

## FCSS CAO Report for July

- Starla has organized a Summer Camp for kids 6 to 11 years of age to run on Mondays from 1 to 4. We have contracted a senior teen to help facilitate and he is doing a wonderful job. The month of July activities were well received and well attended with the maximum number of kids attending at 33. They have done art activities, attended the gymnastics club, played games on the lawn and gone to the library to support a local children's author Joanne Hazelaar. It has been bigger than we anticipated
- Starla and I took the Junior Teen group, ages 11 to 15 on a field trip to Lethbridge to the trampoline park. We had 27 students attend with 3 supervisors. We stopped in Granum and picked up a few students from their Kids Group. Lots of fun was had jumping and eating pizza. Junior Teen has been running on Friday afternoons and is attended on average by 12 to 15 kids, but took a break for the summer.
- Starla and I have both taken the AHS Virtual ID program and are now qualified to help community members to access a government ID card. People that do not have any form of picture ID can work with FCSS and AHS and Alberta Registries to get an actual picture ID which will allow them to access birth certificates and drivers licenses and get on government funded programs and Alberta Healthcare. We are currently working with AHS Social Work to help a senior woman originally from Quebec get an ID card.
- Westwinds Communities from High River now has an outreach service worker coming to our office every other Wednesday to help our community to access government subsidy and renew their applications for rental places. We had been helping people apply up until this point so it is very helpful to be able to book an appointment for clients with this outreach worker. We have over 60 citizens in Claresholm and area, accessing this rental subsidy program to date.
- Also, on the same Wednesdays as Westwinds, we are very fortunate to have an outreach representative from CRA that can help people access their notice of assessments, T-slips, educating clients on various programs and benefits etc. This eliminates all the time we spend (up to 3 hours usually on hold/call) on the general inquiries phone line to CRA.
- FCSS has sponsored one free swim on Saturday July 20 from 1 to 3 and we are planning on sponsoring the rest of the Saturdays up to the long weekend. One Saturday the pool was closed but we will hopefully continue with the next 5 Saturdays that are left.
- FCSS is partnering again this year with Claresholm Kinettes to offer backpacks and school supplies to underprivileged families. The deadline for applications has passed but we will take a few past the date. Backpacks will be stuffed by Kinettes and then available at FCSS office on August 26<sup>th</sup>. To date we have 58 applications compared to last year with 50. Granum has opted out of the program this year as their fundraising committee is supplying school supplies for the whole school.
- We have had quite a few people coming in to access the Kid Sport program. We help them fill out the forms and get the necessary financial information and then pass the forms to the organization for approval.
- We have seen at least 6 people that are needing to find living arrangements and we are trying as best we can to find some appropriate spacing. Most of them have been evicted for various reasons or renovicted. It appears to be a landlord's world at the moment.

- We have been notified about 3 homeless people in our town. A senior lady living in her car and 2 gentlemen living in the alleys. RCMP was contacted about one, bylaw has been sending them messages to vacate daily and giving out our FCSS cards to contact us for help. They have not reached out and have not been spotted lately.
- Kim has been successful in placing one of our seniors in Porcupine Lodge. It has been a long and complicated process so we are celebrating this success.  
She has also been helping a senior to access a scooter through Homecare and the Lion's Club. We have helped about 5 seniors to access the new Federal Dental Plan and explain how it works.  
One senior couple has moved here from BC and there are problems with a way their taxes were filed. We are helping them to navigate that.  
Filling out applications for CPP, OAS/GIS and AB benefits for turning 65
- We planned to host 2 outdoor drumming circles for July and August but it was too hot to do in July. We will see about doing our next one in August.
- The Reaching Home Grant through RDN has been quite helpful through the past couple of months. We have been able to help one senior with a damage deposit, one senior with help with rent, one woman with a partial damage deposit and one couple with a full damage deposit. We report on this money quarterly to the RDN funders.
- I attended a meeting for the Rowan House Safe at Home Program. They have found funding to start up the program again. This program originally started as a pilot in Claresholm with a housing space for the perpetrators, while attending programming. It is now done a bit differently and will continue under Rowan House. I will continue to be a stakeholder for this program and hopefully see it become a permanent program in the future.
- Planning is underway for our annual Senior Bus Trip to Waterton. We will be heading to Waterton to a buffet lunch at the Bayshore Inn, looking around town and heading to Walmart in Pincher Creek. Our bus is currently full with 29 seniors and 3 supervisors and it will leave on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Our next Junior Teen Field Trip will be August 23 heading to Lethbridge for bowling.
- Transportation Society was successful in their grant application from Healthy Aging Alberta. We will be working together so our low-income seniors and families can access transportation based on their income. We are looking forward to helping our community get to appointments, to social events or shopping at next to no cost.
- The Hamlet of Granum is seeing an increase in programming available to them through our FCSS dollars. The children are enjoying summer camp activities and trips to other towns to access other programs such as the art program in Fort Macleod or spray parks outings.  
Our volunteer Eliise has been busy gearing up for her back to school program and working on some activities for adults to get together to socialize as well. The community is realizing how wonderful all the events are that are happening because of FCSS dollars.