



CFS Matters!

Fall 2016

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Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba

strengthening families and protecting children since 1899

800 McTavish Avenue
Brandon MB R7A 7L4
Phone: 204-726-6030 or toll free 1-800-483-8980
Fax: 204-726-6775
E-mail: info@cfswestern.mb.ca
Website: www.cfswestern.mb.ca

Dear Friends,

Not only is it fall, but October is also Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM), an annual campaign across Canada to raise awareness about child abuse prevention.



The community has a huge role to play in keeping children safe. Community members can support a struggling family by



lending a hand such as sharing a meal or providing child care. Volunteering or donating to prevention programs in the community is another direct way to become involved in preventing child abuse. And calling Child and Family Services when you have protection concerns is another important way to help a child and family.

Our newsletter highlights some of the programs that our Agency and community are partnering together on to keep children safe and

families strong. Early childhood education and support, parent support and education, and recreational opportunities for needy children, youth, and families all contribute to preventing child abuse from occurring.

Please visit our website to learn more about the complex and demanding field of child welfare, and to understand the role our community plays in helping to keep kids safe.

Dave McGregor
Dave McGregor, MSW, RSW
Chief Executive Officer

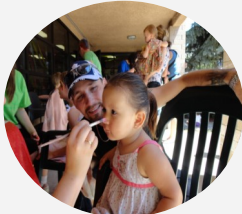
Phil Shaman
Phil Shaman
President, Board of Directors

Remember...if you prefer to receive our newsletter via email, please send your email address to commed@cfswestern.mb.ca

Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba exists so that children are safe and nurtured in strong, loving families within a community of caring people.

Elsbeth Reid Family Resource Centre
255—9th Street
Brandon MB R7A 6X1
204-726-6280

Open 9 am—5 pm weekdays



Preschool Enrichment Program
2nd Floor
2227 Brandon Avenue
Brandon MB R7B 0S9
204-727-6650



Family and Community Development Centre
Unit 4, 613—10th Street
Brandon MB R7A 4G6
204-726-7033



Victoria Day Care Centre
1st Floor
2227 Brandon Avenue
Brandon MB R7B 0S9
204-728-9845



Preschool celebrates 50 years of caring

The afternoon of Wednesday, June 22, was one of greeting old friends, sharing 'remember when' stories, and seeing former preschool children as adults with kids of their own. Mostly it was about celebrating the **Preschool Enrichment Program's** (PEP) 50 years of partnering with parents and communities to enhance their children's potential.



"Our program helps children feel respected for their uniqueness and supported in their individual development and learning," said **Heather Adam**, Director.

"And it helps parents feel empowered and involved in their child's early learning."

The PEP began as a volunteer program in 1966 when a new social worker, **Lorraine McLaren**, had concerns about a child on her caseload. The little girl's mom was having a difficult time and the child was getting little stimulation and opportunity for positive interaction with other children and adults.



Lorraine McLaren, whose vision to help vulnerable children and their parents started the PEP in 1966

"I asked an Agency foster mom to take this child and three others into her home twice a week to play, read and spend time with them," said McLaren.

"We then asked a local women's group for volunteer drivers to transport the kids, and asked and received a \$500 grant from the Brandon Area Community Foundation to buy books and toys."

And there the PEP was born. It stayed a volunteer-run program until 1974 when the first paid staff was hired. It lived in several places—including the building that now houses the Daly House Museum—until it found in 1981 what's become its permanent home at 2227 Brandon Avenue.

But over its five decades and its many changes, the PEP's basic concept has stayed the same: to partner with parents to support their preschool child's healthy growth and development.



(l-r) **Heather Adam**, PEP Director, **Veronica Adams**, Brandon School Division, and **Joy Escalera**, Westman Immigrant Services and CFS Western Board of Directors member

"The PEP has always been designed to support a child's individuality and uniqueness, and to support the parents in their role as their child's first and most important teacher," said **Dave McGregor**, CFS Western's Chief Executive Officer.

"This is basically why our Agency became involved in early childhood education.

"Prevention—through quality and easily available early childhood education for families that need support to ensure their child's needs are met—was PEP's goal.

"And 50 years of preschool children and their families have benefited."



In fact, generations of families have attended the preschool. **Diana Corrigan**, who spoke about her PEP experiences at the celebration, went to the program as a child along with her three siblings. Her four children as well as her nieces have all also attended.

"Over the years, Diana has participated in the Parent Management Committee, parent groups, parent and child activities, and all of the family events that have been offered for her and her children," said Adam.

"As she said in her speech, she has grown so much in her confidence and parenting skills and abilities since we first met her."

Another speaker mom, **Ellen Waldner**, also has four children (now young adults) who all attended the PEP. The proud mom said each one benefitted in different ways and it helped make all of them successful in life.

"Because of a social worker's vision and insight that saw a need to help a child and parent, we are here today—50 years later—celebrating this milestone. Providing support to both child and parent is one of the PEP's goals. As a retired teacher, I know early intervention helps develop a child's social, emotional and literacy skills, and better prepares the child for future success in their educational years as well as in life."

Phil Shaman, President,
Board of Directors
CFS Western

PEP 50th celebration...continued

"My oldest son was very active and always moving; he went to Preschool for two years and it helped him use that energy to learn.

"He now has a Bachelor of Science degree and has served with the reserves in Bosnia and Afghanistan."

Ellen also spoke about the challenges her other three children had and how the Preschool programs and staff helped all of them blossom.

As well, she said they helped her interact with her children more, pay more attention to each of them on a one-on-one basis, learn activities to do with them, and helped her as a mom when she felt overwhelmed and all alone because her husband was away.

"Preschool showed me that there is hope when you have a child who has challenges."

Ellen Waldner

Funding to operate the Preschool is always a concern and has been since it began.

While the program is part of the Child Day Care Program and licensed as a full time centre, the unique and diverse programs the Preschool offers have always needed extra financial support.

Over the years the Preschool has been fortunate to receive funding, grants, and sponsorships from a variety of local, provincial, federal, private and public sources. These include private individuals, businesses, service clubs, church and other community groups, and organizations such as (but not limited to) the United Way of Brandon and District, the Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba Foundation, the IODE Diamond Jubilee (1960) Chapter, and the Brandon Area Community Foundation.

"Preschool's story is of dedication, caring and commitment and goes beyond a paid or volunteer job," said McLaren.

"It is one of helping families and ensuring children have the best chance possible to develop to their fullest."

McGregor summed it up by saying:

"Preschool is a special place.

"When any of us are having a bad day at the main office, it is good for our souls to go over to the Preschool and spend some time with the children in their activities.

"It helps to bring everything back into perspective and reminds us why we do what we do."



Community Liaison Worker **Jill Nesbitt** (left) has 'tea' with some preschool children at the anniversary event.

It's also why 50 years of providing an enriched learning environment for children and their parents is quite an accomplishment, and one that everyone—staff, volunteers, funders—who have been involved with the Preschool since the beginning can take great pride in.



Preschool staff day of event:

Back row (l-r)
Celia Speers, Marcia McMaster, Cheryl Lee, Debra Montgomery, Tracy Jones, Courtney Olsen

Front row (l-r)
Jasmine Sorgenson-Abbott, Angela Swereda, Kathy Lancaster, Heather Adam, Chelsea Andrushuk

Comments from the *Memories* wall...

My memories at preschool were very special not only working with great staff but having the opportunity to share in the lives of the preschool families.
Cathy D.

** I loved everything about Preschool. It's a thrill to meet former students. What a wonderful career. Where else could you play every day- while teaching.*
Peggy Blair

*mommy
I have had many foster children in this preschool. all did excellent here. Love this place alot. Staff are so friendly here.
mum mck.*

Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre by Lisa Ramsay, Coordinator

The Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre is located at 255—9th Street in Brandon, telephone 204-726-6280 (or toll free 1-800-483-8980) and is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Resource Centre gratefully acknowledges the financial support of its many donors, including the:



and the



The Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre is 32 years old!

We have been going strong since September 1984, when the original Resource Centre opened in a small two-story house on 11th Street in Brandon. We moved into our current location in November 1995.

Over the decades, the Centre has become known as **the** place for families and has earned the reputation of being a warm and welcoming place for ALL families.



Thanks to the support of Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba and their commitment to offering family strengthening programs, the Centre continues to offer a broad range of programs and services.

As we celebrate this anniversary, here are 32 reasons why our staff and the parents who attend the Centre love it:

1. We believe that all kids have a right to be safe and cared for by their family and their community.
2. Everyone who walks in the door is greeted with warmth and without judgement.
3. Our staff are amazing and supportive to families and each other.
4. Children are acknowledged for their individuality and celebrated for their uniqueness.
5. We understand that parenting is the hardest job ever and we all need help from time to time.
6. We have donors who demonstrate their support for our mission.

7. We understand that healthy families are the foundation to a healthy community.
8. We know play matters to kids so it also matters to us as the adults who care for them.
9. Parents can entrust their children to our child care staff so parents can attend programs.
10. There are always fresh snacks and coffee to enjoy while visiting.
11. The Centre is for ALL families, not just some.
12. The children love to play in the outdoor green space.



13. Staff take good care of the Centre and pride in their work.
14. Parents are supported through the tears and the joys of family life.
15. Parents make new healthy friendships at the Centre.
16. Parents can learn about child development and the crucial roles they play in helping their child meet their next milestone.
17. Our community partner agencies are always willing to collaborate to improve outcomes for our children.
18. Culture is celebrated here.



19. We help parents build safe homes for their children.
20. We love books and sharing the joy of family literacy programs.
21. Many parents gain confidence as a result of attending the programs and getting the support they need.
22. The Centre feels like home.
23. Dads matter. Grandparents matter.
24. The ladies in my support group love to laugh; it's good medicine.
25. I appreciate the help that The Store gives for me and my kids.
26. I couldn't come without the vans so I love the transportation service.
27. They were among the first to welcome me when I first moved to Brandon.
28. My kids came home and are no longer in care because the Centre helped me.
29. I left an unhealthy relationship because I learned it was hurting our kids.
30. I went back to school because I started to believe I could.
31. The volunteer who visits us makes me feel like a good mom.
32. I love it when Santa visits each year.



Thank you for 32 great years! We look forward to many more decades of working with parents and children.

As always, my door is open and I'd love to hear from you. Call me at 204-726-6258 (toll free 1-800-483-8980) or email frc@cfswestern.mb.ca.

Lisa Ramsay

Lisa Ramsay



Student rates jobs as 'best summer ever!'

I will probably always remember this summer as one of the best I've ever had!

In May and June, I worked as the Sun Fund Camp Coordinator. I loved being able to send 132 kids to summer camp to make some awesome memories! Sun Fund for Kids is an amazing program—all kids deserve the chance to go to camp and meet their new best and maybe even life-long friends.



In late June, I joined the Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre as their Summer Program Coordinator. And for the rest of the summer, I went home almost every day with a smile on my face!



Watching the kids have so much fun—whether it was at the beach, the fire hall, or simply making crafts—made me want to go back every day. The memories they made with their parents will surely last forever. I will miss these families so much over the winter and will always think of what an awesome summer I had with them!



Summer student **Brynn Kirkup**

Road Rebels 7th annual bbq fundraiser a success



The Road Rebels Car Club's 7th annual Fall BBQ fundraiser for the Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre, held on September 18 at Dinsdale Park, was a huge success. Hundreds of people came out to look at classic cars, listen to great music, eat some delicious food and meet lots of great people. These pictures are just a small sample of the 103 vehicles registered in the event.



Bike rally roars to help Resource Centre

The inaugural Thunder Ridge Motorcycle Rally came to life with camping, motorcycle games, live music, vendors, 24-hour food, and a charity auction that raised \$3,000 for the Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre.



Tammy Boyechko Vandamme (right) presents donation to **Lisa Ramsay** (left), Coordinator of the Resource Centre

"It was so much fun," said rally organizer **Tammy Boyechko Vandamme** of Brandon.

"We were lucky enough to have nearly 500 biker fans attend who came from all over – northern Manitoba, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Ontario!"

About a year ago, Boyechko Vandamme brought together a group of nine motorcycle enthusiasts to organize a gathering for even more bike lovers. They made their mission "to provide a fun, safe environment for motorcycle enthusiasts to rally

together in celebration of our interests and pastime, while at the same time raising money for local charities."

After much planning and organizing, the event took place at Lansdowne Centennial Park in Arden, MB., the weekend of July 8, 9 and 10.

The committee chose the Resource Centre to be beneficiary of the rally's charity auction after discussing many worthy causes.

"In the end, we felt that the Resource Centre offered a great variety of help for children and families," said Boyechko Vandamme.

"When my kids were little, I had taken them there many times and I loved the environment and the programs and services they offered.

"We also received a lot of our rally sponsorships from many local businesses, and our committee felt it very important to give back locally."



Boyechko Vandamme said the name Thunder Ridge came from a contest they promoted on a Facebook page. The committee went through a pile of suggestions, narrowed it down and voted on their final selections. Thunder Ridge won, submitted by a gentleman from Arden MB.

Boyechko Vandamme has been riding a motorcycle herself for over six years. She says what she enjoys most about it is the silence, the scenery when she's on a road trip, and the wind in her hair.

"Riding a bike is great therapy too.

"And it leads to good times with great friends – old and new!"



(l-r) **Boyechko Vandamme, Ramsay and rally committee member Martine Bernier**

The committee is already starting to plan their 2017 rally. For more information or to get involved, call Boyechko Vandamme at 204-573-8676 or email her at thunderridgerally@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

Correction

On page 8 of the Summer 2016 issue of *CFS Matters!*, we thanked Elton Collegiate's Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) group for a donation.

We should also have thanked the **Brandon Area Community Foundation** (BACF) who supports YIP so they can issue these grants. Our sincere apologies to BACF, whose ongoing support of our programs is very much appreciated.



CANADA FOUNDATION

We extend our deepest thanks to **The Home Depot Canada Foundation** for their generous donation of \$3,000 in support of our work in the community.

Celebrating child care workers

As part of the Manitoba Child Care Association's (MCCA) Week of the Early Childhood Educator held April 24 to 30 across the province, about 35 CFS Western **Early Childhood Educators** (ECE's) and **Child Care Assistants** (CCA's) were honoured with a celebration on Thursday, April 28, at the Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre.



The event was to thank and applaud them for the huge role they play in caring for the children who attend the Resource Centre as well as the Agency's Victoria Day Care Centre and Preschool Enrichment Program.

"Celebrating our ECE's and CCA's is a great opportunity to formally recognize a profession that has one of the biggest impacts on society," said **Arlene Stewart**, CFS Western's Director of Programs.

"We all know the importance of early childhood education for kids' overall development, school readiness, and child care, but I think we sometimes overlook the much broader reaching role of the Early Childhood Educator.

"Our ECE's and CCA's are also parent educators, caregiver supports, occasionally parent 'therapists', and always role models of how to value and love children.



(l-r) **Arlene Stewart**, Director of Programs, and **Eileen Czerkawski**, Director, Victoria Day Care Centre, sing "Happy ECE week to you!" to the 35 child care workers at the celebration event

"But it doesn't stop there at our Agency—they are also incredible teachers for our social workers and other staff in recognizing parents' strengths and needs and the vast influence of validation and support."

Stewart noted the skills ECE's and CCA's need to have to perform their huge role effectively—patience, energy, creativity, nurturance, flexibility, teaching, limit setting, guidance, understanding, enthusiasm, and never ending smiles.



She recalls that in her days of direct service work, she felt relief when one of the kids in a family she worked with and was particularly concerned about would find a place at the Agency's preschool or daycare or resource centre. Stewart says that relief came from knowing the child care workers there were the best around and that they would be seeing and building that child up every day that child was there.

"These staff play and always will play an invaluable part in our work with families.

"I would feel relief when one of the kids I worked with went to the Agency's preschool, daycare or resource centre because I knew that that child was getting the best care in town from our early childhood educators and child care assistants. I also knew that those workers would be seeing and building that child up every day that the child was there."

Arlene Stewart
Director of Programs
CFS Western

"All of them are genuinely nice people and I can't imagine them doing anything else with their niceness except share it with a child.

"They all just seem to have this innate warmth and friendliness that is enviable, and they make it look so natural...and it is natural to love a child.

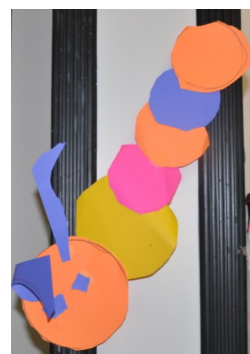
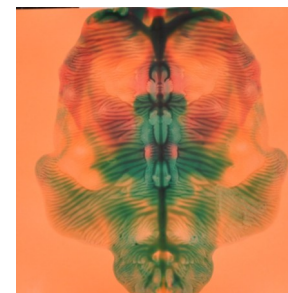
"And that is the fundamental value that our ECE's and CCA's demonstrate every day—that children and their families matter."

Exceptional¹ Child Care Assistant

The Week of the Early Childhood Educator was established by MCCA in 1992 following the release of the national Caring for a Living Study. The celebration is intended to recognize the valuable work of those who "care for a living" by providing early childhood education, family support, and a service that contributes to the social and economic development of our province. It has been proclaimed annually by the Minister of Family Services, Government of Manitoba.

The 'art' of child & family services of western manitoba

In the Summer 2016 issue of CFS Matters!, we previewed some of our 2016 Annual General Meeting's artwork, wall decorations and table centrepieces made by the children who attend our Preschool Enrichment Program, Victoria Day Care Centre, and Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre. Here are more of their creations for that event.



Donor Recognition Event

We invite you and a friend to our Foundation's Donor Recognition Event, to thank you for your past support of our Foundation's work.

When..... Thursday, November 3

Time..... 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Place..... Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre, 255—9th Street, Brandon

Join us for fair trade coffee and homemade desserts. You can meet the Foundation's Board of Directors and briefly hear where your dollars go and how they support our Agency. And you can take a tour of the Elspeth Reid Family Resource Centre.

Please RSVP to Marie Tait 204-726-6122/email marie.tait@gov.mb.ca by Thursday, October 27.