



2018-2019 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 Chair

This past year has been a year of growth for Linking Generations, but it's also a year of retrenching and really concentration on what we do so well. We know our programs are in demand and are growing, but we need to remember where we serve best. On a personal note, it's been my privilege to spend my first year on this board as the chair of this august group, having been given the opportunity to build on where former chair Wendy Hoffmann took, us.

Over the past 12 months, we've completed a lot of tasks, all aimed as providing the best experience possible for our seniors and our youth, while providing excellent value for our funding partners. Specific things Linking Generations did in 2018-19 included:

- Added new and diverse funding base that helps us to secure the future of our programs
- Began a comprehensive review of our society bylaws
- Changed financial institutions
- Completed our first full year as a United Way partner agency with all that brings.
- Partnered with Volunteer Strathcona to focus on the measurement of our impact in our community
- Piloted a new Grandparent Program that has subsequently been adopted as a full Linking Generations program.
- Signed a new contract with our excellent executive director
- Spent a workshop developing a new strategic plan

We could not have achieved what we did over the past year without some really notable contributions from people such as our executive director, our program coordinators, our board of directors and our committed volunteers.

Over the coming year, we plan on completing our review of our bylaws and policies, finalizing our strategic plan, building on our board's strengths and determining where Linking Generations and its programs grow to next.

Due to an excellent program and committed people, Linking Generations has built and maintained a high profile in our community. I am always pleasantly surprised where I hear about Linking Generations, and it means that our programs are in demand and are filling a need that was imagined by boards, staff, and volunteers over the years.

Thank you all,

Ian McCormack

Chair, Board of Directors



Board of Directors

Ian McCormack
Chair

Melanie Debnam; CPA,CGA
Treasurer

Lauren Ong
Secretary

Barb Berndt
Director

Tracy Lockhart
Director

Teagan deSequin
Director

Julie LaChance
Director

Executive Director Report

Linking Generations continues to address the need for Community Connectedness, Social Responsibility and Inclusion. Our programs connect w/ individuals from all stages of life, all cultures & all religions to contribute to an overall "improved health" of the community.

The number of people over 65 continues to grow in Strathcona County. The County 'Senior' population has increased by 35% over the previous census of 2011 as compared to a 23% increase in Alberta. In our 2018-2019 programming year, our senior volunteer participation increased by 16% over last year and our student volunteer participation increased by 25% over last year, indicating an over-all program increase of 22% participation/prior year.

Linking Generations saw the continuation of many meaningful relationships being built with students and seniors returning from prior years, and those joining for the first time. Support from all schools and senior lodges has been exceptional this year, and we are thrilled to have wonderful relationships with both Elk Island School Catholic Schools and Elk Island Public Schools as well as our senior facilities: Heartland Housing, Country Cottage, Sherwood Care, Bedford Village (Christenson Developments) and All Seniors Care Summerwood.

Our Annual Family Meet and Greet visits were huge successes with many funding partners attending at each one. Total amount of people attending all Family Meet and Greets was over 450.

Linking Generations remains a member of the Family Community Services Executive Steering Committee for the Social Framework. In May of 2019, Linking Generations presented to Strathcona Council an update on the Social Framework, sharing the progress made in changing the way programs and services are made available to our county residents.

Linking Generations was very proud and humble to have been nominated for the 2018 Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, in the Outstanding Community organization category.

Debbie Sinclair
Executive Director
Linking Generations



School Programs

Linking Generations Intergenerational School Programs impact more than 300 students and seniors each year. Our programs provide “mentored and structured visits” aimed at building relationships between seniors and youth in our community. The purpose of our programs is to bring the generations together so they can share their knowledge and life experiences and to encourage volunteering and social responsibility in youth.

198

Student Participants

101

Senior Participants

25+

Adult Volunteers

100

Age of Oldest
Volunteer

6

Schools Participating

6

Care Centers
Participated

10

Months of
Commitment



Thank you to our partnership schools and lodges, who help facilitate the success of our programs, and to our students for your interest and dedication to come weekly and visit with seniors. Our seniors open their hearts and take the time to mentor these students - This becomes such a life learning/changing experience for everyone.

Volunteer Grandparent Program (Pilot)

Our Board of Directors approved a new Volunteer Grandparent Program Pilot, created in response to a lack of opportunities for young & old to relate in an increasingly age-segregated society. Seniors volunteers enjoyed the chance to share skills, knowledge & experience, while providing a valuable community service. The overall success of this program was amazing- teachers shared how our program allowed youth to see seniors in a different light and our seniors have shared how much they loved the experience of sharing their own stories with the younger generations.



Measurable Program Outcomes & Benefits

Our organization places emphasis on achieving our Long-term Goals, ultimately fulfilling our Vision and Mission Statements:

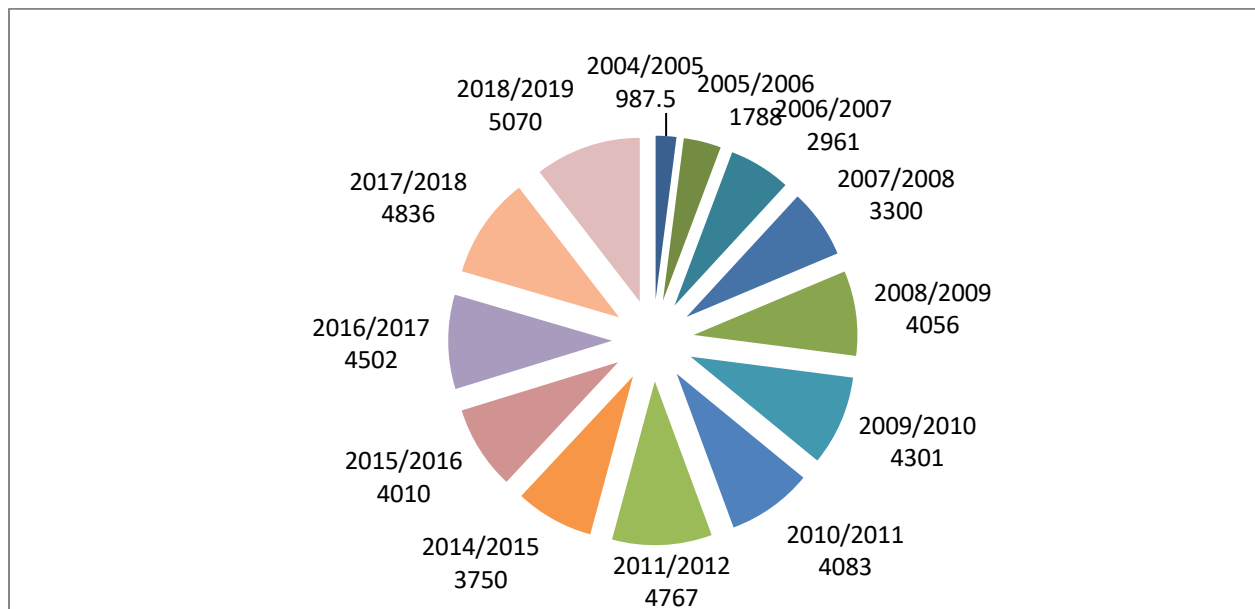
- ✓ To continue to build relationships with youth in the program and within our community.
- ✓ To continue to engage schools to build skills and citizenship in students.
- ✓ To enhance the quality of life of seniors through sharing their wisdom and life experience with young people.
- ✓ To respond to changing environments as we create and deliver innovative programs.
- ✓ To know that Linking Generations is well known for the excellent program it offers.
- ✓ To ensure that Linking Generations provides the best value possible to youth, seniors, Funders and the community we serve.





5070 Total Volunteer Hours

Linking Generations is all about student and senior volunteers. We recorded 5070 volunteer hours donated from September 2018 to June 30th, 2019 throughout our six programs. Not only do our seniors and students volunteer their time, our Board of Directors donate many hours as well. Our local funders and Community Sponsors stop by and volunteer at our visits, so they may witness the unbelievable relationships that are built between generations with those that could be 50-80 years in age difference.



Program Testimonials

Senior Participant June 2019

Linking Generations gives me a purpose for living and enjoying my days. The girls who visit with me each week are “my girls”- they share stories and insights to what life is like today as a teenager. I look forward to my visits each week with them.

School Principal- Volunteer Grandparent Program April 2019

“The Grandparent program has been a great addition to our school. It is wonderful to have community members come into the school and share their knowledge and past experiences with our students. Children begin to learn to respect seniors if they have the opportunity to build relationships, however many children are unable to connect with grandparents due to blended families or living distances. This program offers students a chance to strip away the stereotypes that youth form of seniors”.

Grade 9 Student

I am so thankful that I was able to have this opportunity. This year has gone by super fast and we have learnt so much about each other and created bonds that will never be forgotten. Linking generations gave us a chance to do crafts, play games, and share stories with our seniors. Thank you for this opportunity and I shout out a huge thank you to the seniors who make the decision to sign up for this program. I know that teenagers can sometimes have a bad reputation, so thank you for opening your hearts and taking a chance on getting to know us. I think that we can all agree that while the generations can seem so far apart, we have all learned that we have so much more in common than we ever could have imagined. Thank you to our school for supporting this program and allowing us the opportunity to build relationships with, what we think are some pretty awesome people!



2018-2019 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. *Linking Generations Society of Alberta is a registered charity. Our charitable number is 845667070 RR0001*

Thank you to our generous funding partners!

County of Strathcona County - Family
Community Services
United Way Regional Community Investment
Suncor Energy Foundation
Imperial Oil
FortisAlberta
County Clothes-Line Foundation
Sherwood Park Rotary Club

Heartland Housing Foundation
North West Redwater Sturgeon Refinery
Sherwood Care
Chartwell Seniors Residence
Christensen Developments -Bedford Residence
All Seniors Care-Summerwood Residence
Elk Island Catholic School Board
Elk Island Public-School Board

Linking Generations is continuing to make a difference in our community by providing Intergenerational Connections to our youth and seniors. Intergenerational connections are proven to enrich the lives of both youth and seniors in long-lasting and meaningful ways. 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.

Message from the Treasurer

For the fiscal year of 2019, Linking Generations gained momentum with the new Grandparent program and was able to provide more resources towards our ongoing programs. With continued community and government support, we are able to strategically plan for future growth and sustain our current programs using a conservative approach to budgeting and spending.

Melanie Debnam, CPA, CGA
Board Treasurer

June 30th, 2019 Financial Results

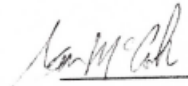
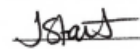
Linking Generations Society of Alberta Budgeted Statement of Financial Position As at June 30

	June 2019	June 2018
Assets		
Cash	163,834	63,672
Investments	0	29,800
Total assets	\$ 163,834	\$ 93,472
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	4,773	4,882
Deferred government grants	-	-
Total liabilities	4,773	4,882
Net assets		
Restricted net assets - current year	65,500	73,231
Unrestricted net assets - current year	93,561	15,359
Total net assets	\$ 163,834	\$ 93,472

Prepared on behalf of the Board of Directors:

Ian McCormick, Chair

Tammy Start, Treasurer

Linking Generations Society of Alberta Budgeted Statement of Operations For the year ended June 30

	June 2019	June 2018
Revenues		
Government grant revenues	\$ 1,200	\$ 26,600
Community grant revenues	53,906	21,585
Donation revenues	808	3,309
Interest revenue	542	420
Total revenues	56,456	\$ 51,914
Expenses		
Program delivery - junior high	27,078	20,362
Program delivery - senior high	12,046	8,159
Program delivery - grandparent program	4,397	1,131
Public relations & fundraising	7,064	6,902
Total expenses	51,485	\$ 36,555
Excess of revenues over expenses	4,971	\$ 15,359