

Your Gift At Work

Never Too Late (NTL) Program

September 2016



Back to school means a fresh start for students, from kindergarten to university.

*For adults attending the **Never Too Late (NTL) Program**, back to school means a second chance to earn a high school diploma.*

For many, it is the beginning of happier and more successful lives.

While our student success rate is impressive – 65% of NTL students pass their GED (General Educational Development) exams on the first try, compared with a national average pass rate of 35% – 100% of our students experience increased confidence and self-esteem as a result of the program. Fifty-nine per cent say they have made new friends and 33% report less isolation.

You need only look at these photos of a recent NTL graduation ceremony to know that our students come away with much more than a piece of paper.

Now in its eighth year with Catholic Family Service, this program is currently on the verge of an expansion to southeast Calgary.

With your support, we can now help more low-income Calgarians who just want a fresh start.



What do our students do after graduation?

Many of them enroll in a post-secondary institution, an option that may not have been possible for them before NTL. Here's what some of our recent grads are pursuing:

Bow Valley College: Justice Studies
Bow Valley College: Hospital Unit Clerk
Bow Valley College: Disability Studies
Olds College: Heavy Equipment Technician
Mount Royal University: Upgrades for General Studies Degree
CDI College: Medical Office Administration

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL
Building Community Through Innovation

The Unlocking Potential (UP) Foundation is the fundraising arm of Catholic Family Service of Calgary. UP connects the giving hearts in our community with high-impact programs that are building strong families.

HOW WE DO IT

- GED preparation classes at no cost to the student
- GED exams at no cost to the student
- Group and individual tutoring
- Emotional and social support to help students succeed
- Encourage community involvement through volunteerism
- Identify and accommodate learning disabilities

WHY WE DO IT

- 65% of our students pass their exams, compared to national average of 35%
- 100% of students report increased confidence and self-esteem
- 59% of graduates say they have new friends
- One third of graduates report less isolation
- One quarter of students start volunteering in the community
- Three quarters report an increased knowledge of community resources

Your Gift At Work

You are invited to the

Never Too Late Graduation Ceremony

November 7, 2016
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Maranatha Church
2111 52 St NW, Calgary

We welcome all friends and supporters of the program to join our students in this celebration of success.

Please RSVP to Jessica Williams
at 403.205.5222
if you plan to attend.

Never Too Late opens second classroom in 2017

The Unlocking Potential Foundation and Catholic Family Service are proud to announce that Never Too Late is expanding! Next year, thanks to financial support from an anonymous donor and the Calgary Foundation, Never Too Late will be offered in the Albert Park - Penbrooke Meadows area of Calgary.

If you would like to learn more about our expansion plans, please contact Jessica Williams, Managing Director, Stakeholder Relations at jessica.williams@unlockingpotential.ca.

We are excited to be able to offer NTL to more deserving Calgarians in 2017!

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Donate backpacks and school supplies.

Thank you to staff at Shaw National Technical Operations, who organized backpack donations this fall with help from Metro Ford Sales Ltd., Cowan Imaging Calgary, Woodridge Ford, Brand Alliance Calgary, Drive Products Calgary and many individual donors.



Sponsor meals at the Never Too Late program.

Thank you to RBC for donating bag lunches for our students last term!



Volunteer as a tutor to help students succeed.

Our tutors are an important part of the team!

A special thank you to Solvera Solutions for sponsoring the Never Too Late graduation since 2011.

For more information or to arrange a visit to the NTL Program, contact:

Jessica Williams

Managing Director
Stakeholder Relations
403.205.5222
jessica.williams@unlockingpotential.ca



Meet Laura

"In 2007, I was a Grade 12 student on my way to school but I never made it. I was going to cross a pedestrian crosswalk and

someone ran a red light. I was hit by a car, flew 20 feet and landed on my head! I am beyond lucky to be alive and able to tell my story. I was in the hospital for a month and a half. When I got out, I could have tried to return to high school but it would have been way too much to catch up on, especially with a fresh brain injury. For the longest time, I never thought I could do anything with my life or myself. I'm extremely self-conscious of my brain injury and what I know and don't know, so I never even thought getting my GED would be possible. One day I read about the Never Too Late program on Facebook. I contacted Amy, the NTL coordinator, and started the program. When I was in the program there were so many times that I panicked and freaked out because I thought I couldn't do it and then exam

time came and I passed everything but science. When I took science the second time, I passed, thanks to the NTL program and the teachers and the tutors and Amy. They are great motivators and helpers and I couldn't have done it without them."



Meet Carl

"A chance to get my GED was an opportunity to rewrite my history, but with a full-time job I couldn't justify more time away from my kids. I had dreams

of running my own business, but was stuck in the cycle of just trying to survive. Then I found Never Too Late, where I was able to go to class at night, at no cost, with people from a range of backgrounds and circumstances. Our class rallied together to get through tough days; we were stronger together. Graduating from NTL gave me the skills and confidence to start my own business. Bonus: as a dad, I'm showing my kids how to be part of a community and move forward with their dreams."



CFS Launches New Website

Check out our new website at cfs-ab.org! It reflects the latest in design trends and will look great on your smart phone. We have combined all of our program and fundraising information into one website to make it easy for our clients and supporters to connect with us. Watch for CFS Blogs, a new feature highlighting the expertise of our professional staff.