

sign of hope

DONOR NEWSLETTER



WINTER 2022



Dr. Troy Davies, CEO

Message from the CEO

In the Japanese art-form of kintsugi, when a ceramic bowl breaks, the artist will fix it, using precious gold to bond the pieces back together. Rather than hide the cracks, the artist will accentuate them, revealing a new and beautiful design. In the end, the bowl is not considered broken. Instead, it is only seen to be different than initially envisioned.

Likewise at CSS, we do not see broken people. We do not only see the difficult life circumstances or traumatic events, the abuse or the suffering; we do not only see the diagnosis or disability, the challenges, trials, or tribulations. We see the strength and courage that it takes to pick oneself up, keep going, and thrive.

We cannot do this work alone. *YOU* make it possible for CSS to compassionately journey alongside those we serve, helping them to put back together the pieces of themselves that have come apart.

Thank you for your continued trust and support, which empowers us to do this work.

Blessings always.

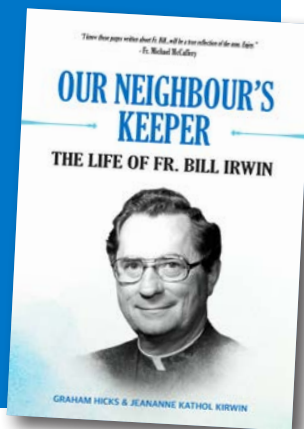
Sincerely,

Dr. Troy Davies

"Our Neighbour's Keeper"

Copies now available!

Catholic Social Services released "Our Neighbour's Keeper," a biography honouring the agency's founder, Father Bill Irwin, at Evening at the Mac on August 25. The book was commissioned in celebration of the agency's 60th anniversary and was co-authored by long-time agency friends and supporters, Graham Hicks and Jeananne Kathol Kirwin. To get your copy, please contact 780-391-3232, or email nimet.somji@cssalberta.ca or contact Audrey's Books in Edmonton.



The Archdiocese of Edmonton celebrates CSS Sunday

On Sunday, October 30, parishes across the Archdiocese of Edmonton celebrated the second annual Catholic Social Services' Sunday.

"I offer my most sincere gratitude for this very special local agency," said Archbishop Richard Smith, in a letter read at all Masses on CSS Sunday. "I pray that each of you will hold a distinct place in your hearts for all the vulnerable people in our community served by the fine people at Catholic Social Services."

Archbishop Smith first declared the last Sunday of October "CSS Sunday," in 2021, to mark the 60th anniversary of CSS and honour the impact the agency continues to make in the lives of the most vulnerable. CSS Sunday is now celebrated annually.

We want to connect with you...

Follow us on social media!



National Philanthropy Day

An opportunity to celebrate our donors

On November 15 - National Philanthropy Day - Catholic Social Services recognized **TERRY MAHON** and the **DOWNTOWN ROTARY CLUB OF EDMONTON** for their ongoing support.

National Philanthropy Day is a worldwide celebration of philanthropy, recognizing the outstanding achievements of individuals, foundations, corporations, fundraising volunteers and nonprofit organizations who contribute their time, talents, financial support and other resources.



*Don McFarlane & Melinda Noyes
Downtown Rotary Club of Edmonton*

Downtown Rotary Club of Edmonton: Teeing off for a good cause

For the past two years, the Downtown Rotary Club of Edmonton has generously donated proceeds from their *Million Dollar Hole-In-One Golf Tournament* to Catholic Social Services' Lurana Shelter, to help women experiencing domestic violence.

Lurana is a 21-day crisis shelter operating 32 beds for women and their children in need of urgent, safe housing.

"The Downtown Rotary Club of Edmonton sees giving to CSS, and specifically Lurana Shelter, as a way to support the Downtown Edmonton community, of which we are a part," says Melinda Noyes, Downtown Rotary Club President. "Our Club believes in supporting charities in need in the area where we work, live and meet."

The 2022 Million Dollar Hole-In-One Golf Tournament took place on August 8, and raised an incredible \$26,000!

Terry Mahon

Giving hope to the recently housed

Terry Mahon has been a devoted Catholic Social Services (CSS) donor for more than a decade.

For the past few years, Terry has supported CSS' Welcome Home program - which works with individuals transitioning out of homelessness. The program helps clients remain housed through social connection and has a 97% success rate.

Terry feels that everyone deserves a second chance, and experiences a great sense of inner peace seeing the profound difference his contributions make.

When Terry was asked what values continue to motivate his philanthropy he shared, "it truly gives me a huge amount of satisfaction knowing where the money is going and the good it is doing."

Terry has experienced a lot of loss in his own life, but never wavers on his faith. He often says, "if you give something it seems to come back 100-fold."



Terry Mahon

2022 Sign of Hope Campaign

Your hope is their healing

Catholic Social Services launched its 2022 Sign of Hope campaign at a media event on September 21, where CEO Dr. Troy Davies was joined by seventeen-year-old Nargis, a CSS client who has directly benefited from the generosity of donors.

Nargis was writing her grade 12 exams when Kabul fell to the Taliban in August 2021. As a young woman, a member of the Hazara ethnic minority, and the sister of a prominent human rights defender, Nargis' life was at risk. She packed her bags that night and fled the city with her brothers.

After 5 months in hiding, Nargis arrived in Edmonton; CSS was there to welcome her. She and her brothers stayed in CSS-run accommodations for more than a month, where they received settlement support, counselling, language assessment, and Nargis was registered in school.

While women and girls in Afghanistan are no longer permitted to go to school, Nargis is free to finally finish writing her grade 12 exams in safety. She dreams of attending university next year to study medicine.

In 2022, CSS hopes to raise \$2.6 million to help young clients like Nargis, as well as women and children escaping violence, seniors facing abuse and neglect, the recently-housed, and those

experiencing a mental health crisis, among others.

Donors can make a contribution to the campaign until December 31, 2022, *online at cssalberta.ca/donate or by calling (780) 439-HOPE(4673).*



Nargis, a CSS client



FILLING FRIDGES - AND HEARTS - for Sign of Hope

On November 29, "Giving Tuesday," Catholic Social Services asked the public to make a donation to help Fill the Fridges of its most vulnerable clients. CSS set a goal of raising \$50,000 and was overwhelmed with gratitude when \$50,650 was donated!

Increasing food costs are creating a widespread hunger crisis in Alberta, which tops the list of Canadian provinces for families experiencing food insecurity. As many as 20% of Albertans are unable to keep food in the fridge. That's 1 in 5 children, seniors, and vulnerable Albertans who are missing meals, going hungry, or suffering food insecurity in some way.

Clients across many of Catholic Social Services' programs are at the forefront of this crisis, including those served by the agency's women's shelters, high-risk youth programs, Welcome Home program, and Elder Abuse Resources and Supports (EARs) program.

Funds raised through the campaign will help Fill the Fridges, and put food on the tables, of those who need it most this holiday season. *Thank you also to corporate donors CWB Wealth, Hickey Financial, Hub International, and NexGen, for their generous contributions to the campaign.*

**Thank you for bringing hope today,
tomorrow, and beyond.**

**LEARN HOW YOUR DONATIONS CHANGE LIVES!
VISIT [CSSALBERTA.CA](https://cssalberta.ca)**



Sign of
Hope!

The 2022 Evening at the Mac was a sold out success!

On Thursday, August 25, 2022, Catholic Social Services' welcomed more than 400 friends, donors, partners, and stakeholders, "Back to the Mac," for the agency's signature event.

The event took place at the Fairmont Hotel MacDonald's Grand Ballroom and Terrace, where guests enjoyed delicious food and drinks, alongside the company of old and new friends, all while enjoying an incredible view of Edmonton's River Valley.

Evening at the Mac will return in 2023. If you are interested in receiving information about tickets, please email communications@cssalberta.ca.



Preventing Family Violence

Alberta has the third highest rate of family violence in Canada. In November - Family Violence Prevention Month - Albertans were encouraged to learn #WhereToTurn and how to help family, friends and neighbours experiencing family violence.

Catholic Social Services is one of the leading providers of domestic violence supports in Alberta, operating two shelters, a transitional housing program, a drop-in centre, a program for seniors experiencing abuse, and a group home for young girls experiencing, or at-risk-of, sexual exploitation.

These programs are all fully - or partially - funded by donations to Sign of Hope. You can donate directly to these programs by visiting cssalberta.ca/donate.

To learn more about Family Violence and what to do if you, or someone you know, is experiencing abuse, visit www.alberta.ca/family-violence-prevention-month.



The Many Faces of Family Violence: Mary's Story

Mary was referred to Catholic Social Services' Elder Abuse Resources and Supports program (EARS) after experiencing harassment, threats, and financial abuse at the hands of her brother, James, who would often demand money from Mary and threaten her when she would not give it to him.

Catholic Social Services' Elder Abuse Resource and Supports (EARS) program offers a variety of support, assessment and referral services to assist vulnerable seniors.

The team at EARS helped Mary obtain an Emergency Protection Order and created a safety plan to escape her abusive situation. Mary was able to access the Fleeing Abuse Benefit through Alberta Supports and moved into a new apartment, where her brother is unable to reach her. EARS was also able to set Mary up with a monthly grocery hamper, meal delivery, and home cleaning services to help her live safely and independently.

In 2021/2022, EARS supported 128 clients like Mary, up from 89 clients the year prior.