

NeighbourLink Spring Newsletter



Spring is in the air at NeighbourLink!

And the season has brought with it a few updates to share with you...

- Check out our new and improved website at www.neighbourlinkcalgary.ca.
- A new session of Run & Jump & Play begins March 31 and runs until June 16.
- At Project Homeless Connect, NeighbourLink handed out bar-soap and candy to Calgary's less fortunate.
- A new coat of paint has the second warehouse floor prepped for furniture donations.



“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”



Photos clockwise from above:

A guest author holds a toddler at Run & Jump & Play.

Calgarians dig for candy in front of NeighbourLink's booth at Project Homeless Connect.

NeighbourLink employee Dale (center) stops painting to pose with volunteers Darryl and Victor.

Look who the breeze blew in!

NeighbourLink would like to extend a warm welcome to some new faces on staff.

Scott Evans

Warehouse General Manager



• Scott comes to NeighbourLink with close to 10 years experience in the “used goods” business. He worked for Value Village for 6 years, where he ran their Calgary NE location and had second highest store sales for the company. Most recently he was General Manager for the Habitat for Humanity ReStore for over 3 years. He looks forward to the new challenges that his position will bring and to helping Neighbourlink grow. When he’s not working, you can usually find him reading about the Maginot Line or puttering around him and his wife Sharon’s cottage in East Coulee with their dog, “Coulee” and cat, “Mushric.”

Cynthia Runke

Information & Referral Specialist

- Cynthia came to NeighbourLink after working in the Emergency Link Center at STARS and has an educational background in Business Administration combined with Real Estate Development and Bookkeeping courses. She is also a mother of two children ages 7 and 4. They all keep busy by staying proactive and regularly participating in recreational activities. Cynthia has a passion for the non-profit industry and enjoys helping others when the chips are down. She too is looking forward to growing and working with NeighbourLink.



Joni Rabena

Office Manager & Bookkeeper



• Joni spent the past 14 years working with Habitat for Humanity, first in Winnipeg for 3 years as the Volunteer Co-ordinator, and then in Calgary for 11 years as Office Manager. She enjoyed most of her time at Habitat but felt she needed a big change. She thanks Walter for bringing her into the fold of NeighbourLink, as she is quite enjoying her new job. When she’s not working her four-day work week, she is either working on her or her friends’ genealogies or she’s playing her bodhran in a local Celtic group of amateur musicians!

Sharon Evans

Program Director, All Roads Lead Home

- Originally from the West Coast, Sharon has lived in Calgary for 7 years, 4 of which she spent working in Arts and Culture as a Program, Guest Services and Volunteer Manager. In addition, she has had the pleasure of being involved with the Canadian Badlands Passion Play for the past six seasons, and is also taking Executive Leadership in the Non-profit Sector through Grant MacEwan College. She has found that much of her learning over the past few years has prepared her for this position with NeighbourLink.



Leeanne Alexander

Program Administrator, All Roads Lead Home



- Leeanne has worked extensively in the non-profit sector in the Vancouver downtown Eastside from 1992 – 1997. She worked closely with single mothers in crisis and facilitated programs teaching life and parenting skills. In 1997 herself, her husband and her 2 daughters moved to Calgary to begin a new life. Leeanne spent 4 years leading youth ministry in her home church with her husband. She has a background in theatre, attending the Fine Arts program at Malaspina University in Nanaimo BC. Leeanne has a deep passion for helping families get on the road to success.

Lyla Wiens

Information & Referral Specialist

- Lyla graduated from SAIT in 2006 with a Business Administration-Accounting diploma. Her husband is currently completing the Masters of Teaching program at the U of C. She worked in the non-profit industry (condominium education) until coming to NeighbourLink, although she has been volunteering here since 2002. She is very excited to be here!



Jessica Kwong

Music & Movement Teacher, Run & Jump & Play



- Jessica Kwong completed her Bachelor of Arts in Dance with Distinction from the U of C in 2007, with a focus on contemporary technique. She began her journey with movement as a child in Edmonton, taking lessons in jazz, tap, ballet, and musical theatre. Jessica's teaching philosophy centres on a holistic approach to the individual, encouraging personal exploration while working with sound movement principles. Jessica also holds a diploma in Food and Nutrition Management from SAIT, and has been practicing yoga for over 10 years. She and her husband Andy are the proud parents of (almost) one-year old Silas. Jessica is thrilled to be involved with the continued growth of Run & Jump & Play.

Alexis Bevan

Communications Coordinator

- Alexis is thankful for the role NeighbourLink has played in her life over the past nine months. She had a great time volunteering with the L.I.F.F.E. Support program last summer, delivering furniture to families across the city. A two week practicum at NeighbourLink last fall has led to a part-time job writing and designing newsletters, brochures and posters for the organization while she completes her Journalism Arts diploma at SAIT. Alexis also has a Certificate in Christian Studies from Covenant Bible College Ecuador. She loves travelling, writing and exploring the outdoors.



January to March Stats...

- Number of Requests Met: 1,878
- Larger Request Types:
 - Baby Needs: 573
 - Furniture Needs: 288
 - Hamper Delivery: 382
 - Transportation: 86
 - Financial Support: 7
 - Emergency Food: 113
- Number of Volunteer Hours: 4,968
- Total Direct Financial Support: \$1,486.00
- Total Number of People Helped: 2,712
- Total Number of Children Helped: 1,808

You're Invited...

- Join us for our Open House and Stampede BBQ on Thursday, June 25 from 3-6 p.m.

www.neighbourlinkcalgary.ca
403-538-7300
Storehouse 39-3-10
3751 21 St NE
Calgary, AB T2E 6T5
neighbourlinkcalgary@storehouse39.ca

To help a neighbour-in-need refer them
to our HelpLine ~ 403-209-1930

Donations...

In order to continue helping our clients we are in urgent need of the following items:

- Bus tickets
- Diapers ~ all sizes
- Cribs & mattresses
- Kitchen tables & chairs
- Dressers
- Beds & bedding
- Non-perishable food

If you have items to donate please call
403-538-7395.

Program Updates...

Run & Jump & Play

- The new RJP session runs Tuesday, March 31 to Tuesday, June 16.
- Thank you, Calgary Church of Christ, for providing a location again!
- If you're free every Tuesday during the session, come volunteer as a Nursery Angel! You'll have a great time taking care of toddlers in the playroom from 9-11 a.m.

For more info, contact Barbara at blapointe.nbl@storehouse39.ca, phone 403-538-7305 or visit www.rjpprogram.com

All Roads Lead Home

- All Roads Lead Home is a program which facilitates the connection between neighbours in our communities. As a homeless family is moved into stable housing, they are like refugees who need help establishing themselves in their new community.
- ARLH provides meaningful opportunities for people to share the power of friendship and love. From providing basic needs such as household items, furniture and toilet paper, to offering deeper layers of support in the form of mentorship such as ESL lessons or help registering children in the local schools, volunteers will be able to effect real change in peoples' lives. A complete "menu" of items and opportunities is available and more information will be coming soon!

Get Goose Bumps...

Volunteer with NeighbourLink today!

- Deliver resources including food, baby needs, furniture and more to clients' homes
- Organize a "No Crib For A Bed" baby item drive

For more information on volunteering, contact us at neighbourlinkcalgary@storehouse39.ca

Volunteers are an integral part of NeighbourLink's outreach in Calgary and one of our most valuable resources. We are privileged to be working with volunteers who are dedicated and committed to helping Calgarians in need.