

# FCSSAA 2016 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

The FCSS Association recognizes leaders in FCSS for their outstanding contribution to FCSS locally and provincially, through its annual Achievement Awards. The Outstanding Achievement Award honours one individual who has made a significant contribution to FCSS through long service and considerable professional and personal involvement to FCSS on a provincial level. The Award of Excellence recognizes FCSS programs or projects that have helped to strengthen the social fabric of their community. These projects have achieved this through a demonstrated commitment to improving preventive social programs and services. Awards are presented at the FCSSAA conference in November.

**In 2016, we extend congratulations to:**

## **Outstanding Individual Award**



### *Myron Zajic*

This year's Outstanding Individual Award went to Municipal District of Wainwright Councillor, and former FCSSAA Board Member, Myron Zajic.

Mr. Zajic dedicated his last fifteen years to public service as a councillor, and was appointed to represent the Municipal District of Wainwright on the Wainwright and District FCSS Board in 2001; he served as the Board Chairperson since that time.

Myron is a compassionate and interested listener. He encourages all points of view and is respectful of everyone and he is infinitely proud of the work that FCSS does both locally and in communities across the province. In addition to being an inspirational leader for FCSS locally, he served on the FCSSAA Board from 2005-2006, as the East Central Representative, from 2006-2007 as Secretary, and 2007-2009 as the Vice-President of Board.

Some of the highlights from Myron's time on the Association Board were: helping to spearhead an approach to funding for small, rural programs that would bring them to a funding level equal to the amount of provincial increases received between 2003 and 2007; helping to establish the new FCSSAA logo; supporting the transition for planning the annual conference by the Association office, thereby reducing the workload for FCSS regions; and changing the fiscal year end to provide a significant administrative improvement. Myron took his role seriously, and recently said: "As we were always looking for funding, we had some good meetings with Ministers Tarchuk, Griffith, and Hancock."

However, even with his responsibilities at the Provincial level, Myron maintained a passion for the work of the Wainwright and District FCSS program. Near and dear to Myron are programs for youth, which include supporting preventive social programming the schools, whether it be through The Leader in Me Program at Wainwright Elementary School, or the Dare to Care program in Irma School. Under Myron's leadership, Wainwright and District FCSS is part of the community, working collaboratively to offer a range of services and programs, such as Seniors' Week Celebrations, Family Violence Awareness and Prevention, the Snowflake Social, Stampede activities, and many other interagency initiatives.

Myron has gained the respect and appreciation of his fellow FCSS and Council members, as he has exhibited his leadership abilities and determination to achieve results over the years. At the local level, Myron was instrumental in establishing their parent link program, a program that has proven very successful in the area and is extensively utilized. Through Myron's strong leadership, the FCSS board has been proactive in



providing many programs, such as counselling services and seniors programming that help seniors continue to enjoy being an active part of the community and also to feel safe and secure.

One of letters of support for his nomination said: "I admire him tremendously as he is a person that makes a difference. If I was asked to sum up Myron in two words, they would be "he cares".

His nominator said this "The strongest people are often not those who show strength and courage in front of us but rather, those who fight and win battles that we know nothing about. Even when courageously fighting a life-threatening illness, Myron maintained his oversight of FCS business; looking forward to returning to meetings and responsibilities.

As Rev. Martin Luther King Jr once said "Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve...You only need a heart full of grace; a soul generated by love." By this definition or any other, Myron is a great person. He sees the world through the lens of always making things better for people. He is a truly deserving candidate for the FCSSAA Outstanding Individual Achievement Award."

## Awards Of Excellence

### Programs Serving Populations Less Than 20,000



### *BanffLIFE* *Town of Banff*

Developed fifteen years ago by FCSS as a prevention strategy to reduce crime and late night noise, BanffLIFE has become the go-to program for thousands of 18 to 30 year olds who live and work in the mountain town. This program involves a number of initiatives, all of which are designed to create a sense of welcome, belonging, and social connection.

One reason for the program is to ensure that young adults know how to access the community resources they may need during their time in Banff. To achieve this, they created the "Banff Ambassador Program", which introduces 2500 young adults to local programs and services each year. It includes an "Oath to Banff" which encourages participants to get involved in community during their stay, and to look out for one another.

BanffLIFE has an active volunteer component, providing about 180 young adults annually with opportunities to get involved in the community and it also provides volunteer opportunities and added support for those who need to complete community service hours. Mountain Adventure is another offering; designed to engage young adults safely in the outdoors early on during their time in Banff to foster respect and passion for the outdoors and as a prevention tactic to reduce risk behaviours. Additionally, approximately 300 participants engage in an outdoor, back country experience each year.

BanffLIFE involves the local business community, who encourage their employees to participate in the program, as well as great support from the local Hospitality Association.

Letters of support for the nomination for BanffLIFE to receive an Award of Excellence came from as diverse a group as Bow Valley Addiction and Mental Health (Alberta Health Services), YWCA Banff, Banff and Lake Louise Hospitality Association. Here's an excerpt from one of those letters: "With twice the population of people between the ages of 18-30 compared to the provincial average, it is important that programming resonates and engages this group. BanffLIFE is always front and centre-whether supporting initiatives with partner agencies like YWCA Banff or Parks Canada; creating their own leadership development opportunities or ensuring young people who are new to town get the information they need to be successful."

And, from one past participant: "I can clearly say without a doubt that BanffLIFE enhanced my time in Banff. How could it have not?"





## *The Station Claresholm FCSS*

Recognizing the lack of services in the community, Claresholm FCSS brought together existing agencies to address this need. McMan Youth, Family, and Community Services and Alberta Health Services assisted in this, and soon a partnership was formed. Through the contributions of each partner came a new community initiative, now called “The Station”.

With a population of about 3600, Claresholm is located equidistant from Calgary and Lethbridge and far from service providers.. As a result, many specialized support services were unavailable in Claresholm and the barriers of transportation, family finances, disruption of work schedules, and so on, meant that citizens often did not have access to the preventative services that they needed.

Organizations not based in Claresholm also identified challenges to providing services. These included the cost of travel for staff, the cost of establishing a local office, the ever changing boundaries of service providers, and the difficulty in trying to network with each other and with other community resources.

The Station was developed to overcome these needs and challenges. With numerous services being provided under one roof, community members have a stigma free, single point of entry, for a variety of preventative services, information, support, learning, advocacy and referrals.

One person said: “You might describe The Station as a meeting place where diverse people, families, youth, single dads, single mums, grandparents, and others can come together for a variety of programs, often initiated by the people of Claresholm and more often by those participants who value the benefits of The Station.”

Some of the early successes of The Station, which officially opened on June 18, 2015, are that residents now have access to existing services through a single point of entry in one facility; services that include the Porcupine Hills Early Childhood Coalition, Parent Link, the Claresholm and District FCSS office, preschool speech and language walk-in clinic, teen drop in, elder abuse community response group, and music jam sessions for seniors.

In this common space, communication between agencies is facilitated, resources are pooled, and partnerships are fostered- leading to speedy, vibrant and dynamic service providers who encourage, strengthen, stabilize and enrich family life and community connections. The social well-being of individuals, families, and communities is being enhanced.

## **Programs Serving Populations between 20,000 and 100,000**



## *Rural Seniors Conferences Barons-Eureka-Warner FCSS*

In the Fall of 2009, Barons-Eureka-Warner FCSS launched its first Seniors Conference, in the small community of Picture Butte, Alberta, population of 1600 people. The goal of the conference was to support seniors in our rural communities with an innovative approach that would bring seniors, caregivers, and service

providers together to address and provide solutions to any challenges they may have.



The success of this conference was impressive and over the next seven years, FCSS provided their support to the coordination and organization of twenty-one more FCSS Seniors Conferences, held in various small, rural communities in southern Alberta. More than 2100 people have attended these conferences, with the average attendance being around 100 people.

Barons-Eureka-Warner FCSS is a rural multi-partnered organization that serves sixteen municipalities, with a total population of 51,000 people; living in an area of 4,464 square miles. Due to changing demographics and a growing seniors' population, FCSS recognized that more supports were needed for seniors in order for them to continue to live a healthy life style and remain in the community.

Rural seniors found many challenges in being able to attend conferences that were being offered in larger communities- they were too far away, creating transportation and travel time issues, registration fees were high, and sessions might not be as relevant to those living in a rural community. Barons-Eureka-Warner FCSS believes that seniors do not have to leave their own community to gain the benefits of a conference, but that one could be organized right in their own backyard. Each conference was designed for communities to decide on their local format; seniors could car pool, and registration was kept to \$5. These gatherings provide local seniors the opportunity to attend presentations regarding issues directly related to their needs, such as health, medical issues, housing, finance, and aging; they have the ability to ask questions of local experts and attend a resource fair with local support agencies. And, maybe most importantly, they also have a chance to socialize and eat some great food.

This nomination package included letters of support many of the municipalities where conferences have been held- such as Stirling, Picture Butte, Coutts, and Coaldale. All have emphasized how important these events have been to those residing in their communities.

## **Programs Servicing Populations Over 100,000**



### *Common Outcomes Evaluation Partnership City of Edmonton FCSS Team*

The City of Edmonton FCSS Team undertook an innovative and unique approach to measuring program impacts on the lives of individuals, families, and communities, starting in 1999. FCSS funded agencies were expressing their frustration with the administrative burden of reporting similar information to various funders related to their outcomes. As a result, representatives from Edmonton FCSS, Edmonton Region Child and Family Services, and the United Way of the

Alberta Capital Region began meeting to better understand each other. They looked at mandates, philosophies and expectations each organization had with regards to the reporting requirements of the agencies they jointly funded. Starting from a place of curiosity and better understanding, the organizations realized that while there were some unique reporting requirements for each funder, there were also significant overlaps, and that the development of a Common Outcomes Reporting process was possible.

Early on, it became clear that the involvement of the over 100 funded agencies, representing over 230 programs, was an absolute must. A Common Outcomes Advisory Group was founded, resulting in the development of eighteen program areas, nineteen common outcomes, and sixty-two indicators that the agencies could report on each year. Along with this, a toolkit of resources and a measures bank were created.



This work has continued to grow as Edmonton FCSS and its partners have enhanced data collection and reporting. They have moved from reporting not only outputs but to a fifty page report that includes outcomes data, themes from qualitative analysis, and success stories from funded agencies.

Throughout this process, the partners have been evaluating their own processes as well. They learned that quality partnerships take time and trust; that ongoing community consultation is one of the cornerstones that contributes to their success, and that ongoing evaluation, as a tool, ensures the collaborative efforts to enhance the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities and allows a continuous improvement of services provided through FCSS funded programs.

One of the partners in the collaboration said this about the partnership and its benefits: “ This partnership and the resulting work has been beneficial for all involved and has helped to strengthen the sector’s ability to communicate its impact, as well as help to inform and enhance program delivery. These are significant achievements that will have a lasting, positive impact in the lives of clients supported by programming and the social services sector as a whole. This could not and would not have happened without Edmonton FCSS being a partner in this project.”