

Inside THE CUPBOARD

GIFTS THAT KEEP GIVING

December is one of my favourite times of year. I have visions of family and friends and enjoying the festivities of the holiday season.



This is a season of sharing and giving, of our time and our gifts. In this edition of Inside the Cupboard, we thought it fitting to highlight the generosity and support given to us here at The Lending Cupboard. Each week, we see tremendous generosity from our volunteers, who continue to dedicate hours of their time to work in and support our operations. When it comes to receiving gifts, The Lending Cupboard has also been fortunate to receive support from individuals and services clubs from across central Alberta. Just like the festive season is about spending time together and giving gifts, the operations of The Lending Cupboard are only possible because of our volunteers and our supporters. Thanks to you, we are able to continue providing free medical equipment to people from across our region: the people who need it most.

I hope you'll enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter, as we highlight the importance of our donors. On behalf of our team at The Lending Cupboard, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.


Dawna Morey
Executive Director

NUMBER NUGGETS

Do donations help The Lending Cupboard? Absolutely! Here's a snapshot of the people we help, thanks to your support.

3,046 items lent out since July

2,737 items returned since July

1,537 number of clients since July

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Young Guns Charity Golf Tournament provides long-time support to The Lending Cupboard

It may seem like a long way from a golf green to the equipment room at the Lending Cupboard, but the distance is shorter than you might think, thanks to the Young Guns Charity Golf Tournament. The annual tournament, which has been a huge fundraising success since 2002, raises money for local community groups, and The Lending Cupboard has been a grateful recipient for a number of years.

"The Young Guns group has been a long-time supporter of The Lending Cupboard, and we're so thankful for their donations," says Dawna Morey, executive director. "We received \$10,000 from them this year and, we've received well in excess of \$60,000 from their foundation over the years. This has allowed us to move forward with items such as purchasing our large sanitizing machine, which is very vital to our organization."

As Young Guns committee volunteer Debbie Brigley explains, the local aspect of The Lending Cupboard is a big reason for the Young Gun's long-term support. "We're really looking to help organizations in our community, because most of our tournament participants are from this area, and it's important that the funds help people in the region," she says. "The Young Guns likes to give to local organizations that don't get a lot of funding from other major sources."



Young Guns presenting a cheque to The Lending Cupboard.

In 2015, the Young Guns donated over \$80,000 to local community groups. In addition to the funding, the tournament itself gives organizations an opportunity to promote themselves to the community. "Lots of people just don't know what groups are out there," Brigley explains. "The organizations that will receive funding also have volunteers at the tournament, so this gives them a chance to chat with the golfers and talk about what they do."

When it comes to supporting the Red Deer region, "it's very rewarding to be able to help local organizations," Brigley says. "All of us with Young Guns are volunteers, and we're so pleased with the impact that these donations can have."

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GOVERNMENT FUNDING

As the provider of medical services for the Hip and Knee Clinics in Central Alberta, the Lending Cupboard receives \$50,000 in funding from Alberta Health Services. This equates to 18% of our average annual budget, meaning that fundraising is still a critical element that allows the Lending Cupboard to provide services to the community.

SPOTLIGHT

“Every time I went to the Lending Cupboard I was made aware of the great need of your organization, which pulled at my heart and allowed me to see an area that I could reach out and support my local community. I am very happy supporting the Lending Cupboard and all they do for people in my community.”

Francois Savard

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Contact our volunteer coordinator at the Lending Cupboard: volunteer@lendingcupboard.ca or 403.356.1678.

LEARNING ABOUT THE FUNDING

Donations from service groups and individuals provide important pieces of the puzzle

At the Lending Cupboard, medical equipment is loaned to people from across the community at no charge, but the organization itself still has overhead costs to keep the Cupboard full and open.

“Clients who are able to often provide us with donations as a way of saying ‘thank you’ when they return their equipment,” says Dawna Morey, executive director. “We’re always grateful for these donations.”

Morey notes the Lending Cupboard has also been fortunate to receive support from organizations. Since the Lending Cupboard’s fiscal year began on July 1, for example, it has received support from organizations such as the Young Guns Golf Tournament and community service clubs like the Lacombe Lions Club, United Commercial Travelers and Legion #35. “We’re always grateful for the opportunity to connect with service clubs, and it has been my pleasure to present to several since June,” she says. “Of course, the need for our services continues to grow and this means our budget does, too.” To help find new ways to raise funds, The Lending Cupboard was excited to participate in Giving Tuesday for the first time this year through the launch the “Mobilize Red Deer Campaign.”

The community “can learn more about that campaign as we continue to highlight our story on our website through the month of December,” says Morey. “Our hope is that, as people are considering where to make their donations this Christmas season, The Lending Cupboard will make their lists.” Morey notes that the organization is a registered charity and provides donors with tax receipts.

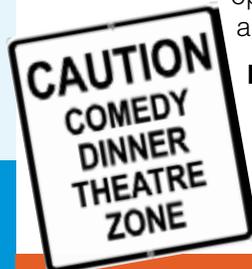


Francois Savard's generously purchased this electric wheelchair with the desire that it go to a client in need.

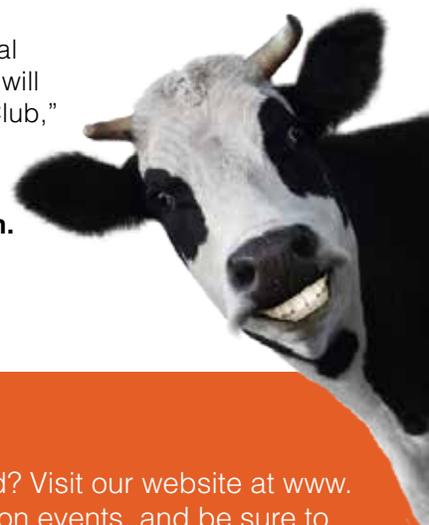
UPCOMING EVENTS

Cow Patti Theatre – Thursday, February 11

Support the Lending Cupboard while you enjoy an evening of dinner theatre, performed by professional actors at Cow Patti Theatre in Lacombe. The doors will open at 6 p.m. for “The Cemetery Club,” a comedy by Ivan Menchell .



For information on Cow Patti Theatre, visit www.cowpatti.com. To purchase tickets, please contact the Lending Cupboard at 403-356-1678.



STAY TUNED

Want to learn more about the Lending Cupboard? Visit our website at www.lendingcupboard.ca anytime to stay up-to-date on events, and be sure to look for the 2016 editions of “Inside the Cupboard,” coming in the spring.