made welcome and empowered to meet their needs. It is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for the application for the In the Kitchen Project through the Blackfalds FCSS grant. The Blackfalds Seniors Club supports initiatives that provide opportunities for seniors to be engaged, encourages socialization and strengthens community.

Kind regards,

Ivy Hollman

Ivy Hollman
President Blackfalds Senior Club

Jeanette Edwards

Jeanette Edwards
Blackfalds Seniors Club Secretary

November 8, 2023

Re: Letter of Support for the Beyond Food Community Hub, Blackfalds Food Bank

Dear Blackfalds FCSS Board of Directors,

My name is Franciska Riehl, Member Services Manager with Food Banks Alberta. We are the provincial association of food banks in Alberta and represent 106 member organizations. We support our members through the provision of Lead, Feed, Share. I am writing to express our support for the Blackfalds FCSS Community Group grant for the Beyond Food Community Hub. Beyond Food Community Hub has been a member of the provincial association of food banks in Alberta. They have proven over and over to be a great partner and collaborator for the network and our members.

The In the Kitchen Project will address food insecurities as well as encourage the development of increased social infrastructure for those experiencing food insecurity. We support our members who empower their community in the sharing of knowledge and skills and work towards relationship building, connecting others in the community which will in turn strengthen their natural support systems.

On behalf of Food Banks Alberta I am excited to provide this letter of support to the Beyond Food Community Hub, Blackfalds Food Bank in their application to Blackfalds FCSS Community Group Grant. If you have any questions, please contact me at food@foodbanksalberta.ca

Warm Regards,

Franciska Riehl

Franciska Riehl

Member Services Manager

Food Banks Alberta

Volunteer Programmer:

- **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 April, 58 people participated (including: 12% were Lacombe County residents and 9% were City of Lacombe), 9 dates offered, 198 track admissions were purchased = \$396, and the Seniors Plus (75+) admission was utilized 45 times. Participants tracked their distance walked and as a group they walked 8521 laps in April.
- **It's More Than Just a Movie** (monthly event) – The April event showcasing 'Zookeeper' was attended by 19 individuals.
- **National Volunteer Week:**
 - April 18 'Best of Blackfalds – Volunteer Edition': 18+ event included local businesses supplying a variety of appetizers, live music, cash bar and awards presentation. There were 170 in attendance and the recipients were as follows:
 - *Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award – Robyn Devine*
 - *Gloria House Mentor Award – Amanda MacLean*
 - *Outstanding Group (adult) Award – Beyond Food Community Hub*
 - May 2 'Youth Recognition Night': What a night!!! The evening was enjoyed as we celebrated on our red-carpet, appetizers, short performances from IRJC band and Dancer's Edge Studio, and the awards presentation. The recipients were as follows:
 - *Leaders of Tomorrow, Elementary – Corrado Citrigno*
 - *Leaders of Tomorrow, Junior High – Kennedy Bertelsen & Eva Boomer*
 - *Leaders of Tomorrow, High School – Alice Frantz*
 - *Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award – Ben Adey*
 - National Volunteer Week colouring contest: 26 colouring pages returned for a chance to win a \$25 gift cards in four age categories. (5) Under 6, (4) 6-11 yr olds, (10) 11-18 yr olds, (7) adults.
- **Town of Blackfalds volunteers contributed their time and efforts to the following programs and events:**
 - CVITP Program (March & April): In 2024, Community Volunteer Income Tax Program utilized 3 volunteers during 14 volunteer shifts, totaling 39 volunteer hours.
 - Cooking Club: Recently, FCSS has enlisted the help of 1 youth volunteer to assist staff with the Cooking Club.
 - BYC: A member of the Tuesday Blackfalds Youth Crew has begun volunteering with the Monday group.

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

2. The monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**
 - In April, the newsletter was emailed to 281 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 54%
3. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - Blackfalds Health Professional Attraction & Retention Committee
 - Blackfalds Days – June 13-16
 - Super Kids Triathlon – July 6

FCSS Board Update: April 2024

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- Actively screening each client to ensure they meet the eligibility requirements.
- Coordinating with admin assistant to book appointments for intake.
- Coordinating tax volunteers with office space and approved tax intake envelopes.
- Update the 2024 CVITP UFile program as needed.
- Calling all completed tax returns to arrange pick-up.
- 3 Volunteers donated 39 hours to this program!
- Top three ways clients heard about the program: word of mouth, social media, FCSS Newsletter.
- 100% of respondents agreed that the drop-off system was easy and that their tax returns were filed in a timely manner.
- The top three reasons why Community members used this program were; that they didn't need to leave the community to access this service, it made income taxes less intimidating, and they saved money.
- **A total of 103 tax returns were filed!**
- Canada Carbon Rebate (formally Climate Action incentive payments) total dollars to Blackfalds residents: \$102,277, GST total credits to Blackfalds Residents \$38,549, total Tax Refund to Blackfalds residents \$687,376.
- **Total amount coming back into the Blackfalds community: \$828,202.00**

Family Easter Event:

- Thank you sent to sponsors and Facebook posts made to thank partnering organizations and volunteers.

Clean-Up Blackfalds

- Coordinated with the Parks Department to choose the areas that need the most attention.
- Coordinated with Marketing/Communication for posters and social media support.
- Met with each team to have them sign the waiver, encourage participation in the clean-up BINGO card, and provide groups with trash bags, and gloves. Each group was also given a free Slurpee coupon (leftover from the Family Easter Event).
- *We are thrilled with the increased level of participation this year, we have 18 individual groups participating in 2024 (the total number of participants is unknown at this time), and in 2023 we had 14 groups.*
- *Program highlights: the increased sense of Pride in our Community!*

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 781 followers at the close of April.

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

- 84 followers at the close of April.

In-office support:

- 1 Guaranteed Income Support (GIS) application assistance.
- 1 seniors' medical online submission.
- 1 online Alberta Supports application.
- Many of the government and social assistance applications can only be done online, and it can be very overwhelming for many community members. As a team, we strive to support these community members by assisting them to complete these applications.

Outer duties:

- Tuesday 50+ Walking Club.
- Liaised with the Abbey staff with the new Camp Curious Champion Program. Received and screened applications.
- It's More than a Movie event.
- Began planning Seniors Week.
- Working with colleagues to manage the lack of an FCSS Manager.
- Printed milk coupons for the Beyond Food Community Hub.

Youth Programmer:

Blackfalds Youth Crew

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

- April 1, 2 and 4 no programs due to Easter STAT,
- April 8 saw 25 youth in attendance, April 9 saw 10, and April 11 saw 11 = **46**
- April 15 saw 17 youth in attendance, April 16 saw 10, and April 18 saw 9 = **36**
- April 22 saw 10 youth in attendance, April 23 saw 9, and April 25 saw 11 = **30**
- April 29 saw 19 youth in attendance, and April 30 saw 12 = **31**

Youth participated in a variety of scheduled activities, including slime making, chocolate dipped snacks, cleaning up Blackfalds, and games night. 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 April 26th. The class was full and 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 May 17th.

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 31st, wrapped up March 20th.

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.

FCSS Youth Programmer initiatives during the month of April:

Creating FCSS Summer Camp – partnering with local businesses

Attended 2024 State of Child Wellbeing Launch

Attended Marco Corbo presentation at IRIC (FCSS funded)

Client Statistics for April 2024

Referrals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
FCSS	7	0	0	0								
FCSS Cara	3	13	13	8								
FCSS Jan	3	5	10	16								
FCSS Sierra	16	3	6	6								
Income Tax Return												
Inquiries	1	13	129	107								
Employment Support	1	2	1	0								
FCSS Event clean up/coloring	4	10	10	21								
FCSS Subsidized Programs	0	0	2	5								
Back to School	0	0	0	1								
Winter Wear	0	0	0	0								
Christmas Bureau	0	0	0	0								
Food Bank	4	6	7	4								
Low Income Inquiries	5	8	3	4								
Housing	0	7	3	3								
Fax	13	12	18	23								
Printing/Photocopying	13	18	11	7								
Seniors Assistance Programs	7	2	4	8								
Telephone	0	0	0	0								
BBBS	0	0	0	0								
BOLT	2	0	1	0								
Golden Circle	3	2	0	3								
General Inquiries	52	46	63	79								
Reaching Home												
Mental Health Therapist												
Affordability Grant Help												
Number of Clients	134	147	281	295								

Job posting updated weekly. Lunchbox emails sent weekly.

Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter for April - 206 sends with an open rate of 71%