

2016 Annual Report to the Community



Vision: Where seniors and youth build relationships that enrich their lives and enhance their communities.

Mission: Linking Generations creates connections that foster caring and sharing between seniors and youth through mentorship and volunteerism.

Message from the Board of Directors

2015/2016 for Linking Generations saw the continuation of creating and renewing meaningful relationships between our youth and senior volunteers, all with the intent of enhancing the quality of life for our seniors and developing leadership skills in our youth.

The Board established a three year strategic plan with six main focus areas, complete with quantified goals and performance measures:

- Engaging and supporting young people
- Working with the schools
- Providing value to seniors
- Encouraging innovation in program delivery
- Growing the association's profile
- Operating efficiently

In addition, the Board was busy with efforts to strengthen our organization that included:

- Review and update of financial reporting
- Addition of two new board members
- Establishing operating controls
- Investment in a operations reserve fund

We are proud to be recognized within our community as a valuable program for our youth and seniors, and we strive to provide a practical and rewarding program that makes a difference to all involved. Positive outcomes result from newly found youth leadership, to meaningful engagement for our seniors, which is clearly evident in the praise we receive from their families.

We extend our heartfelt thank-you to all of our community partners, charitable corporate, government and individual donors whose funding ensures the continuation of our cherished program.



(from left to right)

Executive Director: Debbie Sinclair

Director: Nicole Moffatt

Director: Barb Berndt

Director: Glenda Sheard

Treasurer: Melanie Debnam, CPA, CGA

Director: Kathy Gynane

Chair: Wendy Hoffmann

Director: Faye White, CIM, PMgr.

Secretary: Vacant

Thank You from the Board of Directors

Linking Generations Board of Directors would personally like to extend a very heartfelt “Thank You” to Carol Parsons; Linking Generations original founder; for her past years of support and dedication in ensuring our community student and senior programs enrich and enhance seniors and students lives. In celebration of the lasting legacy our cherished seniors and remarkable youth have created, a park bench was dedicated in 2012 during a special “Intergenerational Day” held at Peace Park, Sherwood Park, AB (directly north of Festival Place). Thank you Carol for “Sharing and Caring” and entrusting your legacy to all of us.



Message from the Executive Director

2015/2016 was an exciting year for all of us at Linking Generations as we were so proud to offer an additional Junior High program to our community -- our fifth program partnership was created with Elk Island Catholic School St. Theresa Middle School and Bedford Village Residence. Our Intergenerational programs are now being offered to three Junior High Schools and two High Schools in our Community.



There is something spiritual that happens every week when our seniors and students meet. For our youth, it's about connecting with our seniors and learning from them. Students sometimes do not realize that their lives have been changed through this program – but they have. Youth learn that

seniors are intelligent, have sarcastic wits, and courageous spirits. Students have found out that seniors still have competitive spirits and with a little encouragement from them, they help seniors find out that once they try something new, they like it! Our students bring our seniors a new appreciation for life!



We have witnessed our seniors teach our youth patience...empathy...compassion. Our seniors have learnt that this generation of “kids” is kind... gentle... funny ... intelligent.... enthusiastic and giving, just like themselves.



Both Sherwood Care and Heartland Housing have shared that more than 14+ students have continued to visit their matched seniors after the program year has stopped. This is a testament that our programs are encouraging ‘citizenship’ in our youth and the value of giving back to their communities.

During this past year, Linking Generations was excited to see our social media platforms are being noticed:

- Facebook had a 27% increase in followers this past program year
- Our website marked a 54% increase in followers, shares and likes.

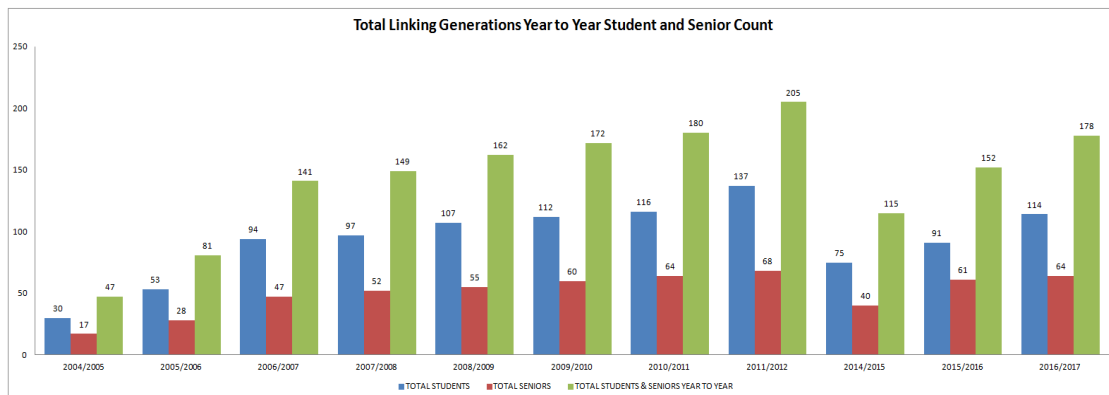
We have 15+ years experience in delivering effective intergenerational programs; we are respected as a knowledge-leader in our field. We are proud to be known in our community as the organization “where kind souls connect” and we are also very proud and humble to be nominated once again this year for the 2016 Ministers Senior Service Award for our commitment to seniors. We are also very honoured to have been recognized and nominated for the 2016 Duncan and Craig LLP Laurel Award.

Debbie Sinclair
Executive Director
Linking Generations Society of Alberta

2015/2016 Student and Senior Participation

Each program year, beginning in September, Information Sessions are held at the schools and seniors care centres to recruit student and seniors who wish to be part of our program. In September 2015, there was such tremendous interest from the junior high student body in that a total of 121 student applications were received for the 89 student volunteer positions. It is amazing to think these young people are so interested in being linked to an elderly person, someone they have never met before. The same Information Sessions are held with our seniors in their seniors' facility.

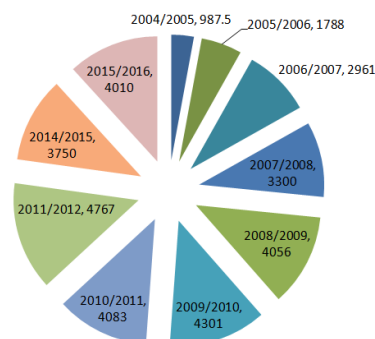
We witnessed our student participation increase by 21% in our 2015-2016 program years and our senior participation increase by 53% over last year. In total we matched and linked 91 Students and 61 seniors to visit with each other in a structured mentored environment on a bi-weekly or weekly basis.



2015/2016 Volunteer Component

Linking Generations places great value upon volunteers. Our seniors and students volunteer their time for training sessions, program visits, family meet and greet special events and year-end program evaluation sessions. In addition, the Linking Generations Board of Directors and our dynamic program volunteers donate many volunteer hours. We are so excited to have recorded 4010 volunteer hours donated from September 2015 to June 30th, 2016 throughout our five programs.

Total Linking Generations Year to Year Student and Senior Volunteer Hours



2015-2016 Program Year Funding Partners

Each year we benefit from the generosity of our funding partners and with their support we strive to achieve our mutual goals of making positive, lasting impacts in the community where we live. We are so grateful for the contributions of all our corporate, government and community donors!

Our funding partners are recognized on our website and, wherever possible, in community news articles and other media. We acknowledge our Funders and sponsors at school and senior lodge locations during information and training sessions, and through newsletters, family events and program picture boards. Linking Generations, and its program participants, would like to thank the following Funders and sponsors for their support of our 2015-2016 program:

County of Strathcona Country - Family Community Services

C.I.P Community Initiatives Grant

Suncor Energy Foundation

Imperial Oil

Telus Community Foundation

Field Law Community Fund

Country Clothes line Foundation

Sherwood Park Rotary Club

Heartland Housing Foundation

Meyers Insurance Ltd.

Baseline Chiropractor and Wee4Iness Centre

Sherwood Care

Chartwell Reit Seniors Residence

Christensen Developments – Bedford Seniors Residence

Sherwood Park Servus Credit Union

Elk Island Catholic & Public School Board (s)

Message from the Treasurer

In fiscal 2016, Linking Generations was able to establish a reserve fund of one year of program expenses and establish a strategic plan for the next five years. The year was a success due to fundraising efforts from individuals, businesses, community, and government to support our program goals and initiatives.

Melanie Debman
*Board Treasurer,
Linking Generations Society of Alberta*

2016 Financial Results

Linking Generations is especially thankful for the continued support from our donors, supporters and community partnerships. Together, we are making it possible to provide our programs to seniors and students.





**Linking Generations Society of Alberta
Statement of Financial Position
As at June 30, 2016**

	June 2016	June 2015
	<i>Audited</i>	<i>Audited</i>
Assets		
Cash	\$ 64,490	\$ 43,575
Accounts receivable	-	-
Prepaid insurance	-	1,235
Total assets	64,490	44,810
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	2,348	1,090
Deferred government grants	5,000	10,000
Total liabilities	7,348	11,090
Net assets		
Restricted net assets - prior years	-	-
Unrestricted net assets - prior years	33,720	11,845
Restricted net assets - current year	-	-
Unrestricted net assets - current year	23,421	21,875
Total net assets	\$ 57,141	\$ 33,720

Prepared on behalf of the Board of Directors:

 09/30/16
Melanie Debnam, Treasurer Date

Audited and approved on behalf of the Board of Directors:

 10/09/16  11/14/16
Wendy Hoffmann, Chair Date Faye White, Director Date

**Linking Generations Society of Alberta
Statement of Operations
For the twelve months ended June 30**

	Budget	Actuals	
	June 2016	June 2016	June 2015
	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
Revenues			
Government grant revenues	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,300	\$ 13,900
Community grant revenues	15,000	17,500	26,440
Donation revenues	5,000	12,001	1,292
Total revenues	43,000	52,801	41,632
Expenses			
Program delivery - junior high	21,018	14,962	11,294
Program delivery - senior high ¹	5,224	8,059	3,000
Public relations & fundraising	5,943	6,359	5,463
Total expenses	32,185	29,380	19,757
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 10,815	\$ 23,421	\$ 21,875