



*Linking Generations*

# 2014 Annual Report to the Community



Bridging the Gap Between the Generations since 2004

# Message From The Board

## Our Mission

Linking Generations' mission is to create a link between seniors and youth that will help bridge the gap between the two generations. This link will foster caring and sharing relationships between the senior and student volunteers involved with the Linking Generations Program.

## Our Board

Chair: Wendy Hoffmann  
Secretary: Diane Bacon  
Treasurer: Erin Stephen, CA  
Director: Barb Berndt  
Director: Kathy Gynane  
Director: Glenda Sheard  
Director: Rolande Vaillancourt  
Director: Faye White, CIM, PMgr.

## Lifelong Learning

For over 10 years Linking Generations has been supporting the exchange of life learnings across our respected generations. It is a rewarding journey for our youth, elders, families, schools and seniors' residences as we bridge the information gap through the sharing of life experiences.

Within our extended community we have much to celebrate as the demand for the Linking Generations program has expanded beyond the expectations initially set by the board of directors for 2014-2015. The board of directors are committed to the success of Linking Generations and we are fortunate to have a dedicated and passionate Executive Director and Program Coordinators in place working with the community, students, seniors and schools.

We are grateful to have the opportunity of bridging generational information and we recognize the community partners and generous charitable, corporate, government and individual donors who all help make it all happen. Without these efforts the life learnings are lost, with you we make a difference.



We invite you to learn more about our programs and participants by visiting our website and reading our student blogs.

[linkinggenerations.ca](http://linkinggenerations.ca)

# Message From The Executive Director

## **Cherish Our Seniors and Value our Youth!**

Since 2004 Linking Generations has been developing and supporting meaningful exchanges between two generations, truly building friendship, understanding and respect between youth and older adults. Linking Generations initially started with one program; matching teams of seniors to students; and then expanded quickly to five programs due to the program's success. We are proud that we have demonstrated measurable outcomes that show how intergenerational programs successfully decrease age segregation and create positive opportunities for young and old to grow together and feel valued.



Debbie Sinclair

Linking Generations faced some challenges in its last operating year 2012/2013 as the Original Founder of Linking Generations retired. However, 2014 brought about "New Beginnings" and a time for change for Linking Generations. Due to strong interest and demand from the seniors and youth in our community, a dedicated team of individuals resurrected the Linking Generations Programs, once again offering mentored structured visits to our seniors and youth. With a new Governance Board in place and a new Executive Director hired, together we are fully committed to re-establishing Linking Generations as a successful non-profit charity within the County of Strathcona.

The trend over the past few decades has been for less extended family living close by and thus our elderly and youth have less day to day contact. This disconnect can create a breeding ground for mistrust and misunderstanding by each age group toward the other. Linking Generations is so proud to help in bridging the generation gap by providing meaningful programs and services that involve the sharing of skills, knowledge and experiences between the young and those not so young. Since our beginnings in 2004, we have brought together more than 1620 youth and seniors throughout Sherwood Park.

In September 2014 we will link students from two Sherwood Park Junior High schools with seniors from two seniors' lodges, thus providing "linkages" to 75 youth and seniors. However, there is such a demand for our programming that we have to turn away more than 50 students. Beginning in 2015, we will begin offering our programs to two Senior High Schools, matching those students with seniors from two local care facilities. With the growing awareness of our program benefits, we are moving ahead to meet the demand and move towards a vision of a community that respects and values the gifts of all ages.

With a highly skilled staff, strong leadership, an experienced and passionate Board of Directors, tremendous volunteers, valuable community supporters, youth and seniors, Linking Generations will continue to have a positive impact throughout The County of Strathcona in this year and the coming years.

# Message From The Treasurer

## 2014 Financial Results

In April 2014, the re-organization of Linking Generations was complete and we were pleased to receive a \$9,000 grant from Strathcona County's Family & Community Services to re-establish our programs in Sherwood Park beginning in September 2014.

Fundraising efforts have continued, resulting in an increase in unrestricted net assets at June 30<sup>th</sup> of \$10,538 over the prior year.

We are pleased to recognize all of our supporters in this report.



Erin Stephen, CA

---

## 2013/14 Donors

Strathcona County Family and Community Services  
Rotary Club of Sherwood Park  
Meyers Insurance  
ATCO Electric  
Paul Vaillancourt  
United Way  
Lin and Linda Keehn

---

## 2014/15 Budget Highlights

Total annual budget of \$35,950			Junior High	Senior High
Direct programming costs	69%	Average cost per visit	\$520	\$450
Sustainability reserve	19%	# of visits	28	22
Fundraising costs	7%	# student volunteers	56	36
Public relations costs	5%	# senior volunteers	33	17

Participant selection and training for the junior high program will begin in September 2014 with bi-monthly visits from October through April. The senior high program will begin in January 2015, with weekly visits from February through April. Celebration luncheons will be held in early May.

In fiscal 2015, the organization is committed to sustainable fundraising by involving individuals, business, community, and government in supporting our program goals and initiatives.



**Linking Generations Society of Alberta  
Statement of Financial Position  
As at June 30**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<hr/>		
Assets		
Cash	\$ 11,845	\$ 1,306
Accounts receivable	-	-
<hr/>		
Total assets	11,845	1,306
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	-	-
<hr/>		
Total liabilities	-	-
Net assets		
Restricted net assets - prior years	-	-
Unrestricted net assets - prior years	1,306	3,784
Restricted net assets - current year	-	
Unrestricted net assets - current year	10,538	(2,477)
<hr/>		
Total net assets	\$ 11,845	\$ 1,306
<hr/> <hr/>		

**Audited and approved on behalf of the Board of Directors:**

"original signed"	August 27, 2014
Wendy Hoffmann, Chair	Date

"original signed"	July 29, 2014
Barb Berndt, Director	Date

**Prepared on behalf of the Board of Directors:**

"original signed"	July 23, 2014
Erin Stephen, Treasurer	Date



**Linking Generations Society of Alberta  
Statement of Operations  
For the year ended June 30**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<hr/>		
Revenues		
Grant revenues	\$ 9,000	\$ 31,000
Sponsorship revenues	-	2,438
Donation revenues	3,233	17,246
Partner fees	400	4,600
<hr/>		
Total revenues	12,633	55,283
Expenses		
Program delivery	(47)	42,855
Public relations	842	12,208
Fundraising	1,300	2,698
<hr/>		
Total expenses	2,095	57,761
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 10,538	\$ (2,477)
<hr/> <hr/>		

**Audited and approved on behalf of the Board of Directors:**

"original signed"	August 27, 2014
Wendy Hoffmann, Chair	Date

"original signed"	July 29, 2014
Barb Berndt, Director	Date

**Prepared on behalf of the Board of Directors:**

"original signed"	July 23, 2014
Erin Stephen, Treasurer	Date