



PROVIDENCE

75 Years Supporting Children With Disabilities 1943-2018



75

report to community 2018

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHANCE TO REACH FOR AND ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

our **VISION**

We believe that every child deserves a chance to reach for and achieve their full potential. Working with the child, family and community, Providence provides the opportunity to build foundations that will last a lifetime.

our **MISSION**

To enhance the health and development of children and their families.

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Thank You



we **KNOW.** we **CARE.** we **HELP.**

Providence Schools

Providence operates six schools across the city, offering classes for children with disabilities from 19 months to six years, featuring small class sizes and therapy delivered right in the classroom.

All Providence programs include certified teachers, speech language pathologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, behaviour specialists, education specialists and therapeutic and educational assistants.

Providence in the Community

Providence's team of therapists and learning specialists support young children in a variety of community settings. Providence is a contracted service provider for the Supported Child Care program, a provincial initiative through the Ministry of Children's Services. We also have a variety of partnerships with organizations such as schools, community agencies and child care programs.



Our experience and expertise grows as our staff expands to over 180 dedicated professionals.

message from the **BOARD CHAIR & PRESIDENT**

Welcome to Providence's commemorative 2018 Report to the Community celebrating our 75th anniversary.

The years since Providence Crèche opened as an orphanage in 1943 have been witness to unprecedented social change and significant advancements in the areas of early childhood research and technology. Together, these factors have greatly impacted how we support young children with disabilities today. Providence has not only kept pace with this changing landscape, but has often led the way in best practices in supporting young children with disabilities and their families.

A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS!

To commemorate our 75th anniversary a full year of activities and events took place, beginning at our annual general meeting in January. Special guests included Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi and representatives of the Sisters of Providence who started Providence as a Crèche in 1943. From there, it was a busy year:

- Sixty five Providence staff, family, friends and supporters participated for the first time as a team in the Scotiabank Calgary Marathon in May, all proudly wearing red Providence t-shirts.
- A record 175 kindergarten students graduated in June, each receiving a commemorative graduation cap marked with Providence's 75th anniversary logo.
- At our Alumni Homecoming in September, we welcomed back more than 200 former students and staff for an afternoon of reminiscing and re-connecting.
- We hosted our first-ever Pathways to Success conference in October for anyone involved in the care of young children. More than 300 people attended. Sixteen Providence teachers and therapists teamed up to present eight sessions through the day.

Providence's 75 years of supporting young children with disabilities would not be possible without the untold number of people and organizations who have supported us. We are proud to work alongside so many who share our belief that all children deserve a chance to reach for and achieve their full potential.

We wish to thank our donors and volunteers. You help ensure we are able to maintain the highest of standards in our classrooms; that we have access to the latest technological and theoretical advances in the area of early intervention; and ensure our facilities provide a warm and safe environment for our students and staff.

We wish to thank our government and community partners who make our work possible.

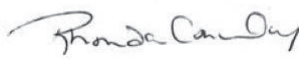
And, as always, we wish to extend our biggest thanks and sincere appreciation to the Providence staff. Our certified teachers, speech language pathologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, behaviour specialists, education therapists and therapeutic and educational assistants, and support staff demonstrate compassion and caring – combined with experience and expertise – every single day. All of you continue to be the cornerstone of Providence's success.

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate this past year. We invite you to be part of the years ahead as we continue to evolve to meet the needs of young children with disabilities, providing the opportunities to build foundations that will last a lifetime.

Sincerely,



DAVID BOUCKHOUT
Board Chair



RHONDA CONWAY
President and CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Bouckhout – Chair

William Reeder – Vice Chair

Kent Oczkowski – Secretary

Karma Roste - Treasurer

Chris Dorland – Director

Craig Flint - Director

Geri Greenall – Director

Greg Kraminsky – Director

J. Lary Mosley – Director

Jeff Weidman – Director

OUR SCHOOLS

Windsor Park

(Main School and Administration)

5232 - 4th Street SW

Beddington

183 Bedford Drive NE

Falconridge

116 Falsby Way NE

Hawkwood

555 Hawkwood Blvd NW

McKenzie Towne

325 McKenzie Towne Link SE

Midnapore

14707 Bannister Road SE

75th anniversary **KICKOFF!**

To kick off our 75th anniversary celebrations in January, our Annual General Meeting included several special guests and the presentation of our “Friends of Providence” Awards. Special guests included Mayor Naheed Nenshi, and representatives from the Sisters of Providence, who operated the Providence Crèche in the 40’s and 50’s. Sister Andrea, (pictured below) worked at Providence when Bing Crosby visited – in 1959!

The Friends of Providence Awards recognized outstanding achievements and contributions to Providence in recent years. Each recipient was presented with a uniquely-painted “little red schoolhouse” recognizing the support they have provided to Providence in providing a caring environment for our young students before they spread their wings into the wider world.

Award recipients included: Trina and Kevin Olson, for their generous financial support; Crescent Point Energy for their many years of sponsorship of the Dine & Deals Gala and Wildcatters Golf Tournament; Terry Creighton as past President of Providence (1986-2006), and Andy Learmont for his 20+ years of donating his expertise as a photographer; Dean and Maureen McElhinney and CBN for their significant donations over 20 years in the area of print and graphics production.

Several alumni grads returned to help us present the Friends of Providence Awards: Zach Nelson, David Doerksen, Gabe Parczen and Bill Hurley. They were welcomed by our Providence teachers, therapists and therapeutic and educational assistants who taught them when they were five and six years old.



Back row; Sister Mary Phillips and Sister Maggie St John
Front row; Sister Anne Hemstock, Sister Dolores Blanchette,
and Sister Andrea Arsenault



Alumni parents and donors Kevin and Trina Olson with
alumni presenter Bill Hurley



Alumni grads; Zach Nelson, Gabe Parczen
and David Doerksen

Pictured below are Providence alumni presenting the Friends of Providence Awards to staff. Congratulations to Deb Thomas for 32 years; Krystyna Apanowicz for 23 years of service, Bob McMinis for his 23 years of service and Marlene Knopf for 26 years of service. Deb and Marlene had David and Zach in their classes!



David Doerksen and Deb Thomas



David Doerksen and Krystyna Apanowicz



Gabe Parzen and Bob McMinis



Zach Nelson and Marlene Knopf

alumni HOMECOMING

This past September we invited alumni, community partners, volunteers, friends and supporters to our Windsor Park school for tours and refreshments and to wander through 75 years' worth of photographs and memorabilia.

We were overwhelmed with the response, with over 200 people attending. We enjoyed watching former students and families reconnecting with staff - and many past staff re-connecting after many years!

PHOTO 1 - Josse Oczkowski with her family. Dad, Kent is a Board member at Providence.

PHOTO 2 - Past and current Providence employees re-connecting after many years.

PHOTO 3 - Chase Dorland attended Providence for one year, and his family has stayed involved. Chris is a Board member and his wife Kristen is a long time Dine & Deals gala committee member.

PHOTO 4 - Alumni Alexis Jenkins standing in front of a Providence banner featuring - herself!

PHOTO 5 - Mike Franco attended Providence from the time he was 1 years old to 4 years old. He is pictured here with his family.

PHOTO 6 - Alumni Avantas Rajbhandari with his family.

PHOTO 7 - TA Deb Thomas with Paton Family.

PHOTO 8 - Sully Rathwell was a student at Providence from Early Intervention through Kindergarten. Mom, Cara is on the Dine & Deals Gala committee.





pathways to success **CONFERENCE**

On October 19th Providence hosted our first Pathways to Success conference as part of our 75th anniversary celebrations. Our audience included colleagues and partners in the early childhood education community who came together for a day of learning and sharing.

Our keynote speakers included Dr. Jody Carrington and Bridgett Miller, along with parent Juanita Carberry, who shared their unique perspectives on caring for children.

Sixteen of our own teachers and therapists presented eight different sessions throughout the day. Feedback from the over 300 attendees was very positive.

Presentations included:

Screen Time

Executive Functioning

Using Visuals to Support Language Development and Independence: Why, When, How

Understanding Sensory Processing

Move It or Lose It: The Importance of Early Mobility

Hooray for Play

The Perfect Match: Balancing Temperament and Caregiving Style

Hands on Science (+more!) Activities for Preschoolers

PHOTO 1 - Keynote Speaker Dr. Jody Carrington

PHOTO 2 - Keynote Speaker Bridgett Miller and parent speaker Juanita Carberry

PHOTO 3 - Providence presenters Ashley Briggs, Collette Tovee, Eve Chan, Niah Colburn, Jennifer MacKay, Danielle Switalsky and Cassandra Harrison

PHOTO 4 - Providence Teacher Steve Reinhart, Education Lead Angela Rooke, and Allan Desjardins Behavior Specialist

PHOTO 5 - Guests of Pathways to Success Conference 2018

PHOTO 6 - Providence Teacher Jennifer Lohuis volunteer at the conference

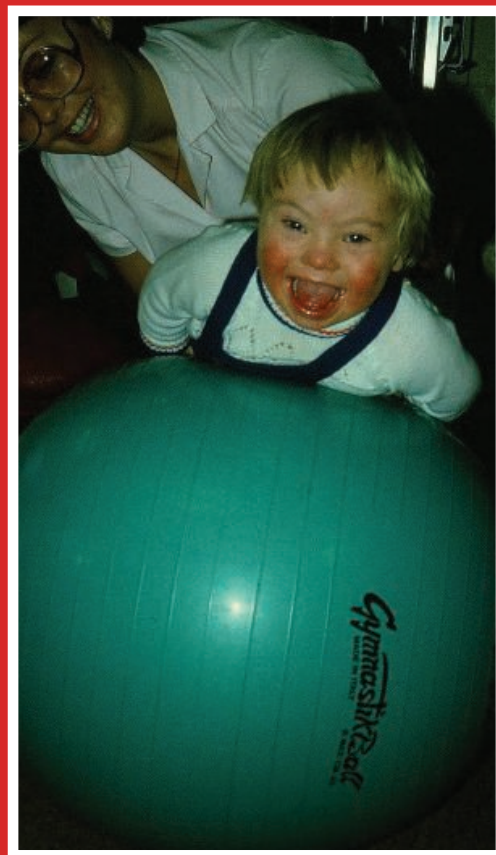
PHOTO 7 - Providence TA Tyler Sadowski and Site Coordinator Tiffany Shimla volunteer at the conference





proud past. **BRIGHT FUTURE.**

The occasion of our 75th anniversary provides the opportunity to look back and to connect with the many who have helped achieve this milestone in our history.



1943 Providence Crèche Babies Home opens in a small house to five orphaned babies. Started by a group of volunteers led by Mrs. Isabella Stevens, it is soon taken over by the Sisters of Providence.

Unwed mother's home opens.

1958 A large new Centre is built on the current Windsor Park site and opens to 50 children.

1969 Expanding to serve 80 children and the expectation of continued growth, the management of the Providence Crèche transitions from the Sisters of Providence to a non-sectarian board of directors.

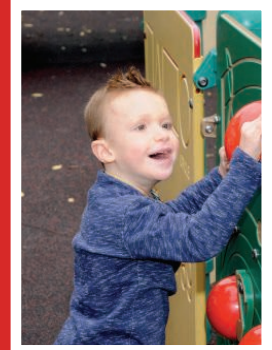
1970 Providence Crèche officially re-named Providence Child Development Society.

1986 Providence opens group homes for children aged six and older.

1987 Early Intervention and Outreach Programs are added; full time therapy staff added to classrooms. A specialized playground is built.

2000

History of Providence Child Development Society



2001 Child Care programs close - therapeutic and educational services for young children continues. Collaboration with health, human services and educational partners increases.

2010

2011 First purpose-built preschool opens in McKenzie Towne, bringing total preschool enrolment to 476 in six preschool locations across the city, as well as 290 in our Community Services Programs.

2015

2016 As a recognized leader in early intervention, Providence is a preferred service provider for government programs in the community, including the new Supported Child Care Program.

2017

2018 Providence serves 700+ children in our six preschools, and 800+ in our Community programs.

Our focus on building capacity in the areas of greatest need in the city continues.

memories **SHARED**

As part of our 75th anniversary celebrations, we asked people to share their memories of Providence. We received the following stories through our 75th anniversary website.



Gabe was an amazing baby. He never really cried or fussed. Come to think of it, he wasn't making many facial expressions either. When a family member noticed Gabe was perhaps, unusually quiet, we decided to take him to the doctor and have some genetic testing. We met with specialists, speech pathologists, and occupational therapists, and through Alberta Health Care we were referred to Providence.

Heartbroken, scared, and worried, we felt lost for our little boy. But from the moment we walked into Providence there was a sense of ease. We were welcomed and reassured by an incredibly genuine and warm community. We were given instant hope, which grew alongside the fast progress Gabe was making.

Gabe attended Providence from ages two to five years old, when Gabe came home and showed us how he could drink out of a straw, we were overwhelmed with joy! Unable to breastfeed, difficult to bottle feed, and on solids at an early age – learning to suck was a major milestone for Gabe. Extremely proud parents, we never imagined that Gabe would be where he is today and are forever grateful to Providence for fostering his growth.

Providence allowed us to be parents. Providence allowed us to love and play with our son and leave the hard work to the experts. The community at Providence is understanding and gentle. It makes you feel safe, both as a parent and a child. Gabe was excited to go, and we were excited to take him! The genuine compassion and love felt within the walls of Providence is indescribable.

Providence not only changed Gabe's life, but our entire family's. An environment of endless support, Providence equipped us with the physical and emotional tools needed to support our son in every way he needed. At one time, we alternated leaving home to run errands, but after Providence we were able to go as a family. In the beginning Gabe was uncomfortable and unsure how to be around others, but Providence drastically improved his social skills including, the use of gestures for expression and understanding human touch. Gabe's sensory processing deficits still exist, but at a minimal state that allows him to be a typical young man.

We are honored to share our story with others. Our advice to parents of children with extra or special needs is early intervention, like Providence. For who you are, what you are, and for the love you have left in our hearts, we thank-you Providence.

- Kimmy Hayden (Parzen Family)



My son was speech delayed and gross motor delayed before attending Providence. He has come so far and has reached so many goals at Providence. He started in the school at the age of two, as he was not talking. Within six months he was talking in full sentences and walking. Even after moving away from the city, we are so grateful.

Thanks to Providence all those years ago, he is still thriving on a solid base provided by Providence.

At my twin boys' two year checkup, the doctor was concerned with their speech, or lack of, and referred them for testing. After hearing tests, working with a speech therapist, and formal testing, they were both diagnosed with severe speech delays. We registered them for school in the fall of 2016 at Providence in Midnapore. Today ends their two year school journey.

They have come so far with the help and guidance of the wonderful teachers, therapeutic and educational assistants, and speech and occupational therapists. In fact sometimes I say the staff at Providence did their job too well, as the boys never stop talking!

I feel they are really ready for the fun and challenges that kindergarten will bring. They have a solid academic foundation, tools for emotional regulation, and an understanding of social interactions. They have a love for learning that we owe to so many people at Providence.

We are so grateful to Providence! We will miss you!



2017–2018 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Although we enjoyed taking time to celebrate our 75th anniversary through the 2018 calendar year, the 2017-2018 school year was also very busy!

We are pleased to provide some of the operational highlights from September 2017 to August 31, 2018.

We had **769** students in our six schools and **800** children in our community programs.

We bussed, at no cost to families, **526** children.

A total of **13,275 hours** of specialized support for families was provided by our staff.

A sign of excellence, as **14** universities and colleges from across Canada sent practicum students to Providence.

We participated in **3** Autism Spectrum Disorder research studies with the University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services.

Over **120** children with complex mobility challenges accessed physiotherapy.

Over **200** students benefitted from Augmentative and Alternative Communication devices through our AAC program.

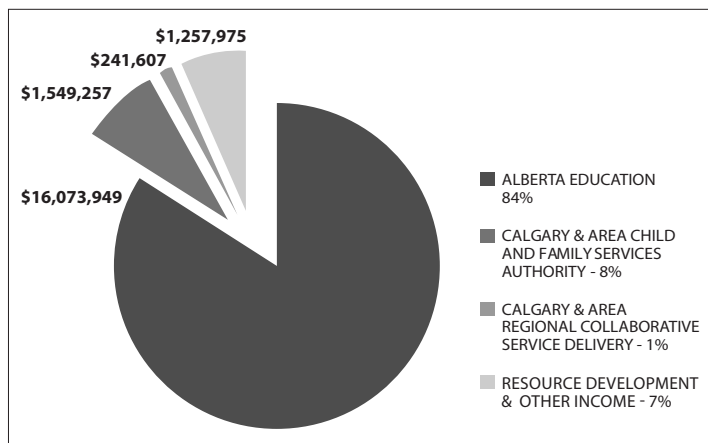
The Providence staff attended approximately **784** hours of professional development.

Our nutrition program baked and provided **52,272** healthy cookies for our students.

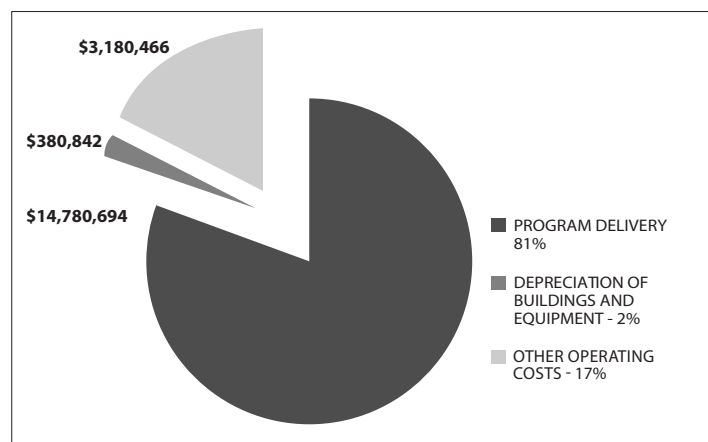
PROVIDENCE IS PROUD TO BE PART OF THE FIRST2000 DAYS NETWORK, AN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT NETWORK THAT STRIVES TO MAKE SURE YOUNG CHILDREN HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE.

FINANCIALS

2017-2018 WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM...



2017-2018 WHERE THE MONEY GOES...



Complete audited financial statements are available by calling 403.255.5577 or by sending a request to general@providencechildren.com

We invite you to share these strategies with parents and caregivers of young children.

physical health and well-being -
DOING

I'M A BIG BOY NOW!

What Does It Mean?

- I can get along with other children.
- I follow rules, instructions and routines.
- I accept responsibility for my actions.
- I show respect for others.

What Do I Need From You?

- When I'm a baby, give me lots of skin to skin contact.
- Give me a safe environment that I can explore freely.
- Get me into a routine for sleeping, eating and playing.
- Teach me sharing and problem solving by playing lots of different games with me.
- Ask me what I think about things like decisions that affect me or others. Really listen to my answers and ask questions. Get me thinking!
- Show me how to be accepting of others and how to celebrate their differences. Be a good role model.



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EXPANDING CAPACITY

PURCHASE OF BUILDING IN THE NORTHEAST

May 1st, 2018 Providence announced the purchase of a building in Falconridge we have been leasing for the past 15 years. This acquisition is the fourth property owned and operated by Providence. In addition we lease two school facilities in the city.

"Providence has a strategic goal to grow and enhance our ability to support children who require our programs and services," says Rhonda Conway, Providence President and CEO.

Purchasing the Falconridge property allowed us to almost double our capacity to support over a 100 children in the far northeast quadrant of the city. Returning and new students were welcomed in September with four newly-renovated classrooms, an expanded gym and therapy areas.



EXPANSION OF COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS



Providence's Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) program provides picture communication systems to non-verbal children; children who are just starting to talk; and to children who are difficult to understand.

AAC includes paper-based systems, devices with recordable buttons, iPads with different communication apps, and more sophisticated dedicated speech output devices. Last year approximately 200 students benefitted from using AAC in the classrooms.

This past year we began the process of becoming a certified Level II AAC Service Provider. This certification will enable us to assess our non-verbal students in a timely manner to determine if some of the more advanced AAC options could benefit them.

The first step in the certification process was to purchase the variety of speech output devices available, so our therapists could become familiar with them and use them to assess our students. Thanks to our generous donors, we were able to purchase \$75,000 worth of advanced AAC technology through the year, and training is almost complete.

We invite you to share these strategies with parents and caregivers of young children.

emotional maturity - **FEELING**

I'M A BIG BOY NOW!

What does it mean?

I'm able to deal with feelings (for my age).
I'm strong enough to leave you once in a while.
I can control some of my impulses & fears.
I am able to focus on activities.

What do I need from you?

Make eye contact during reading, talking, singing, and playing.
Teach me the right words for feelings.
Let me make art with whatever is around.
Be really consistent about what you expect for my behaviour. I need a heads up if routines change.
I'm my own person so treat me with respect – you are modelling my ideas about fairness and equality.
Let me do things by myself – I need to try. And fail!
Make sure I have at least 5 people who are crazy about me – I need lots of teachers.
Don't try and do it all alone. Sometimes kids and adults need extra help – so know where to find it.



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COMMUNITY SERVICES

OUR COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AND EXPAND:

In addition to our school-based services, Providence also operates a number of community-based programs. We have a team of therapists and learning specialists who work through government and private contracts to support young children in a variety of settings.

Our biggest focus this past year has been to continue to develop the Supported Child Care (SCC) program to best serve the needs of the childcare sector. Providence, as a SCC program operator, is a key partner in a provincial network supported through the Ministry of Children's Services. The aim is to provide information, resources, coaching, and professional development to child care programs to support them in meeting the developmental needs of all children.

We continued to expand our contracted services with community partners such as schools, community agencies and child care programs, providing assessment and therapy to support young children.

This past year, the Community Services team also added eleven new titles to the Pathways to Success information sheets for parents and caregivers of young children:

- Fun with Sounds
- Helping A Child to Follow Directions
- How to Create a Calming Space
- How to Use a Calming Space
- Pencil Grasp
- Play is Work for Kids
- Read Talk Explore – Interactive Reading with Children Ages 0-3
- Read Talk Imagine – Interactive Reading with Children Ages 3-6
- Scissor Skills
- Using a First-Then Board
- Using Storybooks to Build Language

The series now has twenty different titles available on our website.

www.providencechildren.com/resources



We invite you to share these strategies with parents and caregivers of young children.

social competence - **PLAYING**

I'M A BIG GIRL NOW!

What Does It Mean?

- I can play and get along with other children.
- I'm able to follow rules, instructions and routines.
- I accept responsibility for my actions.
- I show respect for others.

What Do I Need From You?

- When I'm a baby, give me lots of skin to skin contact.
- Give me a safe environment that I can explore freely.
- Get me into a routine for sleeping, eating and playing.
- Teach me sharing and problem solving by playing lots of different games with me.
- Ask me what I think about things like decisions that affect me or others. Really listen to my answers and ask questions. Get me thinking!
- Show me how to be accepting of others and how to celebrate their differences. Be a good role model.



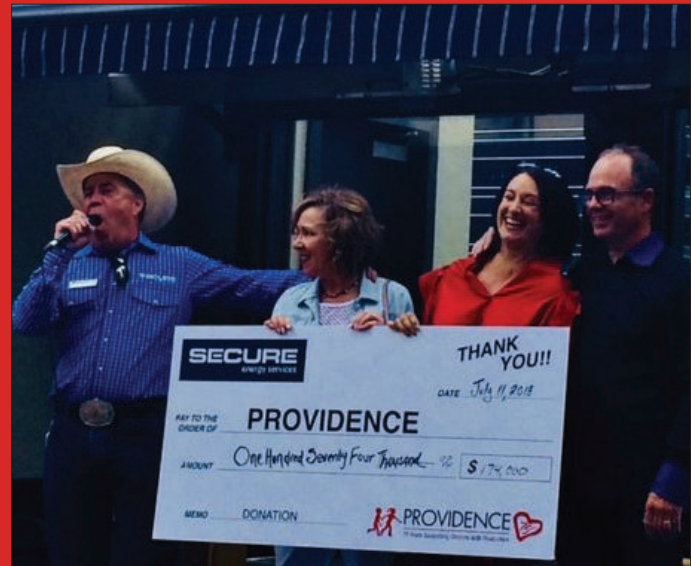
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COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR PROVIDENCE

Al and Viv Brissette are proud Providence supporters. Their first experience with Providence was at the Grand Opening of Providence's McKenzie Towne school in 2010. The visit made a big impact on them, and when they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, they made a generous donation to Providence.

Every year since then, they have made a donation on their anniversary, increasing the amount with the number of years they have been married. Al and Viv have rallied family and friends to support their favourite cause, encouraging them to donate to Providence in lieu of birthday and Christmas gifts. Al and Viv are long-time members of the Associated Canadian Travellers. ACT has supported Providence for almost as long as Providence has been in existence.

The SECURE Energy Charity Stampede Party supports Providence. Rene Amirault, SECURE Energy Services CEO and his wife Margaret with Trina and Kevin Olson presented the cheque to Providence. The Amiraults and Olsons made generous donations to bring the total for the day to \$174,000!



thank you!

DINE & DEALS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Thanks to the Dine & Deals Gala volunteer committee, the event has been successful year after year. Dine & Deals maintains relevance through our wonderful committee whose inspiration, creativity and cost consciousness mandates a financially successful and fun event for Calgary. Providence has been successful at attracting new committee members and retaining experienced ones, a great combination of freshness and efficiency.



WILDCATTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Wildcatters Golf Tournament committee are an excellent example for the corporate community in Calgary. The group began as a volunteer committee within a Calgary corporation, but as the company changed, the Wildcatters evolved into a philanthropic group of individuals. Their dedication, commitment and selflessness are reflected in the work they do for Providence and for other charities in Calgary and around the world. They have truly joined together to help change their part of the world with their time, talent and treasure.



We invite you to share these strategies with parents and caregivers of young children.

language and cognitive development- LEARNING

I'M A BIG GIRL NOW!

What does it mean? Mostly, academic skills.

I'm interested in reading, writing and telling stories.

I can recognize letters and numbers (at my age level).

I can recognize shapes, sizes and colours.

I easily remember things (probably better than you can!).

What do I need from you?

Speak and read to me every day in the language you know. Point out and name things in books and things around me.

Give me quiet playtimes without interruptions.

Get a lot of toys for my age – puzzles, animals, stacking toys, blocks, books, dolls and cars.

Don't let me get too familiar with TVs and other digital devices. Here are some guidelines for "screen time":

- No screen time if I'm under 2 years
- Less than 1 hour per day if I'm 2-4 years
- Less than 2 hours per day if I'm older



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Early Childhood Development Network



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