

John G. Diefenbaker High School – Community Resources



YYC Christmas Resources – Referral Required **For Social Workers, Community Agencies, and Support Professionals**



KINETTE CLUB OF CALGARY – ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

Email: info@kincalgary.com

Website: [Adopt-A-Family \(kincalgary.com\)](http://Adopt-A-Family(kincalgary.com))

Referral Process:

- Must be referred by a Social Worker or agency where the family is actively engaged in programming

Eligibility:

- Families must meet the Low-Income Cut-Off (pre-tax) criteria
- Single adults or adult-only households are not eligible
- Families cannot receive a hamper from another source
- Families may only access this program once every 3 years (eligible again in year 4)



MADE BY MOMMA – CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Website & Contact Form: madebymomma.org/contact-us-2

Programs Offered:

- Adopt-a-Momma (family sponsorship)
- Santa's Workshop
- Holiday Food Hampers
- 12 CANs till Christmas Food Drive

Eligibility:

- Families must have at least one child aged 1+ living in the home
- Referral must come from a Social Worker or agency where the family is actively involved

Referral Timeline:

- Open from October until one week before Christmas (exceptions may be considered)



NORTHEAST CALGARY ADOPT-A-FAMILY SOCIETY

Phone: (403) 590-6656

Email: necaafs@shaw.ca

Website: necaafs.com

Referral Timeline:

- Opens October 2025

Referral Process:

- Families must live in NE Calgary
- The family's Social Worker or Teacher can refer families, but must contact via email



SENIORS SECRET SERVICE – CHRISTMAS CHEER PROGRAM

Phone: (403) 257-8339

Email: coordinator@seniorssecretservice.com

Website: [Christmas Cheer | Seniors Secret Service](#)

The Christmas Cheer program connects over 6,500 isolated or lonely seniors with Secret Santas.

Supports:

- Vulnerable and isolated seniors aged 60+
- Referrals accepted from agencies and professionals



THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Phone: (403) 803-1619

Website: [The Magic of Christmas](#)

Referral Timeline:

- Open October 1 – December 10

Referral Process:

- Families must be referred by a qualified professional (e.g., Social Worker, Teacher, Doctor, Nurse, Police Officer)
- Program includes Christmas Eve visits
- Families may access this program once every 3 years



YYC Christmas Resources – Self-Referral

For Families Seeking Holiday Support in Calgary

CALGARY FOOD BANK

Phone: (403) 253-2055

Email: info@calgaryfoodbank.com

Website: [Need Food? Get Your Food Hamper | Calgary Food Bank](#)

Food hampers include regular items only (no holiday extras).

To book a hamper, call the hamper request line at 403-253-2055. Phone lines may be busy due to high call volumes—please be patient and keep trying.

Call Centre Hours:

- Monday–Thursday: 8:15 AM – 7:00 PM
- Friday: 8:15 AM – 4:00 PM

Note: ID is required for all household members.



CENTRE STREET CHURCH – CHRISTMAS HAMPERS & COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Eligibility:

Christmas hampers are available to individuals connected to:

- Centre Street Church community
- New Canadian Hub
- The Well Café

Registration Process:

- Register in person at The Well Café (3900 2nd St NE) on Mondays or Wednesdays, 5:30–7:30 PM, starting November 3
- Or register after any Central Campus church service beginning November 1

Additional Supports (for the wider community):

- **The Well Café** – Free hot meals (Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:30–7:30 PM, closed stat holidays)
- **ReNew Clothing** – Free clothing shop open during Well Café hours
- **Calgary Food Bank Depot** – Call 403-253-2055 to register for a hamper

📍 All services are located at 3900 2nd St NE (north side entrance). These programs help reduce food and clothing costs so families can focus their income on essentials like rent and utilities.




CLOSER-TO-HOME – ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

This holiday season, Closer to Home provides gift cards to over 400 families experiencing financial hardship, helping them access food, essentials, and meaningful gifts. Families are matched with donors and can choose what they need most.



Eligibility:

- Priority is given to families living north of 16th Avenue and west of Deerfoot Trail, up to Crowchild Trail. If outside this area, staff will help connect you to other supports.
- Families must have children under 18 living in the home.

 **Next Step:** Call (403) 543-0555 and ask for the Intake & Assessment Worker.

 [Visit the FAQ](#) for more details.

ELVES OFF THE SHELF – FREE ALL AGES CHRISTMAS PARTY

 Saturday, December 20, 2025 |  1:00–4:00 PM MST


 The Arrowhead, 4630 Macleod Trail South, Calgary

 **FREE** admission – tickets required via Showpass

Enjoy crafts, live entertainment, free gifts from Santa, and festive fun for all ages!

 Free gifts for kids |  Holiday crafts |  Photos with Santa |  Live MC & performances by Jayme Minor

 All ages welcome – arrive early, lines may form

 Interested in sponsoring? Email Jayme@maxgreen.ca

 [Get Tickets](#)

SACRED HEART CHURCH – CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM

Each year, this program provides food hampers just before Christmas to families in need. A heartfelt way to share the spirit of giving. Phone: (403) 244-2741

Website: [Sacred Heart Christmas Hamper Program](#)

Referrals are open. Contact the church directly for details.

SALVATION ARMY – CHRISTMAS TOY PROGRAM (Ages 0–12) Contact: General Inquiries – (403)

410-1111 | Tech Support – (403) 410-1158

Website: [Salvation Army Calgary](#) – Registration available online

Overview: Supports low-income families with children aged 0–12 by providing toys for the holiday season. Appointments are booked with staff to select gifts.

Registration: Opens November 3 at 9:00 AM. Call tech support if you experience issues.

Eligibility: Must live in designated Calgary communities, be low-income, have children aged 0–12, and not be receiving toys from another program.

WOMEN IN NEED SOCIETY (WINS)

WINS is currently able to support referrals to the **Magic of Christmas**. If families are unable to access Magic of Christmas, WINS can provide information about other agencies and organizations where self-referrals are possible.

To book an appointment:

Phone: 825-540-4717 (leave a voicemail) Email: hubs@winsyyc.ca (recommended)

Website: winsyyc.ca

Support available through WINS Community Resource Hubs: Beltline, Dover, Erin Woods, Temple.


Note: Appointment required.





Stay tuned....

FRESH ROUTES

The holiday season is almost here — a time for cozy kitchens, shared meals, and the comfort of being together. But for many families in our community, the holidays can bring a very different feeling — stress. Food prices are higher than ever, and too many parents are forced to choose between paying bills and putting a special meal on the table.

 At Fresh Routes, we believe every family deserves to celebrate with dignity and joy. That's why, this year, we're setting out to provide over **300 families** with full **Holiday Meal Kits** — complete with fresh produce, turkey or chicken, dessert, and a printed recipe to share.

 **On Giving Tuesday (December 2)**, we'll be inviting our community to come together to make this happen.

 Until then, stay tuned for stories and ways to make your impact count — because this holiday season, you can be the reason a family gathers around a warm meal.

With gratitude,

 *The Fresh Routes Team*

 freshroutes.ca

Dignified Holiday Meals for Those in Need

Fresh Routes is a non-profit social enterprise delivering fresh, affordable food to communities through Mobile Grocery Stores.


Customers: Visit freshroutes.ca for market schedules.

New Locations & Food Donations: Contact CEO Nikita at nikita@freshroutes.ca.

Sponsors & Media Inquiries: Reach out to Communications at cindy@freshroutes.ca.

Volunteers: Fill out the onboarding form to receive the manual and shift sign-up link. Questions? Email volunteers@freshroutes.ca.

General Inquiries: Expect a response within 2 business days.

 Head Office: Bay 4, 1925 39 Ave NE, Calgary, AB T2E 6P7

 Website: www.freshroutes.ca

Holiday Giveaway – Siksika Nation Christmas Hampers

Siksika Nation is spreading holiday cheer this December with a Community Turkey Hamper Giveaway for Siksika members in both Siksika and Calgary.

We will be distributing 2,000 Christmas hampers, each filled with:

 Turkey |  Stuffing |  Potatoes |  Gravy |  Cranberry Sauce |  Onions |  Celery

As the season sparkles with lights and celebration, we recognize it can also bring added stress. These hampers are offered with care, and our warmest wishes for a peaceful, nourishing holiday.

 Dates and locations will be announced in December.

Stay tuned for updates!

[Turkey Giveaway! - Siksika Nation](#)



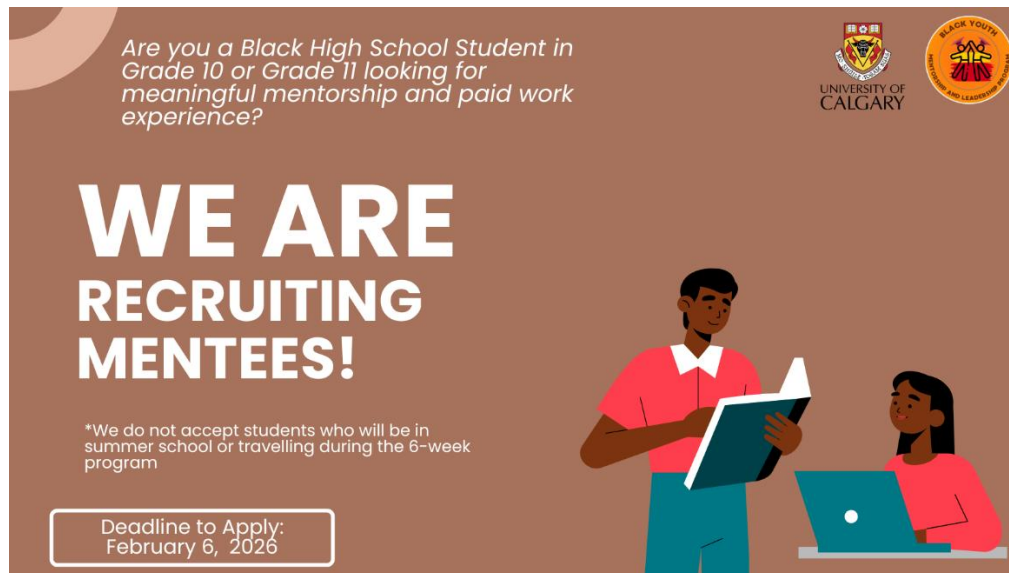
Black Youth Mentorship and Leadership Program

Over the summer, we run a 6-week intensive mentorship program for Black High School Youth in Grade 10 and 11. This program is designed to socially and economically empower Black youth so they can meaningfully contribute to Canadian society. We have started recruiting for our 2026 cohort and are reaching out to high schools across Calgary to share our flyer. With your help, we hope to ensure that students who could benefit from culturally affirming mentorship are aware of this opportunity.

Registration link [[BYMLP MENTEE RECRUITMENT 2026 - Application Deadline February 6, 2026 | Cumming School of Medicine | University of Calgary](#)]

The program includes:

- Weekly workshops on diverse topics including university admissions, budgeting, financing education, literature reviews, career planning
- Research experience while working with a faculty member
- Weekly meeting with a community mentor
- Access to Black professionals and mentors across various fields
- A supportive space to grow confidence and community



YMCA Summer Work Student Exchange program



Are you 16 or 17 years old and live in Canada? Participate in Summer Work Student Exchange to get real work experience, make new friends, and live in another province.

For six weeks in July and August, you will...



Travel with other youth to Québec and practice your French skills



Get a paid, full-time summer job and stay with a local host family



Get involved in fun activities, build new friendships, and experience the local culture



This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada



Learn more and apply online today



@ymcaexchanges



Youth-Led Leadership Program



Subject: Invitation to Nominate Youth for Closer to Home's Youth-Led Leadership Program

Dear Community Partners,

Closer to Home is excited to announce the upcoming launch of our **Youth-Led Leadership Program**, designed to empower young people to build leadership skills, strengthen their voices, and make meaningful contributions to their communities. We are inviting community partners, service providers, and parents/guardians to nominate youth who may benefit from and be inspired by this opportunity.

This program is intended for **youth ages 14–17**, with a maximum of **15 participants** in our inaugural cohort beginning **January 2026**.

Program Rationale

The Youth-Led Leadership Program was developed to:

- Create a safe, supportive environment for self-expression and idea-sharing.
- Empower youth to identify community needs, explore social issues, and take meaningful action.
- Strengthen peer connection, mentorship, and collaboration.
- Connect youth to resources and supports—including mental health services and community programs—that enhance their wellbeing and success.

Program Goals

Participants will have opportunities to:

- Build confidence and leadership capacity.
- Strengthen public speaking, communication, and problem-solving skills.
- Develop knowledge in self-advocacy and positive leadership practices.
- Gain confidence in discussing mental health and reducing stigma among their peers.
- Enhance self-awareness and interpersonal communication skills.
- Build teamwork, decision-making, and conflict-resolution abilities.
- Engage in civic and community involvement.
- Experience inclusive, youth-led leadership and peer mentorship.
- Design and lead a **youth-driven community impact project**.
- Demonstrate social-emotional competencies through hands-on activities.
- Improve their understanding of how to access supports and resources.
- Learn practical tools for navigating challenges and conflict.
- Plan and deliver a community impact project from start to finish.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the program, participants will be able to:





- Demonstrate leadership through initiative, collaboration, and responsibility.
- Communicate effectively in a variety of group and community settings.
- Apply goal-setting, project planning, and problem-solving strategies to real-world scenarios.
- Understand and integrate empathy, equity, and inclusion into their leadership approach.
- Present a completed youth-led project to peers, families, community members, and partners.

Virtual Open Houses

To help youth and their families learn more about the program, **Closer to Home will host a virtual open house on December 3, 2025 from 4:30-5:30pm.** This session will provide an overview of the program, expectations, and the nomination/registration process. If you are interested in attending the open house, please email cchittick@closerhome.com to receive the link to the meeting.

Nomination Information

We kindly ask community partners/ service providers and parents to nominate youth who:

- Are motivated to grow as leaders,
- Are interested in community involvement,
- Show curiosity, creativity, or initiative,
- Or would benefit from a supportive space to build confidence and skills.

To submit a nomination or request more information, please contact us at viewpoints@closerhome.com.

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing partnership and support. Together, we can empower youth to become confident, engaged, and compassionate leaders in their communities.

Warm Regards,

The Viewpoints Team
Closer to Home Community Services





John G. Diefenbaker Indigenous Student Community

Funded through the Neighbourhood Grant – Truth & Reconciliation Stream



Ribbon Hoodie Workshop – Building Community Through Creativity

Students from local high schools gathered for a Ribbon Hoodie Workshop that began with a smudge and continued with collaborative design and encouragement. Shared meals and conversation strengthened connections, and participants proudly showcased their finished hoodies—symbols of culture, creativity, and community pride.

“The workshop sparked excitement, with many asking, ‘When is the next one?’ The hoodies are now worn with pride, becoming conversation starters and symbols of cultural learning and community spirit.” – Indigenous Student Graduation Coach

Impact Highlights:

- Belonging & Visibility – Students felt seen, valued, and connected within their schools and neighbourhood.
- Cultural Preservation – Honoured traditions and passed knowledge between generations.
- Community Building & Social Support – Shared meals, gatherings, and cultural activities encouraged conversation, bonding, and expanded community ties.



Basic Swimming Skills for New Canadians

The Lifesaving Society's Swim to Survive® program focuses on **three basic survival skills**:

- Entering the water
- Treading water (surface support)
- Swimming 50 meters

This **no-cost**, introductory program is designed for newcomers to Canada, **ages 3 and up**.

Participants will gain confidence in the water, learn important water safety tips, and practice basic skills such as floating, jumping in, and moving while wearing a lifejacket.

No equipment is needed. T-shirts and shorts will be provided.

Location: Village Square Leisure Centre, 2623 56 Street N.E.

Fridays		
Dates	Course ID*	Time
December 5 – 19, 2025	120303	6:00 – 6:45 PM

Fridays		
Dates	Course ID*	Time
December 5 – 19, 2025	120304	7:00 – 7:45 PM

To Register: provide the **course code*** to registration staff

- In person at any City of Calgary Recreation facility
- By phone at 403-268-3800, option #1





WELCOME TO OUR **CROCHET CLUB**

Led by Christina M.

FRIDAYS 7 - 9 PM

Nov 14th & 28th

Dec 12th

**Thornhill Aquatic & Recreation Centre
6715 Centre Street NW**

**Bring your crochet projects and joins us
for a crafty hangout experience!**

Open to anyone from beginner to
advanced crochet levels

Basic crochet skills are required
(chain, single crochet, half-double,
and double crochet)

FREE EVENT - Ages 6 +

*children under 12 must be
accompanied and supervised
by an adult

REGISTER NOW!

E-mail: Tina Buchan
christina.buchan@calgary.ca





Want to support great ideas in Huntington Hills?

Neighbourhood Grants provide funding for activities
focusing on: **Social Inclusion, Economic Participation,
Anti-Racism & Truth and Reconciliation**

**Our Neighbourhood Grants program is looking
for community residents to volunteer on a
Neighbourhood Advisory Committee in your community.
Be a part of making a stronger **Huntington Hills!****

No previous committee experience is required.

You will work with other residents from your neighbourhood to review grants.

****Commitment is a few hours a month. Must be a resident of Huntington Hills.**

Must be able to meet online.

For More Information, Contact:

Huntington Hills
CSW Tina Buchan
christina.buchan@calgary.ca

Follow the QR Code
To Learn More

