

Autumn 2013

Legacy in Action

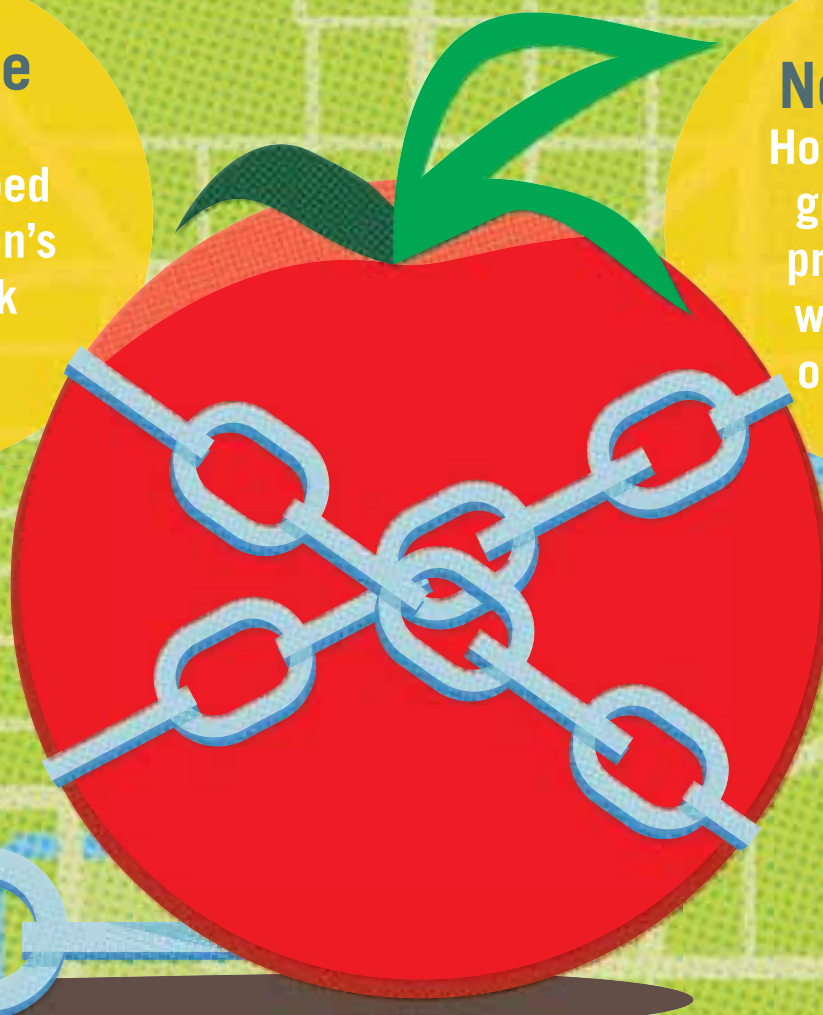


Edmonton
Community
Foundation

Behind the Scenes


How ECF helped save Edmonton's Green Shack program

New Roots
Hope Mission's green house program gets women back on their feet



Food Security

ECF takes stock of Edmonton's food situation



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*"48% of all Edmontonians
agree that Food Security is a
significant problem in Edmonton"*

LEGER MARKETING

FOOD security

means... all people at all times have physical
and economic access to adequate amounts of nutritious,
safe, and culturally appropriate foods.



Edmonton
Community
Foundation

Watch for our Vital Signs[®] report - Oct. 1

ecfoundation.org

More Online at ECFoundation.org



Content

ECF online has a ton of great videos to keep you engaged with your community foundation! From interviews with donors to instructional videos on applying for scholarships and grants, we have you covered.



Stay Connected

Like us on Facebook to keep up-to-date on our projects, and follow us on Twitter (@theECF) for live updates from the frontlines of your community foundation.

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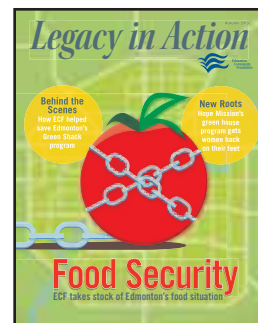
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PRINTING
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10221 123 St. NW
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5N 1N3
T 780.451.1379 F 780.482.5417
www.odvodpublishing.com

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Cover Illustration by Rory Lee

Message from the CEO



Edmonton Community Foundation is known for funding projects that are important to the community. ECF works closely with donors to help them make their donations count. In this issue, our feature story shows a lesser-known role ECF plays — as connector and convener. On page 10 you can read about how ECF worked with governments and the community groups to keep the summer Green Shack program going for children in vulnerable neighbourhoods.

Food security is another topic that is on the minds of many Edmontonians — 48 per cent of our population, according to a recent Leger Poll. On October 1st, ECF will be releasing its first ever Vital Signs® report and this year's topic is Food Security in our city. Vital Signs® is a national initiative of Community Foundations of Canada. It will allow us to compare our city with others across the country so we can celebrate accomplishments and see where we might improve.

You can also check out two stories about local agencies that ECF has assisted — agencies that are helping improve food security for Edmonton citizens. The first is Hope Mission's Greenhouse Project. The program was created to assist in addictions recovery, focusing on the therapeutic benefits of gardening. Food produced in the program also reduces the Hope Mission's food costs and improves the quality of the food they provide to clients. The second story is about the Wecan Food Basket, a group that received assistance from ECF to establish and grow.

Food security is not the only issue faced by low-income Edmontonians. E4C's Make Tax Time Pay helps individuals file income tax returns that almost always lead to refunds and access to additional benefits.

On July 3rd our community lost local businessman Harry Hole at the age of 91. Many remember the Alberta Order of Excellence recipient for his role as president of the Edmonton Police Service Foundation and a key developer of

Northlands. Mr. Hole was involved with several funds at ECF and a generous philanthropist of both time and finances in several sectors of the community. His many contributions have created a legacy that will inspire future generations of Albertans.

All of which reminds us that it is not only during our lifetime that we can make a difference. We can also contribute through a gift in our will. On page 14 you'll hear from Darrel and Edith Martin, one couple who have done just that. They decided that they wanted their legacy to continue the good work they started in their lifetime.

If you want to know more about how to make your will count, join us at one of the many sessions at our annual Wills Week in October. ECF provides these free public sessions on the benefits of having a valid,

up-to-date will. Presented by experts in the field, sessions are held in venues around the city. For more information, check the listing on page 15 or visit ECFoundation.org.

Finally, I invite you to check out six new videos showing how ECF works to help make Edmonton a better place for all. In fact, a visit to our website will reveal lots more about your community foundation — people, projects, scholarships and grants. ECF folks are also eager to help you in person — just give us a call. As always, please contact us if you have suggestions about this magazine:

legacyinaction@ecfoundation.org

Thank you for your interest!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Garber-Conrad".

Martin Garber-Conrad, CEO

An advertisement for McLennan Ross legal counsel. The ad features the firm's logo at the top left, which includes a stylized "MR" and the text "MCLENNAN ROSS LEGAL COUNSEL". Below the logo is the tagline "ABILITY TO SEE BEYOND THE LAW". The main text of the ad reads: "Congratulations to the Edmonton Community Foundation on so ably empowering individuals to give back to their community. In addition to assisting with all your estate planning needs, we can help you give back to your community by including a charitable gift in your will. For further information please contact the McLennan Ross Estates, Trusts and Taxation group at www.mross.com." At the bottom of the ad, there is a photo of three women, identified as Karen Pfaffen Q.C., Kate Fought, and Crista Osuadini.

MR MCLENNAN ROSS
LEGAL COUNSEL
ABILITY TO SEE BEYOND THE LAW

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(L-R: Karen Pfaffen Q.C., Kate Fought, Crista Osuadini)

Food for Thought

A guide to the importance of sustenance and what our city is doing to ensure we all have access to it

Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) recognizes that the issue of food security impacts all Edmontonians. On ECF's YouTube channel, you'll find a series of videos that highlight the issue of food security and feature local groups who are using food to help strengthen our community.



ECF Speakers Series

In June ECF brought in Jeremy Iles, Chief Executive of the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, UK as the keynote speaker for its 2013 AGM. In the first ever ECF Speaker Series video, Iles explains the issue of food security and offers advice on how we can help improve the sovereignty of our food.



Hope Mission Green House Program

Growing food can help with more than just hunger. ECF provided Hope Mission with a \$20,000 Community Grant to support its Wellsprings Green House program. The program helps inner city women recover from addiction by teaching them life skills including how to cook and grow their own food. The program has helped more than 200 women get off the street since it started in 2009. In this video you'll hear one of these women's stories.



Vital Signs®

This is the first year that ECF has participated in the Vital Signs® project. Vital Signs® is a national initiative that sees community foundations across the country measure the vitality of their community by comparing national data with local data in key areas. This year we're focusing on the issue of food security. This video looks at how Edmonton compares to the rest of Canada in the areas of obesity rates, food bank usage, fruit and vegetable consumption and farm land development to name a few.



The Living Bridge

Earlier this year ECF provided Sustainable Food Edmonton with a \$6,000 grant to help with its Living Bridge project. The project saw a group of volunteers convert an abandoned rail bridge that crosses 97 Street into an urban garden. The goal is to encourage a sense of pride in the inner city community, while providing a tasty food source for cyclists and pedestrians who use the popular trail.



Edmonton's Food Bank

Some grants go to projects that are more conceptual than others. But when Edmonton's Food Bank needed to purchase new electric pallet jacks, ECF saw a need that directly affected day-to-day operations. In this video Marjorie Bencz, Executive Director of Edmonton's Food Bank, explains how the \$26,000 Community Grant helped purchase new jacks so that Edmonton's Food Bank can continue feeding vulnerable Edmontonians.



Wecan Food Basket Society

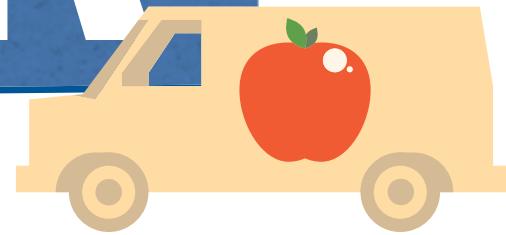
ECF is privileged to work with so many incredible organizations that are doing amazing work in our community. However, this work can't be done without dedicated staff members. That's why ECF helped the Wecan Food Basket Society hire a part-time administrator with a \$20,000 Community Grant. In this video we hear Carla Brenner and Christenna Wiemann explain how Wecan helps them save money on groceries so they can make ends meet.

TAKING



ECF investigates
Edmonton's food security

STOCK



When Carla Brenner got divorced, it was hard to make ends meet. Suddenly a single parent with two kids and significant debt, she wasn't considered low-income and therefore wasn't eligible for the vast majority of social services. "I had to afford the place I was living in, because I needed that many bedrooms. I needed the car so I could get to work. I felt like I needed everything I had in my life, which was bare minimum, but I didn't have enough food," she says. According to Health Canada's Household Food Security survey, there are 172,000 Albertan families affected by food insecurity. And Brenner's case is among them: while she could pay her bills, she struggled to buy enough nutritious food to feed herself and her two sons. Then she found the Wecan Food Basket Society, a non-profit organization that helps people like Brenner make sure they have enough food to last the month.

Wecan is essentially a food co-op. Members pay \$5 a year and \$25 at the beginning of each month, and at the end of the third week, when money may be running short, they pick up their food baskets from one of Wecan's 25 depots in churches, schools and community centres around Edmonton. A Wecan food basket typically contains three kilograms of meat, three kilograms of fruit and a selection of fresh vegetables. Wecan clients include single parents, the formerly homeless, fixed-income seniors and many others, but the organization places no restrictions on membership. That's because food security impacts everyone.

Along with supporting organizations like Wecan through funding, this year the Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) is putting out its Vital Signs® report, which compares national data with local data while looking at the issue of food security. In 1996, the United Nations' World Food Summit defined food security as existing "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life." And while you might think that food insecurity is primarily an issue in impoverished and war-torn countries, it's on the rise in Canada. In 2011, 1.6 million Canadian households — approximately one

in eight — had difficulty getting enough nutritious food to eat. That's up from 1.4 million in 2008 according to the Household Food Security survey. The survey also says that in Alberta, 12.3 per cent of households were impacted by food insecurity in 2011, the highest rates observed since monitoring began in 2005.

This isn't just happening nationally and provincially, but right in our city, as ECF found out when they contacted Leger to conduct an online survey gauging Edmontonian's ideas surrounding food security locally. Close to half of respondents agreed that food security has become a significant problem within the city, saying that both government and individuals should be responsible for ensuring people not only have enough to eat, but access to nutritious food. And it was evident from the responses that food security is a complex issue, one that encompasses factors such as increasing access to locally grown food, educating people about food wastage and reducing barriers to access healthy food, to name a few.

For some, food insecurity means a constant sense of worry about whether there will be enough to last the month. Families may limit what groceries they buy, sticking to cheaper and potentially less nutritious options in an effort to save money. In more severe cases of food insecurity, individuals miss meals or may even go days without eating according to the Household Food Security's survey.

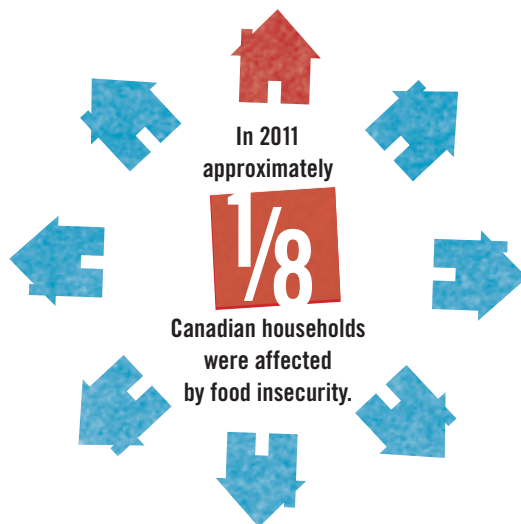
In urban areas, poverty is the primary cause of food insecurity. But it's not necessarily just the inability to afford food. The phenomenon of "food deserts," communities that lack access to grocery stores, is less common in Canada, but a 2006 study identified nine such areas in Edmonton. Grocery-free zones in Edmonton have been created as a result of legal agreements put in place by grocery chains to prevent competing stores from opening in the same area as one of their stores. As they've closed urban stores in favour of more profitable suburban locations, those restrictive covenants have remained in place, preventing new stores from moving in to fill the gap. These food deserts disproportionately impact the poor and elderly, who may not have access to a vehicle ▶



In Alberta

12.3%

of households were impacted by food insecurity in 2011, the highest rates observed since monitoring began in 2005.



Edmonton's Food Bank feeds more than

14,000

people every month

including more than

5,600

children



In 2006, there were

66,543 acres

of farmland surrounding Edmonton.



In 2011, there were just

13,011 acres

in order to get to the nearest grocery store. Instead, they have to rely on friends, public transit, or local convenience stores, which tend to be more expensive and have a poor selection.

On a larger scale, food security isn't just about whether families can afford to buy groceries — it's also about whether there is enough food available for a community to support itself. Food security and food sovereignty proponents argue that Edmonton is less and less able to feed everyone in the event of a catastrophe, due to the disappearance of farmland surrounding the city. In 2006, Statistics Canada shows there were 66,543 acres of farmland surrounding Edmonton. By 2011, that number had fallen 80 per cent, to just 13,011 acres. That means Edmonton is increasingly dependent on food imported from outside the immediate area, and less able to sustain itself in the event of an emergency that cuts off access to external sources of food.

That's part of the push behind new initiatives to improve the city's food infrastructure. In October 2012, the city released fresh, a new food and agricultural strategy for the city, which directed the city to establish the 15-member Edmonton Food Council by June 2013. Edmonton Food Council's mandate is to expand agriculture in the city, develop local food demand, supply and infrastructure, and facilitate food education.

Individuals, too, are looking for ways to improve their own food security. That's certainly a motivating factor behind shop local campaigns like Live Local Alberta, which supports locally grown food. For those suffering from food insecurity, however, shopping at the local farmers' market isn't always an option, due to the higher prices. Fortunately, there are other ways to ease the strain. One of fresh's goals is to encourage Edmontonians to grow their own food

at home, and even those without a backyard can try their hand at container gardening with access to a small deck or patio. Many neighbourhoods now have community gardens for those who don't have any gardening space of their own, or who need help getting started. Learning to cook, and specifically learning to make the most of less desirable cuts of meat, can help significantly reduce grocery bills, as can starting or joining a food co-op.

There are also many organizations in Edmonton that help people impacted by food insecurity, many of which are supported by the Edmonton Community Foundation. Edmonton's Food Bank feeds more than 14,000 people every month, including more than 5,600 children. E4C, a not-for-profit that provides a variety of services including emergency and affordable housing, also provides several programs aimed at improving food security, such as subsidized hot lunches and snacks at city schools and the Young Chefs program, which teaches students in grades four through six how to cook.

The decision to access those services, however, can be difficult. Brenner says that while she had used Edmonton's Food Bank before finding Wecan, she felt guilty. "I wanted to be self-sufficient," she says. In her case, Wecan provided a good alternative because it allowed her to contribute. "I didn't feel like I was dipping into the coffers or other people's pockets, since I was paying for it myself." And while Brenner's situation has improved — she completed a master's degree in engineering — she's still a member of the organization, and serves as the vice-chair of Wecan's board of directors. Wecan is volunteer-driven, and having experienced food insecurity first-hand, Brenner wants to give back to the organization that helped her. ○



Harvesting Hope

Seeds of recovery planted on Alberta farm

Women in Hope Mission's Wellsprings Green House Program tend to plants at Bethany Homes outside of Wetaskiwin.

Taanis Ryan never knew her biological parents. In a group home at 11 years old, she got in trouble with the law, and biker gangs, by her teens.

"I was thrown out of a two-storey window and collapsed two discs in my back." A six-month hospital stay later, heading back to the Calgary streets, she was an addict in waiting.

"They gave me morphine and Demerol but when I left, they gave me these weaker pills. I knew within hours they weren't enough. A street friend showed me how to shoot up and a month later I had HIV." She began selling herself, and had her first of four children at the age of 15.

For the rest of her life — minus the last 18 months — Ryan has been in detox, and back on the streets, over 300 times. That is until February 2012, when at 43 years old, she entered Hope Mission's Wellspring Recovery Community, an addiction recovery program for women. This year, Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) provided a \$20,000 Community Grant to support the Wellsprings Greenhouse program.

And according to Craig Stumpf-Allen, the director of grants and community engagement for ECF, the huge impact the program has on its participants was part of the appeal. "We heard many powerful testimonials from those involved — the garden is a peaceful, centering place that hugely benefits those in addictions recovery," he says.

Part of the program includes weekly trips to 140 acres of farmland, a few minutes east of Wetaskiwin, where a vast garden awaits. They seed and care for all kinds of herbs and vegetables, then take their harvest back to the city for a feast. Since 2009, Hope Mission has used this land to help change nearly 200 women's lives, though Ryan admits she entered with ulterior motives.

"I had no intentions of getting clean. I was only in there because it was winter, I had a warrant out for my arrest, and I was in bad shape physically. They told me it was a year-long program, so my plan was to go in, get housing for winter and then off I go."

There she met Alison Snaterse, a kindly eyed case manager

who started at Hope Mission when the Wellspring program began.

"Gardening is like the process of recovery," Snaterse says. "You start with something small, and by removing weeds, and things that could hinder or suffocate growth, you bloom. It's hard work, and labour intensive, but through that you get this amazing harvest. Then you take it home and share it with others."

Ryan hadn't been out of the city in years, so when she first set foot on the soil, she wasn't a green thumb. "They didn't put pictures on the herbs to show what they looked like, so I dug up all the herbs and kept the weeds. I was amazed at how quickly my 'herbs' were growing, but they all looked the same."

Things are growing fast all around the Wellspring Community. "We now have a greenhouse we can use year-round," says Snaterse. "And there's a horse arena, for the Horses of Hope program, where we take horses that have been abused, and we build relationships between them and the women. It's amazing to see these relationships, between a horse that didn't trust and a person who didn't trust, build and grow into something strong."

Ryan connected with the horses immediately. "It was a transition from city to country, loud to quiet. So I'd have conversations with the horses. I'd say 'Buddy, I know you don't want to be here either, you just want to run free'. And they took a picture of me talking to this horse, and used it in this pamphlet down at Hope Mission. Only I didn't know they took it, so everyone starts calling me the horse whisperer and I'm not getting it. Then they showed it to me. I was still in early recovery, still looking unhealthy, but I was smiling. That's something I never thought I'd do again."

Not only did Wellspring help save Ryan's life, it gave her a new one. "I've lived more in the last year than I did in the previous 25," she says. Fully clean, she now works at Hope Mission's intake program, which is the second greatest gift Wellspring has given her.

"I have real family in my life for the first time. I met my grandson, my daughter is moving here. And I have friends — not street friends, actual friends! I never had that before." ◉



Working Together

Edmonton Community Foundation helps save a program that's been helping disadvantaged children for years

Every summer hundreds of Edmonton playgrounds come alive with the sounds of kids playing organized games such as tug-of-war, splashing around in the spray park or learning various crafts. It's all done under the watchful eye of a supervisor, usually a student, who stores supplies in the Green Shack that has given its name to the city program that has become an icon over 60 years. It has become especially important in areas with vulnerable families, where it is the only organized recreation program many children get.

Lisa Shamchuk, a former "Green Shack girl" who is now a librarian, says her summers spent in the low-income neighbourhoods of Londonderry and Sifton were great experience both for the kids and her.

"We were the only people around. Sometimes parents would send them out in the morning with no hat, no food, no anything ... I didn't know what they would do if we weren't around at the park." For Shamchuk, the job complemented her studies towards a B.Ed, teaching her many skills for dealing with kids with special needs, discipline issues and above all being flexible.

This year, the broad brush strokes of provincial budget cuts — the elimination of STEP (Student Temporary Employment Program) — put the fun at risk for several thousand children in vulnerable neighbourhoods. But acting as an honest broker, Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) brought together social agencies, the city and the province and played a big role in preserving most of the funding for Green Shack.

While ECF is widely known for managing philanthropic endowment funds and disbursing grants to non-profit agencies, part of its mandate is to act as a catalyst to strengthen the community, which can mean taking on an active role as an advocate, as the Green Shack story shows.

In March, the province cancelled the \$7.1-million STEP program in its austerity budget. This meant \$200,000 less for Green Shack, which is about 10 per cent of its budget.

Months before the budget announcement, Martin Garber-Conrad, ECF's chief executive officer, had been invited to a meeting with Premier Alison Redford and Human Services Minister Dave Hancock for feedback on the province's social policy framework, which focused on alleviating poverty in vulnerable communities. Garber-Conrad had a lot of positive things to say about the policy and how it would benefit the community.

When the budget cuts were implemented, it wasn't immediately clear that vulnerable communities would be affected. But the alarm was sounded when agencies realized that the end of STEP would directly impact the Green Shack program, and could force serious reductions in recreation hours where they were needed most.

After talking with the city and various social agencies, Garber-Conrad contacted Hancock and informed him that the particular cut conflicted with the province's social policy. The government listened, and restored \$150,000 to Green Shack for this summer. "They (the province) made a commitment not



Children perform for their parents as part of the Green Shack program at the Africa Centre, 13160 127 St.

to hurt vulnerable Albertans, and we made it clear it could have this effect,” says Garber-Conrad.

Liz O’Neill, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton, helped identify the communities that need Green Shack the most, and in the end the program was actually improved. For instance, Green Shack operated for the first time in Africa Centre, where it served 190 kids per day in the old Wellington School in north Edmonton. The program means a lot to recent immigrants as the kids could lose English language skills and the feeling of belonging to the community when they are out of school for the summer.

In McCauley, substitute teachers spent some time at Green Shacks helping kids who had been struggling academically. All of this happened after the city, the province and various agencies sat down with EFC acting as a broker to bring them all together, O’Neill says. “It wasn’t about money, but how people work together and how the community works together. The main ingredient is good people trying to work to make sure that every dollar gets stretched and pulled in the best way.”

Garber-Conrad says that rather than playing a politically oppositional role, ECF has established a positive relationship with the government. “When you have a positive relationship with somebody, you can actually talk to them. When something is wrong, you can call and try to sort it out. We don’t get significant government funding so the risk of raising these matters is less than it might be for others.”

With contacts in the city bureaucracy, the foundation was able to broker the deal by signing off on the \$150,000 grant and then directing it to the right people, a process they were able to do in hours or days rather than the weeks or months it would generally take given the regular grant approval process. And time was essential as the spring was coming and students had to be hired.

“It was a win-win for everybody because we had a positive relationship with the government and provided good information to them about what’s happening in the community and they were open to fixing the problem.”

It is a one-time grant, but it provides a year to figure out alternative sources of funding to keep the program going. Dee Dee Carr, supervisor of community recreation programs for the city, said they are working feverishly with community groups and other funders to keep the program at least at the same level next summer.

Allan Bolstad, executive director of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, doubts that the funding would have happened without the intervention of ECF. It was particularly helpful that Garber-Conrad could supply the government with details about which neighbourhoods were most in need of this support.

“I think that helped to satisfy the province’s concerns that this money would be going to the right people and the right communities,” Bolstad says. “They really helped make this work.” ○



Time for Taxes



While many citizens dread filing their taxes, E4C helps people benefit from completing their forms

1. INTRODUCTION

The mail begins to arrive mid-January and by March you've amassed a large pile of official-looking letters. Some are instructions from the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA), others are self-explanatory donation receipts, and the rest are forms with cryptic codes from employers, banks and benefit providers. Looking at the pile of paperwork, you should feel proud you've organized it all in one place. Instead, you feel dread: you worry that you've missed a form, forgot to keep a receipt, and above all, that you'll make an error.

It's tax time, a time when most people feel daunted by the process of filing their income statements. For those who live close to or below the poverty line, the prospect of doing taxes can be even more worrisome. They have limited access to computers and e-filing software, and the costs associated with professional tax preparation are prohibitive.

2. CASE STUDY

For years, Susan brought her taxes to a large tax preparation company: there was an initial charge, then additional charges for every T4 or receipt. "Last year I got \$9 back — imagine if I had to pay \$80 to get \$9 back?" says Susan.

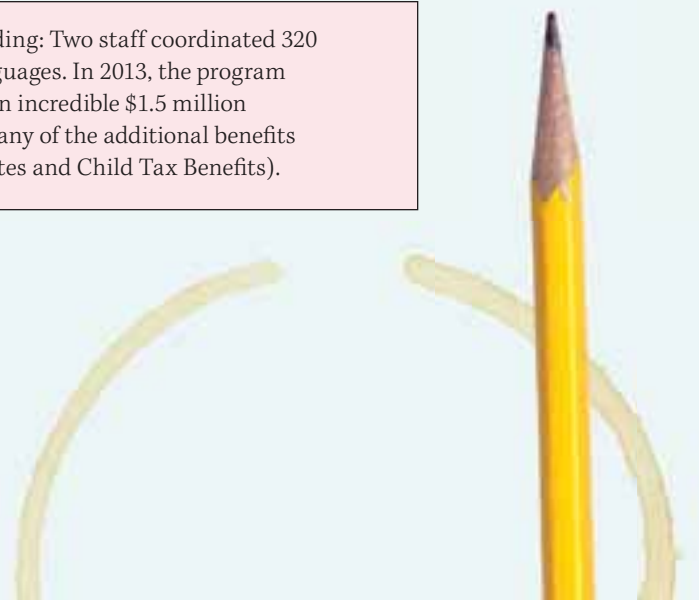
She now gets her taxes done — for free — by the friendly volunteer tax filers of Make Tax Time Pay (MTTP). MTTP is a part of the Edmonton-based non-profit organization E4C, which helps Edmontonians in the areas of food security, housing, education and community. Partnering with the CRA, MTTP strives to make tax filing as easy as possible for low-income Edmontonians. As a funding partner, Edmonton Community Foundation provided \$40,000 over the past three years to support the program's \$90,000 annual operating budget.

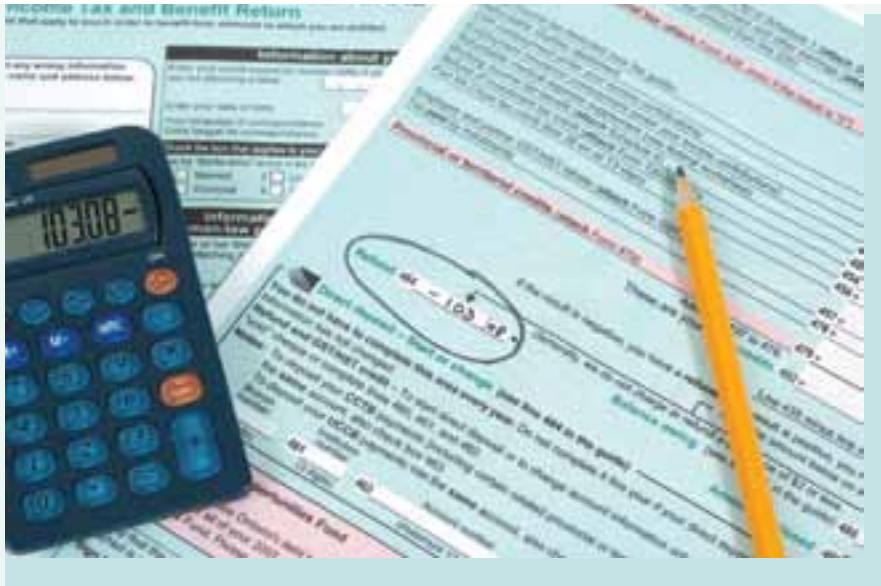
3. STATS

Last year, the program's stats were astounding: Two staff coordinated 320 volunteers at more than 26 tax sites in 30 languages. In 2013, the program completed over 4,000 returns and generated an incredible \$1.5 million collective refund (this refund doesn't include any of the additional benefits gained by clients now able to access GST rebates and Child Tax Benefits).

E4C works to make the program as accessible as possible. By simply calling 211, operators determine a caller's income eligibility and site preference. The client is then directed to contact a volunteer site coordinator, who sets up an appointment and goes over the list of necessary documents the client must bring in.

"People are often worried that they are missing documentation, but our volunteers can call CRA and access any information on all current and past T4s issued to an individual. Because we partner with CRA, we can also access past tax information," says Teena Gill, coordinator of MTTP.





Sites are strategically chosen community hubs where people feel comfortable: libraries, places of worship, cultural centres and colleges.

Jon Franzen has been going to the Sprucewood Library site for eight years, after an injury forced him into early retirement, “For my wife and I, it’s become an annual social outing. We catch up with the same volunteers every year.” Coffee, juice and snacks are at many of the sites and act to further put people at ease.

At first, Susan Cameron was nervous about going to a public, community space with her financial information. “I worried that I would know someone, but after the first time I never worried. The volunteers are so friendly and they have no judgment.”

Besides tax preparation, MTTP also educates clients about their eligibility for benefits. Volunteers review each client’s available benefits and support clients who need help completing the forms.

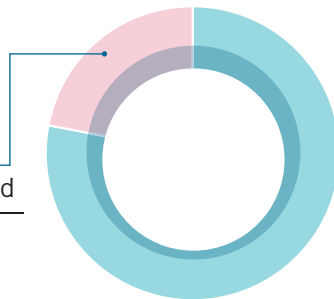
While clients are often worried they will have to pay taxes, filing their taxes almost always leads to refunds. Gill remembers one couple with a child who hadn’t filed their taxes in six years. Their final refund? \$10,000. Thanks to MTTP, this couple — and 4,000 other individuals in Edmonton — no longer need to feel daunted by tax time. ○

The Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA)

calculated that only

22 per cent

of low-income families access the myriad of benefits available to them.



The benefits include:

- Canada Child Tax Benefit
- Edmonton Leisure Access Program
- Alberta Child Health Benefit
- Registered Disability Savings Plans Grant/Bond
- Alberta Child Care Subsidies
- Registered Education Savings Plan Grant/Bond
- Alberta Adult Health Benefit

Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations

Supporting Nonprofits. Strengthening Community.

Proud champions of Edmonton's nonprofit sector for over a decade.

Visit our website to find out more about who we are, what inspires us, and how you can become involved.

www.ecvo.ca

A Will to Give

When Darrel and Edith Martin received an inheritance from Darrel's father, they wanted to do something special with the funds.

Initially they explored the option of opening a foundation of their own, but when a friend mentioned Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF), they were sold on the idea of opening an endowment fund instead.

"When we saw the names of some of the other people who had set up funds with ECF, we felt like we were doing a wise thing. We are not rich, but some people have donated millions. These are smart people," Darrel says. "If they had given to ECF then it gives us comfort. It is a solid foundation."

One of the most attractive elements is that their donation is invested and a percentage (currently 3.5 per cent) of the fund value supports their preferred causes, while the rest is reinvested to grow the fund in perpetuity. "It's a great concept," Darrel says. "It never goes away."

The Martins sat down with Kathy Hawkesworth, ECF's director of donor services, and discussed what they wished to accomplish with their endowment. This is something that Hawkesworth does with all donors.

"Talk to us. We can make sure we understand what they want their fund to support," she says.

For the Martins, literacy, health and education were areas near and dear to their hearts and their fund agreement enables them to work closely with ECF to decide which organizations receive support from their fund annually. They also hope to bring their three grown children into their decision making process with hopes that they will continue to work with ECF to distribute the grant money long after their lifetime.

In the meantime, the Martins are continuing to grow the fund. "We want to continue to build it while we can enjoy it and appreciate what it is doing," Darrel says. "Because of the initial donation, we got a nice tax refund and then funnelled that right back into our fund." They have also decided to leave a gift to ECF in their will.

One of the reasons they like adding to the fund is that they are "hooked on the feeling" they get when they think about the good their fund is doing. In the first year they were able to designate funds to Atsikana Pa Ulendo (Girls on the Move), a charity that is dedicated to helping young Malawian women achieve self-sufficiency through education. Thanks to their fund, two girls in Malawi are graduating high school and a girl in Mexico will be going to university this year.

"It feels good to give this way," Darrell says. "We can do nice things forever ... it's a secret everyone should know about." ○

Spotlight on Funds—Bequests: By: Elizabeth Bonkink

Archibald Hadley Dickson Smart and Caring Community Fund

When Archibald Hadley Dickson (Arch) died at the age of 92, he made several charitable gifts in his will including an unrestricted gift of \$200,000 to Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF). Arch was a lawyer and a long-standing member of the Rotary Club of Edmonton and is remembered as a professional with a quiet sense of humour and a strong commitment to his community. This fund, established in 2002, has already granted more than \$80,000 (40 per cent of the initial fund value) to Smart and Caring Community projects. Although Arch did not have a will intention agreement with ECF, the wording in his will allowed ECF to use the funds for projects that best serve the community.

Bunny Casper Rae Fund

Margaret Edith Alice Rae (Bunny) died at the age of 91, leaving funds to a variety of charities with the residue coming to ECF to support or assist disadvantaged youth or women. ECF received her first gift in 2009 and the fund is now worth over \$1.4 million. Grants from this fund have supported newcomer women, the Bissell Centre, and youth leadership initiatives. Bunny's will was specific on the areas that she wanted to support so it helps ECF direct funds to causes that she cared about.

David W. Purvis Fund

David William Purvis was in his forties when he died in 2005. David, together with other family members, had established the Robert David Purvis Fund to support community grants to honour his father, Bob. When David died, his will simply said "To pay over and transfer the residue of my estate to the ECF." This allows ECF's board to disburse the grants to emerging and priority community needs. It seemed only fitting that his fund continue the support David started during his lifetime.

2013 Wills Week Schedule

Edmonton Community Foundation is pleased to once again present free public seminars during WillPower Wills Week, which provides professional information on wills and estates.

Edmonton Seminars are FREE, but seating is limited. First come, first served.

Information may change, confirm at:
www.ecfoundation.org

How to Make a Gift in Your Will

A gift in your will, also known as a bequest, allows you to make an extraordinary gift and continue the charitable support you have given during your lifetime. It also allows for tax savings on your estate.

STEP 1

Getting started

Talk to Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) and your professional advisor about your wishes. Let them know that you want to name ECF in your will. ECF can suggest wording to simplify your will, allow you to easily make changes to your choices later, and to accurately reflect your wishes so they are clearly understood.

STEP 2

Define your Objective

There are many ways to make a difference. You can add to a fund that already exists or create and name your own fund (with gifts of \$10,000 or more). Your fund can be a “community fund” that allows ECF’s Board to respond to emerging and priority charitable needs and programs. Or it might support a field of interest (like the arts, children, or animals), or support organizations that are particularly important to you, or a combination of any or all of these. If you are not sure which idea fits best, ECF can help you define how you can make a difference.

STEP 3

Choose a Method

There are many ways to leave a gift in your will. You may leave a percentage of your estate after all your other gifts are made (called “residue”). You can leave a specific dollar amount, or property like shares, mutual funds, or real estate, all chosen to fit well within your overall estate plans.

STEP 4

Make an Agreement

ECF will help you to create a short agreement. This agreement will set out in writing exactly how your fund will operate, where and to whom the money will be dispersed, along with any other details. It will clearly state that it will not impose any obligation on you to make a gift in your will, but does assure that ECF understands your goals.

Saturday, October 5

9:30 am – 11:30 am

Millennium Place,
2000 Premier Way, Sherwood Park

Monday, October 7

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

TELUS World of Science, 2nd Floor,
11211 – 142 St.

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

St. Albert Legion
6 Tache St., St. Albert

Tuesday, October 8

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Central Lions Seniors Centre
11113 – 113 St.

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Hilton Garden Inn
17610 Stony Plain Rd.

Wednesday, October 9

9:30 am – 11:30 am

Northgate Lions
7524 – 139 Ave.

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Ramada Inn South,
5359 Calgary Trail

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Terwilligar Recreation Centre
Multipurpose Room 6, 2051 Leger Rd.

Thursday, October 10

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Northgate Lions
7524 – 139 Ave.

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Old Timer’s Cabin
9430 Scona Rd.

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Spruce Grove Library
35 5th Ave., Spruce Grove

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Leduc – TBA

Friday, October 11

9:30 am – 11:30 am

Central Lions Seniors Centre
11113 – 113 St.

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Ramada Inn South,
5359 Calgary Trail

edmonton **artists'** **trust fund** awards

investing in edmonton artists

Since 1997, the Edmonton Community Foundation and the Edmonton Arts Council have partnered to invest in and celebrate the careers of more than 100 Edmonton artists through the Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund Awards.

With the recently announced John Mahon Arts Administrators' Sabbatical Fund, we are partnering to invest in the administrators whose behind-the-scenes work forms an integral part of the arts infrastructure in Edmonton.

Donations are accepted on an ongoing basis.

Learn more at:
<http://grants.edmontonarts.ca/eatf>

