

effective

evolve

experience

evidence

expertise

 **CTH** Closer to Home
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report to the
Community
2017/2018

engage

excellence





Our Mission: **Empowering** **Families to** **Stay Together**

Our Vision: Closer to Home (CTH) is committed to contributing to a future where every child will belong to a family and feel valued and secure. Through the use of evidence-based practices and innovative solutions, CTH strives to preserve, reunify and build stronger families who can care for their children and contribute meaningfully in their community. CTH provides a broad array of strength-based and family-centred services that teach, coach and support families to create new possibilities and achieve better futures together.

Board of **Directors:**

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Our Impact

2,263 *people served*
(15.75% increase)

“My Home Visitor has been a true blessing for my family through some of my hardest times since moving to Calgary and having my twins. I honestly don’t know how I would have gotten through any of it without her.” – **Healthy Families Parent**

“Everyone feels welcomed and supported with dignity when they come to get services at Closer to Home.” – **Funder**

94% *of parents felt better able to respond to daily challenges*

expertise

Before coming to Chill Zone, a Viewpoints program in collaboration with Airdrie Addictions and Mental Health, **Alex*** was struggling with social anxiety and depression that had previously caused him to experience thoughts of suicide. He was nervous to attend the program and engage with other youth, but he continued showing up every week. Eventually, his confidence grew and he began developing stronger social and communication skills such as listening to others, accepting feedback, and engaging in appropriate conversations. At the end of the program, he reported that the connections he made with other youth who were also experiencing their own challenges helped reduce his suicidal thoughts.

Our Programs & Services

Family & Community Support

100% of people in *Ee-Des-Spoom-Ooh-Soop* increased their cultural sense of belonging


Viewpoints: Preventative mental health and well-being support for youth

West Central Community Resource Centre: Parenting support, community programs for children, youth and families, crisis support and referrals

Ee-Des-Spoom-Ooh-Soop: Culturally-based healing for Indigenous parents and families



Kiwehtata: Parenting strategies for Indigenous families



When we first met **Kala*** almost six years ago, she was a shy and scared first-time mother who felt disconnected from her culture. Since then, she has participated in both Kiwehtata and Ee-Des-Spoom-Ooh-Soop, learning new parenting and child development skills to help her raise her two young girls. She says being around other women in the healing circles at these programs, talking about her culture, the many different tribes and their teachings has made her feel more connected, which has been very meaningful to her.

In-Home Family Support

18 families *experiencing chronic homelessness settled into their new homes*

Healthy Families: Home visitation for families with newborns and young children

Family Matters: 8-12 weeks of in-home support for families in crisis

93% of parents *in Healthy Families used new strategies to enhance their children's development*

Home Again: Housing and customized supports for families exiting homelessness

At 18-months-old, little **Ryan*** was severely delayed in his development. He couldn't yet walk, something most toddlers try by about 11-months-old. Ryan couldn't even stand, and speaking was out of the question. He had experienced severe neglect and lack of stimulation in his previous living situation. When he entered one of our foster homes, the foster parents began working hard to help him develop his motor skills, communication and more. Today, he is showing above average development in all of his motor skills. A few weeks shy of his third birthday this past summer, he finally spoke his first full sentence, bringing our Foster Care Coordinator to tears.

* Names changed to protect privacy

In-Care Services

83% of children in foster care met or exceeded their child development milestones

Community Teaching Homes:

Community-based, family-style group care for children and youth who are unable to live with their families

Foster Care: Safe, nurturing care for children who have been separated from their families



93% of youth in group care felt staff were effective, fair and concerned for their well-being

experience

Message from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer



Karen Olivier,
Chief Executive Officer



Kate Andrews,
Board Chair

So many things must come together for any organization to fulfill its vision and mission. Our mission of **Empowering Families to Stay Together** may sound simple, but making a positive impact in the lives of the 2,263 children and families we served in the past year relied on weaving together planning, people and a framework that puts children and families first. To continue making a difference for individuals, families and the community, we will:

EXPERIENCE and understand the story of every child, youth, and parent, and believe in their ability to learn, change and grow.

ENGAGE the hearts and minds of our community, partners, donors, funders and volunteers to rally behind the cause of every child's right to belong to a strong and healthy family.

EXCEL at transforming lives through relationships and the practical application of evidence-based knowledge and best practices. We will build expertise to be our very best while setting the bar high for success and learning from our mistakes.

EVOLVE as an organization to re-invent and grow, to adapt flexibly to new challenges, and to plan forward for a sustainable future.

The stories and successes of our children and families exemplify what can happen when we experience, engage, excel and evolve in a way that is compassionate and mission-focused. We thank you for the part you have played in changing lives.

evolve

Practitioner of the Year:

Sonia Lopez

Foster Parent

“Being a foster parent is something that makes me feel good, because I help kids and the kids help me too.”

expertise



Volunteer of the Year:

**Agnes
Wolstennolme**

“I was blessed to be raised in a loving family. I think giving a few hours here and there is not much to ask of one if it gives someone a hand up or gives encouragement.”

Donor of the Year:

Scarboro United Church



“We have hope and faith that our support is making a difference, one person at a time, putting them in a better position to go on with their journey.”

- Jill Newman, Coordinator at Scarboro United Church



engage

Camp Chestermere 
A place to belong.

Community Builder:

Camp Chestermere

“Most of our kids have never been to an overnight camp before. It gives them a sense of normalcy. They can go back to school in the fall and tell their peers about this awesome experience they had during their summer break. It helps them feel like they fit in.”

- Kandi Santerno, Teaching Home Program Manager

READ MORE about this
year's award winners at :
clostertohome.com/awards2018

When **Tara*** and her family were referred to our Family Matters program, she felt hopeless. She was living with her five children and their grandmother, and her oldest child was at high risk of being removed from the home. Her teenage son struggled with regulating his emotions and would sometimes become violent when he was upset. Tara began fearing for her safety and that of her other children.

Tara was also struggling with mental health concerns and past trauma, while trying to provide for her family on a low budget. She wasn't sure if her family would be successful in Family Matters, a high-intensity in-home program for families in crisis. But she decided to give it a shot.

Tara and her children quickly built trust with their Family Specialist. They felt supported and knew she would help them through any concerns or crises. They began to look forward to her visits — even the oldest child began participating in weekly activities. He started making changes in his behaviour as he learned how to regulate his emotions and engage with others more appropriately.

By the time they finished with the program, Tara and her family felt whole again. Tara no longer feared for her or her children's safety and felt empowered and confident in her ability to parent.

When this family entered our program, they were on the verge of breaking apart. Today, their file with Children's Services has closed, and they are thriving

– **together.**

* Name changed to protect privacy

With most families entering Family Matters at high risk of family breakdown, **98% stayed together** successfully after completing the program.

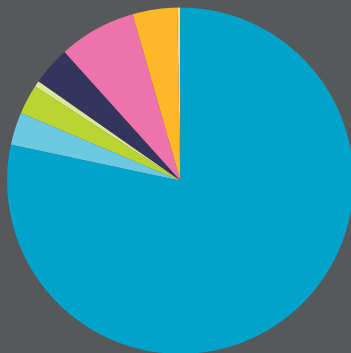


You can help families like Tara's stay together. Scan the code on this page or **visit our website at www.closetohome.com/rttc** to make a donation today.

Closer to Home Community Services

Statement of Operations for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018

Funding Sources



Ministry of Children's Services: Calgary Region	\$ 3,946,688	78.6%
City of Calgary: Family and Community Support Services	\$ 145,864	2.9%
City of Airdrie: Family and Community Support Services	\$ 136,500	2.7%
Delegated First Nations Authority	\$ 31,573	0.6%
Calgary Homeless Foundation	\$ 190,467	3.8%
Other Grants and Revenue	\$ 360,734	7.2%
Donations and Fundraising	\$ 201,822	4.0%
Investment Income	\$ 4,678	0.1%
	<u>\$ 5,018,326</u>	<u>100%</u>

Funding Uses



Community Group Homes	\$ 1,742,963	34.6%
Foster Care Services	\$ 598,325	11.9%
In Home Family Supports	\$ 682,291	13.5%
Early Intervention Services	\$ 1,185,048	23.5%
Grants and Other	\$ 217,942	4.3%
Fundraising	\$ 46,962	0.9%
Administration	\$ 566,868	11.2%
	<u>\$ 5,040,399</u>	<u>100%</u>
Net Income	<u>-\$ 22,073</u>	



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Follow us:     @CloserToHomeYYC

Credits: Thank you to staff and volunteers
who helped compile this year's Report to the Community.

Closer to Home is accredited by the following organizations:
Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF – Accredited)
Teaching-Family Association (TFA – Accredited Sponsor Site)

Thank you to Closer to Home's primary funders:

