

Annual Report

2015/16 Summary Results



**PEOPLE FIRST,
COMMUNITY ALWAYS**

15/16 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

In spring 2016, Aspen launched its new strategic plan. After a year-long collaborative process with Aspen board, staff, funders, donors, community leaders, clients and program participants, our five strategic priorities are established to take us to 2019, and set us up for success and sustainability beyond. Our full 15/16 Report to Community will be published in September.

ASPEN OVERVIEW

Aspen Family & Community Network is about *People First, Community Always*.

Our mission is to partner with others to unlock potential and transform lives.

Aspen is a non-profit, human services organization serving youth, families and communities in Calgary and surrounding area since 1984. Aspen is committed to putting people first, always keeping the context of community top of mind. We partner with clients, program participants, funders, donors and community organizations to unlock potential and transform lives.

We believe that sustainable change is only possible when individuals, families and communities take charge of their own decisions. Commitment to lasting change comes from personal buy-in, not from direction from others, no matter how well-meaning. At Aspen, we see ourselves not only as problem solvers, but also as foundation- and capacity-builders.

Our 15 programs serve people who come from 86 percent of Calgary neighbourhoods. We promote the following among our six key populations:

FAMILIES

Families who are stable and enjoy enhanced well-being

Homeless or near-homeless families who gain appropriate and safe housing and sustainable livelihoods

Children who actively participate in the family and are ready to learn

COMMUNITY

Diverse populations, including immigrants and Aboriginals, who are included and belong

Residents who are engaged and actively participate in building strong neighbourhoods and communities.

YOUTH

Youth who successfully transition to adulthood from difficult home environments, and from foster care and group home settings

Our community-based programs are embedded in naturally existing formal and informal neighbourhood hubs such as community centres. Where our services are focused on children and youth, we use homelike environments to contribute to their individual growth and development. Families are supported to establish stability and sustainability within the context of their authentic family unit.

THE ASPEN IMPACT

ASPEN'S PEOPLE AND PARTNERS CONTRIBUTE TO THE CITY'S POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVE, HELP CALGARIANS LEAVE OR AVOID HOMELESSNESS, PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND CONTRIBUTE TO WELL-BEING. TOGETHER, WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT, MEASURABLE STRIDES TO SUPPORT FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS AND OVERCOME LAYERS OF VULNERABILITIES.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE IMPACT OUR PARTNERSHIP HAS HAD IN 15/16.

FAMILIES

parent link centres

Program support for families with children under six reports, on average for our three centres:

96%
IMPROVED
KNOWLEDGE OF
CHILD
DEVELOPMENT
AND HEALTHY
PRACTICES

94%
IMPROVED
ACCESS TO
PLAY-BASED
ACTIVITIES
AND
RESOURCES

96%
INCREASED
FRIENDSHIPS
AND
CONNECTIONS
THROUGH
PARENT LINK
CENTRES

preventing homelessness

Helping families at imminent risk of homelessness or who are experiencing homelessness, we can report the following:

155
FAMILIES
PARTICIPATED IN
HOME STAY
PREVENTION
(COMPARED TO
135 IN 14/15).

98%
AVOIDED
EVICTION AND
MAINTAINED
THEIR
HOUSING
(COMPARED
TO 97% IN
14/15)

88%
OF FAMILIES
TRANSITIONED
TO ONGOING
SUPPORT
SERVICES
(COMPARED
TO 85% IN
14/15).

COMMUNITY

This past year and moving forward, Aspen community programming is increasingly focused on community development activities that promote engagement, mobilization, social inclusion, and building assets and capacity with the residents of the Calgary and area neighbourhoods in which we work.

For example, thousands of Calgarians benefitted from Aspen staff's community development work in the neighbourhoods in which we work, thanks to staff-sponsored activities that led to richer engagement by residents. Examples include events, collaborative meetings, establishing working groups and mobilizing volunteers.

1,297

**RESIDENTS WERE
MEANINGFULLY
ENGAGED AT
CROSSROADS**

683

**RESIDENTS
WERE
MEANINGFULLY
ENGAGED IN
DEER RUN/
DEER RIDGE/
QUEENSLAND**

788

**RESIDENTS
WERE
MEANINGFULLY
ENGAGED IN
HEART OF THE
NORTHEAST
(HOTNE)**

YOUTH

Because strong futures begin with healthy childhoods, Aspen staff and our partners focus on providing opportunities to build well-being and resilience for youth and their families. This includes providing caring, home-like environments, supporting school attendance and performance, encouraging healthy socialization through recreation and other activities, preserving and reuniting families, and supporting youth with the critical life skills necessary to be a productive, contributing adult citizen.

100%

**OF SUPPORT
HOMES YOUTH
WHO ATTENDED
EATING
DISORDER OR
ADDICTIONS
PROGRAMS
REPORTED
FEELING SAFE &
WELL SUPPORTED**

93%

**OF YOUTH
MATTERS
PARTICIPANTS
DEMONSTRATED
INCREASED
SKILLS/
COMPETENCIES
TOWARD A MORE
SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOOD**

80%

**OF ELIGIBLE
YOUTH
TRANSITION TO
ADULTHOOD
PARTICIPANTS
GRADUATED
FROM HIGH
SCHOOL.**



Thank you for your interest in Aspen Family & Community Network. We look forward to providing you with our complete annual report in 2015/16.

Aspen Family & Community Network

Suite 200, 2609 15 St NE

Calgary, AB T2E 8Y4

403.219.3477

www.aspenfamily.org