



Linking Generations



2022-2023 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.

A Message from Our Board of Directors

The Board of Directors for The Linking Generations Society of Alberta is comprised of dedicated volunteers who are recruited from the County of Strathcona and neighbouring communities. Our board is responsible for evaluating the Society's goals and objectives to ensure that all programs accomplish the tasks set out in the Board's strategic plan. We are thankful to our Board Members for their vision and dedication to improving the lives of seniors and students within The County of Strathcona and The City of Fort Saskatchewan.



2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson:
Lynn Olenek

Treasurer:
Shelly McNeill

Secretary:
Barb Berndt

Director:
Liz Laurence

Director:
Bev Miskiw-Chetek

Director:
Tracy Lockhart

Director:
Teagan Catingub

Director:
Ian McCormack

Executive Director:
Debbie Sinclair

Executive Director Report

When the Covid-19 pandemic first began we had no idea what our programs would like. In early 2023, as we transitioned away from the emergency measures that were in place, we still had no idea how the new landscape of our work would look. However, what we did know then (and what we still know now), is that our incredible community of leaders, funders, seniors, students, and volunteers would step up to make sure that we never lost sight of our mission and vision.

Intergenerational programs have become more important than they have ever been in our 19-year history. Linking Generations continues to be dedicated to maintaining intergenerational programming and connections wherever possible. We know from experience that intergenerational programs build lasting friendships, keep youth and seniors connected, reduce isolation and depression, break down stereotypes, ageism, and racism, and help both youth and seniors to feel more optimistic about their futures.

People often mention the need to develop more intergenerational programs as they can positively affect people of all ages. The pandemic highlighted the social isolation of the elderly; however, intergenerational ties have been weakening for several decades. This is partly due to the evolution of our ways of working and living. Despite this, a growing body of evidence supports intergenerational relationships for the many benefits they provide.

Over the last year, Linking Generations has presented to many notable organizations. When presenting to both EICS and EIPS school boards, it was noted that Linking Generations is recognized not only for fostering strong intergenerational communication & cooperation between youth and seniors, but school trustees also recognize that our programs demonstrate significant benefits to educators and families.



Linking Generations was honored to accept the 2022 County of Strathcona Excellence Award in Outstanding community group to Seniors. We were also awarded the Community Partner Award

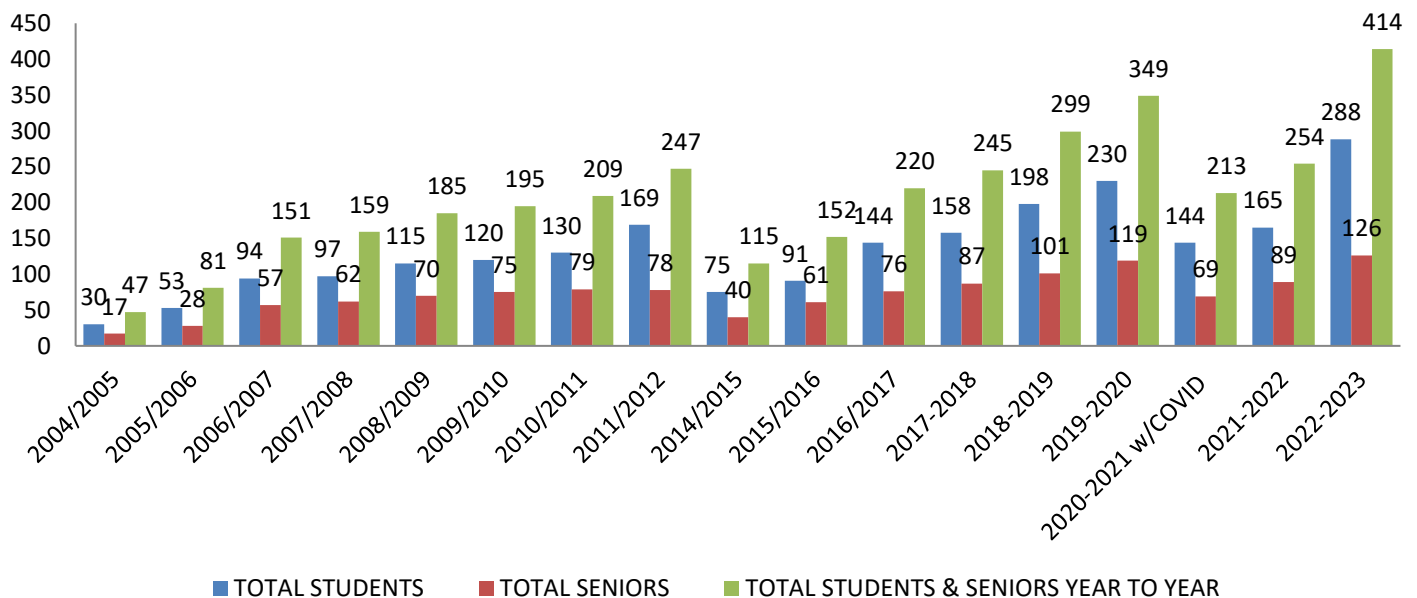


from Chartwell Seniors Living. Linking Generations remains a member of the County of Strathcona Executive Leadership Steering Committee.

Linking Generations programs can in some years involve more than 400 students and seniors connecting biweekly for one hour. The relationships which develop over 10 months of visits create social and emotional development and leadership skills. Through these visits, there is a mutual transfer of knowledge as students and seniors connect, social isolation is reduced, and self-esteem increases as participants report a deeper sense of fulfillment in their lives.

In our 2022-2023 program year, we had 414 seniors and students participating in our intergenerational school/senior programs. Having returned to in person visits, after a two-year absence of face-to-face visits, we recorded a 65% increase in student participation and a 42% increase in senior participation, giving us a 45% increase in total student and senior combined participation over prior years numbers.

Total Linking Generations Year to Year Student and Senior Participation

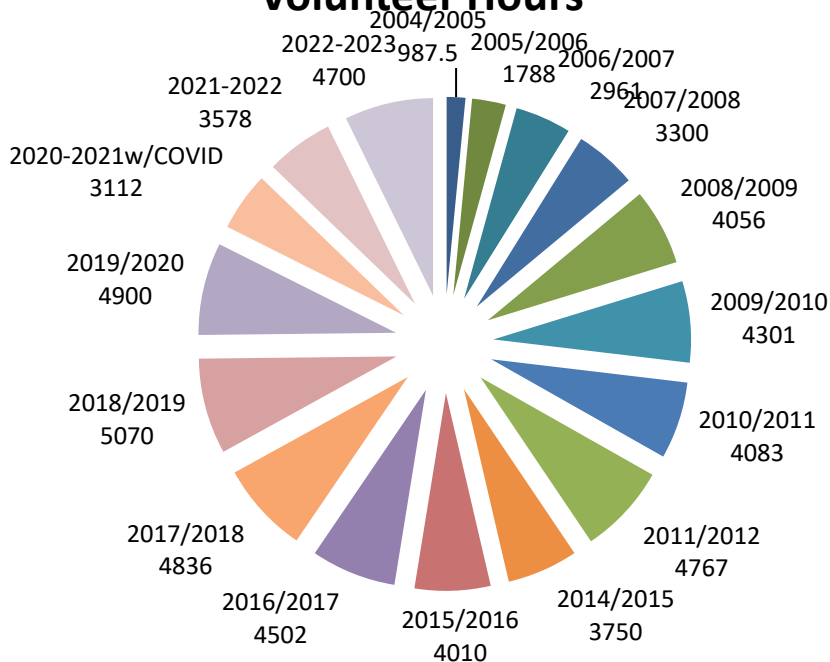


Our **Volunteer Grandparent Program** flourished this year, with 45+ seniors excited to return to our volunteer program and being allowed access into the school classrooms once again after Covid. All were excited to rekindle the relationships with their teachers and students in our 8 partnership schools. At the end of June, we recorded 592 volunteer hours by our Volunteer Grandparents.

It was an exciting program year, as we piloted a new initiative called our **Writer in Residence program**. High school students visited 1-1 with partnered seniors and scribed the seniors' stories into written words. Linking Generations developed a list of questions for seniors that would spur conversations, and in the end, a beautiful bond booklet was created for our participating seniors.

Linking Generations success and sustainability comes largely from volunteers who enable us to deliver leading edge programs. 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 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, 2023, we had contributed over 4700 TOTAL volunteer hours.

Total Linking Generations Year to Year Student & Senior Volunteer Hours



Over the last year, one of our primary focuses was the development of a volunteer recognition program. Ongoing work towards developing a robust feedback and evaluation framework is in process to support the recognition and growth of volunteers.

We thank all 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

October 2023



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.

Grade 9 Student

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.



2022-2023 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

County Clothes-Line Foundation
Fortis Alberta
Heartland Housing Foundation
Northwest Redwater Refinery Partnership
Inter Pipeline
Wolf Midstream
City of Fort Saskatchewan
EIPS and EICS School Board
Twice But Nice
Individual and Personal Donations

Thank
You

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 and look forward to continuing to make a difference in the lives of our community seniors, students, and families.

Linking Generations programs are totally supported by donations from corporations, businesses, foundations, and individuals. Our programs are offered at no cost to the individual teens or seniors to enable all to participate regardless of economic circumstances. We are very thankful for the community support we receive for our programs.

Linking Generations begins applying for grant funds in the first/second quarter of each year (Jan to June), however all awarded grant funds are held in reserve July 1 at the start of the new program year.

Our June 30th ,2023 statement of operations shows a ‘RESTRICTED NET ASSETS’ of \$182,584.50 plus \$26,000.00 Pledges as this is grant funds/community donations which were awarded from Jan 2023 to June 2023 and are reserved for operations commencing July 1,2023 to June 30, 2024.

Our current Linking Generations Society of Alberta Bylaws states we must have a secured reserve fund set aside for sustainability. We have established a one-year sustainability reserve to ensure that the availability of funds is on hand to offer continuous programming. We currently have a restricted sustainability GIC reserve of \$85,000.00.

Board Treasurer
June 30, 2023

June 30th, 2023

Financial Statements



Statement of Operations

Jul '22 - Jun 23

<u>Income</u>	
Community & Individual Contrib	25,521.43
Foundation and Trust Grants	16,250.00
Government Grants	64,893.00
Indirect Public Support	886.04
Interest Income	2,545.39
Total Income	\$110,095.86
<u>General & Admin Expenses</u>	
Advertising Expenses	747.96
Bank Fees	9.30
Computer Software/Hardware	214.20
Insurance - D and O	654.00
Memberships and Dues	378.00
Office Supplies	1,586.20
Postage, Mailing Service	265.19
Staff Development	3,886.73
Website	330.00
Total General & Admin Expenses	\$8,071.58
<u>Program Expenses</u>	
Program Delivery Fees	37,128.00
Program ED Fees	38,152.50
Program Grandparent	12,000.00
Program Ins - Student Liability	1,015.00
Program Materials	5,513.25
Program Transportation	6,131.28
Total Program Expenses	\$99,940.03
Total Expense	\$108,011.61
Net Income	\$2,084.25

Barb Berndt
Linking Generations Society of Alberta
Board Secretary

Shelly McNeill
Linking Generations Society of Alberta
Board Treasurer



Statement of Financial Position

Jul '22 - Jun 23

ASSETS

Current Assets

ATB Bank	210,658.83
Total Chequing/Savings	210,658.83

Accounts Receivable

Pledges Receivable	26,000.00
Total Accounts Receivable	26,000.00

Other Current Assets

Interest Receivable	2,084.25
Prepaid Expenses	1,923.75
Total Other Current Assets	4,008.00

Total Current Assets

\$240,666.83

Fixed Assets

Computers	963.68
Accum. Amortization	-424.02
Total Fixed Assets	539.66

Other Assets

Other Investments	85,000.00
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TOTAL ASSETS

\$326,206.49

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Restricted Net Assets	182,584.50
Unrestricted Net Assets	141,537.74
Net Income	2,084.25

Total Equity

326,206.49

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

\$326,206.49

Barb Berndt 
Linking Generations Society of Alberta
Board Secretary

Shelly McNeill 
Linking Generations Society of Alberta
Board Treasurer