

VitalNews

Welcome to our New Board Members!

Join us as we welcome five new members to our CFSEA Board:

Matthew Lofgren
Frances Barnes
Pam Lehr
Myrna Stark
Jim van der Sloot

We are excited to have you share your expertise and knowledge with us, helping us continue to create vibrant, healthy, caring communities!



Donor Profile: Kathy & Ben Hern

Kathy Hern and her husband Ben love the Southeastern Alberta sunshine. A past CFSEA Board chair, Kathy has lived in Medicine Hat with Ben since the early 1970s and they love the weather, the size of the city and the lack of challenges a smaller centre like Medicine Hat offers. "We love to golf, travel and spend time with our three grandsons." With their grandsons in Medicine Hat, Kathy and Ben are kept busy watching them play sports, attending school events, or taking them golfing. The HERNs love to golf, and that's actually how they met: "I was volunteering as a beer cart girl for a golf tournament that Ben was playing in and over 14 years later, we finally married on a trip to Phoenix, AZ."

That love of travel and warm weather moved them to purchase a condo in Mexico over ten years ago, where they now live for six months of the year. "I promised my toes they would never have to be covered up ever again," Kathy chuckles. "Seeing other cultures and places reminds us of how blessed we are and lucky to have the opportunities we have here in Alberta."

Many people know Kathy from her time as an Alderman on Medicine Hat's City Council in the 1990s. Her well-known business acumen and welcoming personality encouraged CFSEA's then-Executive Director Mike Christie to invite Kathy and Ben to consider supporting the Community Foundation. "Once I learned more about how the Foundation worked and all the charities it supported, we happily agreed." Kathy says. "The low administrative costs (compared to some of the larger charities one can donate to) is a huge draw, as is the permanency and constant growth of funds."

Kathy and Ben were our very first Heritage Club members, designating some of their estate to the CFSEA. They also donate annually to the Smart & Caring Endowment Fund and have a soft spot for the youth charities the Foundation supports. "Most kids do not have a choice as to where they end up and it's nice to be able to help them play sports or get involved, learning teamwork, making friends and offering a break from screen time."

Supporting the CFSEA is a chance for the HERNs to share that philanthropic spirit with kids and any other charities that need support, including those outside our region. When the forest fires hit Fort McMurray in 2016, the HERNs not only donated to the CFSEA's efforts but also personally sponsored two families affected by the devastation. "We have friends down in Mexico from that area so they helped us set up two families with the funds they needed at the time."

Kathy goes on to share the power that generosity had: "We received a thank you card from one of the families and heard nothing from the other until later that year when we were back in Mexico, over at our (Fort Mac) friends' condo. These guests of theirs greeted us warmly and told us they were down in Mexico for their son's wedding, to which they wanted to invite us. We were alarmed (as we'd never met them) until they went on to explain that their son and daughter-in-law (who were to be married) were the second family we had sent money to during the fires." The HERNs happily accepted the invitation and had a wonderful time at a celebration that likely wouldn't have been as cheerful without their support earlier that year.

That ripple effect of kindness is not possible without the generous hearts of donors like the HERNs. The CFSEA is happy to count Kathy as a past Board Chair and representative of the impact our donors can have on this region, building vibrant, healthy, caring communities - one donation at a time.

**Are you thinking about giving to the CFSEA?
Here are ten great reasons you should!**

**TEN REASONS PEOPLE
CHOOSE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS:**

1. We are a local organization with deep roots in the community, and part of a nationwide movement whose support we build and share.

2. We bring donors to the table as community builders, working closely with them to align their philanthropic vision with the community's needs.

3. We identify long-term needs and opportunities and invest in solutions that let our communities guide their own future.

4. We take a broad and inclusive view of what a community is, and provide grants to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives.

5. We provide a customized service, accepting a wide variety of assets and offering donors maximum tax advantage.

6. We build permanent funds and those that can respond to immediate needs, helping our communities ensure vital futures.

7. We multiply the impact of gift dollars by pooling them with other gifts.

8. We believe that diversity is strength, so we bring the entire community together to stimulate new ideas, build participation and strengthen community philanthropy.

9. We are transparent and reputable stewards of community resources, committed to being accountable, accessible and responsive.

10. We build community vitality – the unique and essential spirit that flourishes when people believe their community holds possibilities for everyone.

Mark Your Calendars:

August 28	Network B4 9 - CFSEA office @ 8 - 9 am
September 7	Grants Writing Workshop - CFSEA building @ 12 - 1 pm
October 1	Fall Grant Application Deadline
October 4	Vital Conversation
November 2	Random Acts of Kindness Day (RAK)
November 15	National Philanthropy Day
November 26	Chair's Reception

Medicine Hat John Howard Society

In the Fall of 2017, Medicine Hat John Howard Society received a grant from the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta for its Indigenous Healing Circle for inmates. The following are two stories of the positive impact this grant has had:

One of the women who participated in the Indigenous Healing Circle at the Medicine Hat Remand Centre was a girl of eighteen from Piikani Nation near Pincher Creek. Her father died when she was eight. Her mother died of cancer just last summer when she was seventeen. She had been drug-free for six weeks when she was arrested this spring on a charge that originated the previous fall. The woman cried as she disclosed her situation and thanked the elder Bertha for being there for her and helping her heal.

Another inmate, a 26-year-old man from Burns Lake First Nation in BC, disclosed having been beaten nearly every day as a child. He lives with permanent brain damage and has mild mental disabilities. He was recently diagnosed with schizophrenia and is addicted to methamphetamine. He did not complete high school but was eloquent in telling us his story and describing how he plans to continue smudging and talking to elders. He has a daughter who will be six when he is released.

The Healing Circle gives inmates like these a safe space to be heard, supported and encouraged where healing and rehabilitation is possible.

Thank you Community Foundation!



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION *of* Southeastern Alberta

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Please help us spread the word about our donors, their impact and the work of the Community Foundation by forwarding this newsletter to your family and friends.