2025-2026 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

Linking Generation programs have had another successful year. Our programs are being delivered in Sherwood Park and Fort Saskatchewan again this year.

The Share and Care Program which have the younger aged school classes meeting seniors in care homes continues to be a success. So much that we have been asked by one care center to deliver weekly programs as the seniors enjoy the children so much and eagerly look forward to their visits. The children read with the seniors, do age-appropriate games which reflect their school curriculum

Plans are being developed to expand this program into a memory care unit to provide seniors with the opportunity to interact with the students.

Our Grandparent Program currently is offered in 8 schools in Fort Saskatchewan with 39 seniors. In Sherwood Park this program has 68 seniors in 14 elementary schools.

Linking Generations continues to offer the junior high school students and seniors lodges program in both Fort Saskatchewan and Sherwood Park. One of the highlights, as a Board member is attending the Family Meet and Greet evening where the students and their families meet their student's senior. It is a time of fun, games and fellowship. Our Program Coordinators find unique games for all to participate in. There is much laughter followed by treats. It is a time where our funders, schools and Board can attend, seeing Linking Generations in action.

This year, two of our Program Coordinators decided to move onto a different chapter in their lives. We wish all the best to Lisa Moffatt and Yvette Kadatz. New Program Coordinators will be recruited for the upcoming year.

It was my honor to accept the Alberta School Board Associations Community Engagement Award at their annual meeting this winter. Linking Generations received the Community Votes for Sherwood Park 2025 Campaign.

Linking Generations could not continue without the generous financial backing of our many funders. The Board thanks them for their support so our programs can be continued to be delivered. Linking Generations recognizes and acknowledges the ongoing partnerships from Elk Island Public and Elk Island Catholic Schools Boards, Principals, and Teachers, who welcome us into their schools and classrooms. A huge thank you to all the Seniors Lodges, and apartments for making us welcome and providing space and goodies for when students and seniors meet. Above all a special thanks to our Students and Seniors for giving of their time to develop and grow new friendships across the ages.

A special thank you to our dedicated hard working Executive Director who always seems to generate new ideas to foster relationships between the youth and seniors of our community. With her leadership and work of the Program Coordinators, Linking Generations can continue to foster everlasting relationships between the youth and seniors of our communities.

Thank you to the Board of Directors who give of their time, expertise and support throughout the year.

Lynn Olenek,

Board Chair

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We want to extend special thanks to the dedicated individuals who make up our Board of Directors. Without your time, expertise and passion for the work, we couldn't achieve the same promising results that we do, toward helping more young people and seniors connect intergenerationally.

Board Chair: Lynn Olenek
Board Secretary: Barbara Berndt
Board Treasurer: Shelly O'Neill
Board Director: Alyre Morin
Board Director: Kevin Capowski
Board Director: Wendy Thomas
Board Director: Keeley Roesler
Board Director: Marilyn Spilchen

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we operate on Treaty 6 Territory which is the traditional meeting grounds, gathering places and travelling route of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Metis, Dene and Nakota Sioux. We honour and respect the Elders, the history and languages, ceremonies and cultures of the First Nations, Metis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands, past, present and future. As a senior and youth-serving organization, we understand it's critical to decolonize our mindset and our practices.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is hard to believe how quickly the program year has passed. As Carol Burnett so memorably said, “Seems like we just get started and before you know it, comes the time we have to say so long.” Another line from that same song says, “I’m so glad we had this time together,” a sentiment that surely reflects what many of our seniors and students are feeling as this year ends.

On behalf of the Linking Generations Board of Directors, Program Coordinators, Volunteers and myself, I am pleased to share the measurable successes we achieved this year.

1. Community Impact and Connection

Linking Generations is recognized in the community as a place where kind souls connect. The impact of these program connections reaches far beyond the seniors and students who participate directly. Families, care centre staff, and the broader community all benefit from the joy, energy, and understanding these relationships create.

When students arrive at the seniors’ centre, the joy in the room is easy to feel. Even seniors who are not formally involved in the program often greet the students with big smiles. The young people bring warmth, enthusiasm, and renewed energy into the care centres, giving many seniors something meaningful to look forward to.

- One senior participant shared that, on the mornings of Linking Generations visits, the program gives her a reason to get out of bed.
- Care Centre staff have observed that participating seniors feel more positive about life and have a better overall outlook.
- Students’ families are grateful for the opportunity their children are given to build relationships with seniors, especially when many young people do not have grandparents living nearby.

2. Year in Review: Building Connections Across Generations

This year, Linking Generations continued to bridge the gap between young people and seniors by creating spaces where friendships flourish and generations come together. Through strong partnerships with senior facilities and schools, the program has helped build a community grounded in respect, understanding, shared joy, and meaningful connection.

Together, seniors, students, volunteers, schools, and care centre partners created lasting moments of learning, laughter, and heartfelt connection. Key highlights from the year include:

- 256 student and senior visits were held, connecting approximately 495 seniors and students.
- Elementary School Share and Care Programs reaching an average of 310 students and 95 seniors.
- 10,915 total volunteer hours contributed across The County of Strathcona and The City of Fort Saskatchewan.

3. Volunteer Grandparent Program

The Volunteer Grandparent Program connected more than 80 senior volunteers with elementary students through regular classroom visits. Volunteers visited twice a month, with some attending even more often, to share stories from past generations, offer encouragement, and build meaningful relationships with younger students.

The program responds to a growing need for opportunities where young people and seniors can connect in an increasingly age-segregated society.

This year's program reach included:

- More than 80 senior volunteers.
- Fourteen participating elementary schools in Sherwood Park.
- Eight participating elementary schools in the City of Fort Saskatchewan.

4. What Educators Have Shared with Us:

One principal shared, "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."

A teacher added, "Children begin to learn to respect seniors when they have opportunities to build relationships with them. Many children are unable to connect with grandparents because of blended families or distance. This program gives students the chance to move beyond stereotypes they may have formed about seniors."

5. Our Community Volunteer Hours

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, 2026, we had contributed over 10,915 total volunteer hours. Our financial contribution resulting from our esteemed volunteers (estimate based on our broader audience volunteering the average number of hours for a Canadian volunteer, at minimum wage) = $141,895.00

6. PROGRAM TESTIMONIALS

For ten years, Marion and Trinity's senior/student match has been a shining example of the power of our community-based intergenerational program. What began as a connection between a reserved young girl and her "linked" senior has grown into a lifelong bond rooted in trust, laughter, and shared experiences. Marion reflects: “A decade of watching my student grow from a quiet, adventurous grade seven student into a beautiful, smart and caring young woman has been the greatest blessing. She reminds me that simple things and time spent with one another is all that matters!”

7. LASTING MEMORIES












2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR FUNDING PARTNERS

Thank you to the individuals and organizations who help Linking Generations Society of Alberta pave the way forward for seniors and young people. Your gifts help us grow, adapt and deliver programs that meet the everchanging needs of past and future generations. Whether building the way with visionary support, helping us explore new approaches, or championing consistent, reliable impact, your generosity makes it possible. Your continued support drives change and we're deeply grateful.

Linking Generations Society of Alberta is a registered charity.
Our charitable number is 845667070 RR0001.

County of Strathcona County - Family Community Services
New Horizons for Seniors Program
Suncor
Imperial Oil
South Bow
Enbridge
Edmonton Community Foundation
County Clothes-Line Foundation
Fortis Alberta
Heartland Housing Foundation
Northwest Redwater Refinery
Inter Pipeline
Wolf Midstream
City of Fort Saskatchewan
EIPS and EICS School Board
Twice But Nice
Sherwood Rotary Club
Flaman Group of Companies
Individual Donations

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.

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.

Our June 30th, 2026, statement of operations shows 'RESTRICTED NET ASSETS" of $202,402.00. This revenue amount reflects the grant funds/community donations which were awarded from Jan.2026 to June 2026 and MUST be reserved for operations commencing July 1,2026 to June 30, 2027.

Our current Linking Generations Society of Alberta Strategic Plan outlines we must have a secured reserve fund set aside for sustainability and to ensure we have funds on hand to offer continuous programming. We currently have a reserved sustainability GIC reserve of $282K.

As we head into Fiscal 2026-2027, 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.

June 30th, 2026 Financial Statements

Linking Generations

Statement of Financial Position	As of June 30, 2026
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
ATB Cash	67,312.81
ATB Savings	120,363.31
Prepaid Expenses	0.00
Total Current Assets	187,676.12
Fixed Assets	
Computers	1575.99
Accum. Amortization	-1575.99
Total Fixed Assets	0
Other Assets	
Reserved Funds (GIC's)	282,166.34
TOTAL ASSETS	$469,842.46
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	0.00
Equity	
Restricted Net Assets	202,402.03
Unrestricted Net Assets	267,440.43
Net Income	0.00
Total Equity	469,842.46
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	$469,842.46
NET	$0.00

Notice to reader;

GIC's in Reserved Funds are invested for one year with the exception of one "in cash" GIC redeemable without penalty.

All reserved funds can only be redeemed according to policy FIN 106 and FIN107.

Linking Generations

Statement of Operations July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Income	
Business and Individual Donations	16,067.96
Foundation and Trust Grants	13,782.93
Federal Government Grants	25,000.00
Municipal Government Grants	95,550.00
Interest Income	9,119.93
Total Income	$159,520.82
Program Expenses	
Program ED Fees	52,082.25
Program Delivery Fees	53,128.00
Program Materials	5,562.94
Program Transportation	14,895.50
Program Ins - Student Liabilty	1,180.00
Total Program Expenses	$126,848.69
Grandparent Program	
Grandparent ED Fees	14,348.70
Grandparent Deilvery Fees	12,436.83
Grandparent Materials	449.59
Total Grandparent Program	$27,235.12
General & Admin Expenses	
Advertising Expenses	614.40
Amortization Expense	854.96
Bank Fees	18.20
Dues and Membership	191.10
IT Services	126.00
Insurance - D and O	783.00
Meals & Entertainment	355.96
Office Supplies	1,422.26
Postage, Mailing Service	331.37
Printing and Copying	-
Program Development	611.66
Telephone	128.10
Unrealized Gain and Losses	-
Total General & Admin Expenses	$5,437.01
Total Expenses	$159,520.82
Net Income	**$0.00**