



2016-2017 Annual Report

Building Caring Communities Through Intergenerational Programs



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

The participants and programs have flourished this year as we continue to build and strengthen relationships that have a lasting and positive impact for all of our program participants and community.

Families continue to praise how the Linking Generations Program has such an amazing effect on the quality of life of our seniors and how incredible it is to witness first-hand the development of the program's youth's leadership skills. The meaningful dialogue that occurs with our seniors and youth inspires the heart.

The talent and experience of the teams we have in place across the organization, coupled with the vision of our Board, support our success of being a responsible organization. Strong and effective governance had led to better business decisions and effective Board oversight has been vital to the success of Linking Generations.

Linking Generation's Board of Directors maintain their commitment to best governance practices and ensuring that we operate transparently and we are continuously making improvements to the how we operate. Several factors contributed to our success last year. The Board focus has been in developing longer term strategies for future program operating stability, we continued to diligently control expenses, improve operating practices and effectively fund raised to ensure programs will continue to run within the community for future years.

We are extremely proud to be part of the Sherwood Park community and for being recognized as a valuable program for our seniors, our youth and the families. This past year we were honoured to be the recipient of the Pride of Strathcona Outstanding Group Award. This award recognizes non-profit and community associations for its' outstanding and long-lasting contributions in making our community a thriving, dynamic caring and safe community. Being part of a strong community network positions us to continue to deliver quality programs. We firmly believe our success is the community's success and we are humbled with the accolades and support of the work we do in the community.

The achievements of the last year would not have been possible without the remarkable support of our donors, partners, volunteers, staff and board. We celebrate our shared results and look forward to what the next year holds. Linking Generations is ready for the challenges and achievements ahead!

With much gratitude,

Wendy Hoffmann

Chair, Board of Directors

Executive Director Report

For over 12 years, Linking Generations programs and services have been developing and supporting meaningful relationships between two generations, truly building unique friendships, understanding and respect between youth and older adults. Linking Generations has demonstrated measurable outcomes that show that intergenerational programs successfully decrease age segregation and create positive opportunities for our youth and old to grow together and feel connected and valued.

Linking Generations is unique to our community. We believe that our Linking Generations Programs continue to open new opportunities for seniors to interact with youth. Linking Generations believes that our community benefits from supporting seniors to share their lifetime of experiences and wisdom. Our programs help to ease the loneliness that seniors face, that it fills an essential need for emotional connections and provides the seniors with a sense of contributing to society. Our wish is that we are helping to develop responsible citizenship for youth while recognizing the importance of respecting and cherishing our elders. When youth find ways to engage and develop relationships with the elderly, these experiences can build self-esteem, develop leadership skills, and encourage a lifelong commitment to volunteering. For seniors, intergenerational connections provide the opportunity to transfer knowledge and wisdom, acknowledge self-worth, and feel they are contributing members of society.

Linking Generations continues to be very well supported and recognized in the community as the organization where kind souls connect. Our work within the community was recognized in June 2017 when Linking Generations Society of Alberta became the proud recipient of Sherwood Park County Pride of Strathcona Award for Outstanding Group. We are most grateful for this prestigious award and know that it takes many partnerships, innovative thinking, and a shared vision of what a compassionate, cohesive and healthy community looks like.



We hear the most heart-warming stories from the seniors as to how much it means for them to have ‘their students’ share part of their life. Our program also helps to break down stereotypes – seniors are not really old & boring. They love to have fun and have great sense of humor. And, our community is full of wonderful teenagers – those with kind, caring hearts and interest in helping our community to be a wonderful place to live.

Debbie Sinclair

Executive Director

Linking Generations Society of Alberta

2016-2017 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. This current program year we have seen an increase in not only in our youth participants, but also that of our senior involvement. We have over 235 program participants this year throughout our six programs. Our Intergeneration Programs are offered to four local Junior High Schools and two local Senior High Schools. All schools are partnered with a Senior Care Facility/Residence, and our partnerships continue to be very strong.



2016-2017 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 4624 volunteer hours donated from September 2016 to June 30th, 2017 throughout our six programs.

Program Testimonials

Medina Student Volunteer

Being part of this program has been a privilege for me. Many people see volunteering time as a gift to someone else. What they fail to realize are the gifts they received in return. For many of the seniors here, our visits are the highlight of their week. The seniors I have had the privilege to meet have life stories that need to be shared. Their memories are the histories of our communities and country. Some risked their lives to create the Canada we know. Every one of them knows someone whose sacrifice contributed to the Canada we are celebrating this year with the 150th year celebrations. Many of the seniors here see the world differently than I do because they lived in a different time where the world was also different. Many of them do things a certain way and I have learned how to create an activity that we both enjoy. I also learned how to be grateful for what I have. By interacting with the seniors here and listening to their life stories, I see how much society have changed. A lot of these changes are because the generations before us tried to make things better for the younger generation. Most seniors just want someone to talk to, someone to play games with and someone to interact with. They just want to be appreciated and be told that they are important

for no other reason than they are a living, breathing human being. They want to know that they have not been forgotten.

Our country was first populated by people whose history was shared generation-to-generation through an oral tradition. By listening and remembering, their lessons of the past become the teachings of the today which, in turn, become the knowledge of the future. Many of the stories and life lessons of the people we meet in the Linking Generations program will not be written. It is my privilege to continue the oral tradition and be the custodian of their legacies.



Nadine Senior Volunteer



A few hours with teenagers can rejuvenate eighty and ninety-year old's. The youth arrive and a buzz of conversation breaks out as they drop their backpacks to wrap their arms around "us" seniors, amid hugs and kisses, and hoots of "Hi!". No matter what stage of old age, deafness, or inability we are at, they empathize, laugh with us, and share their weekly experiences. We count the days in between visits and look forward to our weekly visits. We roll up our sleeves, young and old, and jump in with paste or paint to participate in the next activity or project. This camaraderie certainly gives me a sense of being valued. What a great gift to be

given from the heart by these kids. Quality time spent with someone you enjoy is a gift for us older people. The giggles, breaking into songs in a spontaneous manner, and enthusiastic hugs

given and received really fill the bill. Let's hear it for all young people who care about the infirm, poor, and elderly among us, and raise our voices to sing praises of our future generations!

Julie
School Principal

As a school, this program adds such an authentic life experience for our students' education. What our students receive from being a part of Linking Generations goes way beyond the textbooks and the school experience. It

teaches them many important life lessons that can only be found at the root of this program; linking one generation to another. We are thankful for all the knowledge and life experience that these gentle

men and women share with the younger generations. What a fantastic way to be reminded that life is precious and that we should cherish every minute of it.

2016-2017 Program Year Funding Partners

Each year we benefit from the generosity of our funding partners with whom we work collaboratively to achieve lasting impact in the lives of youth, seniors and society as a whole. Apart from the organizations listed below, we are also grateful to the individuals who continue to donate personally to the cause of connecting generations. We THANK YOU.

County of Strathcona Country - Family Community Services
C.I.P Community Initiatives Grant
Suncor Energy Foundation
Imperial Oil
Telus Community Foundation
Country Clothes line Foundation
Sherwood Park Rotary Club
Heartland Housing Foundation
Johnson's (Meyers) Insurance Ltd.
Baseline Chiropractor and Wee4Iness Centre
Shell Scotford Community Funding
Sherwood Care
Chartwell Reit Seniors Residence
Christensen Developments – Bedford Seniors Residence
Elk Island Catholic & Public School Board (s)

Message from the Treasurer

In fiscal year 2017, Linking Generations continued working towards the strategic plan initiatives and was conservative with their cash resources to have the ability to increase the reserve fund to accommodate the 2018 annual program costs. This has created stability for the program which allowed the addition of an additional program during the year. The continued community and government support is an integral part of the organization, for our students and seniors.

Melanie Debnam, *Board Treasurer*

June 30th, 2017 Financial Results



Linking Generations Society of Alberta Statement of Financial Position As at June 30, 2017

	June 2017 <i>Audited</i>	June 2016 <i>Audited</i>
Assets		
Cash	\$ 43,851	\$ 64,490
Accounts receivable	-	-
Investment - Short Term	29,380	-
Prepaid insurance	-	-
Total assets	73,231	64,490
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	-	2,348
Deferred government grants	-	5,000
Total liabilities	-	7,348
Net assets		
Restricted net assets - prior years	-	-
Unrestricted net assets - prior years	58,392	33,720
Restricted net assets - current year	-	-
Unrestricted net assets - current year	14,839	21,875
Total net assets	\$ 73,231	\$ 55,595


Melanie Debnam, Treasurer

2017-12-27
Date

Audited and approved on behalf of the Board of Directors


Wendy Hoffmann, Chair

2017-12-27
Date


Barb Berndt, Director

2017-12-27
Date

**Linking Generations Society of Alberta
Statement of Operations
For the twelve months ended June 30, 2017**

	Actuals	
	June 2017 Audited	June 2016 Audited
Revenues		
Government grant revenues	\$ 27,400	\$ 23,300
Community grant revenues	12,590	17,500
Foundation grant revenues	8,500	
Donation revenues	740	12,001
Total revenues	49,230	52,801
Expenses		
Program delivery - junior high	19,567	14,962
Program delivery - senior high ¹	8,254	8,059
General and Administration	2,178	-
Public relations & fundraising	4,392	6,359
Total expenses	34,391	29,380
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 14,839	\$ 23,421