

Leaving the world a little better than we found it...

by Samantha Jones, for the Charities and Development Office

If you make a donation to the Diocese this year, you will notice your tax receipt speaks to the integral part of stewardship to our faith.

Biblical stewardship is more than giving of time, talent and treasure. "True generosity has no limits. When we say that mature disciples are to answer the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost, we are inviting good stewards to embody this type of generosity. We can be the person who does not respond to the call, be the person who responds and gives what is required, or finally, be the person who seeks to give above and beyond what is required. God doesn't just give us what we need, but He gives us more than we need. Made in His image, we are called to do the same. If we try to live in this manner every day, then we might just succeed on leaving this world a little better than the way we found it" [Tracy Earl Welliver, Catholic Stewardship Coach].

At the core of all the charitable work we as Catholics engage in is a desire to live Christian stewardship in all we do, striving to make the world a better place. Each parish has elements of community outreach; many parishioners volunteer with or donate to their favourite charity. At a diocesan level, the Together in Action (TIA) Granting Program is one very tangible way in which our efforts to make the world a little better can be measured. We wanted to share a story with you in celebration of your generous giving to TIA and to encourage all of us to find other ways to make a difference in our communities around southern Alberta.

This year, Catholic Family Service (CFS) is celebrating 60 years of providing for the needs of people in Calgary and the surrounding area. The Diocese is honoured to partner with this amazing organization through the TIA granting program and this year marks 20 years of support of CFS's **Family & Schools Together (F&ST)** program. This ground-breaking program, recognized by the United Nations, has connected families with their schools and communities since 1996. Recognizing that feeling connected and being part of a community has a big impact on our quality of life, the program works to give parents the support they need to be positive role models within their family and the community. Parents are empowered through education, group sessions and mentoring to: be leaders and role models for their family; be involved in their child's school; and ensure their children are healthy and thriving both socially and academically.

We know that the ties that bind and make us strong go beyond just our immediate families. Relationships with friends and neighbours, schools, teachers, coaches, etc. are just as important to our health and well-being.



Knowing we are not alone in our life journey can make all the difference. As one program parent explained it:

Our family enjoys every component of F&ST! My husband and I especially like being in Parent Group and find it very helpful to talk with other parents who are facing the same challenges as us. Each week our family is becoming more and more connected through F&ST. Our house is calmer after the program, my stress levels are reduced and we have started opening up our communication at home.

We all have gifts and talents that we can share by volunteering in our local communities with organizations like CFS. And by supporting TIA with your contributions, you are helping CFS and more than 40 other charities locally and internationally help make the world a better place! Thank you for working Together in Action with your fellow Catholics.

19th Annual
A SONG FOR Rachel
Spring Benefit Concert

Friday, May 12, 2017
St. Bonaventure Catholic Church
1600 Acadia Drive SE, Calgary
Silent Auction opens @ 6:00 p.m.
Concert begins @ 7:00 p.m.

\$15/person
\$35/family
Call to reserve
(403) 218-5505

FEATURING 7 PERFORMERS
TONY RINO
THE ADHOC BAND
JULIANNA LAINE
ST. BONAVENTURE CHOIR
THE INSPIRATION BAND
SR. DONNA MARIE PERRY
ST. BASIL'S MELKITE CHOIR

Project Rachel is an ecumenical post-abortion healing ministry. Visit: www.projectrachel.ca