

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Welcome to the Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting – February 19, 2026
- 1.2 Call to Order
- 1.3 Approval of Agenda
Any Additions or Deletions
Consensus Approval of Agenda for February 19, 2026

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Town of Blackfalds acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, the ancestral lands of Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-status peoples whose footsteps have marked these lands since time immemorial.

We recognize the inherent relationships Indigenous communities have with this land and its creatures and commit to supporting reconciliation and healing. We honour the resilience, culture, and contributions of Indigenous peoples, past and present.

As we gather, we pledge to listen, learn, and take meaningful action toward a future based on mutual respect and understanding as we continue on our journey of truth and healing. We recognize that reconciliation is not a single act but a lifelong journey—one that requires accountability, humility, and the centering of Indigenous voices.

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

None

3. **BUSINESS**

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2026
- 4.2 FCSS Framework
- 4.3 BGC Wolf Creek Grant- Final Report
- 4.4 Big Brothers Big Sisters Grant- Final Report
- 4.5 Iron Ridge Elementary Grant- Final Report
- 4.6 Volunteer Appreciation Events Information
- 4.7 Volunteer Appreciation Events Invitation
- 4.8 FCSS Managers Report – Verbal Update
- 4.9 Volunteer Programmer Report –January
- 4.10 Community Support Programmer Report –January
- 4.11 Youth Programmer Report –January
- 4.12 FCSS Client Statistics –January

4. **CONFIDENTIAL**

None

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5. **ADJOURNMENT**

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Ryan Brown	Town of Blackfalds Councilor
Cory Twerdoclib	Town of Blackfalds Councilor
Dena Thomas	Public at Large
Jessalyn Parsons	Public at Large
Heather Johnson	Public at Large
Auralei Agrey	Public at Large
Glenda Brown	Public at Large
Kimberly Burrell	Public at Large
Michelle Meadows	Public at Large

ATTENDING

Sawyer Hick	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Manager
Erin Dahl	Town of Blackfalds FCSS Admin Assistant

OTHERS ATTENDING

REGRETS

Jim Sands	Town of Blackfalds Councilor
Gloricel Cayago	Public at Large

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thomas welcomed all attending, introduced Councilors Brown and Twerdoclib. The Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting was to order at 7:02 pm. Member Johnson moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board approved the agenda. Member Glenda Brown Seconded the motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

N/A

DELETIONS TO AGENDA

N/A

TREATY SIX LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

PRESENTATIONS

N/A

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BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2025

Member Thomas moved that the Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board recommends Council adopt the minutes from November 20, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Glenda nominated Dena Thomas as President, no other nominations, Dena accepted. Dena nominated Glenda Brown as Vice President, no other nominations, Glenda accepted.

Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2025

Member Jessalyn Parsons approved the November 20, 2026 meeting minutes.

CARRIED

UNANIMOUSLY

SOCIAL SERVICES FRAMEWORK

-Administration has discussed introducing framework policies across all divisions. These policies outline the key expectations, guiding principles, and decision-making parameters that shape how each division operates. By establishing this high-level direction, we create a consistent foundation that supports effective, efficient, and well-coordinated management practices. This Policy will ensure that Social Services policies and procedures are aligned with our broader organizational priorities and values.

-The purpose of this Policy is to establish clear guidelines for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of preventive and supportive social services within the Town of Blackfalds. This Policy aims to enhance the well-being of individuals and communities by providing equitable, accessible, and high-quality services that address the diverse needs of our population.

-Council is committed to fostering a resilient, inclusive, and supportive social environment that strengthens protective factors, reduces social risks, and builds community capacity. Through diverse, high-quality programs, the Town prioritizes equity, collaboration, and accountability to ensure long-term impact for current and future generations. Council provides strategic oversight and ensures resources are allocated to preventive social services that align with provincial legislation and community priorities.

Questions from the board members and the councilor's regarding draft copy of Social Services Framework included: why the framework policy is so broad, where people go to for information and community referrals, wanting to look at the affordable housing needs of Blackfalds, would other agencies partner with FCSS to join and expand, survey for community needs in due 2027 would this survey beneficial, Bolt expansion or affordable transportation. Members would like a list of Social Services are not available and what services are being outsourced.

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SCOPE

This Policy applies to social services including, but not limited to:

1. Community Supports: Programs that build resilience against housing insecurity, food insecurity and health challenges.
2. Capacity Building: Educational and vocational training, skill development, youth/family/senior supports.
3. Equity Initiatives: Programs addressing systemic barriers, culturally safe delivery, inclusion of marginalized groups.
4. Community Development: Partnerships, volunteerism, environmental sustainability, and resilience initiatives.

AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Council to:

1. Adopt and support this Policy by resolution.
2. Consider the allocation of resources for the successful implementation of this Policy in the annual budget.

Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Advise Council on the development, implementation, and amendment of this Policy.
2. Ensure Policy review occurs and verify the implementation of this Policy.

Administration to:

1. Implement programs in alignment with this Policy.
2. Report annually to Council on program outcomes, risk management, and resource allocation.

SOCIAL SERVICES FRAMEWORK

By virtue of this Policy, the Town of Blackfalds Social Services strives to:

1. Ensure programs are accessible to all demographics, including marginalized or underserved groups.
2. Provide services in a manner that respects the dignity and rights of all individuals.
3. Build partnerships with local organizations, schools, health services, and businesses to maximize resources and impact.

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4. Ensure services are culturally sensitive, responsive, and inclusive to the diverse needs of the community.

5. Promote sustainable delivery that respects environmental, economic, and social factors.

6. Maintain transparency in decision-making, service goals and outcomes.

The goals and objectives of Social Services in relation to this framework Policy are to:

Ensure equitable access to preventive social services for all residents.

Promote community well-being by strengthening protective factors and reducing social risks.

Foster resilience and self-reliance through skill-building, education, and empowerment initiatives.

Reduce isolation and enhance social connection through engagement, volunteerism, and participation.

Advance equity and inclusion by addressing systemic barriers and promoting culturally safe service delivery.

This Policy establishes the foundation for a responsive, sustainable, and preventive Social Services system that strengthens community well-being and promotes equity, inclusion, and resilience.

Guided by this Policy and related documents, Social Services commits to:

1. Deliver equitable and inclusive programs and supports that respond to identified community needs.

2. Develop guidelines for planning, delivering, and evaluating social services to ensure consistency and quality.

3. Establish transparent funding priorities, considering severity of needs, impact, efficiency, and external opportunities.

4. Maximize the use of available resources to ensure sustainability and growth of social service offerings.

5. Engage stakeholders through consultation, forums, and collaborations with agencies and governments.

6. Set benchmarks and performance indicators to evaluate the success and impact of social service programs, supports and initiatives.

7. Identify potential risks in social service delivery (e.g., confidentiality, equity gaps, service duplication) and establish preventive measures that meet ethical and legal requirements.

8. Promote awareness of social services through outreach, advertising and social media platforms. Council Policy No- Social Services Framework Page

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9. Keep the community informed about programs, services, policies, and changes through clear and consistent communication.

10. Foster collaboration and partnerships with local organizations, schools, health services, and business to maximize impact and reduce duplication.

11. Support volunteerism and community capacity building as a cornerstone of social service sustainability. 12. Embed continuous improvement practices using evaluation findings and community feedback to refine programs annually.

EXCLUSIONS

Direct Assistance: The Town of Blackfalds Social Services does not provide direct financial assistance, clinical treatment, or crisis intervention beyond preventive scope. Residents requiring such support's will be referred to appropriate provincial or community agencies.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

-Services may be adapted during public health emergencies, natural disasters, or other extraordinary circumstances to ensure continuity of preventive support's.

-Partnerships may be prioritized in situations where community needs exceed municipal capacity.

AG SOCIETY REPORT

Chair Thomas reported a meeting with Manager Hick and Ian from the Light House Project via online to discuss the project and the application from the Blackfalds Ag Society. Expecting an answer very soon on whether Blackfalds Ag Society was one of the 60 successful candidates. Light House Project is an initiative focused on mental health and resources aiming to help rural residents in Alberta.

FCSS MANAGERS VERBAL UPDATE

A draft copy of the Social Services Framework Policy was discussed and reviewed. The goal is to provide a Social Services Framework that is inclusive, accessible and fosters an environment that builds community capacity, strengthens protective factors, reduces barriers, while also ensuring programs and services align with provincial legislation and community priorities.

Manager Hick also talked about the Alberta government wanting FCSS managers to assess their FCSS programs to ensure they are following the provincial mandate. The programming is to be Prevention Focused in nature. These assessments will be completed later in the year. Manager Hicks feels confident after completing training on how to do proper evaluations at FCSSAA conference.

FCSS Grant applications are accepted until March 20,2026 and applications will be reviewed April 9/26 meeting. FCSS will provide a matrix to score applications.

ACTION ITEMS

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Board members and council would like a list of Social Services that are not available and what services are being outsourced.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMER REPORT

December 2025

VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

To commemorate International Volunteer Day and thank volunteers/community groups. Drop-in event with hot chocolate pouch craft, pizza, hot chocolate bar, socializing, door prizes, and photo booth.

Attendance: 70 people, including 2 FCSS staff, 2 Councillors, Mayor Svab, and representatives from 11 organizations: Blackfalds Figure Skating Club, Friends of the Library, Heart of Blackfalds Society, Blackfalds Ag Society, Blackfalds Seniors Club, Blackfalds Food Bank, Optimist Club of Blackfalds, Ubaka, Care for Newcomers, BGC Wolf Creek.

Cross-department collaboration was essential due to short turnaround after Seniors Club booking.

BUSINESS CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Outcome: Collected **2,072.5 lbs of food** for Blackfalds Food Bank.

Participants: 14 businesses including Ash Tyndall Photography, Blackfalds Nutter's, Jade's Virtual Office Inc, Panache Compounding Pharmacy, Blackfalds Physiotherapy, Neighborhood Dental, Stride Physiotherapy, The Hitchin Post Blackfalds, Blackfalds Boston Pizza, Blackfalds Smiles, Little Star Playschool, Blackfalds Ag Society, Faith Community Church, Heart of Blackfalds Society.

Volunteer Pairings: 19 residents have been successfully paired with a Snow Angel volunteer.

IN PROGRESS: 1 resident is currently in the process of being paired, with volunteer coordination underway.

WAITLIST: 3 residents remain on the waitlist; 2 have been provided with a Snow Angel window sign through the expanded Neighborhood Snow Angel Program.

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

Cooking Club: 2 volunteers, Leaders in Training: 6 volunteers

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

Monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**

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In December, 301 sends with an open rate of 53%

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY'S

- Snow Angel Program for the winter months
- Winterfest February 16,2026

2025 VOLUNTEER POSITIONS & HOUR STATS:

Total Volunteer positions filled: 241

Programs: 74

Event/Fundraisers: 129

Board, Committee, Commissions: 38

Total Town of Blackfalds Volunteer Hours: 1858

Programs: 1031.5 hours

Event/Fundraisers: 400 hours

Board, Committee, Commissions: 426.5 hours

TOWN VOLUNTEER SUPPORTING PROGRAMMING 2025:

CVITP: 3 volunteers & 35 hours

Reception Centre: 9 volunteers & 154.5 hours

Blackfalds Bike Rodeo: 5 volunteers & 12.5 hours

Abbey Centre Programming:

Jr. Lifeguard Volunteer Program: 6 volunteers & 209.25 hours

Camp Curious: 8 volunteers & 213.75 hours

Basketball Camp Facilitator: 1 volunteer & 30 hours

FCSS Youth Programming:

Youth Week: 3 volunteers & 8 hours

BYC & Cooking Club: 5 volunteers & 18 hours

Leaders in Training: 6 volunteers & 70.5 hours

Snow Angel Program: 28 volunteers are supporting 18 locations & approx. 280 hours

SENIOR 2025 FITNESS PROGRAMMING

Five program sessions were offered in 2025, totaling 20 individual classes.

Registration grew by 161% compared to 2024, with 361 registered participants and 4 drop-ins attending. the free classes supported by Lacombe County grant funding and the Blackfalds Ag Society.

70% of participants were Blackfalds residents, while 29.6% came from outside Blackfalds and Lacombe County.

Program capacity highlights:

Friday Chair Yoga: 100% full Monday/Wednesday Yoga: 83% full Tuesday Fit & Functional: 95% full

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NEW SENIOR SESSIONS 2025 **Seniors Educational & Engagement Sessions**

Throughout the year, FCSS partnered with various organizations to deliver practical information, skill-building opportunities, and community connection for seniors. Attendance and partnerships included:

- **Transitioning to Your Next Chapter: Selling Your Home**
Partner: T. Kroetsch (Royal LePage) & Lacombe Foundation Attendance: 7
- **Wills & Estate Planning**
Partner: Servus Credit Union Attendance: 17
- **Medication & Supplements: What Every Senior Needs to Know**
Partner: Blackfalds Shoppers Drug Mart Attendance: 7
- **Tenant Rights & Responsibilities**
Partner: Community Legal Clinic Attendance: 11
- **Nutritional Eating Classes with Cooking Opportunities**
Partner: Alberta Health Services (AHS) Attendance: 12
- **Empowering Seniors: Elder Abuse Awareness**
Partner: Law Enforcement, AHS, Sylvan Lake FCSS Attendance: 7
- **Watercolor Painting Classes**
Hired Instructor Attendance: 9 (first class) & 8 (second class)
- **Aging in Place: Tips for Staying in Your Home Longer** Attendance: 25
- **Falls Prevention**
Partners: Abbey Centre Fitness Staff, Lifeline Canada, Primary Care Network Attendance: 24

Sessions provided seniors with practical knowledge, creative outlets, and social engagement. Partnerships strengthened community collaboration and resource sharing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMER REPORT **December 2025**

- Continued focus on **keeping the brain playful and engaged** during walks.
- Activities included: **“Name That Smell” Challenge**: Participants identified scents (lemon, cinnamon, peppermint, vanilla) to stimulate memory and sensory recognition.
Festive Dance Corner: Christmas music encouraged walkers to dance; popular songs included Elvis’ *Blue Christmas* and *Rock Around the Christmas Tree*. Inflatable Christmas tree costume added fun and photo opportunities.

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Special Year-End Activity

Final December meeting featured a **draw for ten \$20 grocery gift cards** (donated by Blackfalds Save-On-Foods and Blackfalds IGA).

Community Connection

Group continues to grow in numbers and social bonds. Heartwarming moment: A participant shared handmade ornaments created by his late wife, fostering connection and remembrance.

Impact: Program successfully promotes physical activity, mental engagement, and social connection for seniors.

Average of 23 walkers every Tuesday in December

We had 31 unique walkers during the month of December 77% of the walkers are from the Town of Blackfalds, 6% are from the City of Lacombe, 20% are from the County of Lacombe.

MORE THAN A MOVIE:

29 movie guests Enjoyed the movie: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.

26 Blackfalds residents, 1 resident of the City of Lacombe 2 residents from the County of Lacombe

Activity: Screening of a Christmas-themed movie about performing the Christmas Story at a local church.

Impact: Highly emotional and nostalgic; guests were moved to tears. The film reinforced the importance of community and tradition during the holiday season.

Social Component: Pizza lunch followed the movie; the hall was lively with conversation and joy.

Severe weather and a travel advisory caused multiple cancellations, especially from out-of-town seniors. Despite conditions, local seniors attended, demonstrating strong commitment to the program and desire for social connection. Seniors expressed the importance of gathering in a safe, welcoming space.

The event highlighted the value of programs that foster community engagement and reduce isolation.

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CHRISTMAS BUREAU

December 8 Activities

Assembly, labeling, and organization of hamper boxes.
Hampers categorized into *family hampers* and *single/senior hampers*.
Heavy” non-perishable food items were added to all hampers in the afternoon.

December 9 Activities

Volunteers, under FCSS supervision, added age-appropriate “little somethings” and gift cards to family hampers. In the afternoon, single/senior hampers were completed with comfort items (mugs, blankets, candles) based on household composition and gender.

December 10 Activities

Delivery-designated hampers were organized by community location.
Heavy, perishable, and frozen items were added. The Blackfalds Fire Department delivered the hampers. Delivery process went extremely well; only two hampers required follow-up adjustments, which were resolved the same afternoon.

December 11 Activities

Hamper pick-ups occurred at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Only one hamper remained unclaimed despite multiple contact attempts. Program operations concluded for the year.

The partnership between FCSS and Beyond Community Hub is extraordinary. We handle all the screening, admin and organization of the hamper delivery and pick up, and they organize and coordinate all the volunteers, gift items, gift cards and food items that are given. We enjoy this partnership and know that it makes a difference in so many community members' lives. The Beyond Food Community Hub does the majority of the fundraising for this program and send out the Charitable tax receipts. This is an excellent and important partnership for the community.

89 Family Hampers (homes with at least one adult and one child within the home)
14 Single/Seniors Hampers (homes with only adults within the home)
103 Blackfalds Homes received Christmas Bureau Hampers
376 total individuals received – 227 children, 103 women, 46 men
(26 adults from single/senior homes)

OUTER DUTIES:

Assisted a community member with an AGLC/gaming application.

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Coordinated the TOB staff Reindeer games (Foodbank donation challenge) – 441 lbs. of food was donated from TOB staff.

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page: 1628 followers December

Blackfalds Instagram Page: 214 followers in December

Abbey Centre Membership Assistance Program:

YOUTH PROGRAMMER REPORT December 2025

YOUTH COOKING CLUB

- The final Cooking Club session of the year was held on December 10
- Youth participants prepared a chicken and vegetable stir fry celebration dinner for 24 guests, demonstrating the culinary skills developed throughout the program.
- Mayor Savb and her partner, Ray, attended as special guests.
- The event was supported by two community volunteers and a Grade 9 Leader in Training volunteer, contributing to smooth operations.
- The dinner was well received, and youth participants were recognized with certificates of completion and a recipe booklet containing all dishes prepared during the year.
- The recipe booklet is intended to support continued skill development beyond the program.

LEADERS IN TRAINING

- Leaders in Training program has had a strong start.
- Three Grade 9 students from Iron Ridge Secondary Campus are participating.
- Two students from Lacombe Composite High School (one in Grade 12 and one in Grade 10) have also joined.
- One grade 10 participant is completing the program for work experience and high school credits.

COMMUNITY HELPERS PROGRAM

Unfortunately, I do not have the capacity to collaborate on this initiative currently, despite recognizing its value to our community. I am hopeful that another community organization will be able to support and move this important work forward.

ACTION ITEMS

Councilor Brown would like more information regarding Community Helpers program for the upcoming meeting.

OUTER DUTIES:

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

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Positive Ticketing Program: FCSS continues to partner with Constable Hewitt to distribute positive tickets to youth in the community and schools. These tickets recognize and encourage positive or improved behavior, reinforcing a culture of respect and responsibility among local youth.

Youth Interagency Meetings: On September 3, we hosted our very first 'Youth Program Providers: Blackfalds Meet-Up' to bring together local organizations that offer youth programming in

our community. This gathering created a valuable space for connection, information sharing, and collaboration, with the shared goal of supporting youth in Blackfalds.

School Engagement: Participated in Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus on September 4 to engage youth and their families

MONTHLY FCSS NEWSLETTERS

Vibrant Living 50+ 261 sends with an open rate of 70%

Interagency 139 sends and an open rate of 39%

Beyond Lunchbox Program 285 sends and an open rate of 53%

The Blackfalds & District Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting ended at 8:42 p.m.

Dena Thomas, Chair

Erin Dahl, Admin Staff

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AGENDA

4.2 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: SAWYER HICK
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FRAMEWORK

BACKGROUND:

Administration has discussed introducing framework policies across all divisions. These policies outline the key expectations, guiding principles, and decision-making parameters that shape how each division operates. By establishing this high-level direction, we create a consistent foundation that supports effective, efficient, and well-coordinated management practices. This Policy will ensure that Family and Community Support Services policies and procedures are aligned with our broader organizational priorities and values.

DISCUSSION:

During the January 8, 2026 meeting, a draft copy of the Social Services Framework Policy was presented for review. At that time, the Board requested clarification regarding if the Framework Policy was specific to Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), or if other departments/divisions within the Town would fall within the Framework Policy before further feedback could be provided. Senior Administration provided direction that this Framework Policy would be specific to FCSS and therefore the decision was made to rename the policy the Family and Community Support Services Framework. Additional amendments have been made to ensure the Framework aligns more clearly with the FCSS mandate. These revisions provide stronger connection to FCSS, while also maintaining the structure of the existing Town of Blackfalds Framework Policies which are meant to guide overall direction rather than prescribe detailed operational procedures.

The Family and Community Support Services Framework is intended to be inclusive, accessible and foster an environment that builds community capacity, strengthens protective factors, reduces barriers, while also ensuring programs and services align with provincial legislation and community priorities.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FRAMEWORK

POLICY NO	
DIVISION DEPARTMENT	Administration/ Family and Community Support Services
REVIEW PERIOD	Every 4 years or Upon Legislative Change

1. POLICY PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to establish clear guidelines for the planning, delivery, and evaluation of preventive social services delivered through the Town of Blackfalds and Family and Community Support Services. This policy ensures that all FCSS activities align with the Family and Community Services Act, FCSS regulation, and the Provincial Accountability Framework, with a focus on strengthening individual, family, and community well-being through prevention and community development.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 Council is committed to supporting a strong FCSS program that enhances social well-being by building protective factors, reducing risk factors, and increasing community capacity. Council provides strategic oversight and ensures resources are allocated to preventive programs and community development initiatives that align with provincial legislation, local needs, and the FCSS Outcomes Model to ensure FCSS remains accountable, equitable, and responsive to community priorities.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 **“Chief Administration Officer”** means the individual appointed by Council to the position as per the *Municipal Government Act*, as amended.
- 3.2 **“Council”** means the Council of the Town of Blackfalds elected pursuant to the *Local Authorities Election Act* of Alberta, as amended.
- 3.3 **“Town”** means the municipality of the Town of Blackfalds.
- 3.4 **“Preventive Social Services”** means programs that enhance well-being by promoting and supporting the development of strong, healthy individuals, families, and communities, and that prevent or mitigate social issues before they require intervention or treatment.
- 3.5 **“Community Development”** means processes that build community capacity, strengthen relationships, and support residents in identifying and addressing local needs.

4. SCOPE

- 4.1 This Policy applies to programs, services, partnerships, and initiatives delivered or funded through Blackfalds FCSS, including:
 - 4.1.1 Community Development Initiatives: Activities that build social cohesion, foster leadership, support volunteerism, and enhance community capacity.
 - 4.1.2 Prevention Programs: Supports that reduce risk factors and build protective factors for individuals, families, youth, and seniors.
 - 4.1.3 Equity and Inclusion Efforts: Initiatives that reduce systemic barriers and promote culturally safe, accessible service delivery.
 - 4.1.4 Partnership and Collaboration: Partnerships with agencies, schools, health services, and community groups that advance FCSS outcomes.

5. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 Council to:
 - 5.1.1 Adopt and support this Policy by resolution.
 - 5.1.2 Consider the allocation of resources for the successful implementation of this Policy in the annual budget process.
- 5.2 Chief Administrative Officer to:
 - 5.2.1 Advise Council on the development, implementation, and amendment of this Policy.
 - 5.2.2 Ensure Policy review occurs and verify the implementation of this Policy.
- 5.3 Administration to:
 - 5.3.1 Implement programs in alignment with this Policy.
 - 5.3.2 Report annually to Council on program outcomes, risk management, and resource allocation.

6. FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 By virtue of this Policy, the Town of Blackfalds FCSS strives to:
 - 6.1.1 Ensure programs are accessible to all demographics, including marginalized or underserved groups.
 - 6.1.2 Provide services in a manner that respects the dignity and rights of all individuals.
 - 6.1.3 Build partnerships with local organizations, schools, health services, and businesses to maximize resources and impact.

- 6.1.4 Ensure services are culturally sensitive, responsive, and inclusive to the diverse needs of the community.
- 6.1.5 Promote sustainable delivery that respects environmental, economic, and social factors.
- 6.1.6 Maintain transparency in decision-making, service goals and outcomes.
- 6.2 The goals and objectives of FCSS in relation to this Framework Policy are to:
 - 6.2.1 Ensure equitable access to preventive social services for all residents.
 - 6.2.2 Promote community well-being by strengthening protective factors and reducing social risks.
 - 6.2.3 Foster resilience and self-reliance through skill-building, education, and empowerment initiatives.
 - 6.2.4 Reduce isolation and enhance social connection through engagement, volunteerism, and community participation.
 - 6.2.5 Advance equity and inclusion by addressing systemic barriers and promoting culturally safe service delivery.
- 6.3 This Policy establishes the foundation for a responsive, sustainable, and preventive Social Services system that strengthens community well-being and promotes equity, inclusion, and resilience. Guided by this Policy and related documents, FCSS commits to:
 - 6.3.1 Deliver equitable and inclusive programs and supports that respond to identified community needs.
 - 6.3.2 Develop guidelines for planning, delivering, and evaluating social services to ensure consistency and quality.
 - 6.3.3 Establish transparent funding priorities, considering severity of needs, impact, efficiency, and external opportunities.
 - 6.3.4 Maximize the use of available resources to ensure sustainability and growth of social service offerings.
 - 6.3.5 Engage stakeholders through consultation, forums, and collaborations with agencies and governments.
 - 6.3.6 Set benchmarks and performance indicators to evaluate the success and impact of social service programs, supports and initiatives.
 - 6.3.7 Identify potential risks in social service delivery (e.g., confidentiality, equity gaps, service duplication) and establish preventive measures that meet ethical and legal requirements.

- 6.3.8 Promote awareness of FCSS through outreach, advertising and social media platforms.
- 6.3.9 Keep the community informed about programs, services, policies, and changes through clear and consistent communication.
- 6.3.10 Foster collaboration and partnerships with local organizations, schools, health services, and business to maximize impact and reduce duplication.
- 6.3.11 Support volunteerism and community capacity building as a cornerstone of social service sustainability.
- 6.3.12 Embed continuous improvement practices using evaluation findings and community feedback to refine programs annually.

7. EXCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Direct Assistance: The Town of Blackfalds Family and Community Support Services does not provide direct financial assistance, clinical treatment, or crisis intervention beyond preventive scope. Residents requiring such supports will be referred to appropriate provincial or community agencies.

8. SPECIAL SITUATIONS

- 8.1 Services may be adapted during public health emergencies, natural disasters, or other extraordinary circumstances to ensure continuity of preventive supports.
- 8.2 Partnerships may be prioritized in situations where community needs exceed municipal capacity.

9. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 Social Needs Assessment Plan 2022
- 9.2 Family and Community Services Act
- 9.3 The FCSS Accountability Framework

10. END OF POLICY

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer

Date

Date

POLICY RECORD HISTORY

	Resolution No:	Date
Policy Adopted		
Policy Reviewed		
Policy Revised		

ADMINISTRATIVE REVISIONS

Date	Description

COMMUNITY SERVICES FRAMEWORK

POLICY NO.:	CP-188.25
DIVISION DEPARTMENT	Administration
REVIEW PERIOD	Every 4 Years or Upon Legislative Change

1. POLICY PURPOSE

- 1.1 This framework Policy is designed to guide and structure the development, management, and the overarching goals for the provision of recreational programs, events and services within the Town of Blackfalds.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 Council is committed to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and accessible recreational environment that enhances the well-being of all community members. Through the provision of diverse, high-quality recreational programs, services, and facilities, we aim to support physical health, mental well-being, and social connectivity. We strive to create opportunities for all individuals, regardless of age, background, or ability, to engage in recreational activities that enrich their lives. Our approach will prioritize sustainability, innovation, and collaboration to ensure long-term success and equitable access for current and future generations.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 **“Chief Administrative Officer”** means the individual appointed by Council to the position as per the *Municipal Government Act*, as amended.
- 3.2 **“Council”** means the Council of the Town of Blackfalds elected pursuant to the *Local Authorities Election Act* of Alberta, as amended.
- 3.3 **“Town”** means the municipality of the Town of Blackfalds.

4. SCOPE

- 4.1 This Policy applies to Council and Administration.

5. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 Council to:
- 5.1.1 Adopt and support this Policy by resolution.
- 5.1.2 Consider the allocation of resources for the successful implementation of this Policy in the annual budget process.

5.2 Chief Administrative Officer to:

5.2.1 Advise Council on the development, implementation, and amendment of this Policy.

5.2.2 Ensure Policy review occurs and verify the implementation of this Policy.

5.3 Director of Community Services to:

5.3.1 Review and make recommendations for amendments to any applicable Council Policies and Administrative Policies and Procedures as they relate to this Policy.

6. COMMUNITY SERVICES FRAMEWORK

6.1 By virtue of this Policy, the Town of Blackfalds Community Services strives to:

6.1.1 Ensure programs are accessible to all demographics, including marginalized or underserved groups.

6.1.2 Promote environmentally responsible practices in the development and maintenance of recreational spaces and programs.

6.1.3 Focus on community-driven priorities, preferences, and needs and supporting community-based initiatives.

6.1.4 Build partnerships with local organizations, schools, and businesses to maximize resources and impact.

6.2 The goals and objectives of Community Services in relation to this framework Policy are to:

6.2.1 Ensure programs are accessible to all demographics, including marginalized or underserved groups.

6.2.2 Promote physical and mental health through active recreation and social interaction.

6.2.3 Ensure that recreational opportunities are accessible to all members of the community, regardless of socioeconomic status or physical ability.

6.3 This framework Policy provides the foundation for a well-rounded, sustainable, and effective recreation program that meets the needs of the community and fosters a healthy and active lifestyle. Through this framework Policy and through all supporting and related policies, Community Services aims to:

- 6.3.1 Provide recreational and cultural programs, events and services that meet the needs of our community.
- 6.3.2 Design and develop infrastructure that meets the needs of the community.
- 6.3.3 Develop guidelines for operating, maintaining and improving public recreation facilities.
- 6.3.4 Ensure parks, trails and recreation facilities are safe, accessible and well-maintained.
- 6.3.5 Establish funding priorities for recreation services, including government budgets, grants, partnerships, and other revenue sources.
- 6.3.6 Maximize the use of available resources (space, staff, volunteers) to ensure the sustainability and growth of recreational offerings.
- 6.3.7 Engage the community in the planning and decision-making process through surveys, forums, and public consultations and collect feedback to assess community satisfaction and adjust services as necessary.
- 6.3.8 Set benchmarks and performance indicators to evaluate the success and impact of recreation programs, events and services.
- 6.3.9 Identify potential risks in recreation programs, events and facilities and establish preventive measures that meet health and safety requirements.
- 6.3.10 Promote recreation programs, events and services to the community, including advertising, print material, social media and digital platforms.
- 6.3.11 Keep the community informed about program, events, services, policies, bylaws and any changes through clear communication.

7. EXCLUSIONS

None

8. SPECIAL SITUATIONS

- 8.1 Other forms of recognition may be considered as determined by Council.

9. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 *Municipal Government Act, R.S.A., 2000, Chapter M-26*
- 9.2 *Framework for Recreation in Canada 2024*

- 9.3 Pine Crescent Park Plan 2013
- 9.4 Recreation, Culture and Parks Needs Assessment and Master Plan 2015
- 9.5 All-Star Park Master Plan 2016
- 9.6 2018 Town of Blackfalds Civic Facilities Development Strategy and Master Plan
- 9.7 Arts & Culture Master Plan 2021
- 9.8 Cemetery Bylaw 1313/24
- 9.9 Rate Bylaw, "Schedule C" Community Services Facilities Fee Schedule 1318/24
- 9.10 Community Standards Bylaw 1220/18
- 9.11 Activities & Membership Refund Policy 153.22
- 9.12 Community Initiatives Grant 185/24
- 9.13 Special Event Permit Policy 181/24

10. END OF POLICY

-Original Signed-

Mayor

-Original Signed-

Chief Administrative Officer

-Original Dated-

Date

-Original Dated-

Date

POLICY RECORD HISTORY

	Resolution No:	Date
Policy Adopted	RCM 050/25	February 25, 2025
Policy Reviewed		
Policy Revised		

ADMINISTRATIVE REVISIONS

Date	Description

HUMAN RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

POLICY NO.:	CP-178.24
DIVISION DEPARTMENT	Administration
REVIEW PERIOD	Every 3 Years or Upon Legislative Change

1. POLICY PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to establish a framework for developing Human Resources' Administrative Policies, Administrative Procedures and operational practices for the Town of Blackfalds implemented by the Chief Administrative Officer.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 Council of the Town of Blackfalds recognizes the value of all Town of Blackfalds employees and how each employee contributes directly to the growth and success of the Community. Council believes that all employees should be treated fairly, with respect and in compliance with applicable Acts, Codes and Regulations.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 **“Administrative Policy”** means a policy regarding operational matters of the Town of Blackfalds which does not require Council approval.
- 3.2 **“Administrative Procedure”** means a documented procedure that outlines a consistent approach to carrying out a specific policy in the day-to-day operations of the Town.
- 3.3 **“Chief Administrative Officer or CAO”** means the individual appointed by Council to the position of Chief Administrative Officer as per the *Municipal Government Act*.
- 3.4 **“Council”** means the Council of the Town of Blackfalds elected pursuant to the *Local Authorities Election Act*, of Alberta, as amended.
- 3.5 **“Council Policy”** means a policy regarding governance, public issues, and services to the public.
- 3.6 **“Town”** means the municipality of the Town of Blackfalds.

4. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 Council to:
 - 4.1.1 Adopt and support this Policy and any amendments by resolution.

4.1.2 Consider the allocation of resources for the successful implementation of this Policy and related Administrative Policies in the annual budget process.

4.2 Chief Administrative Officer to:

4.2.1 Implement this Policy by developing and establishing Human Resources' Administrative Policies, Administrative Procedures, and operational practices.

4.2.2 Ensure Policy review occurs and verify the implementation of this Policy.

5. POLICY

5.1 The Chief Administrative Officer shall develop Human Resources' Administrative Policies, Administrative Procedures and operational practices through which employees can be attracted, retained, and given the support and developmental opportunities necessary to achieve desired outcomes and maintain accountability.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

6.1. Employment Standards Code

6.2. Employment Standards Regulation 14/97

6.3. Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw

6.4. Town of Blackfalds Human Resources related Administrative Policies and Procedures.

7. END OF POLICY

-Original Signed-

Mayor

-Original Signed-

Chief Administrative Officer

-Original Dated-

Date

-Original Dated-

Date

POLICY RECORD HISTORY

	Resolution No:	Date
Policy Adopted	023/24	January 23, 2024
Policy Reviewed		

Policy Revised		
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ADMINISTRATIVE REVISIONS

Date	Description

Policy No.:	169.23	Council Approval Resolution No.: 091/23
Policy Title:	Policy Governance Framework	
Department:	Council/Office of the CAO	Date: March 28, 2023
Reviewed:		
Revised:		
Supersedes Policy/Bylaw:		

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 Policies are created to set out a standard of performance or to address a discretionary duty the Town will or will not meet. They address recurrent issues to provide broad guidelines setting out the level and manner of service to which the Town will perform. The Town of Blackfalds Policies will be developed and approved using two (2) separate tiers of authority as set out in the CAO's Bylaw.

2. Reason for Policy

- 2.1 To establish and provide a framework for developing and classifying Town Policies into either Council Policies or Administrative Policies.

3. Related Information

- 3.1 This Policy applies to Council, CAO, and all Town of Blackfalds employees.
- 3.2 All Policies and Procedures shall be consistent with relevant federal and provincial government legislation and related regulations, as well as Town Bylaws and Policies.
- 3.3 Policies and Procedures shall be drafted in a consistent format acceptable to the CAO.
- 3.4 This Policy was created in reference to comparable municipalities' policy framework and development.

4. Definitions

- 4.1 **"Administrative Policy"** means a Policy that is written direction of the CAO that focuses on how the Town does business within its own operations: These Policies:

- 4.1.1 Are inward facing and internal in nature.
- 4.1.2 Deal strictly with administrative matters.
- 4.1.3 Relate directly to the operations of the Town.
- 4.1.4 Are a guide of principles that are applied when making administrative decisions.
- 4.1.5 Generally impact only Town employees.
- 4.1.6 Are approved by the Chief Administrative Officer.

- 4.2 **"Administrative Procedure"** means specific written processes that support a policy. Procedures that are created, amended or made obsolete require the approval of the CAO.

- 4.2 **“Council Policy”** means a Policy that by resolution focuses on Town residents, business and the public and their relation to the Town or Town facilities or standards Council sets for itself. These Policies:
- 4.2.1 Relate to areas of governance.
 - 4.2.2 Outline services and/or programs performed by the Town.
 - 4.2.3 Set long-term visions for the organization.
 - 4.2.4 Provide strategic direction.
 - 4.2.5 Generally impact the Town as a whole.
 - 4.2.6 Are approved by Council.
- 4.3 **“Management”** means the CAO, Directors, and Managers.
- 4.4 **“Policy”** means a document that dictates a specific position and related course of action for the Town to follow. Policies provide a framework for the delegation of decision-making authority and a clear direction and a consistent approach to making those decisions.
4. **“Town”** means the municipal corporation of the Town of Blackfalds in the Province of Alberta.

5. Responsibilities

5.1 Municipal Council:

- 4.1.1 Must approve by resolution this Policy and any amendments.
- 4.1.2 Must approve Council Policies by resolution that addresses issues within the realm of governance.
- 4.1.3 Must provide directions for carrying out Council’s strategic plan, priorities, and the goals of the Blackfalds Municipal Sustainability Plan.
- 4.1.4 May provide direction to the Chief Administrative Officer for the development or amendment of Council Policies.

5.2 Chief Administrative Officer must:

- 5.2.1 Recommend proposed Council Policies to Council.
- 5.2.2 Recommend proposed amendments to Council Policies to Council.
- 5.2.3 Circulate Council Policies to the Management team for input prior to submission to Council.
- 5.2.4 Ensure all approved Council Policies are implemented and adhered to by staff.
- 5.2.5 Ensure all approved Council Policies are communicated to the public.
- 5.2.6 Develop, approve and implement Administrative Policies and Procedures dealing with administrative and operational matters and internal administration.

- 5.2.7 Circulate Administration Policies and Procedures to the Management team for input prior to CAO approval.
- 5.2.8 Ensure all approved Administrative Policies and Procedures are implemented and adhered to by staff.
- 5.2.9 Act as the final authority to designate a policy as either a Council Policy or an Administrative Policy.
- 5.2.10 Ensure Council and Administrative Policies are reviewed and reported on accordingly with the review date.

6. Exclusions

N/A

7. Special Situations

- 7.1 Development of Policies may include consultation and participation of other departments, staff, affected groups, committees, and/or the public, depending on the scope and number of areas impacted by the policy. In the event of an emergent or other situation where it is in the best interest of the Town to do so, the CAO may take immediate action on a policy matter in the absence of any specific policy that precisely addresses the particular situation.
- 7.2 Council Policies will be posted on the Town of Blackfalds website and otherwise be routinely available to the public on request.
- 7.3 Administrative Policies and Procedures will be made available to Council upon request to the CAO.

8. Appendix

- 8.1 Appendix A - CAO's Bylaw 1170/14

9. End of Policy

10. Approval

-Original Signed-
Mayor

-Original Signed-
Chief Administrative Officer

-Original Dated-
Date

-Original Dated-
Date

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, February 19 at **7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

4.3 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: SAWYER HICK
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: BGC WOLF CREEK FINAL REPORT



Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

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

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

Email fcss@blackfalds.com

2025 FCSS Grant Funding Final Report

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

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

Agency Name: BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds

Project Name: BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds Programs

Report Completion Date: January 26, 2026

Due Dates: January 31, 2026

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

Regards,

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

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

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

Name of Funded Agency: BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds

Name of Project: BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds Programs

Project Timeline: January – December 2025

Revenue	
FCSS Contribution	\$ 9,000.00
Organization's Contribution	\$199,533.00
Expenditures	
FCSS Eligible Expenditures	\$ 9,000.00
(Actual amount as approved in application)	
Other Expenditures	\$183,850.00
Revenue minus eligible expenditures	\$ 15,682.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	** \$ 15,682.00 **

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

**** Please note that the above numbers are unaudited at this time. A full audited report will be available later in the year. An unaudited revenue and expenditures report as of December 31, 2025 is attached.**

Also, please note that the remaining \$15,682.00 surplus is funds designated for operations at the beginning of the year due to a limited cash flow at the beginning of the year. **

Due Dates: January 31, 2026

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

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds began program delivery in the fall of 2024 in response to the identified need by parents in this community for Out of School Child Care options. 2025 was our first full year of programming and, as you will see below, it has been a success! While not without challenges, we have slowly but surely gained traction in the community – gained the trust of children, youth, and families – and gained valuable relationships along the way. This has enabled us to both meet our own identified need for Out of School Child Care, as well as collaborate in addressing 5 of the 10 Social Priority areas outlined in the most recent Blackfalds Social Needs Assessment (i.e. support for parents and families, mental health, bullying and abuse, isolation and loneliness, and connection and collaborations among local agencies).

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds has addressed this need in the community by offering the After School Program, S.O.D. (School's Out Day) Program, and Summer Camp for children ages 5-12. As we have become part of the fabric of Blackfalds, we have also seen the need for the addition of targeted youth programs (for youth ages 12-18) and free counselling for children, youth, and families which have extended our reach. **2025 saw 5740 visits by 287 unique individuals.** Please see below for complete program descriptions.

a. After School Program

The After School Program is located at our Club site in the Iron Ridge Secondary Campus. Children are welcomed each day after school to the Club, where they engage in safe, fun, interesting, and educational activities that are child-directed and supported by qualified and enthusiastic staff members. There is a mix of individual and group play, opportunity for physical activity, and areas for quiet moments, depending on what each child may need that day.

Each day is organized around a central theme which engages the interest and enthusiasm of the children who attend. The program also offers a small, healthy snack to feed hungry tummies after a long day at school. Children are provided with transportation to the Club from 3 schools in Blackfalds via our BGC Wolf Creek bus, which has been very helpful to parents who might otherwise have difficulty getting their children to our site. The After School Program began strongly and has continued to grow this year.

The After School Program represents the following:

- 61 days of programming
- 86 individual children
- 20 children (average attendance)
- 56% of total program visits

b. S.O.D. (School's Out Day) Program

The S.O.D. Program runs in a very similar manner as the After School Program

but is a full-day program offered on days when school is not in session (e.g. Professional Development days, Teacher's Convention, Spring Break, etc.), thus providing Out of School Child Care for families. This program also began strongly and has been well used this year - so much so that we have had a waiting list for children whose parents wish to register for these days. Most of the time, we are able to accommodate those on the waiting list due to changes in plans by other families.

The S.O.D. Program represents the following:

- 35 days of programming
- 112 individual children
- 26 children (average attendance)
- 16% of total program visits

c. Summer Camp

2025 was exciting for BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds as we delivered our first Summer Camp experience in this community. By all accounts, it was a huge success! Many new faces joined our BGC "family" for the first time, as more children from the community attended this program. Each week was jam-packed with a wide range of both on and off-site activities (within the town, as well as further afield) that revolved around fun themes that appealed to children.

A side note we would like to share is that we received very positive feedback from staff members at field trip locations who were impressed with our group's overall behaviour at their venues. We are proud of our kids!

Community members were also welcomed to share their interests and talents at Summer Camp, as we provided unique opportunities and experiences for the children who attended. 8 weeks of full-day programming made planning summer much easier for parents who work and who needed child care during this time.

Summer Camp represents the following:

- 40 days of programming
- 109 individual children
- 31 children (average attendance)
- 22% of total program visits

d. Youth Lunch Drop In

Due to our Club location in the Iron Ridge Secondary Campus, we are visible to the student body. As time has gone by, students have become more comfortable with us and have engaged with staff members informally – often with curiosity and questions – asking if there could be something for them. As a result, we began offering a youth lunch drop in program once/week where youth were welcome to play board games/card games/Mario Kart, have snacks, chat, and build community. It has been very successful. Attendance has consistently increased, ideas have been shared by youth about how it all could look, and there has been requests for it to be offered more often.

We are excited to not only grow this informal drop in program at the Secondary Campus but also offer other more formal youth programming at the Junior Campus, an example of which is Lead Up – a leadership program that will soon be launching this spring.

Youth Lunch Drop In represents the following:

- 12 days of programming
- 75 individual youth
- 14 youth (average attendance)
- 3% of total program visits

e. Counselling Program

BGC Wolf Creek has made the services of our child and family counsellor available to families in Blackfalds. We initially offered this service by opening sessions for one half day/week; however, it became apparent that this needed to increase. Therefore, we increased our availability to a full day/week.

We are intent on maximizing availability for individuals and we do so by offering limited sessions to meet after school for those whom this time is more convenient. Our counsellor also provides sessions on site at 3 schools for those whom transportation to our office at the Club would be a barrier to accessing services. We provide this service at **no cost** to individuals and offer it as another way to provide support to children, youth, and families in the community who might derive benefit from a counselling program.

The Counselling Program represents the following:

- 28 individuals
- 162 sessions
- 3% of total program visits

Supporting Statistics and Community Involvement	
Direct Programs Offered	Participant Numbers
1. After School Program	86
2. S.O.D. (School's Out Day) Program	112
3. Summer Camp	109
4. Youth Lunch Program	75
5. Counselling	28 individuals (162 sessions)
Community Education and Awareness	Population Reached
1. Hosted the ICE (Integrated Child Exploitation) presentation	Families/Community Members
2. Promoted agency programs at multiple events at Iron Ridge Elementary Campus, Iron Ridge Intermediate Campus, Iron Ridge Junior Campus, Iron Ridge Secondary Campus, and St. Gregory the Great Catholic School (e.g. Meet the Teacher, Celebration of Learning, school family bulletins, family information resources, etc.)	Families/School Staff
3. Ran an activity and promoted agency programs at the Blackfalds Street Dance	Families/Community Members
4. Attended and promoted agency programs at the Community Info Expo	Families/Community Members
5. Featured agency programs in the Community Directory	Community Members
6. Provided regular social media updates regarding agency programs (e.g. Facebook, Instagram), while continually increasing followers	Families/Community Members

7. Chaired and participated in HUB meetings	Human Services Agencies
Volunteerism	Participating Number
1. Summer Camp Volunteers	5
2. After School Program Volunteers	4
3. BGC Wolf Creek Board of Directors	8
Staff Development	Staff Involved
1. MyBGCU Foundations (Level One) Each new staff member must complete this course within the first 3 months of their employment with our agency.	7
2. MyBGCU Club Program Resources Staff members have access to additional opportunities with BGC. These include: Unpacking Neurodivergence, Building Lasting Resilience, Trauma-Informed Practice, Flex Your Head and Creating Connections, etc.	Staff members access these training opportunities on an individual basis as need and time allow.
3. First Aid	2
4. Trauma Informed Care	4
5. ICC (Inclusive Child Care) Training	4
Geographical Area Served	
Town of Blackfalds 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
- 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.

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds impacts 3 out of the 5 indicated areas of social sustainability in the community.

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

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

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

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

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

We encourage the development of skills that lead to positive relationships through introducing games and play that require children to take turns. Children are also encouraged to develop their own games and activities that they might then share with the rest of the group. Opportunities for children to take on leadership roles are offered each day and Club members engage in group discussions about behaviour expectations frequently, to allow for review, as well as give opportunity for kids to participate in determining what is important to their group. Older children are provided with opportunities to engage with younger children in a mentoring capacity that helps build relationships in the program. We have seen this develop more and more this year. With the growth of the Youth Program, we are eager to watch this develop even further among older youth who will develop positive relationships and leadership skills through our programming.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds not only reached the intended population that we had hoped to serve, but we have expanded our reach. Firstly, regarding our Out of School Child Care programs, attendance continues to grow at each program. Some days we reach our attendance limit, as mandated by licensing, and we work to accommodate children to our programs who might be on a waiting list for certain days. Summer Camp opened a new door for us, and we were able to welcome more children from the community. Secondly, as mentioned above, we had initially offered the Counselling Program for a half day/week, but due to increased demand, we made it available for a full day/week, with our counsellor adapting to best support families outside of normal hours, as well as offering sessions on location at various schools to remove the barrier of lack of transportation. Finally, we are now moving forward with youth programming, which expands our Club presence to the ages 12-18 demographic. We are excited to see where this leads in 2026! We anticipate that we will continue to experience continued growth as families become more familiar with our programs and as we expand our programming options to more effectively meet the needs of this community.

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

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds is happy to share the impact of programming on the children, families, and community we serve.

a. Children

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds participates in the annual national BGC Canada survey that measures 21 indicators under 4 main domains (i.e. positive relationships, healthy living, lifelong learning and leadership). We have included the results for our Club site in Blackfalds below.

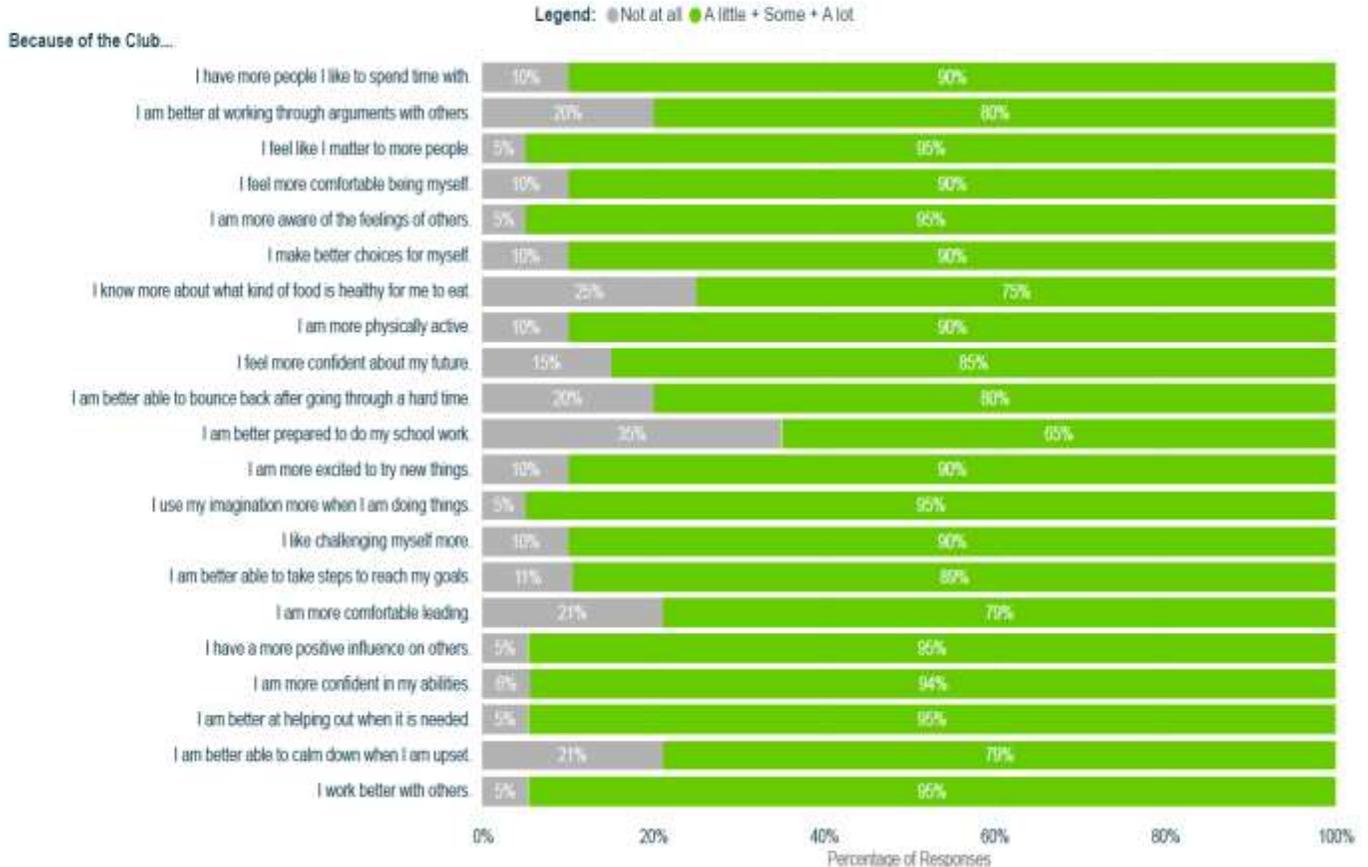
As can be seen, there is significant movement toward positive change in all 21 indicators measured. We are pleased to see the positive change that our Club members are indicating because of their attendance at our programs. Another indicator of our positive impact is that kids are having so much fun at our programs, they are often reluctant to go home at pick up time!

• **Quantitative Outcomes**

 **2025 BGC Member Survey Results**

Club: Site:

Responses by Item
 Grouped by positive change responses



• **Qualitative Outcomes**

“A new student who joined said ‘it was the most fun he had had in a long time.’”
 “Another student said he chose to come to BGC instead of another care centre.”
 “We had one child proudly share to a stranger while on a field trip that we are from BGC ‘the best daycare ever!’”

b. Families

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds gathers feedback from our Club parents annually. We measure both quantitative and qualitative outcomes and have included the results for both below.

Quantitative Outcomes

2025 BGC Wolf Creek Parent/Guardian Survey - Blackfalds

SurveyMor

	A LOT	SOME	A LITTLE	NOT AT ALL	UNABLE TO COMMENT	TOTAL
My child has more people they like to spend time with.	33.33% 7	23.81% 5	19.05% 4	4.76% 1	19.05% 4	21
My child is better at working through arguments with others.	14.29% 3	47.62% 10	9.52% 2	4.76% 1	23.81% 5	21
My child feels like they matter to more people.	38.10% 8	42.86% 9	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	19.05% 4	21
My child feels more comfortable being themselves.	42.86% 9	28.57% 6	14.29% 3	4.76% 1	9.52% 2	21
My child is more aware of the feelings of others.	38.10% 8	19.05% 4	19.05% 4	0.00% 0	23.81% 5	21
My child is more aware of how to build positive relationships.	33.33% 7	33.33% 7	14.29% 3	0.00% 0	19.05% 4	21
My child shows increased kindness and respect toward others.	33.33% 7	42.86% 9	9.52% 2	0.00% 0	14.29% 3	21
My child makes better choices for themselves.	33.33% 7	33.33% 7	14.29% 3	0.00% 0	19.05% 4	21
My child knows more about what kind of food is healthy to eat.	19.05% 4	42.86% 9	0.00% 0	4.76% 1	33.33% 7	21
My child is more physically active.	42.86% 9	33.33% 7	4.76% 1	4.76% 1	14.29% 3	21
My child feels more confident about their future.	28.57% 6	38.10% 8	4.76% 1	4.76% 1	23.81% 5	21
My child is better able to bounce back after going through a hard time.	28.57% 6	28.57% 6	14.29% 3	9.52% 2	19.05% 4	21
My child is better prepared to do their school work.	23.81% 5	28.57% 6	14.29% 3	4.76% 1	28.57% 6	21
My child is more excited and willing to try new things or participate in new opportunities.	38.10% 8	33.33% 7	14.29% 3	4.76% 1	9.52% 2	21
My child uses their imagination more when they are doing things.	28.57% 6	38.10% 8	9.52% 2	4.76% 1	19.05% 4	21
My child likes challenging themselves more.	23.81% 5	28.57% 6	23.81% 5	9.52% 2	14.29% 3	21

Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

Community Group Grant Final Reporting

Page 11 of 6

My child is better able to take steps to reach their goals.	23.81% 5	28.57% 6	23.81% 5	4.76% 1	19.05% 4	21
My child is more comfortable leading.	28.57% 6	14.29% 3	33.33% 7	0.00% 0	23.81% 5	21
My child has a more positive influence on others.	28.57% 6	28.57% 6	19.05% 4	4.76% 1	19.05% 4	21
My child is more confident in their abilities.	33.33% 7	28.57% 6	19.05% 4	0.00% 0	19.05% 4	21
My child is better at helping out when it is needed.	33.33% 7	28.57% 6	19.05% 4	0.00% 0	19.05% 4	21
My child is better able to calm down when upset.	23.81% 5	23.81% 5	19.05% 4	9.52% 2	23.81% 5	21
My child works better with others.	28.57%	33.33%	9.52%	4.76%	23.81%	

21 / 24

2025 BGC Wolf Creek Parent/Guardian Survey - Blackfalds						SurveyMo
	6	7	2	1	5	21
My child is learning more life skills (e.g. teamwork, problem-solving, organization, planning, decision-making, nutrition, gardening, arts and crafts, etc.).	38.10% 8	33.33% 7	4.76% 1	4.76% 1	19.05% 4	21

• Qualitative Outcomes

While surveys tell part of the story, we are also delighted to share parent comments regarding our programs from the perspective of families in the community who use our services.

“Our family has loved being a part of the BGC Blackfalds program. We love having the option to choose set days with a cancellation process that brings peace of mind, along with transportation from both the elementary and intermediate campus. The kids have loved the theme days and activities that set BGC apart from other organizations/daycares. Keep up the great work!”

(Parent Comment)

“For a newer program to the community I see immense potential in its growth and to provide a much needed service to the community. The staff try hard and provide care and compassion to the kids. I am excited to see how this program evolves in Blackfalds and can see so many great things on the way for the kids and the staff.”

(Parent Comment)

“Very grateful we have more options for out of school care now! My girls really enjoyed the program and are excited to join in for some days in the summer.”

(Parent Comment)

“Great organization, consistent and friendly staff, safe and inclusive, staff were able to manage behaviours and provide feedback to parents.”

(Parent Comment)

“The Blackfalds program was a new introduction to the town and with limited options for subsidized care with well trained staff, we jumped on the opportunity.”

(Parent Comment)

“BGC offers transportation from school, which is a huge help for working parents. They make it easy and I know my child is in good hands at BGC.”

(Parent Comment)

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

c. Community

BGC Wolf Creek conducts a Community Stakeholder survey annually. We have included the results below. While these results are not solely from Blackfalds, they do include input from this community. It is our opinion that they are a fair representation of the impact our programs have in the communities in which they are delivered.

Quantitative Outcomes

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	UNABLE TO COMMENT	TOTAL
BGC Wolf Creek offers a wide range of safe, fun, affordable, and relevant programs that meet the needs of children and youth in the community.	75.00% 21	21.43% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.57% 1	28
BGC Wolf Creek staff members are friendly, approachable, and helpful.	78.57% 22	21.43% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	28
BGC Wolf Creek staff members are knowledgeable and professional in our interactions with them.	78.57% 22	21.43% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	28
BGC Wolf Creek is visible in the community and has a positive reputation.	78.57% 22	21.43% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	28
BGC Wolf Creek communicates well with stakeholders regarding agency events, happenings, and news (e.g. through newsletters, website, news articles, presentations, open door atmosphere, etc.).	78.57% 22	21.43% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	28
BGC Wolf Creek actively seeks opportunities to collaborate with other stakeholders in the community and fosters the development of positive working relationships.	78.57% 22	21.43% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	28
We feel valued and appreciated as a stakeholder of BGC Wolf Creek.	75.00% 21	21.43% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.57% 1	28
We would recommend BGC Wolf Creek to families in our community.	78.57% 22	21.43% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	28
Our experience with BGC Wolf Creek has been positive.	78.57% 22	21.43% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	28

Qualitative Outcomes

“Even though I haven't been directly involved in many of the program offerings,

I know the positive impact BGC has had in our community, and we are deeply grateful to the staff and the support they have offered our schools and families during this first year. Your involvement in our community was well overdue, and it is fabulous to finally have you here. Thank you!”

(Community Stakeholder Comment)

“The program does an amazing job engaging can collaborating with the community. They are always willing to work for the best interests of children and families in the community. Go over and above to help families in need.”

(Community Stakeholder Comment)

“I appreciate that BGC has only been within Blackfalds a short time but has offered an abundance of programs to all ages. Continue what you are doing - your ability to collaborate and bring agencies together has already had a huge impact.”

(Community Stakeholder Comment)

d. HUB

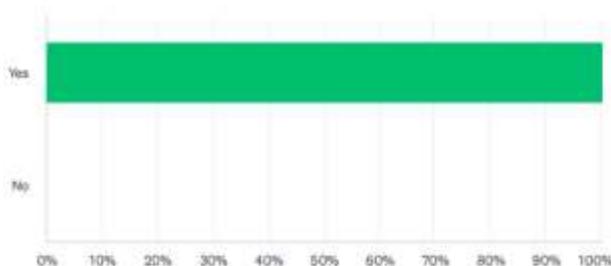
Another example of the impact our agency has had in the community steps beyond the walls of our programs and refers to HUB. HUB is a partnership of community agencies involved in human services, meeting monthly to coordinate targeted support for at-risk individuals and families. Information is shared intentionally and only as needed, using a three-filter system to protect privacy and provide effective intervention.

The Blackfalds HUB began functioning in 2025. The executive director of BGC Wolf Creek has been very instrumental in providing leadership and guidance in introducing HUB to this community, as well as helping it launch on solid footing so as to best impact the community right from the start. It has been a very successful endeavor thus far, as participating agencies combine their collective best in supporting and offering programs and services to the most vulnerable in the community.

• Quantitative Outcomes

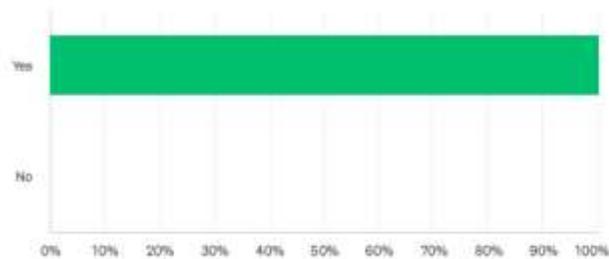
Q2 Has your agency found value in attending Hub meetings?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



Q5 Do you feel that Hub is meeting a need in the community?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 0



- Qualitative Outcomes**

“It has been very helpful to come together as a community to share strategies and resource connections, as well as work to develop potential next steps to support our children and families. As a school team working to support a complex student and family, you are always wondering what else we could do to provide support. Hearing strategies other agencies have explored and found success in has been helpful. It has been wonderful to have a variety of community agencies around the table to personally discuss our families. This in person conversation, with all parties supporting a family at the table, is more effective than working to connect over the phone. It has also been wonderful to have strong leadership guiding the HUB. This too has made a strong difference in the program being effective and beneficial.”

(Participating HUB Agency Comment)

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

BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds program delivery is a constant mix of establishing routines and providing a place where children know what to expect each day – with keeping our finger on the pulse of the status of programs to know and understand what is working and what changes may need to be made. In light of that, the following are the successes and challenges that we observed in 2025.

a. Successes

- ICC (Inclusive Child Care) Coaching**

Both children and staff have derived benefit from the opportunity to participate in ICC coaching over the year. ICC (Inclusive Child Care), a program offered by the Government of Alberta, “*assists child care programs and educators to build their capacity and confidence to include children who have extra support needs, increase families’ access to inclusive child care, and prevent the exclusion or removal of children from child care programs.*”

This coaching opportunity began to see some very positive results, so it actually extended beyond its original timeline and continued for several extra sessions. ICC helped staff develop program specific goals to meet the needs of Club members, some of which were very complex and difficult to address. Through education, practice, and skill development, staff members gained knowledge and tools which were put into action under the guidance of the ICC coach. This has been a significant success for our Club and, most importantly, the children and families we serve.

- **Staffing**

Staffing has been both a success and a challenge for us. At this point, we have had stable staffing since the beginning of the school year, and we are seeing the positive results of that play out. It has had positive impact on our children, youth, and families, as well as paving the way for us to build relationships with the broader community, since the same faces are becoming familiar.
- **BGC Bus**

This has been a gamechanger for many families. We have heard so many times that without the transportation piece being in place, several families would simply be unable to access programming.
- **Presence in the Community**

It takes time to become part of the community, and get past being the “new kid on the block,” but we feel we are hitting our stride with this. As we have attended and participated in many school and community events, spoken to hundreds of community members, visited local businesses, and accessed local amenities, we have slowly and surely found our place in this community – and we are excited about that!
- **HUB**

As mentioned, HUB is not a BGC Wolf Creek Blackfalds program, but we are closely involved in its functioning through leadership and participation. HUB has been a well-received addition to the community, with participation by likeminded stakeholders – the results of which will benefit the children, youth, and families who need targeted intervention, as well as hit several Social Priority areas for the town.

b. Challenges

- **Staffing**

Staffing continued to be a challenge in 2025. There was a significant amount of changeover of staff coming and going at all levels of staffing – management through to program assistants. Just when we thought we were settling in, there was illness, injury, changes in life circumstances, etc. and we were once again in the position of needing to hire new staff. While this would be a challenge at any time in the life of an organization, it was especially challenging when we were so new. This resulted in difficulty addressing challenging behaviour, difficulty in establishing routines, and difficulty in building relationships with our Club members and their families.
- **Teachers’ Strike**

The strike in the fall was also a challenge for our agency. We grappled with determining whether to reorganize and offer full day programs or wait and see. In the end, we did deliver full-day programming, but that many long days in a row were hard on our youngest Club members, as well as the staff.
- **Unique Schedules with Different School Divisions**

BGC Blackfalds draws Club members from both the Wolf Creek Public School division, as well as the Red Deer Catholic Regional School division. A challenge that has arisen is the non-alignment of their school schedules throughout the year. For example, one division was on Spring Break, so we delivered full-day programming for those children; however, the other division was still conducting classes as they chose to participate in Easter holidays. This meant we needed to release staff to drive the bus to pick up children for the After School program, while still having enough staff to remain with the full-day program children. While this is an issue we can adapt to, we sometimes find it challenging to the conflicting schedules of the different school divisions.

- **Extreme Behaviour**

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

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

- **Limited Access to the Gym**

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

- **BGC Bus**

Well...the bus. To quote Charles Dickens, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of time." This bus has been a godsend in so many ways as it has opened the doors for many children to attend our programs that might not otherwise be able to do so. It has also been used to transport our children on field trips which have been so exciting and helped round out our programs with new experiences and opportunities. However, it has not been without its challenges. Along with the general maintenance and upkeep, several issues have come to light in the last year that have needed to be addressed. While nothing has been major at this point, it has been a challenge in added expenses and manpower to ensure that it remains in safe and usable condition.

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

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

a. **Expansion of Youth Programming**

In response to indicated interest, we will be expanding our programming for youth ages 12-18. We will continue to offer noon hour drop in programming at the Iron Ridge Secondary Campus for youth in Grades 9-12. We will also be introducing Lead Up at the Iron Ridge Junior Campus for youth in Grades 7-8. Lead Up is a leadership program that is designed to help youth grow as leaders and make an impact within their Club, their school, and their communities. Lead Up focuses on 5 core values of leadership, teamwork, healthy choices, service to Club and community, and learning. As we continue to develop relationships with

youth and determine their needs, we are open to the delivery of further youth programming in the next year.

b. Before School Care

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

7. Were positive community partnerships formed as a result of this program/project?

How will this help to sustain your program/project in the future? Please describe.

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

A major partnership is with the school divisions whose students we welcome to our programs. Wolf Creek Public Schools has a very long history of supporting our agency, as we have worked together for over 20 years. This year, we have also forged a partnership with the Red Deer Catholic Regional School Division, their staff members, and student body. Both school divisions have been very welcoming and supportive as we work together to meet the needs of children.

We are also thankful for the partnerships we have with Blackfalds FCSS, the Town of Blackfalds, Lacombe County – all of whom provide support in a wide range of ways, whether it be financial, community knowledge, guidance, data, or simply cheering us on.

The community has become a collective partner, as was seen during the Santa’s Bids for Kids fundraising event. Citizens and small businesses alike participated through the donations of goods and services, as well as bidding on the auction items themselves. A unique example of community support was the toy campaign that the “Book Man of Blackfalds” organized in cooperation with A & W that resulted in a huge number of toys being donated to our Club for our children to enjoy. Another supportive business is Blackfalds Boston Pizza that is running their Heart Campaign in support of our agency. These gestures of support encourage us each day and remind us that this is a community that pulls together and joins us in caring about kids!

As outlined above, the launch of Blackfalds HUB has provided us with the opportunity to develop further relationships with likeminded stakeholders, as we partner in targeting the needs of those most vulnerable and at-risk in the community.

With strong partnerships such as those we have established over our first full year of program delivery, we know that we are situated well as we look to the future. We have key players in the community partnering with us, which strengthens our ability to determine, understand, and meet the needs of families in the community. Based on the success of this past year, the future looks bright!

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



Waiver:

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

Name: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Position: _____

Signature _____

Signature _____

BGC BLACKFALDS
January-December 2025

INCOME	2025	MONTHLY	TOTAL YTD
AID STAFF	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 833.33	\$ -
CHILD CARE FEES		\$ -	\$ -
Staff Retention Stability	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 12,233.15
Subsidized ASP/SOD Child Care Fees (ASP/SOD 24/ Summ	\$ 73,230.00	\$ 6,102.50	\$ 64,443.38
Non-Subsidized ASP/SOD Child Care fees	\$ 73,230.00	\$ 6,102.50	\$ 84,549.12
INTEREST	\$ 500.00	\$ 41.67	\$ 694.55
FCSS	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 833.33	\$ 9,000.00
FUNDRAISERS		\$ -	\$ -
Santa's Bids For Kids	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 3,307.28
Miscellaneous	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 416.67	\$ -
MISCELLANEOUS GRANTS AND DONATIONS	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 833.33	\$ 28,390.30
UNITED WAY GRANT 2024/2025	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 833.33	\$ 3,065.69
UNITED WAY GRANT 2025/2026	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 833.33	\$ 2,850.00
TOTAL IN	\$ 209,960.00	\$ 17,496.67	\$ 208,533.47
EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATION			
BGC OF WOLF CREEK (14% yearly budget)	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 2,083.33	\$ 20,662.58
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 2,083.33	\$ 20,662.58
GENERAL PROGRAMMING COSTS			
BGC MEMBERSHIP FEES	\$ 450.00	\$ 37.50	\$ 650.00
BENEVOLENT FUND			\$ 386.14
BUS COSTS	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 166.67	\$ 1,710.28
DIRECTOR OF CHILD CARE (20%)	\$ 15,111.00	\$ 1,259.25	\$ 12,034.61
INSURANCE (Bus and School)	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 325.48
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	\$ 200.00	\$ 16.67	\$ -
MARKETING & PROMOTIONS	\$ 900.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 678.65
MILEAGE/FUEL*	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 208.33	\$ 6,831.84
OFFICE EXPENSES			
Office Capital Expenditures	\$ 300.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 81.13
Office Rent/Phone	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 91.67	\$ 853.61
Photocopies/Tonor	\$ 300.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 24.98
Office Supplies	\$ 150.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 204.75
REGISTRATION COSTS (20%)	\$ 6,554.00	\$ 546.17	\$ 4,649.18
STAFF AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION	\$ 750.00	\$ 62.50	\$ 870.88
STAFF AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 83.33	\$ 669.94
STAFF WAGE TOP UP			\$ 8,298.34
MERCHANT FEES			\$ 1,628.53
TECHNOLOGY	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 141.67	\$ 2,333.15
WCB	\$ 750.00	\$ 62.50	\$ 1,624.64
Total General Programming	\$ 35,565.00	\$ 2,963.75	\$ 43,856.13
ASP & SOD PROGRAMMING			
PROGRAM MANAGER/COORDINATOR			
Wages (35hrs x44wks x\$21.00/hr)	\$ 32,340.00	\$ 2,695.00	\$ 31,172.30
PROGRAM ASSISTANT		\$ -	\$ -
Wages (21hrs x 44wks x \$16)	\$ 14,784.00	\$ 1,232.00	\$ 16,655.77
SR PROGRAM ASSISTANT		\$ -	\$ -

Wages (23hrs x 44wks x \$16.25)	\$ 16,445.00	\$ 1,370.42	\$ 13,460.38
PROGRAM STAFF M.E.R.C. 11.6%	\$ 7,374.00	\$ 614.50	\$ -
AID STAFF	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 833.33	\$ -
EXPANSION STAFF	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 833.33	\$ -
FLOAT STAFF (20%)	\$ 3,476.00	\$ 289.67	\$ 2,747.83
STAFF BENEFITS	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,636.17
PROGRAMMING EQUIPMENT	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 83.33	\$ (450.37)
S.O.D. (\$50/day x 22days) (3 snow days included)	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 104.17	\$ 470.91
S.O.D. Trips/Guests	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 166.67	\$ 814.76
Bi-Annual Supply Stock-Up	\$ 750.00	\$ 62.50	\$ 381.80
ASP Snacks (\$400/mth x 10mths)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 333.33	\$ 2,326.90
ASP Supplies(\$300/mth x 10mths)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,503.79
YOUTH EXPANSION PROGRAM (OPTIONAL TEEN PROGRAM)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 416.67	\$ 1,598.40
Total ASP & SOD Programming	\$ 113,819.00	\$ 9,484.92	\$ 72,318.64
SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMMING			
PROGRAM MANAGER/COORDINATOR			
Wages (37hrs x 8wks x \$20)	\$ 5,920.00	\$ 493.33	\$ 8,220.00
PROGRAM COORDINATOR			
Wages (35hrs x 8wks x \$16.75hrs)	\$ 4,690.00	\$ 390.83	\$ 5,854.07
PROGRAM ASSISTANT - Three positions			
Wages (35hrs x 8wks x \$16.50)	\$ 13,860.00	\$ 1,155.00	\$ 18,748.00
SUMMER PROGRAM STAFF M.E.R.C. 11.6%	\$ 2,825.00	\$ 235.42	\$ -
Summer Camp (\$400/wk x 8wks)	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 266.67	\$ 1,599.81
Summer Camp Trips	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 8,039.72
Summer Camp T Shirts	\$ 100.00	\$ 8.33	\$ 1,323.84
Total Summer Programming	\$ 37,595.00	\$ 3,132.92	\$ 43,785.44
Total Programm Expenses	\$ 186,979.00	\$ 15,581.58	\$ 159,960.21
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES			
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	\$ 200.00	\$ 16.67	\$ 80.74
GRANTS AND OUTCOME MEASUREMENTS	\$ 750.00	\$ 62.50	\$ -
TOTAL FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	\$ 950.00	\$ 79.17	\$ 80.74
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 212,929.00	\$ 17,744.08	\$ 192,850.74
NET INCOME	-\$ 2,969.00	\$ (247.42)	\$ 15,682.73

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, February 19 at **7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

4.4 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: SAWYER HICK
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS- FINAL REPORT



Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services

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

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

Email fcss@blackfalds.com

2025 FCSS Grant Funding Final Report

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

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

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

Project Name: Big Brothers Big Sisters Community-Based and In-School Mentoring Programs

Report Completion Date: January 30, 2026 _____

Due Dates: January 31, 2026

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

Regards,

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

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

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

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

Name of Project: Big Brothers Big Sisters Community-Based and In-School Mentoring Programs

Project Timeline: January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Revenue	
FCSS Contribution	\$9000

Organizations Contribution	\$97,518

Expenditures	
FCSS Eligible Expenditures	\$91,645
(Actual amount as approved in application)	_____
Other Expenditures	\$23,853

Revenue minus eligible expenditures	\$106,518 - \$115,498

Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (8980)

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

Due Dates: January 31, 2026

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) offers a variety of mentoring programs designed to help children and youth in the community realize their full potential. Many of the children and youth served by BBBSLD experience multiple risk factors associated with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), highlighting the importance of stable, supportive mentoring relationships. Through one-to-one and group mentoring programs, BBBSLD provides consistent, caring relationships that support positive mental health, emotional resilience, and ensure children and youth have access to an additional piece of their support system to help them thrive.

The Community-Based 1:1 Mentoring Program matches a youth with a caring adult mentor through a thorough intake and matching process. Mentors complete a detailed interview and screening process that allows the organization to gain a strong understanding of their interests, strengths, and availability, ensuring the best possible mentor-mentee match. All mentors participate in pre-match training prior to being matched. Once matched, they meet approximately 6-8 hours a month. Matches engage in a variety of like-minded activities, attend community events, volunteer, and explore local opportunities together. Through these experiences, youth build meaningful relationships, develop life skills, and gain a greater understanding of their community. This program aligns with evidence-based research from *The Chronicles of Evidence-Based Mentoring*, which found that the majority of youth (78.4%) and parents (59.4%) reported that mentors were actively working with youth on achieving specific goals, reinforcing the effectiveness of goal-focused mentoring relationships.

The In-School 1:1 Mentoring Program takes place within the school environment, outside of the classroom setting. Matches meet for one hour each week throughout the school year and participate in like-minded activities that support relationship building and positive development. This program also includes the Teen Mentoring Program where youth aged 14 and older are eligible to become mentors. Teen Mentoring is equally beneficial for both mentors and mentees, fostering leadership development, problem-solving skills, communication skills, and increased confidence while strengthening peer-to-peer connections.

BBBSLD delivers Group Mentoring Programs including Game On and Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds, hosted with Grade 5 classes within local schools. Game On incorporates physical activity alongside facilitated discussions focused on emotional well-being, teamwork, sportsmanship, and communication. Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds takes a holistic approach, emphasizing mindfulness, self-care, and emotional well-being. These programs promote emotional, mental, physical, and social well-being while strengthening social connections among peers.

The Kids N Kops Summer Day Camp Mentoring Program is delivered in partnership with the Lacombe Police Service, Blackfalds RCMP, and Blackfalds Municipal

Enforcement. The program engages youth in team-building activities, crime-solving scenarios, and hands-on experiences that provide insight into law enforcement. This mentoring program builds positive relationships and mutual respect between the youth, officers, BBBSLD staff, and volunteers, while reinforcing positive decision-making and community connection.

Additionally, BBBSLD offers the Adopt-a-Family Program, providing support to families facing financial challenges during the holiday season. This program helps reduce stress and ensure families feel supported.

In 2025, BBBSLD facilitated a total of 219 mentoring relationships in Blackfalds, representing 51% of overall program numbers across all BBBSLD mentoring initiatives. This reflects the ongoing need for mentoring services in Blackfalds and BBBSLD's continued commitment to providing consistent, supportive relationships that positively impact children and youth in Blackfalds.

The organization experienced growth in the Community-Based 1:1 mentoring program, demonstrating the ongoing demand for long-term, relationship focused mentoring. In response to this need, BBBSLD successfully launched the Teen Mentoring Program in Blackfalds, expanding service capacity while empowering youth aged 14 and older to take on leadership roles as mentors. This program supports both mentors and mentees by building leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills while strengthening peer connections.

Participation in the In-School 1:1 Mentoring Program remained steady throughout the year, continuing to provide consistent weekly support to students within the school setting. While Group Mentoring Programs saw a decrease in participation, BBBSLD continued to prioritize meaningful engagement and quality programming for participating classrooms.

Beyond mentoring, BBBSLD expanded its support for families through the Adopt-a-Family Program, assisting a greater number of families during the holiday season and helping reduce financial stress during a critical time of year. Additionally, 12 youth participated in the Kids N Kops Summer Day Camp.

BBBSLD continues to strengthen each individual mentoring relationship by providing consistent staff support, ongoing mentor training, and opportunities for continued growth. Guided by developmental relationship principles such as expressing care, challenging growth, sharing power, expanding possibilities, and providing support, BBBSLD mentoring programs ensure children and youth have a trusted adult and meaningful opportunities that help them thrive.

Supporting Statistics and Community Involvement	
Direct Programs Offered	Participant Numbers
Game On	102
Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds	77
Teen Mentoring	11
Community-Based Mentoring	12
In-School Mentoring	4
Kids N Kops Summer Day Camp Mentoring	12
Site-Based Mentoring	1
Adopt-a-Family Program	27 youth, 45 ind., 11 families
Waitlist	20
Community Education and Awareness	Population Reached
Turn the Town Teal	8 businesses/organizations
40 Mentors in 40 Days Campaign	10 signs around the community
Easter BBQ	Approx. 125
Community Info & Expo Fair	Approx. 150
Festival of Wreaths – Abbey Centre	15 wreaths
2 nd Annual Rubber Duck Drop Fundraiser	Approx. 150
Interagency Meetings	5 meetings attended
Volunteerism	Participating Number
Community-Based Mentors	12
In-School Mentors	4
Teen Mentors	11
Board of Directors	4
Group Mentoring – Game On and Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds	4
Kids N Kops Summer Day Camp Mentoring	12
Adopt-a-Family	6
Fundraising	17
Staff Development	Staff Involved
Developmental Relationship Training	2
Mental Health First Aid	1
Service Delivery Staff Training	1
Child Safety Protection	2
Palix Foundation Brain Story	1
Geographical Area Served	
Blackfalds, Lacombe, Bentley, Eckville, Alix, Clive, 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;

BBBSLD mentoring programs support children and youth in developing independence, strengthening coping skills, and increasing resilience to crisis through consistent, caring mentoring relationships. Through one-to-one and group mentoring, youth build confidence, decision-making skills, and problem-solving skills by setting goals, exploring interests, and navigating challenges alongside a

trusted mentor. Mentors provide emotional support and help youth learn how to manage stress, regulate emotions, and communicate effectively. This ongoing support reduces isolation and ensures youth have a reliable adult they can turn to during difficult times. One mentor stated, "I think my mentee has become more confident in himself, in his interests and with making connections or trying new things".

By fostering stable relationships and positive skill development, BBBSLD supports youth in becoming better equipped to handle adversity and more resistant to crisis, contributing to improved well-being and long-term positive outcomes. When asking in a survey "As a result of my mentor, I am better at handling whatever comes my way", 98% of youth responded positively.

- Help people to develop an awareness of social needs;

The organization engages with the community in many different ways, making the organization present and visible in the community. Our community initiatives and events help raise awareness of social need while promoting the value of mentoring.

The Turn the Town Teal campaign involves local businesses in Blackfalds who decorate with teal during Big Brothers Big Sisters Month. By participating, businesses become advocates for mentoring and help share information about BBBSLD programs with the wider community. Additionally, the 40 Mentors in 40 Days campaign highlights the ongoing need for mentors. Seeing these signs throughout the community connects residents with our organization.

The Blackfalds Community Info Expo allows BBBSLD to share information about programs and services with a wide range of the community, reaching diverse demographics. Attending school events and fairs further ensures families learn about the programs offered and can meet staff in person, fostering engagement.

Hosting community fundraisers also strengthens our presence and advocacy efforts. These events not only generate support for our programs but also clearly demonstrate to attendees how their contributions help youth in their community. Our social media presence amplifies all these efforts, sharing upcoming events, mentoring stories, and volunteer recruitment opportunities, while connecting in local community groups.

By engaging with these initiatives, community members not only learn about BBBSLD programs but also gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and need of youth in the community, fostering advocacy and a willingness to support positive outcomes.

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

BBBSLD programs help children and youth develop strong interpersonal and group skills that support positive, constructive relationships with peers, mentors, families, and community members. Through one-to-one mentoring relationships, youth learn effective communication, active listening, and trust-building by engaging regularly with a consistent, caring mentor.

Group mentoring programs further enhance social and group-based skills by providing opportunities for teamwork, cooperation, leadership, and respectful communication. Programs such as Game On, Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds, and Kids N Kops engage youth in structured group activities that encourage collaboration, problem-solving, and shared decision making while promoting mutual respect. “My son has an anxiety disorder and the other day he was able to say one word in front of the entire class! He’s never done that before.” – Parent of a youth in the Game On program.

The Teen Mentoring program also supports the development of leadership and peer-to-peer relationships skills, as youth mentors learn to guide, support, and communicate effectively. A teen mentor noted “Volunteering as a mentor has

helped me become a better leader. I also think the program has helped me feel like I'm making a difference.”

Across all programs, BBBSLD intentionally creates safe, supportive environments where youth can practice interpersonal or group skills that foster positive relationships, strengthen social connections, and contribute to a more inclusive and connected community.

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

BBBSLD programs empower children, youth, and community members to take responsibility for decisions and actions that impact their lives and the broader community. Through one-to-one mentoring, youth are encouraged to set personal goals, reflect on choices and understand the consequences of their decisions with the guidance and support of a trusted mentor. This process builds confidence, accountability, and decision-making skills that support positive outcomes.

The Teen mentoring program further strengthens responsibility by providing youth with leadership opportunities where they take ownership of their role as mentors. Teen mentors learn to model positive behaviour, commit to consistent engagement, and recognize the impact their actions have on others.

The Kids N Kops Summer Day Camp Mentoring program supports shared responsibility and civic awareness by engaging youth in team-building activities, problem-solving scenarios, and hands-on learning alongside local law enforcement. Through this program, participants gain a better understanding of community safety, respectful decision making, and the role individuals play in contributing to a safe and supportive community. Positive interactions with officers also reinforce accountability, mutual respect, and trust. When completing a survey, 95% of participating youth responded positively to “As a result of participating in Kids N' Kops, I understand more about why it is important to help others.”

At the community level, BBBSLD initiatives encourage shared responsibility for supporting youth, community campaigns, volunteer recruitment efforts, and fundraising events engage residents and local businesses in actively contributing to mentoring programs and youth development. By participating, community members recognize their role in creating safe, supportive environments where children and youth can thrive.

Through these combined efforts, BBBSLD fosters a culture of responsibility, empowerment, and civic engagement, ensuring individuals and the community are actively involved in decisions and actions that affect their collective well-being.

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

The mentoring programs offered by our organization provide a variety of supports designed to help children and youth remain active and engaged participants in their community.

Through one-to-one mentoring, youth build lasting connections with caring mentors who provide guidance, encouragement, and support, helping them stay engaged in positive activities both inside and outside of school. Regular match check-ins ensure that youth remain connected and continue to grow socially and emotionally over time. This aligns with findings from *Mapping the Mentoring Gap: The State of Mentoring in Canada (2021)* by Mentor Canada, which found that mentored youth are more than twice as likely to report a strong sense of belonging to their local community compared to non-mentored youth.

Programs such as the Teen Mentoring program and Kids N Kops Summer Day Camp further support sustained engagement by offering youth leadership opportunities, hands-on experiences, and meaningful interactions with peers, mentors, and the community. These experiences encourage youth to take on responsibility, participate actively, and contribute positively to their community.

Group mentoring programs provide additional opportunities for youth to practice teamwork and communication while participating in activities. By participating in these group experiences, youth build peer-to-peer connections, strengthen social skills, and remain active members of both their peer groups and the wider community.

Additionally, BBBSLD's community initiatives strengthen the connection between youth, families, and the community. By providing ongoing opportunities for involvement, advocacy, and civic engagement, BBBSLD ensures participants remain connected, empowered, and actively contributing members of the community, setting the foundation for long-term positive outcomes. Survey results revealed that 83% of youth responded positively to the question "Participating in Kids N' Kops has helped me feel like I belong in my neighborhood/community." And 100% of mentors that completed the survey agreed that they think the volunteer work they do make their community a better place to live.

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

In 2025, BBBSLD successfully reached the intended population, with youth from Blackfalds representing 51% of total program participation. Overall, the total number of mentoring relationships in Blackfalds increased, reflecting growth and expanded impact in the community.

Community-Based 1:1 mentoring program witnessed growth, providing more youth with long-

term, supportive relationships. Additionally, there was growth in the number of participants from Blackfalds who took part in the Kids N Kops Summer Day Camp mentoring program.

The Teen Mentoring program expanded to include students from Iron Ridge Secondary Campus and Iron Ridge Elementary Campus.

In-School 1:1 mentoring remained steady, highlighting the longevity and consistency of those matches, which continue to provide meaningful support for students.

Group Mentoring programs continued to engage youth in collaborative activities that strengthen social skills, teamwork, and constructive peer relationships. While there was a slight decrease in participation in Group Mentoring programs, these programs remain an important part of our mentoring services fostering collaboration, social skills, and a sense of community among participants.

Through these efforts, BBBSLD not only served the youth and families we intended but also expanded our reach and strengthened program offering, ensuring children and youth have access to supportive mentoring relationships and meaningful community engagement opportunities.

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

BBBSLD remains committed to outcomes-driven mentoring by continuously assessing program effectiveness through participant surveys, ongoing match support conversations, staff observations, and shared success stories. In 2025, surveys were completed by mentees (324), mentors (13), and parent/guardians (41) using the Family & Community Support Services (FCSS) Provincial Priority Measures framework. The insights gathered through this evaluation process help BBBSLD strengthen program delivery, improve overall quality, and maximize positive outcomes for the children and youth we serve.

When asked, "As a result of having a mentor, I have more confidence in myself," 95% of youth responded positively.

BBBSLD mentoring programs had a meaningful impact on the children and youth served by supporting confidence, emotional well-being, social skills, and a sense of belonging. Across programs, youth demonstrated increased willingness to try new things, improved communication, stronger peer relationships, and deeper connections. These outcomes are supported by program surveys, parent/guardian feedback, match check-ins, and staff observations. This local impact aligns with national findings from *Mapping the Mentoring Gap: The State of Mentoring in Canada (2021)* by Mentor Canada, which highlights that mentored youth experience stronger mental well-being, a greater sense of belonging within their communities, and continued interest in mentoring relationships, demonstrating both immediate and long-term benefits of mentoring.

Group Mentoring programs created safe, supportive environments. Parent/guardian of a youth from the Game On program noted the value of team connection, consistency, and

feedback within the program by stating “My daughter loved the team connection, the consistency and the feedback received. I hope there will be opportunities as such in the future”.

Community-Based 1:1 Mentoring supported youth in developing social awareness, confidence, and trust-based relationships. Mentee survey results showed strong growth in learning how to show respect for others. When asked about social awareness (I am learning how to show respect to others different than me), 89% of mentees responded positively. Youth also shared examples of trying new experiences with their mentor and one youth when asked “Can you share a personal story about a time that your mentor helped you try something new?” responded, “When he took me fishing for the first time.” Mentor surveys further reinforced these outcomes, with all mentors who completed the survey reporting that they were helping their mentee feel more confident, and the majority indicating that their mentee had improved in expressing feelings. Mentors described their relationships as safe, rewarding, and impactful, reflecting the quality of these matches.

The Kids N Kops mentoring program had particularly strong impact on belonging, confidence, and community connection. Survey results showed that most participants felt a greater sense of belonging in their neighborhood, increased confidence in their abilities, improved ability to make friends, and a stronger understanding of the importance of helping others. When asked “As a result of participating in Kids N’ Kops, I have more confidence in myself and my abilities.” 88% of youth responded positively.

The expansion of the Teen Mentoring program resulted in positive outcomes for both teen mentors and mentees. Teen mentors reported personal growth, including increased confidence, leadership development, improved communication skills, and a stronger sense of purpose. Teen mentors were asked “How have you benefitted from this experience?” One teen mentor answered, “I am more confident in speaking to new people and building new relationships, which was one of my goals when I began.” Another answered “I find that BBBS has helped me destress and overall be happier. My mentee may have learned from me, but I also learned from her. She reminded me of who I used to be and how I can change for the future.”

The impact of BBBSLD mentoring programs extended beyond individual participants to the broader community. One adult mentor stated, “being a mentor helps me feel more connected to my community and to be aware that everyone has a life story to share.” Mentors shared that volunteering helped them build empathy, patience, and understanding. These outcomes demonstrate how BBBSLD’s mentoring programs support sustained community engagement and shared responsibility for the well-being of children and youth.

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

The launch of the Teen Mentoring Program was a major success, made possible through close collaboration with the school liaisons, mentors, and program staff. Bringing this program to life was truly a team effort, including mentor recruitment, the matching process, and weekly matches which demonstrates that it takes a village to support youth. Serving the target demographic was also successful, with youth actively engaging and forming meaningful connections.

The Kids N Kops Summer Day Camp filled quickly, reflecting strong demand and community interest, though we maintained a small waitlist of Blackfalds youth.

Community engagement initiatives also thrived, with great participation in events such as the Rubber Duck Drop, Festival of Wreaths, and Turn the Town Teal, further strengthening our visibility and connections in the community. Through community initiatives and transparent communication about program needs and financial pressures, the organization experienced

increased community support. As awareness of these pressures grew, community members responded with additional donations, contributing to higher overall donation revenue.

Challenges arose alongside these successes. Transportation costs became a barrier for the Teen Mentoring Program, however, we ensured it did not negatively impact participation or outcomes.

Growing demand and budget constraints presented ongoing challenges. While we were able to expand programming, maintaining high-quality mentoring experiences requires sufficient funding, and operating within budget pressures. Running a deficit in Blackfalds' 2025 budget underscores the importance of sustainable revenue strategies. Balancing revenue streams while maintaining program quality remains a key consideration for future growth. While program expansion has been successful, stable funding is essential to maintain high-quality mentoring experiences and meet the growing community demand. While BBBSLD was able to secure additional funding through other grants to support program delivery, this approach is not sustainable long-term. The ability to supplement funding in this way required significant staff capacity. In 2026, BBBSLD will be operating with a team of two full-time staff members. While the organization remains committed to maintaining high-quality mentoring programs, limited staff capacity will place constraints on the ability to continually source additional funding to fill budget gaps. Stable and predictable funding will be essential. This context highlights the importance of ongoing funding support to maintain program continuity, protect staff well-being, and ensure that children and youth continue to receive consistent, high-quality mentoring services. We must continue to look for passive and reliable sources of income.

Volunteer recruitment, particularly in Blackfalds, continues to be a priority, as Community-Based and In-School programs still carry waitlists despite the expansion of Teen Mentoring.

Overall, these successes and challenges highlight both the strength of our community partnerships and program delivery.

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

Based on program outcomes, participant feedback, and emerging community needs, BBBSLD will continue to focus on key improvements to strengthen program access, quality, and sustainability.

One priority area is addressing transportation barriers, within the Teen Mentoring Program. BBBSLD will continue to explore transportation supports, and partnerships.

BBBSLD will also continue to strengthen volunteer recruitment efforts, with a specific focus on Blackfalds, where demand for Community-Based and In-School mentoring continues to exceed volunteer availability. Expanding targeted recruitment strategies and enhancing volunteer retention efforts will help reduce waitlists and allow more youth to be matched.

To better support youth who are currently on waitlists, BBBSLD will continue to keep these youth and families engaged. This includes continuing to invite them to participate in agency-wide events such as the Great BIG Christmas Dinner, Great BIG Picnic, and Adopt-a-Family, helping youth remain connected to BBBSLD and feel supported. Additionally, regular reassessments will be completed to ensure information remains up to date, allowing youth to be matched quickly and appropriately when mentors become available.

To maintain the high quality of mentoring relationships as programs grow, BBBSLD will continue to offer ongoing mentor training, supervision, and support, ensuring mentors feel prepared and supported throughout the match.

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.

Community partnerships play a vital role in helping BBBSLD programs thrive by bringing shared expertise, resources, and genuine community commitment into our work. Programs such as Kids N Kops are made possible through the leadership of the Blackfalds RCMP and Municipal Enforcement, who bring their knowledge, experience, and authentic engagement to create meaningful learning opportunities and positive connections for youth.

Blackfalds FCSS serves as a strong advocate for mentoring by sharing information about BBBSLD programs, inviting our organization to interagency meetings, and supporting collaborative community planning.

Our partnerships with local schools and school liaisons are essential in coordinating and welcoming mentoring programs into school environments, from facilitating communication with families to organizing group mentoring sessions and participating in events such as Walk for Kids' Sake.

Local businesses and organizations also play a critical role in sustaining our work by consistently showing up and investing in the success of our programs. Participating businesses return year after year to support initiatives such as Turn the Town Teal, Festival of Wreaths, and community fundraisers, including donations for the BIG Bid Auction and participation in the Rubber Duck Drop.

Community groups such as UBAKA demonstrate their support by engaging in events like MEGABike and the Easter BBQ, while the Blackfalds Bulldogs contribute through initiatives such as decorating Smile Cookies, supporting Adopt-a-Family, and serving as positive role models for youth in BBBSLD programs.

Volunteers are the foundation of BBBSLD's mentoring programs and play a critical role in delivering meaningful, relationship-based support to children and youth. In 2025, a total of 187 volunteers dedicated 5,926 hours to mentoring and program support. This level of volunteer engagement reflects a strong community commitment to mentorship and demonstrates the essential role volunteers play in helping BBBSLD meet the needs of children and youth across the communities we serve. These volunteer hours represent more than time contributed, they reflect consistent, caring relationships that support confidence, belonging, skill development, and positive life outcomes for young people.

Together, these partnerships, along with the many individuals and organizations who donate, volunteer, attend events, and share information, create a strong network of support that allows BBBSLD to expand its reach, strengthen program quality, and better serve children, youth, and families in the community.

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.

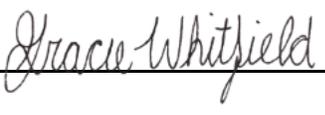
Name: Jen Harty

Name: Gracie Whitfield

Position: Interim Executive Director

Position: Mentoring Coordinator

Signature  _____

Signature  _____

2025 Year in Review! Blackfalds



Blackfalds Teen Mentoring



Mentor Dena & Mentee Bronx



2nd Annual Rubber Duck Drop



**Bulldogs Decorating
Holiday Smile Cookies**



Kids N Kops @ Eagle Builders



**Walk for Kids'
Sake**

2025 Year in Review!



Great BIG Christmas Dinner



Kids N Kops with Bulldogs Bus



Game On!



**Mentor Sue &
Mentee Kowyn**



Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds



**Developmental
Relationship Training**



**Mentor Sierra & Mentee Kyleigh
Volunteering**



Adopt-a-Family

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, February 19 at **7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

4.5 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: SAWYER HICK
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: IRON RIDGE ELEMENTARY-FINAL REPORT



Blackfalds Family & Community Support Services
5018 Waghorn Street, Box 220, Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0
Phone (403) 600-9066 **Fax** (403) 885-0011
Email fcss@blackfalds.com

2025 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: Connection Club

Report Completion Date: January 12th, 2026

Due Dates: January 31, 2026

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

Regards,

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

A larger handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. Hick'.

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

[m](#)

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Name of Funded Agency: Iron Ridge Elementary Campus

Name of Project: Connection Club

Project Timeline: September 2025-June 2026

Revenue

FCSS Contribution \$5775

Organization's Contribution \$5225

Expenditures

FCSS Eligible Expenditures \$5775

(Actual amount as approved
in application)

Other Expenditures \$5225

Revenue minus eligible
expenditures \$0

Surplus/(Deficit) \$0

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

Due Dates: January 31, 2026



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

The Connection Club provides a safe, caring, and welcoming space for our at-risk students to connect with a school social worker each morning. Our goals are to set students up for a successful day by offering meaningful connection, social skills development, social-emotional learning, and a light, healthy snack. Research shows that strong, healthy connections with caring adults in school help foster resilience in students.

Supporting Statistics and Community Involvement	
Direct Programs Offered	Participant Numbers
Breakfast Program	40 Students per Day
Classroom Bins	450 Students/week
Community Education and Awareness	Population Reached
Iron Ridge Elementary School Parent Community	1000 Parents
Volunteerism	Participating Number
Parents who helped with	2
Staff Development	Staff Involved
School Social Worker, 3 EAs and an Assistant Principal	6
Teachers	20
Geographical Area Served	
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.

Our program is designed to support students in developing independence, strengthening coping skills, and building resilience in the face of challenges. Each morning, students



have structured opportunities to cultivate connections, practice essential life skills, and build positive relationships with peers. For students who may arrive having had a difficult start to the day, staff members are available to provide a warm greeting, attentive listening, and support for emotional regulation, ensuring that every student feels seen and supported. Additionally, the provision of a healthy breakfast snack contributes to a positive start to the day, supporting both well-being and readiness to engage in learning. Through these intentional daily practices, students are better equipped to navigate challenges, engage socially and academically, and develop the skills necessary for long-term personal growth



Help people to develop an awareness of social needs;

This program has raised awareness of students' social and emotional needs while highlighting challenges such as food insecurity and other obstacles students face before arriving at school in the morning. Parents have noted that it is easier to get their children to attend school knowing they have a safe, consistent, and supportive environment to begin their day at a slower, more manageable pace.

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

Our Connection Club has helped students develop interpersonal and group skills that enhance constructive relationships by explicitly teaching these skills each morning. Students practice waiting their turn, greeting staff and peers, and cleaning up after themselves, which reinforces responsibility and cooperation. We have also observed that many families are no longer eating together regularly. Through Connection Club, students are learning the social and communication skills needed to engage in meaningful conversations around the table, including turn-taking, active engagement, and sharing.

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

The Connection Club helps students develop responsibility for their decisions and actions by providing structured opportunities to make choices in a supportive environment. Students practice personal accountability through routines such as greeting peers and staff, waiting their turn, participating in conversations, and cleaning up after breakfast. These daily responsibilities reinforce the connection between actions and outcomes, helping students understand the impact of their behaviour on themselves and others. Over time, students carry these skills into the classroom and their broader school community, contributing positively to group interactions, making thoughtful decisions, and recognizing their role in creating a safe and respectful environment.

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

The Connection Club provides support that helps students remain active participants in their school community by creating a safe, predictable, and engaging environment each morning. Through structured routines such as sharing breakfast, participating in conversations, and completing group tasks, students develop social, emotional, and



interpersonal skills that enable them to engage confidently with peers and staff. The consistent presence of supportive staff helps students regulate emotions and navigate challenges, ensuring they are prepared to participate fully in classroom and school activities. By fostering these skills and providing a welcoming environment, the program encourages ongoing engagement and a sense of belonging, both essential to sustained participation in the broader school community.

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

The Connection Club successfully engaged the students we aimed to support, providing them with a safe, structured, and welcoming start to the day. While the primary focus remained on the intended population, we also observed that other students, who may not have been initially identified, benefited from the program and chose to participate, effectively expanding its positive impact. Any student, on any day, could access the Connection Club room as needed, with no questions asked. On many occasions, the program was the key factor that encouraged students to enter the school building rather than refuse to attend.

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 program strengthened the school community by fostering a culture of care, respect, and connection. Students who developed interpersonal and coping skills through the program were better able to contribute positively to classroom interactions and group activities. Families also reported that the program made it easier to get their children to school and supported a smoother start to the day, reinforcing partnerships between school and home. The impact is evident across multiple sources: staff observations, parent feedback, and student engagement data. Staff consistently noted improvements in students' ability to regulate emotions, participate in conversations, and cooperate with peers. Parents reported that the program increased attendance and improved their children's readiness to learn. Additionally, daily participation and voluntary access to the Connection Club demonstrate sustained engagement and consistent benefits for the intended population.

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

Successes:



- Served approximately 700 breakfasts each month
- Keep classroom bins stocked and ready for all students
- Partnered with Hope Mission for fruit
- Students were regulated going to class
- Teachers noticed an improvement in students learning
- Had a dedicated staff in charge of organizing
- Parents noticed that their children were not fighting going to school

Challenge:

- We had fridge and freezers that broke and we had to replace
- New students who needed to learn the expectations for Connection Club

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

There is nothing I would change about the program. I sincerely hope that we can run the program again next year.

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.

We developed community partnerships with the Bulldogs' hockey team, who joined our students for breakfast on Wednesdays. However, the most meaningful outcome was the strengthened connection with parents. We formed closer relationships with our at-risk families through a positive, non-threatening opportunity to connect. Parents felt cared for and supported, knowing that we were prioritizing their children's needs first thing in the morning. Although it won't help to sustain our program, it goes so far in our relationship with parents in our community.

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.





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: Katelin Fesyk

Name: Vicky Sahlin

Position: Assistant Principal

Position: Principal

Signature: *Katelin Fesyk*

Signature: *Vicky Sahlin*

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

4.6 BUSINESS

MEMO TO: FCSS BOARD

**FROM: SAWYER HICK
FCSS MANAGER**

ISSUE: VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

BACKGROUND:

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

For 2026, FCSS will be combining the two events, into one large, community wide celebration. This unified event will streamline planning, elevate the experience, and bring together approximately 400 volunteers, families, and community partners.

The 2026 Blackfalds Volunteer Gala will take place on May 7, during Youth Week, at the Eagle Builders Centre. The event will continue with the popular Oscar-themed celebration, creating an elevated and engaging experience for volunteers of all ages.

It is our intention to offer recognition as follows:

1. Award Selection Process

- 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 an FCSS Board Representative)
- Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award (FCSS Board Representative, a family friend and a past award recipient)

2. 2026 Blackfalds Volunteer Gala – Event Overview

The combined gala will feature an enhanced Oscar style celebration designed to make every volunteer feel like a star. Invitees will be encouraged to dress in their finest Oscar-worthy attire. The evening will include:

- A Red-Carpet entrance
- VIP lanyards

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS
Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)
Tayles Board Room – Civic Cultural Center – 5018 Waghorn Street
Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- Paparazzi
- Photo opportunities
- Light supper
- Performances by local youth singers and dancers
- Award presentations for both adult and youth categories

3. Awards presented will include:

- Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award,
- Gloria House Mentor Award,
- Outstanding Group Award (adult and youth category),
- Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award,
- Leaders of Tomorrow (elementary, junior high and high school category), and
- Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award.

4. Marketing and Promotion

All marketing efforts for the event will be conducted through the Town's regular communications channels, including:

- Blackfalds FCSS Facebook page,
- Town of Blackfalds website events calendar, and
- FCSS Volunteer Newsletter.

5. Board Participation and Nominations

- FCSS invites to attend the 2026 Blackfalds Volunteer Gala on May 7
- To have an FCSS Board member participate in the selection process for the Leaders of Tomorrow Awards.
- If you know someone in our community who selflessly gives their time, please consider nominating them.
 - Nominations will be accepted until March 1, 2026.
 - How to Nominate: Complete the nomination form [here](#). If you don't have a Google account or can't access this form, please contact me and I can send you the pdf's

ATTACHMENTS

- *Event Marketing Poster*



PRESENTS

- THE -

Blackfalds Volunteer Gala

- IN RECOGNITION OF -

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 2026

**THURSDAY
MAY 7**

**6:30 - 9:00 PM
DOORS OPEN: 5:30 PM**

**EAGLE BUILDERS
CENTRE**

**AWARDS
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

Get ready for a vibrant evening featuring a light supper (appetizers, wraps, and refreshments), dynamic live entertainment, and a red-carpet celebration honoring our incredible community champions! The evening will include presentations of the Volunteer of the Year, Mentor, Volun-Told, Outstanding Group, Leaders of Tomorrow and Youth Ambassador awards.

RSVP REQUIRED by April 7 | volunteer@blackfalds.ca | 403.885.6360



FCSS VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMER UPDATE

Month of January:

- **Volunteer Recognition Planning:**
 - National Volunteer Week taking place April 19 – April 25, 2026
 - FCSS will merge its two annual volunteer events into one community-wide celebration in 2026, bringing together roughly 400 volunteers, families, and partners. The **Blackfalds Volunteer Gala** will take place May 7 during Youth Week at the Eagle Builders Centre and will continue the popular Oscar-themed format. The evening will feature a red-carpet entrance, paparazzi, photo opportunities, a light supper (refreshments, appetizers & wraps), performances by local youth singers and dancers, and award presentations for both adult and youth categories—creating an elevated, inclusive experience where every volunteer feels like a star.
 - Nominations Now Open (deadline to nominate is March 1) – If you know someone in our community who selflessly gives their time, please consider nominating them. Visit www.blackfalds.ca/volunteer for details!
 - Selection process will be facilitated by:
 - Carol Simpson Volunteer of the Year Award (Town Council)
 - Gloria House Mentor Award (FCSS Board)
 - Outstanding Group Awards (FCSS Board)
 - Dylan Stork Youth Ambassador Award (Town Council)
 - Leaders of Tomorrow Awards (The Mayor, FCSS Youth Programmer and a FCSS Board Representative)
 - Gary Kroetsch Volun-Told Award (FCSS Board Representative, a family friend and a past award recipient)
 - Nominee Assessment forms will be submitted electronically to the Volunteer Programmer

If you know someone in Blackfalds who selflessly gives their time, please consider recognizing them by nominating them for our volunteer awards.

BE THE
Difference
IN YOUR
Community

Nomination deadline for our
**2026 Volunteer Awards is
March 1!**

Scan the QR code below to access
the fillable nomination form:



BLACKFALDS
FCSS
FAMILY & COMMUNITY
SUPPORT SERVICES

- **Snow Angel Program:** The Snow Angel Program continued to progress throughout December, with increased activity and ongoing community support. As of this report:
 - Volunteer Pairings: 21 residents have been successfully paired with a Snow Angel volunteer.
 - In Progress: 1 resident is currently in the process of being paired, with volunteer coordination underway.
 - Waitlist: 1 residents remain on the waitlist

- **ESS (Emergency Social Services):**
 - January 20: attended the CRESS (Central Region Emergency Social Services) meeting, where the RCMP presented on mass-casualty planning and reviewed St. Albert's December 2024 Mass Victimization/Casualty Exercise. They highlighted how the exercise strengthened interagency coordination, clarified roles, and identified response improvements, as well as the value of this training for ESS teams.
 - January 27: attended the LREMP (Lacombe Regional Emergency Management Plan) debrief meeting from the live exercise that took place on November 19. It was discussed during the exercise, the team tested ESS as its own Section within the ICS structure; however, previous training has shown ESS functions most effectively as a Branch under Operations. The group emphasized the importance of participating in live exercises whenever possible, as hands-on practice remains the most effective form of training.

- **Seniors:** The Volunteer Programmer continues to serve as the municipality's liaison for the Blackfalds Seniors Club, coordinating bookings and supporting communication. The club has recently added four Intergenerational Events to its schedule, and the Volunteer Programmer will remain in this transitional role until a new liaison is appointed.

- **Town of Blackfalds volunteers were utilized at the following programs and events:**
 - Leaders in Training: volunteers

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

1. The monthly FCSS **Volunteer Newsletter**
 - a. In January, the newsletter was emailed to 294 contacts with the 'Open Rate' of 51%
2. **Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:**
 - a. Snow Angel Program – Winter months
 - b. Winterfest – February 16
 - c. Easter Egg-stravaganza – March 28

BLACKFALDS FCSS

FAMILY & COMMUNITY
SUPPORT SERVICES

403.600.9066

jpocock@blackfalds.ca

Jan Pocock, Community Engagement Programmer

FCSS Board Update: January 2026

Blackfalds FCSS Facebook Page:

- 1,662 followers at the end of January

Blackfalds Instagram Page:

- 213 followers at the end of January

Christmas Bureau Program: Final reporting

- Christmas Bureau
376 Total users – 227 children, 103 women, 46 men
126 Hampers distributed (103 family hampers, 23 single or seniors' hampers)

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

- Re-applied to be a host site in 2026
- Re-applied for 2006 EFILE numbers and passwords
- Re-submitted application for 2025 COIN number
- Began 2026 training

Interagency Meeting:

- January 7, Eagle Builder Center Banquet Room
- 27 people attended
- Representing 20 unique organizations
- This month's "hot seat" winner was Blackfalds BGC (Boys and Girls Club). We highlighted all the programs they offer to Blackfalds residents! I am so glad they are a part of the Blackfalds Community.

50+ Walking Club:

- Average of 32 walkers every Tuesday in January (up by 10 from December)
- We had 53 unique walkers in January!!!
- We have 6 regular walkers who are 75 years or older.
- 68% of the walkers are from the Town of Blackfalds
- 11% are from the City of Lacombe
- 21% are from the County of Lacombe

- This month, our "50+ Walking Club" officially became the **50+ Walk & Talk Club!** We brought three name options to the group, everyone voted, and the new name fits perfectly. Because yes, we walk... but the *talking* is where the magic happens, conversations spark connection, laughter, and a sense of belonging. As the host, I plan little activities to help people get to know one another, cheer folks on, and create a warm, inclusive space for everyone. We're playful, active, and we celebrate each other.

More than a Movie:

- 27 Movie Guests
- Enjoyed the Movie: Far and Away
- 24 guests from the Town of Blackfalds
- 1 guest from the City of Lacombe
- 2 guests from the County of Lacombe
- This movie really sparked some amazing conversations! We found ourselves chatting about everything from how land titles were handed out during settlement, to plucking chickens, washing clothes on a washboard, and even who had been in a fist fight back in the day. It might sound trivial, but moments like these are all about connection, memory, and celebrating stories. These stories help create community. We laughed SOO LOUD at one gentleman's telling of his "fifth-grade fist fight," and we all winced as one woman recalled "plucking chickens with her grandmother," feet and all!
- These conversations build connection, connections build belonging, and belonging supports overall wellness.

In Office Connections:

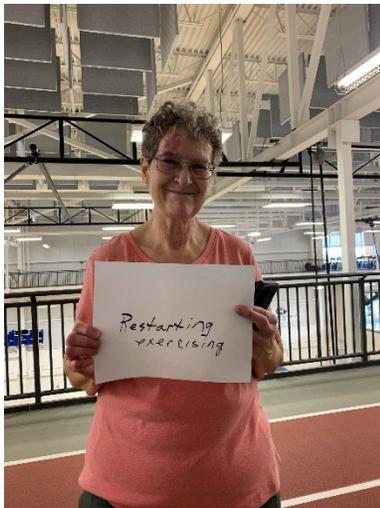
- 1 local senior whom I helped with creating some sign-in sheets, prize tables and a list of game rules (assistance with typing and uploading documents)

Abbey Center Membership Assistance Program:

- **1 application was screened & approved**
 - The application was approved.
 - Total: 1 adult and 3 children have access to the Abbey Center amenities for a two-month period.

Outer duties:

- Assisting Red Deer Polytechnic in a Seniors Research study about the influence of technology on older adults. I hosted the research assistant at the More than a Movie event and encouraged the guests to share their opinions. We are also supporting the study by allowing the research assistant to use our boardroom to conduct the interviews (for those who do not want/are unable to do the interview over the phone or online)
- 2-week vacation from January 31 - Feb 16 😊



Active & connected community member



Age 81 & 85 years respectively,
walking the track

Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer January Report

Blackfalds Youth Crew (BYC)

Instructor: *Annette*

BYC supports youth in building friendships, leadership skills, and self-confidence through fun, safe, and engaging activities. Each session welcomes up to 15 participants.

BYC Detail	Grades 4-6 Thursdays 5:00-7:00 PM	Grades 7-12 Tuesdays 5:00-7:00 PM	Homeschool Thursdays 1:00-3:00 PM	Total Youth
Sledding & Hot Cocoa	12	3	9	24
BYC was cancelled this week due to Facilitator illness				
Beat the Winter Blues	15	5	11	31
Grade 7+ Fondue & Friends		8		36
Everything Lego (National Lego Day)	15		13	
Total Youth Registered in January				91

Child Safe Canada Home Alone Safety

Instructor: *Annette*

Home Alone is an interactive safety training program for youth. Safety, first aid, and comfort skills are covered in this course through interactive games and role-playing. The class is offered nearly monthly for youth in grades 4–6.

Date, Time, and Details	Registered / Attended (max 15)
January 30 2:00-4:00 PM <i>Grade 4-6</i>	15
	Waitlist 10

Blackfalds FCSS Youth Programmer January Report

Youth Cooking Club

Instructor: *Annette*

Date, Time, and Details	Registered/Attended (max 10)	Waitlist (max 10)
Grade 5-7 January 21-March 18 (No class on February 14 5:00-7:15 PM	10	10

Leaders in Training (LiT)

<p>The youth involved have been actively volunteering across various BYC programs and are demonstrating strong leadership skills, initiative, and teamwork. We're also excited to share that the LIT participants have received brand-new program T-shirts, helping them stand out as positive role models and ambassadors during their volunteer work.</p>	

Youth Programmer Initiatives:

Positive Ticketing Program	Constable Hewitt continues to distribute Positive Tickets to youth in the community and local schools for demonstrating positive or improved behaviour. The program remains popular, especially because the tickets can be redeemed for a Slurpee for the youth and a friend at the Blackfalds Convenience Store, adding a fun and motivating incentive.
Planning and Preparing for Spring & Summer Programs	I've been actively planning and preparing our spring and summer youth programs, including developing a program outlines and coordinating logistics, to ensure everything is ready for the Community Guide release in March.

Client Statistics for FCSS Blackfalds 2026

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
FCSS Referrals												
Sawyer	1											
FCSS Cara	4											
Snow Angel Program	3											
FCSS Jan	8											
FCSS Annette	3											
Income Tax Return Inquiries	0											
Employment Support	1											
FCSS Event Movie/WW	5											
FCSS Subsidized Programs	2											
Back to School	0											
Winter Wear	0											
Christmas Bureau	0											
Abbey Assistance Program	3											
Food Bank	2											
Low Income Inquiries	4											
Housing	1											
Fax	17											
Printing/Photocopying	17											
Seniors Assistance Programs	6											
Telephone	0											
BOLT	0											
Golden Circle	2											
General Inquiries	69											
Number of Clients												

Beyond Food Lunchbox Program emails sent weekly 285 sends with an open rate of 53%

Vibrant Living 50+ Monthly Newsletter

November - 261 sends with an open rate of 70%

December - 271 sends with an open rate of 68%

January -271 sends with an open rate of 71%

Volunteer Newsletter

November –302 sends with an open rate of 57%

December – 301 sends with an open rate of 53%

January -301 sends with an open rate of 51%

142 Interagency Newsletter emails sent in January with an open rate of 55%