



2021-2022 Annual Report

Building Caring Communities Through Intergenerational Programs

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

Mission: Linking Generations creates connections between seniors and youth by nurturing friendships built through volunteering and structured mentorship.

Message from the Board Chair

Thanks to all board members past and current who've put their shoulder to the wheel.

We had a new strategic plan and we've worked towards that, knowing we can't be everything to everyone.

We have engaged deeply with our communities, both in Strathcona and Fort Sask. We work with the municipal councils, with their family and community services and with community organizations and service clubs.

As a board, we have focused on our governance role, starting with that strategic plan, and focusing on how we can support what our staff do while staying out of their way. I have always wanted to default to 'yes' as my response to ideas for what comes next.

Our finances are healthy and sets us up well to continue with current programs and expand into new programs or areas should the organization decide to do that.

With all our board members expertise and effort, we worked through our policy manual this year and managed to get the whole thing updated.

Our support remains strong among funders, partners, and the various schools and seniors' facilities in which we work.

It's been an honour to chair this board for the last few years. We've looked ahead and imagined our future, and we've dealt with a global pandemic that had a significant impact on our programs. All that said, we are emerging from COVID, and we are stronger than ever.

Finally, I note that those of us who are not seniors are aspiring seniors. I for one want Linking Generations to be around for when I can contribute to it.

Ian McCormack

Chair, Board of Directors

September 2022

2021-2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ian McCormack

Lynn Olenek

Barb Berndt

Lauren Ong

Bev Miskiw-Chetek

Tracy Lockhart

Teagan de Sequin

Debbie Sinclair

Executive Director Report

Linking Generations has pivoted and ensured that our programs continued to grow and thrive through this two-year pandemic. Although we began the 2021-2022 program year offering all our programs as virtual programs, we were fortunate to return to in person visits at all of our senior facilities as we neared the end of the program year.

We have seen many seniors experiencing mental poverty this year - that of which Linking Generations defines as a poor state of mind. We witnessed firsthand that the pandemic affected seniors more so that any other age population. With severe visiting restrictions placed at all senior facilities, many seniors had little or no contact with the outside world for the two ½ years of covid.

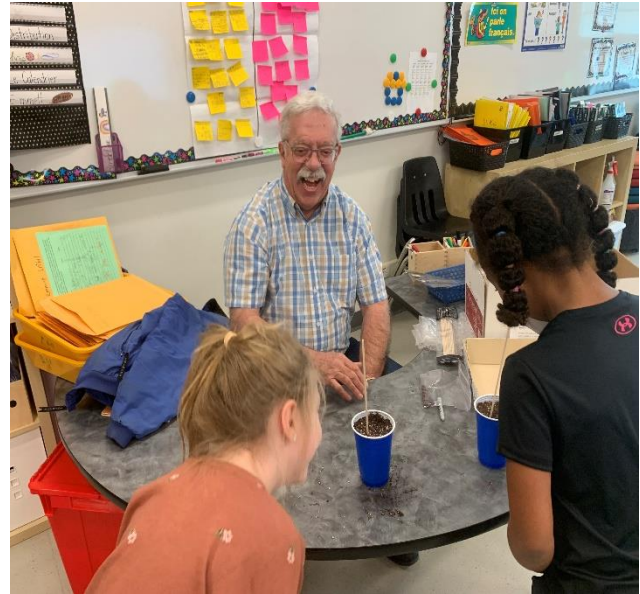
With our wonderful relationship in place with Heartland Housing Foundation, we finally expanded operations into Fort Saskatchewan in September 2021 linking seniors from Dr Turner Lodge with students from St. John Paul 11 Junior High.

One of our highlighted visits this year, occurred with our partnership school Ecole Our Lady of perpetual Help Junior High (OLPH). OLPH extended an invitation to our CloverBar Lodge Linking Generation seniors to attend a Spring Tea. Students dressed in formal wear and greeted our seniors at the school entrance. Seniors were led them to the library where each senior was served tea and cookies. One senior did not want the afternoon to end and had a few tears when saying goodbye to her students. Another senior remarked that this was her first outing out in the community since last summer as she has no family to take her out. This event was successful because of our wonderful school and lodge partnership and of our new Collaboration with Drive Happiness.



Our **Volunteer Grandparent Program** flourished this year, with seniors excited to return to volunteering and being allowed access into the school classrooms once again. Although masking remained in place, seniors readily stepped up to the plate for the opportunity to return to the classrooms and rekindle the relationships with their teachers and students in our partnership schools. At the end of June, we recorded 592 volunteer hours by our Volunteer Grandparents.

One of our highlighted Volunteer Grandparent visits at each school involved all of our senior volunteers teaching their assigned students/classroom how to grow beans from seed. Each student was supplied with a pot, black dirt and a bean seed. Our senior volunteers worked with all students to ensure that the planting was done with care, and then our seniors followed up each visit to ensure that the seeds were growing. Teachers have remarked how valuable this was to the classrooms.



Even amidst a pandemic, we started a new initiative this year- **Our Pen Pal Program**. Students from ABJ High School were matched with seniors from Aster Gardens. Twenty students wrote letters to their pen pal senior each month, and our seniors replied. At the end of the school term, Aster Gardens hosted an outdoor Patio BBQ where all the seniors and students met face to face. We recognize that this program was a huge success, and we are excited to continue this program next year.



Linking Generations was honoured to accept the 2021 Ministers Seniors Service Award for Outstanding Commitment to Seniors, demonstrating that our program improves the quality of life of Alberta Seniors in our community. Linking Generations remains a member of the Family Community Services Executive Leadership Steering Committee.



I thank all of our program school and senior facility partnerships, our funders, our invaluable community supporters and our incredible students and senior volunteers for the commitment you continue to have in our organization. Our combined strength is what makes us successful as a community organization.

Debbie Sinclair

Executive Director

September 2022



4000+ Total Volunteer Hours

Linking Generations places huge value upon volunteers. Students and seniors volunteer their lunch hours to be part of our program. They also volunteer their time for training sessions, program visits, our annual Family Meet and Greet event (which was not held this year due to covid and health restrictions) and program evaluation sessions. In addition, the Linking Generations Board of Directors and our team donate at least one hundred volunteer hours. As of June 30, 2022, we had contributed over 4200 volunteer hours.

Program Testimonials

Senior Participant

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

"The Grandparent program has been a powerful 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. Thank you to our school for supporting this program and allowing us the opportunity to build relationships with, what we think are some awesome people!



2021-2022 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
New Horizons for Seniors Program
Suncor Energy Foundation
Imperial Oil
TC Energy
Enbridge
REALTORS Community Foundation

Christensen Developments/Bedford Village
Sherwood Care
County Clothes-Line Foundation
Fortis Alberta
Heartland Housing Foundation
Northwest Redwater Refinery Partnership
100 Women Who Care
Elk Island Catholic School Board
Elk Island Public-School Board
Individual and Personal Donations

Message from the Treasurer

Linking Generations goal is to ensure the public and donated funds we are entrusted with are used to provide the highest quality programming and supports possible. We thank you for continuing to support Linking Generations especially during these challenging times and look forward to continuing to make a difference in the lives of our community seniors, students, and families.

As we head into Fiscal 2022-2023, our Linking Generations Board of Directors will be continuing to assist in the implementation of important strategic initiatives that will further strengthen the foundation of our programs.

Board Treasurer
June 30, 2022

June 30th, 2022

Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSTION June 2022

ASSETS

ATB Bank	\$	161,063
Laptops and Ipads	\$	14,159
Investments	\$	65,000
Total Assets	\$	240,222

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$	35
Equity		
Restricted Net Assets	\$	112,225
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	127,961
Net Income	\$	-
Total Equity	\$	240,187
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$	240,222

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
June 2022

	2022
Income	
Foundation and Trust Grants	\$ 7,250
Community/Business/Individual	\$ 22,885
Local Government Grants	\$ 44,000
Federal NHSP Covid Grant	\$ 10,000
United Way, Changelit, Blue Sky	\$ 2,861
Interest Income	\$ 746
Total Income	\$ 87,741
Program Expenses	
Program ED Fees	\$ 30,071
Grandparent	\$ 10,686
Program Delivery Fees	\$ 31,817
Transportation	\$ 2,751
Program Materials	\$ 5,389
Insurance - Student Liability	\$ -
Program Expenses	\$ 80,714
General & Admin	
Board meetings	\$ -
Postage, Mailing Service	\$ 294
Office Supplies	\$ 1,341
Computer Software/Hardware	\$ 933
Website	\$ -
Advertising Expenses	\$ -
Insurance - D and O	\$ -
Professional Development	\$ 289
Memberships and Dues	\$ 352
Total General & Admin	\$ 3,208
Other Types of Expenses	
Other	\$ 3,819
Total Expenses	\$ 87,741
Net Income	\$ 0