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Thank you to our amazing funders, sponsors, and partners for their support in 2019, including:



VOLUNTEER Strathcona

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends of Volunteer Strathcona,

On behalf of the Board of Volunteer Strathcona, I want to thank you for your ongoing support.

Volunteer Strathcona continued supporting volunteers, promoting volunteerism, and working with non-profits across the County in 2019.

As you read our annual report, you will learn more details about our service and programs in the community. We continued to actively seek out new partnerships and opportunities with others in the community - opportunities where we could work together to improve services to County residents. In 2019, we continued to review, revise and adjust our service offerings to best fit the requirements of the community.

Looking forward to 2020, we expect continued growth in the use of our VolunteerConnector platform which enables volunteers to connect with non-profits across the community for volunteer opportunities. We will continue to develop our workshop offerings to assist our community non-profits and seek collaboration and funding opportunities to expand these offerings.

We thank the governments, private corporations, non-profits and individuals who have chosen to support and work with us in 2019.

Tim Goos, Board Chair

125+ INDIVIDUAL ATTENDEES AT VOLUNTEER STRATHCONA WORKSHOPS

\$20,000+ SAVED IN THE COMMUNITY THROUGH OUR WE CARE WE SHARE PROGRAM

2500+ VOLUNTEER HOURS THROUGH VOLUNTEER STRATHCONA

OUR VISION: STRATHCONA COUNTY IS A VIBRANT COMMUNITY STRENGTHENED BY VOLUNTEERS AND AN EFFECTIVE NON-PROFIT SECTOR.

BUILDING CAPACITY AND SECTOR SUPPORT

2019 workshop topics included:

- Social Media Basics
- Human Resource Basics
- Finance 101
- Grant Writing
- Funders Forum
- Time Management
- Safer Spaces with altView

Safer Spaces Lunch and Learn with altView

altView Foundation's presentation on inclusion, ally-ship, and how to create a safer space for the LGBTQ2S+ community was appreciated by those non-profits, businesses and residents who attended the workshop.

Funders Forum

This forum was a unique opportunity for non-profit organizations to learn about funding grants, determine if their group fits with a specific funder, and then meet with them in an intimate setting. Seventy non-profit and community group representatives were able to access 12 funders and start conversations about potential funding and partnerships.

STARS OF ALBERTA

In 2019 Strathcona County resident **Braydon Fix** won one of two Stars of Alberta, Youth Category awards. Braydon is by definition a "superstar volunteer." In 2019 we were proud to have him serve as a SnowBuster and LawnBuster volunteer. He has also volunteered for the **Edmonton Marathon, Common Ground Cafe, Sherwood Park Crusaders, Long Shotz Driving Range, Capital Care, Sherwood Park Special Olympics**, as well as the **World's Longest Hockey and Baseball Games**. Volunteer Strathcona couldn't think of a better person to nominate. **Congratulations to Braydon for this incredible achievement!**

BUILDING COMMUNITY

SnowBusters

Our second year delivering SnowBusters was just about as successful as the first year! In the 2019-2020 we served 65 residents with snow removal which in turn helps keep them safe and in their homes longer. Another success this season was a donation of 30 snow shovels from Home Hardware Sherwood Park!

Tax Clinics

In 2019 we facilitated the delivery of free tax return assistance through the CRA sponsored MTTP Tax Clinics. Thanks to a team of 13 volunteer tax preparers, over **274 returns were filed**. This translates into almost **\$54,000 in refunds**. The importance of and the benefit to recipients of this program is that filing income tax will open the door for resource challenged families to benefit from other government sponsored programs, including: affordable leisure, seniors benefits, child tax benefits, reduced rate transit passes, and childcare subsidies.

PARTNERSHIPS

Ongoing Partnerships

Aligning with Volunteer Strathcona's focus on working in collaboration with organizations in the community, Volunteer Strathcona is pleased to continue our partnership with **Linking Generations** and **Drive Happiness**. These partners work to enhance the lives of seniors within our community. Linking Generations delivers the highly successful **Grandparents Program** that encourages **inter-generational interaction** between students and seniors. As of 2019, there are **8 schools** involved with this program along with **52 seniors**.

Drive Happiness provides affordable transportation for resource challenged seniors. Volunteer Strathcona was proud to provide volunteer recruitment and support to both of these deserving agencies.

In 2018, we had 5 volunteer drivers and 9 seniors using the service in Strathcona County. In 2019, we had 11 drivers and 41 seniors using this service in Strathcona County! Over 8823km was driven in Strathcona County by volunteers in 2019 through this program, 5000km more than 2018!

New Partnerships

In 2019 we partnered with many fellow non-profits and community groups. We supported 2 new Strathcona County events: **Raven Wood Experience** and **Highland Games**. Volunteer Strathcona provided social media support as well as on-site assistance at both events.

We partnered with the **Strathcona Sustainability Association** and presented the "Community Forum on Energy Efficiency." This Forum was very well attended.

This past year, Volunteer Strathcona also provided support to **FCS, A Safe Place, Saffron Centre, RCMP, Victim Services**, and **altView** on the **Reach Out Speak Out** campaign against family violence providing graphic design and event planning support. Finally, one of our longest standing partnerships from 2019 has been with **Goodwill Industries**. Through this partnership we have been able to place and train one of their clients as a volunteer receptionist to help gain work related skills.

BUILDING OURSELVES

In order to fully serve our community, we too continue to build our own internal capacity. In 2019 Volunteer Strathcona staff participated in several learning opportunities. These included the Tamarack Institute's Asset-Based-Community Development Conference, IAP2 training, Alberta Board Member Essentials Course (ECVO), the Volunteer Influencer Summit (Propellus, Volunteer Calgary), Partnership Brokers Trainers Course (Partnership Brokers Association). We also attended the Victim Services' Family Violence Conference and the Social Summit, participated in the planning of the Board Leadership Edmonton Conference 2020, and most recently have engaged with InVest – a regional voluntary sector community of practice.

CORPORATE INVESTMENT IN SUPPORT OF OUR ACTIVITIES

Suncor

Once again in 2019, Suncor made a generous contribution towards our We Care We Share Community Enhancement Project inventory.

Through this initiative Volunteer Strathcona lends equipment such as popcorn, hot dog and candy floss machines, plus many other items including projectors and shade tents to our community groups and non-profit organizations. We were pleased to learn that many of community groups who borrowed our equipment were able to stretch the grant dollars they received through Strathcona County's Small Community Grants. **In 2019 alone, the We Care We Share Community Enhancement Project saved our community over \$20,000!**

Pembina

Thanks to Pembina and a partnership with Integral Org. we hosted **Finance 101**, and **Human Resources Basics** in early 2019.

Imperial Oil

A long-standing partnership exists between Volunteer Strathcona and Imperial Oil and 2019 was no exception. Volunteer Strathcona partnered with Imperial Oil to host **National Volunteer Week** April 7-13, 2019. Imperial supported National Volunteer week by providing refreshments during the flag raising ceremony as well as custom notebooks that were circulated at a number of events and to many volunteers.

County Clothesline

A generous grant from our local County Clothesline helped us bring a **Time Management** workshop as well as a **Safer Spaces Lunch and Learn workshop with altView**.

TC Energy

A grant from TC Energy ensured that we were able to present our **Funders Forum** in 2019. This unique Forum has consistently been appreciated by the County's non-profit organizations and ranks high in value. Twelve specific funders were available to our 70+ attendees.

Home Hardware Sherwood Park

In 2019, we learned that many of our **SnowBusters** clients did not possess proper snow removal equipment—whether cost, lack of transportation to shop, or both. Home Hardware Sherwood Park generously donated 30 snow shovels!

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week was proclaimed in the County in April 2019 and the week kicked off with our traditional flag raising ceremony with a brand new flag design featuring our re-branded logo.

We participated in and hosted a number of events during this week including a "Self-Care Sunday" fair which encouraged volunteers to take time for themselves.



National Volunteer Week 2019

THANK YOU TO MAJOR FUNDERS

For 26 years, **Strathcona County** has generously provided grant dollars to support volunteerism and non-profits within our community. This ongoing annual support illustrates Strathcona County leadership's commitment and support to the non-profit and voluntary sector in the community.

We are also pleased to acknowledge a capacity building grant from the **Government of Alberta** through its Enhanced Capacity Advancement Program. These dollars were instrumental in helping Volunteer Strathcona meet our commitment to the local non-profit and voluntary sector.

For a digital version, visit: volunteerstrathcona.ca/about/annual-report/