Thank You

To Our 694

2015 Volunteers

Measuring the impact of Volunteer Lethbridge volunteers shows the value of the diversity that your contributions make to all that Volunteer Lethbridge accomplished this last year.

Vision:
Volunteer Lethbridge strengthens and sustains a healthy, vibrant community through support and advancement of volunteer excellence.

Mission:
Volunteer Lethbridge builds connections and empowers individuals and organizations to enhance volunteerism and grow volunteer capacity.

Volunteerism benefits people served, organizations, the community overall and the volunteer themselves. Volunteerism makes a difference.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller

Kimberly’s voice has been matched with Tess!
President and Executive Director Report – Leslie Vaala and Diana Sim

A year at a glance brings the opportunity to reflect on the activity that demonstrates change.

Development

Providing group and short-term volunteer opportunities, new in 2015 include:

Human Voice Drive – in partnership with VocaliD, volunteers have the opportunity to donate their voice in the studio at Volunteer Lethbridge. Assistive communication powered by humans, empowering humans. Crafting unique vocal identities by blending voices through technology, combining the voices of real people to create personalized vocal personas for those who need them.

Hoarding, Outreach, Management, Education (HOME) has the opportunities for the Busy Bee and Support Volunteer to assist to declutter homes and to support a family by following up with one-year of scheduled support.

Lethbridge Rotary Dragon Boat Festival volunteers – Volunteer Lethbridge D.O.E.S. and D.O.E.S. Light volunteers organized and coordinated the ATB Financial KidZone, welcoming numerous community volunteers to join in the festivities as well.

Volunteer Lethbridge participated on the Cheers 4 Lethbridge planning community. A great initiative to engage community members in making a healthier, stronger community.

D.O.E.S. Light – volunteer group for 13-18 year olds formed, with a kick-off of an activity to recognize International Youth Day

UVolunteer was launched! Connecting students to volunteer opportunities within the University of Lethbridge, the City of Lethbridge and area communities. Experiential learning is a positive way to gain new skills and an excellent way for students to share their motivation and innovative initiatives with the community.

Governance

The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan of 2012-2015 and revised the goals, strategies and initiatives for 2016-2018.

Thank you to our Donors and Funders (Cont.)

University of Lethbridge
University of Lethbridge Student’s Union
Volunteer Alberta
Water Pure and Simple
Weber Handyman & Maintenance
Westech Portable Sanitation
Western One Rentals & Sales
Wolsey Incorporated

Aaltje Reitsma & Dorothy Gierulski
Ann Beers
Beverly Ann Thomson
Beverly Burton
Christine & Dennis Burton
Courtney Sopko
Cynthia Sisk -Edgar
Diana Sim
Douglas Van Belle
Jerry Pokarney
Joanne Perrett
Joyce D’Andrea
Kendall & Terry Jenson
Laurie Reid-Brown
Leslie Vaala
Lewis Mills & Diane Duffy
Lynn McLennan
Marilyn Eyre
Nikki Oldenburger
Peter & Betty Wiens
Polly Ducheminsky
Roy Pogorzelski
Sandy & Bernadette Lyons
Thomas & Irene Mckenna
Tracy Burton

“Donors do not give to organizations because organizations have needs; they give because organizations meet needs.”

- Kay Sprinkel Grace
The goals are:

- Build connections that expand and strengthen voluntary sector capacity
- Build connections that stimulate individual volunteerism
- Ensure strong, effective board governance

**Celebration**

Volunteer Lethbridge is excited to celebrate 30 years in this community. Volunteer Lethbridge became a society on April 8th, 1986. The following are the objects outlined then and they are still relevant today:

To provide a volunteer component to assist in community organizations.
To provide individuals with meaningful and fulfilling experience.
To assist member agencies in volunteer program development.
To educate the community and community organizations as to the benefits of volunteerism.
To promote the concept of volunteerism in the community.

We look forward to continuing to serve as we recognize volunteerism opens up a universe of opportunity to impact change through community development.

Serving member agencies continues to be our focus. One-on-one meetings throughout this last year has assisted us in learning more about what Volunteer Lethbridge can do to assist you in your day-to-day work and activities. Promoting your events and volunteer opportunities increases the awareness of all that you do. Linking you to resources that bring you value is important to us. Some resources include: Weekly Volunteer Promotions; Professional Development; National Volunteer Week events; Leaders of Tomorrow; Serving Communities Internship Program (SCiP); fundtracker access; Provincial and National initiatives. More details to follow in this report.

Thank you for your continued support of Volunteer Lethbridge. We look forward to working with you to grow the voluntary sector in our community. We recognize the great work of the not-for-profit agencies, the countless volunteers and all those who support the ongoing efforts to build a strong, healthy community.

*Thank you for trusting Volunteer Lethbridge to impact change.*
2015 brought new opportunities. Some of the work we have been involved in this past year includes:

**LEADERS OF TOMORROW 2015**—194 people gathered at the annual gala to recognize 74 youth between ages 5-24 years who made outstanding contributions to their community through volunteerism.

8 excellence awards presented
2 U of L scholarships awarded
2 Rotary scholarships awarded

“I choose to volunteer because I appreciate knowing I can do something, and that we as a generation can have an effect on our future.” - Keaton

**PROJECT PAINTBRUSH**

We can’t begin to convey how Volunteer Lethbridge made us feel when they came into our backyard to proceed to setup to paint our fence. A team of well-organized and willing volunteers! We were taken aback to see their approach, skill and professionalism. The scraping, the sanding and then the painting made us feel so indebted to the volunteer crew, my husband and I could not do the work and to think they would come in and do it all in a day struck us as phenomenal. I stated to the volunteers, "this is like a miracle I can’t believe it." – Betty and Peter

27 projects were completed
147 volunteers participated
1656.5 volunteer hours contributed
$39,756.00 economic value for the volunteer hours
8 Corporate groups volunteered
24 sponsors contributed

Today’s volunteers are driven by results.

**2015 MEMBER AGENCIES**

(Continued)

Lethbridge Youth Foundation - 5th on 5th
Lethbridge Youth Justice Committee
McGill Music & Arts School
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada
Navy League of Canada
New West Theatre
Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden
Oldman Watershed Council
Opokaa’sin Early Intervention Society
Parkinson Alberta
Parks Canada-Waterton
Regional Innovation Network of Southern Alberta (RINSA)
Rehabilitation Society—Ability Resources
Rehabilitation Society—Joblinks
Rotary Club of Lethbridge East
Schizophrenia Society
Scouts Canada
Sik-Ooh-Kotoki Friendship Center
South Country Treatment Centre
Southern Alberta Art Gallery
Southern Alberta Firearms Education Society (SAFE)
Southern Alberta Individualized Planning Association (SAIPA)
Southern Alberta Language Assessment Services (SALAS)
Southern Alberta Self Help Association (SASHA)
Southern Alberta Technology Council
Southern Alcare Society & Industries
Special Olympics Lethbridge
Spinal Cord Injury Alberta
St. John Ambulance
Streets Alive Mission
Ten Thousand Villages
The Salvation Army
United Way of Lethbridge & Southwestern Alberta
University of Lethbridge
University of Lethbridge-Alumni Relations
University of Lethbridge-Pronghorn Booster Club
Victim/Witness Services-Lethbridge
Regional Police
Victim/Witness Services-RCMP

Wellness Through Living Society
Westminster Village Committee
Womanspace Resource Centre
Wood’s Homes
World Vision Canada
YWCA Lethbridge & District

**2015 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

(18)

Aaron Roth
Beverly Thomson
Bob Dyer
Cheri Pokarney
Christine Burton
Courtnay Sopko
Diana Sim
Ed Sandau
Emily Bryce
Joan Kent
Jean Eyre
Joyce D’Andrea
Kathy Kurze
Kevin Gordon
Leslie Vaala
Marnie Brown
Scott Weber
Shelley Ducheminsky

Volunteer Lethbridge working for your organization. Hearing about how we can serve you effectively is important to us.
2015 MEMBER AGENCIES (121)
55 Plus Alberta Winter Games
Adaptacare
AHS-Lethbridge Community Health
AHS-Volunteer Resources-Lethbridge
AHS-Volunteer Resources-
Taber/Milk River
AHS-Volunteer Resources -
Cardston/Fort Macleod
AHS-Volunteer Resources-
Coalde/Raymond
Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge
Alzheimer Society
Amnesty International
Bibles For Missions
Big Brothers & Big Sisters
Birthright Lethbridge
Blackfoot Canadian Cultural Society
Black Foot Family Lodge Society
Blankets for Canada Society Inc.
Boys & Girls Club of Lethbridge & District
Brain Trauma Support Society
Canadian Bhutanese Society
Canadian Blood Services
Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation-
Prairies & NWT
Canadian Cancer Society
Canadian National Institute for the Blind
Canadian Red Cross Society
Chinook Regional Foundation for
Career Transitions
Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation
Choices in Community Living - Legacy Lodge
City of Lethbridge—Recreation & Culture
CXXU Radio Society
Coalde Public Library
County of Lethbridge Community Learning Council
Covenant Health - St. Michaels Health Centre
Covenant Health - St. Therese Villa
Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of Canada
Crossroads Counselling Centre
Downtown Lethbridge BRZ
Elite Volleyball Athletic Association
Extendicare
Family Center Society

Flexibility Learning Systems
Galt Museum & Archives
Girl Guides of Canada
Good Samaritan Society -Park Meadows Village
Good Samaritan Society-West Highlands Centre
Great Canadian Plains Railway Society
Green Acres Foundation
Green Acres Foundation-Alberta Rose Lodge
Green Acres Foundation-Black Rock Terrace
Green Acres Foundation-Blue Sky
Green Acres Foundation-Garden View Lodge
Green Acres Foundation-Golden Acres
Green Acres Foundation-Heritage Lodge
Green Acres Foundation-Pemmican Lodge
Hearts Haven Ranch
Helen Schuler Nature Centre
Interfaith Food Bank
It’s a Blast-Lethbridge Community Out of School Association
Kidney Foundation of Canada - Southern Alberta Branch
Kids Help Phone
Lethbridge Association for Community Living
Lethbridge College TLC
Lethbridge Community Network
Lethbridge & District Exhibition
Lethbridge Family Services Immigrant Services
Lethbridge Fish & Game Association
Lethbridge Food Bank
Lethbridge HIV Connection Society (ARCHES)
Lethbridge Lifelong Learning Association
Lethbridge Neighbourhood Watch Society
Lethbridge Public Library
Lethbridge Rotary Dragon Boat Festival
Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization
Lethbridge Shakespeare Performance Society
Lethbridge Soccer Association
Lethbridge Sport Council
Lethbridge Twinning Society
Lethbridge YMCA

“So what have I learned since volunteering you ask? I am a person that would not give up my free time easily and did not come from a world of volunteerism. I think not knowing the true meaning of volunteering makes people unaware of the impact it can have. Volunteers have a heart and willingness to help a stranger or their neighbours in and around their community. So I lift my hat off to the dedicated volunteers and the staff of Volunteer Lethbridge for supporting me in my difficult time. I would like to thank Volunteer Lethbridge for having the trust in me and giving me the chance to get experience in the administrative line of work. Thank you and keep up the hard work.” — Gillian

In 2015, 694 volunteers assisted with the programs and services at Volunteer Lethbridge, contributing a total of 6908.09 hours, having an economical value of $165,794.16. We could not do what we do without our volunteer resources. (using $24/hour rate as per TD Economic report)

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK April 12-18, 2015
“National Volunteer Week pays tribute to the millions of volunteers who share their time and talents with community benefit organizations across the country. This week of celebration is a wonderful way to shine the spotlight on volunteers who share their time and talents to making this community a better place to live in; the volunteer managers who work tirelessly to engage and empower volunteers; and the businesses that support employee volunteerism and prioritize community involvement. The Volunteer Lethbridge flag flew at City Hall. Fun events for volunteers included: a tea, Leaders of Tomorrow and Sparkle Into Spring. Approximately, 325 people attended the various events during NVW.

Alberta Government
VolunteerLethbridge.ca
Volunteer Alberta
Family Center Society
International Youth Day at Galt Gardens was the kick-off event for Volunteer Lethbridge’s new youth volunteer group, Doing Our Efforts Simply (D.O.E.S.) Light. It is run entirely by youth. D.O.E.S. Light strives to engage and empower the youth of the Lethbridge community by bringing together likeminded individuals in a collective environment. International Youth Day was created on December 17, 1999 when the United Nations General Assembly approved the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth’s bid to declare August 12 as International Youth Day. The theme was Civic Youth Engagement, D.O.E.S. Light thought this would be the perfect opportunity to get youth involved in their community.

**IMPACT**

VL was privileged to serve 121 member agencies in 2015. Our goal is to assist our member organizations with their community impact. VL promotes your volunteer opportunities and events in various ways.

**Some stats for the end of 2015:**

VL Website: 11,083 visits; 7,192 unique users; 38,108 page views; 8171 page views in the Volunteer Opportunity section

Facebook Followers: 626

Project Paintbrush Facebook Followers: 151

Twitter Followers: 1049

Instagram Followers: 36

1636 volunteer opportunities were featured in The Lethbridge Herald weekly, on average representing 33 agencies per month. An average readership of 13,167. As well, the weekly column is circulated through the Lethbridge College, the University of Lethbridge and an email list of 244 subscribers. 52 agencies were featured as Agency of the Week in the Sun Times, distributed to 18,900 homes per week. VL staff represented member agencies at 26 different community events (trade fairs, etc), talking with 1937 individuals.

Contact us to have your volunteer impact added to the graphic included here.

You are invited to research prospective grants at the VL office—contact us to schedule an appointment.

**VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY**

694 volunteers contributed time to the programs and services of Volunteer Lethbridge. Diverse opportunities include: Board positions, Leaders of Tomorrow committee and evening, National Volunteer Week activities, Project Paintbrush, Special Events, Prime Time Club, Giftwrapping, Serving Community Internship Program (SCiP), Office support, Cleaning, Busy Bees, Shredding, D.O.E.S., D.O.E.S. Light, Fine Options, Human Voice Drive.

57 volunteers successfully donated their voice to the Human Voice Drive, 56 volunteers are in process, 4 local volunteers have been selected as potential matches for recipients.

Connections made through email, phone call, drop-ins resulted in 728 volunteer referrals made to opportunities within the community.

Share all your volunteer opportunities with us, numerous volunteers connect with us for referrals.

**UVolunteer**

UVolunteer was launched in November 2015. 117 volunteers had registered with the program by the end of December. 1280.91 hours were recorded, reflecting an economic value of $30,741.84; impacting 11 different organizations. Creating opportunities for students, impacts our community.

**Vision:**

UVolunteer will inspire and motivate students to volunteer in their communities and will create a campus culture that engages students, faculty, and staff; improves student life; encourages community involvement on campus; sets a standard across Canada; and entices prospective students to choose the U of L by communicating the impact and value of civic engagement.

**Mission:**

UVolunteer, under the U of L’s four pillar approach to Liberal Education and Volunteer Lethbridge’s mission, is a resourced partnership between the University of Lethbridge, Volunteer Lethbridge, and University of Lethbridge Students’ Union.

**Objects**

“UVolunteer” will:

- connect students with volunteer opportunities within the U of L and Lethbridge and area communities
- build positive relationships with community organizations by providing a valuable human resource
- enhance the culture of volunteerism and engagement on campus
- increase volunteer opportunities associated with the University of Lethbridge
- engage students in experiential learning
- provide support to faculty to imbed volunteer opportunities in the classroom
- provide recognition to program participants
- inspire not for profit organizations to utilize student motivation and initiatives