



Linking Generations

2020-2021 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.

Message from the Board Chair

Like it was for many organizations that serve communities, the past year was a challenging one. We were immersed in the pandemic and reacting to that at the same time we were attempting to complete our programming for the benefit of the youth and seniors that Linking Generations serves.

Despite the upheaval, many if not most, of our programs went ahead, and we even managed to focus on our coming years and expand into new locations, proving that the need for Linking Generations is ever-present and even more valuable in a time where interaction among people was often limited to electronic means like zoom calls and telephone conversations.

There are hundreds of individuals and organizations that support Linking Generations in a myriad of ways, from providing funding to keep our programs going or to innovate in times where face-to-face meetings are not possible, to the volunteer seniors and teens. It takes that proverbial village to raise a child, and Linking Generations is no different. We are focused on making our communities better and we are committed to the long-term benefit of those communities and the people who call them home.

As we turn our focus forward to a new year with some new optimism, we relish the recognition that our programs have received locally and provincially. Our Executive Director and our Program Coordinators have turned on a dime, and our board has supported them the whole way. I am completely sure that we will emerge from COVID stronger than ever and with a renewed sense of purpose. If there is one thing that the past months have ingrained in us, it is that we are valued in our communities, and we look forward to sharing that value with more seniors and more teens in more homes, schools, and residences.

Thank you to all of you who have played a part in pulling together for the betterment of Linking Generations over this past year.

Ian McCormack

Chair, 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 the 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.

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson:
Ian McCormack

Treasurer:
Lynn Olenek

Secretary:
Barb Berndt

Director:
Lauren Ong

Director:
Bev Miskiw-Chetek

Director:
Tracy Lockhart

Director:
Teagan de Sequin

Executive Director:
Debbie Sinclair

Executive Director Report

As 2021 draws to a close I want to take the opportunity to look back on a year that turned out much differently than anyone could have imagined. While it was certainly challenging in many ways, it also showed how strong we are as an organization – even in the toughest of times.

We can take pride in the fact that when the pandemic brought the world to a halt and forced us to keep our distance from family, friends and one another, the work we continued to do helped people stay connected and made the difficult times hopefully a little easier.

In the summer months of 2020, we redesigned our intergenerational programs to become virtual. With funding received from the United Way Emergency Covid Funding program and The New Horizons for Seniors Covid Relief Program, we were able to supply IPADS and headsets to seniors in care so that they may have contact with our youth, and also that of their families. It was no easy task teaching our senior program participants how to "log-on" and what "Zoom" was all about, all the while continuing to ensure that our youth and seniors remain connected. We rose to the challenge. We proved as an organization we could be both robust and extremely flexible in the face of change.

These and so many other successes were achieved in a time when we were forced to adapt to very adverse circumstances. We have shown what we can achieve when we work and think as a team, even when we can't be together physically.

All of us at Linking Generations missed the energy of being in a room together with a group of students and seniors sharing life stories and lessons and learning from each other. It was so rewarding, when in June 2021, we finally could allow our students and seniors to visit face to face outside for the first time in 18 months!

We must pass and reflect though on the seniors we have lost this year due to COVID. These seniors shared their stories, laughter, and precious time with our youth, and we will miss each one.

In recognition of the invaluable service that Linking Generations offers to our community seniors, we were awarded the 2021 Ministers Seniors Service Award this year - recognizing our organization for exemplifying leadership and compassion to serve our community seniors through volunteerism, innovation, and outstanding service. We also were awarded the County of Strathcona Award of Excellence in the category of the Outstanding Community Non-Profit Organization.

I thank all of 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.

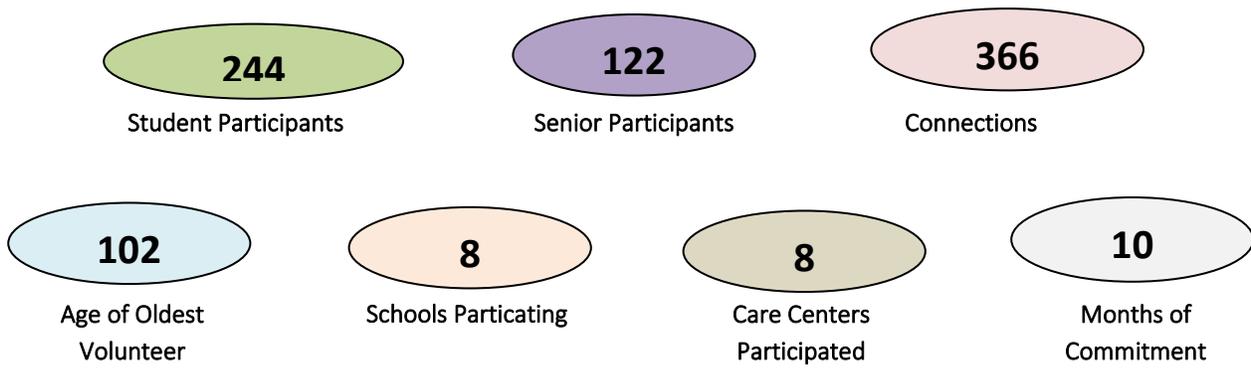
Debbie Sinclair
Executive Director June 2021

Supportive Intergenerational School Programs

Prior to the start of the Covid pandemic in March 2020 students and seniors had visited for four months, building strong friendships. Thanks to the extraordinary work of Program Coordinators, students, teachers, care centre liaisons and parents, for ensuring our student and senior connections continued virtually so that our seniors knew they were cared about, valued, and missed.



Linking Generations Intergenerational School Programs impact more than 350 students and seniors each year. Our programs provide “mentored and structured visits” aimed at building relationships between seniors and youth in our community. The purpose of our programs is to bring the generations together so they can share their knowledge and life experiences and to encourage volunteering and social responsibility in youth.



Thank you to our partnership schools and lodges, who helped to facilitate the success of our programs, and to our students for your interest and dedication to come and visit with seniors. Our seniors open their hearts and take the time to mentor these students - This becomes such a life learning/changing experience for everyone.

Volunteer Grandparent Program

The Linking Generations **Volunteer Grandparent Program** is an initiative which offers seniors in Strathcona County further opportunities to help bridge the multi-generational gap. With funding provided by Strathcona County through its Social Services Grant Program the Volunteer Grandparent Program was created in response to a lack of opportunities for young and older generations to relate in an increasingly age-segregated society. Working in collaboration with Volunteer Strathcona, the Volunteer Grandparent Program places seniors into elementary classrooms this year. Senior volunteers enjoyed the chance to share skills, knowledge & experience, while providing a valuable community service.



Our Volunteer Grandparent “Gramma” Prior to Covid School Closures

Measurable Program Outcomes & Benefits

Our organization places emphasis on achieving our Long-term Goals, ultimately fulfilling our Vision and Mission Statements:

- ✓ To continue to build relationships with youth in the program and within our community.
- ✓ To continue to engage schools to build skills and citizenship in students.
- ✓ To enhance the quality of life of seniors through sharing their wisdom and life experience with young people.
- ✓ To respond to changing environments as we create and deliver innovative programs.
- ✓ To know that Linking Generations is well known for the excellent program it offers.
- ✓ To ensure that Linking Generations provides the best value possible to youth, seniors, Funders, and the community we serve.



4000+ Total Volunteer Hours

Linking Generations is all about student and senior volunteers. We recorded 4000 volunteer hours donated from September 2020 to June 30, 2021. Not only do our seniors and students volunteer their time, our Board of Directors also donate many hours as well.

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 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. 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. This program offers students a chance to strip away the stereotypes that youth form of seniors”.

Grade 9 Student

I am so thankful that I was able to have this opportunity. This year has gone by super fast and we have learnt so much about each other and created bonds that will never be forgotten. 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. Thank you to our school for supporting this program and allowing us the opportunity to build relationships with, what we think are some pretty awesome people!



2020-2021 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

Field Law Awareness Campaign
FortisAlberta

Heartland Housing Foundation

Northwest Redwater Refinery Partnership

All Seniors Care-Summerwood Residence

Elk Island Catholic School Board

Elk Island Public-School Board

Individual and Personal Donations

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 especially during these challenging times and look forward to continuing to make a difference in the lives of our community seniors, students, and families.

As we head into Fiscal 2022, 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.

Board Treasurer

June 30, 2021

June 30th, 2021

Financial Statements



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2021

ASSETS

ATB Bank	\$ 121,709
Laptops and Ipads	\$ 14,380
Investments	\$ 85,000
Total Assets	\$ 221,089

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 1,586
Equity	
Restricted Net Assets	\$ 83,200
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 136,163
Net Income	\$ 140
Total Equity	\$ 219,503
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 221,089



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS JUNE 30, 2021

	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020
REVENUE		
Foundations and Grants	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000
Community, Business, Individual Donation	\$ 679	\$ 23,382
Grants Computer Hardware	\$ 17,300	\$ -
Local Government Grants	\$ 44,000	\$ 38,300
Indirect Public Support	\$ 492	\$ 315
Interest	\$ 68	\$ 66
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 67,538	\$ 72,063
EXPENSES		
Program Expenses		
Program ED Fees	\$ 21,212	\$ 18,104
Grandparent	\$ 8,237	\$ 11,603
Program Delivery Fees	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000
Transportation	\$ -	\$ 4,053
Program Materials	\$ 2,746	\$ 3,964
Insurance - Student Liability	\$ 1,420	\$ 695
Program Expenses	\$ 61,614	\$ 66,417
General & Admin		
Country Connection Expenses	\$ 1,496	
Postage, Mailing Service	\$ 298	\$ 191
Office Supplies	\$ 690	\$ 1,219
Computer Software/Hardware	\$ 568	\$ 72
Website	\$ 137	
Advertising Expenses	\$ 877	\$ 442
Insurance - D and O	\$ 1,426	\$ 575
Memberships and Dues	\$ 142	\$ 142
Total General & Admin	\$ 5,635	\$ 2,640
Other Types of Expenses		
Staff Development	\$ 150	\$ 217
Other		
Total Expense	\$ 67,399	\$ 69,274
Net Income	\$ 140	\$ - \$ 2,789