

Inside THE CUPBOARD

A Community in Need



When I first wrote this piece I was imaging the trees budding and the spring flowers blooming in all their beauty and

glory. Looking back now our reality changed in what seemed a heartbeat. COVID-19 overtook and what was normal suddenly looked very different.

Promptly our attention turned to continuity and strategic planning the best way to continue our services and support our community. The safety of our staff, volunteers and clients was and continues to be our top priority.

I believe we have responded in a very positive manner. Though very different for us here at TLC where we love the personal touch that is so much a part of what we offer, we have been operating by appointment only and our small staff of 4 part time people have been fielding phone calls setting appointments and providing curbside service. It was all hands on deck. I was humbled and gained an even stronger appreciation for our incredible team!

So for the last few months TLC has continued to be here providing clients with the medical equipment they need. We may not have seen as many people but 1,266 clients were still served and we processed 2,770 pieces of equipment since March.

We were here for Shaun who was in an auto accident on April 4 and is in a body cast, and Ellise a 4yrs old who broke her leg and can't bear weight for weeks and needs a wheelchair or the

number of people being sent home from hospital like Amy's Mother-in-law who had emergency surgery and was release Good Friday and the patient in a rural community with terminal cancer going home to die. We have continued to be here for our homecare clients and the professionals caring for them. The Lending Cupboard is here to help our community and AHS!

We missed our volunteers but know that that was the right move at that time and are happy to be welcoming them back now as we reopen slowly to our new reality.

COVID-19 raised the concerns and awareness about infection prevention. Sanitizing has always been a priority but has definitely heightened concerns. TLC adheres to the Alberta Health Services strict requirements for infection prevention protocol of reusable medical equipment and devices. The silver lining to these challenging days is that it has given TLC the opportunity to review our operations and the possibilities they present. We can and are improving our processes and reducing the risks of cross contamination to our equipment.

We are hopeful that things will continue to go well in Alberta and we will all be back to open doors and our more personal services.



TLC ENHANCED WAYNE'S FINAL DAYS

I first became aware of The Lending Cupboard in Red Deer when my mother was released from the Red Deer Hospital at the end of February 2017 after having suffered a stroke on December 26th, 2016.

While we did not end up needing their services at the time, it did give us comfort knowing that we would have access to any needed equipment to ease my mother's transition back into her own home. Then, in August of 2017 we were told that my father had entered the end stages of the lung condition, asbestosis, that he had been diagnosed with a few years earlier. The Lending Cupboard made a big difference to my father's care by providing needed equipment to fill in gaps while we were waiting for approval to purchase those necessary items by the Worker's Compensation Board. The most significant item was a wheelchair which allowed us to make sure my

father was able to continue living his life to the fullest despite his condition.

Thanks to the wheelchair they provided, we were able to take my

"We will always be grateful... for giving our family those meaningful moments at the end of his life."

father to the Lethbridge Airshow, Pioneer Acre's in Irricana, Rosebud Theatre, the Ponoka Rodeo and most importantly, his grandson's wedding in Calgary. We will always be grateful for The Lending Cupboard and the part they played in giving our family those meaningful moments at the end of his life.

Thank you to everyone at The Lending Cupboard for all that you do, especially in the challenging times we find ourselves faced with during this pandemic.

submitted by Colleen Dymont



Wayne Dymont with his Granddaughters Tessa & Elise

SPARKING JOY THROUGH ENHANCED MOBILITY

SUMMER is the perfect time to discover mobility solutions in our community. After months of dealing with COVID-19 combined with living with limited mobility can make everyday tasks seem daunting however TLC services can contribute to increased independence. As things return to a new sense of reality and getting outside while practicing safe distancing TLC may be able to assist some people.

Embracing adaptive technologies and tools can help reduce the impact of daily mobility challenges. The Lending Cupboard has over 1500 pieces of medical equipment available to assist and support. Equipment such as air casts, walkers and wheel chairs are among many items available for lending. A variety of motorized wheelchairs are sometimes available at TLC for sale and can be life changing in living a more mobile life. Becoming more mobile can significantly impact mental health and social outings can be part of rebuilding independence.

Red Deer is a beautiful City to explore where people with disabilities can triumph over mobility challenges. One of Red Deer's greatest amenities is the variety of accessible

parks and pathways including 110km of trails in the Waskasoo Park system. Even in the winter season almost 23km of trails are open for citizens to enjoy. It is not unusual to see people enjoying electric wheelchairs on Red Deer trails. A breath of fresh air, feeling the sunshine, spotting wildlife or a friendly 'hello' to a passerby can bring a sense of fulfilment and independence. Living with limitations can be isolating; perhaps equipment from TLC can enhance mobility and in-turn spark joy.



Volunteer Appreciation Week April 19 -25, 2020

STAYING CONNECTED WITH OUR TEAM

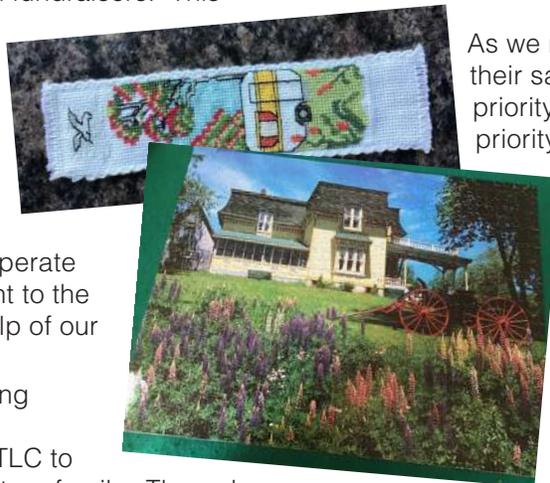
When asked “why do you want to volunteer at the Lending Cupboard, the answer I hear most often is, “because I believe in what you do, and I want to give back”. Many of our volunteers joined us after using our service themselves or have had a family member use our service.

Currently TLC has an active volunteer base of around 70. These dedicated individuals are the absolute backbone of TLC. A TLC volunteer commits to one four-hour shift a week. TLC offers a number of opportunities from customer service in the storefront to our sanitizing and repair shop areas.

TLC volunteers also support us by sitting on our Board of Directors, by the giving of their time and money to TLC events such as trade fairs and fundraisers. This speaks to the dedication our volunteers have to TLC and their commitment and dedication to its continued success.

In March when everything changed because of COVID19, TLC continued to operate and supply medical equipment to the community, but without the help of our valued volunteers.

As we all did our part by staying home when we could, it was important for all of us here at TLC to keep in contact with our volunteer family. Through weekly emails, and phone calls, we learned what they were doing to keep themselves busy. Things like puzzles, building bee houses, sewing masks, baking, reading,



woodworking and gardening filled their days.

As we re-launch and welcome back our volunteers, their safety as well as our clients and staff is our top priority. Infection prevention has always been a priority. Our cleaning and sanitizing practices are now enhanced and safe distancing will be practiced.

I know I speak for all the staff when I say we are very much looking forward to having our volunteers return. In my short time as Volunteer Coordinator they have all welcomed me and taught me so much about compassion, and how good it feels to give back, and truly be part of a team. It is my absolute pleasure and privilege to spend my days working along side this great group of individuals.

Brenda Radu, Volunteer Coordinator

RURAL CONNECTIONS

The Lending Cupboard has always been an organization that I have respected and admired.

For 20+ years I have worked in Home Care in Olds and Innisfail. My entire focus has been on individuals maintaining their Independence and remaining at home as long as possible. The Lending Cupboard helps individuals achieve this goal.

There is not a day at work that I do not experience some connection with The Lending Cupboard. Either a client is referred to the Lending Cupboard or I see a walker or bath bench already in use in a client's home.

So often a client's home has been accessed by our Occupational Therapist before they even come home from the hospital. Grab bars, raised toilet seats, bath benches, etc are installed to assist the client so they can remain safe when they come back home.

The Lending Cupboard thankfully is not just for Red Deer as Innisfail residents rely on this tremendous service daily.

Thank you Lending Cupboard for supplying such a unique service to all of central Alberta.

submitted by Doris Kibermanis



THANK YOU

Thank you to the ladies that answered our call for help when we needed masks! You helps to keep us all safe!



Thank you to the Alberta Turkey Producers for their donation of \$2,000. TLC was nominated by a member because of TLC's support to her family.



NUMBER NUGGETS

March - May 2020 during COVID-19

1,266 Clients served

1,462 Equipment on Loan

1,108 Equipment Returns

195 Equipment Donated

5 Recycled/Scrapped

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

If you have a special interest in Special Events, Fundraising or wish to volunteer in client services, cleaning/sanitizing, or repairs contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@lendingcupboard.ca or call us at 403.356.1678

Support comes in many forms @ TLC and we are grateful for it all. COVID-19 certainly threw a wrench into things and live fundraisers are just not in the cards for the next while. So we are exploring virtual options and want to thank those that supported our Ladies Luncheon and others that donated through 100 Women We Care Red Deer.



Picture taken at the 2019 Ladies Luncheon

The Red Deer & District Community Foundation wanted to be sure we had adequate equipment and donated to the purchase of some pieces we found ourselves short of and once again to the Knights of Columbus had new wheelchairs for us. Thank you as well to Red Deer Kinsmen for continuing to invest in TLC and all that we do in our community!

Together we are here to support central Albertans by removing the barriers and access to medical equipment. Thank you for paying it forward! Enhancing Mobility, Independence & Dignity for so many!



Connor Douglas, Red Deer Kinsmen and Dawna Morey, Executive Director- picture taken pre-COVID-19



Mike Breunig of the Knights of Columbus and Dawna Morey, ED TLC - picture taken pre-COVID-19



RED DEER & DISTRICT
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
all for community.

STAY TUNED

Want to learn more about The Lending Cupboard? Visit our website at www.lendingcupboard.ca. Want to receive our newsletter electronically? Send us an email to contact@lendingcupboard.ca