Enjoy a.... Cup of Coffee with the Cupboard!



From the desk of our Executive Director Lori Shatto....

Good morning,

We hope that you have been keeping well over the last couple of weeks. Things continue to be busy here at the Cupboard with our Winter 50/50 raffle, planning for our upcoming Ladies' Luncheon on May 11th and so much more.

Last week, we had an opportunity to visit with the local Salvation Army seniors group and chat about all things "TLC". What a wonderful lunch and opportunity to connect with another non-profit here in town - and members of our community. They asked some great questions and we were delighted to be there and provide answers. If you would like for us to come and speak to your group, please reach out. We would love to connect!

We also continue to meet the needs of our clients. Did you know that in February, our staff and volunteers processed over 2,300 pieces of equipment - kudos to this incredible team, who are so passionate and dedicated to ensuring individuals have access to medical equipment and daily living aids in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Wishing you a wonderful couple of weeks ahead, and remember if we can help in any way, please give us a call at 403-356-1678.

Take care,

Lori Shatto

What's happening at the Cupboard!

Meet our client Jackie Boyer!



Sometimes here at TLC, a client comes through our doors with a pretty incredible story!

Meet Jackie Boyer, a retired teacher who was so pleased to be able to borrow the exact equipment she needed for an upcoming surgery.

Jackie knows firsthand the importance of medical equipment in a healing journey, as she described some situations she has come through in her life.

"When I was 16, I was crossing the road to go babysitting, and a (passing) car didn't stop - he hit me and I went flying 40 feet through the air and landed on my hip."

Jackie was in a coma for three weeks in a Calgary hospital and she was given a five percent chance of survival. "I was also told I would be in a wheelchair by the time I was 20," she recalled. "I thought - no way! I am NOT going to be in a wheelchair."

Of course, medical equipment had a part to play in getting back to good health, and she also started exercising regularly and working out at a gym with trainers.

A healthy lifestyle indeed enhanced a productive and rich life - Jackie went on to be a teacher and things were moving forward; but further challenges - and heartache - awaited.

One day while out for a morning walk, her beloved dog was attacked and killed by two other dogs on the loose. Jackie of course witnessed the whole thing.

"I lost it - and that's where a brain injury came into play. I started having seizures - I became an epileptic and I retired from work early," she recalled. "It took me a long time to get through that. It was very traumatic."

And then, just a few years ago, she was driving to go and get her mail between Okotoks and High River.

"I saw this car coming down the other way, and I didn't think anything of it. But the next thing I know, I'm flying around in the middle of the highway - I'd been sideswiped on the driver's side. I had another concussion."

But ever the optimist, she continued to move forward - and to heal - with a resilient and determined spirit. "I'm still here, and my brain is still working! And I can smile and say, 'Hi, how are you?'"

Currently, Jackie - who now calls Red Deer home - is preparing for knee replacement surgery which is needed in part from that jarring, side-swiping accident.

She learned about the valuable services of TLC after a consultation regarding her surgery. It brings a sense of support to know that this kind of service is out there for folks when they need it.

"It's been very nice - the volunteers were really nice to me, too," she said with a smile.

All the best to you, Jackie, with your coming surgery!



Get your tickets soon for our Winter 50/50 Raffle!

It's been really exciting to see how the community has thrown its support behind our first-ever Winter 50-50 Raffle!

And folks, the deadline to purchase tickets is rapidly approaching - March 31 at 4 p.m.

Our lucky winner - who could land up to \$10,000 - will be announced on April 3 at 1 p.m.

"We are 56 percent sold out," said Kristin Mountain, our Fundraising/Donor Relations Coordinator. Tickets can be purchased as singles for \$5 each, five for \$20, or 20 tickets for \$60.

"We are almost sold out of the five for \$20, and we are also almost sold out of the one ticket for \$5," she added. "So I would encourage people if they would like to take part, to reach out to us through our website, come visit us in person, or give us a call. We can get them their tickets in whatever way is easiest for them," she explained.

Over the past several weeks, staff and volunteers have been out and about in the community selling the tickets, and the response has been fantastic.

"This has been a really good fundraising effort that not only will we have a winner who gets to enjoy proceeds from the raffle, but they will support us as

well.

Funds raised will help with operational costs and equipment costs - the things that we need in order to keep moving forward in a strong way and to meet the increasing need that we are seeing," she said.

As mentioned, people can also purchase tickets by phone at 403-356-1678, they can stop by TLC, or can visit www.lendingcupboard.ca/winter-raffle.

Remembering Eileen Cole a wonderful TLC supporter



We at The Lending Cupboard wish to express our most sincere condolences to the family of Eileen Cole, who passed away on Feb. 21.

Eileen – a tireless supporter of countless community causes – including our Ladies' Luncheon, was always a tremendous supporter of TLC. Her community spirit and dedication to the entire Red Deer region were inspiring.

Thank you Eileen for your dedicated leadership and commitment to our community. You will be missed immensely.

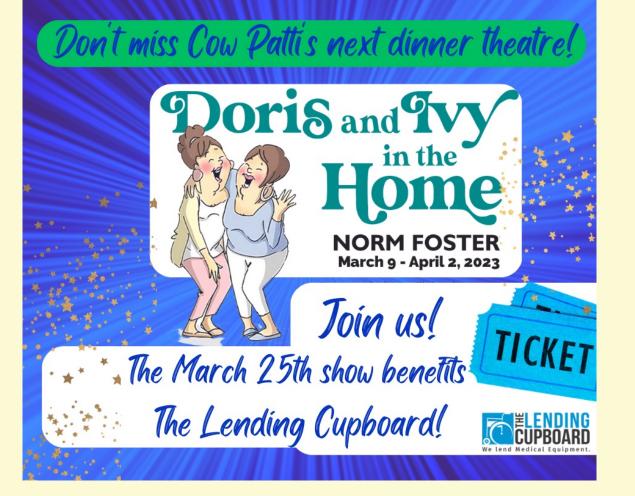
Pictured here is Eileen with her friend and fellow TLC volunteer Marlis McPherson.



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Join us for some 'theatrical fun' and support TLC at the same time!



DON'T MISS OUT! Cow Patti Theatre Company's newest show 'Doris and Ivy in the Home' is coming up and the benefit performance for The Lending Cupboard is March 25 – a portion of the proceeds will support our mission here at TLC!

For tickets, contact TLC by calling 403-356-1678 Ext. 207 or by emailing fundraising@lendingcupboard.ca.

Looking to give back to the community? *We could sure use your help!* Make new friends and know you are making a big difference in someone's life! Call Brenda at 403-356-1678 Ext. 203 or email volunteer@lendingcupboard.ca

Our volunteers make us smile!

Just wanted to say how THANKFUL we are for our very dedicated volunteer team!



Thank You For Your Support!





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