



GENEROSITY -- ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY

2022 GRADUATION AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

We're pleased to announce 10 graduates from Louise Dear Centre celebrated their closing ceremony on June 28, 2022. What a generous gift Commons Church gave, playing host to their closing ceremony.

Among the graduates is Neila Read, the 2022 Commons Church Scholarship recipient.

Niela will be awarded the full \$3500 to fund her ongoing education. Niela has applied to Bow Valley College's Correctional Justice Studies Program. When asked how this scholarship would support her future goals, Niela said it will provide more financial stability as she won't have to take out students loans, or will have less student loan debt. She looks forward to the day when is has completed her post-secondary and finds a job in a field that she enjoys and feels good about doing.

As reported in November, all the 2019-2021 recipients have fully used their scholarships.





FOOD SECURITY AND BASIC NEEDS

We saw a huge increase in food insecurity this year. The gift cards and money to support our food program are so appreciated. We have hosted more afterschool groups and have been able to offer food to participants and their children. Your generosity continues

- to purchase prenatal kits – extra support and resources for expecting families
- to support the Food Program – breakfasts and lunches at school; grocery gift cards for fridges and pantries at home

WE'RE SO THANKFUL FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS AT COMMONS CHURCH

Thank you for sharing your space with us! We've been so thankful for the use of space at Commons Church for 3 to 4 meetings with clients in the last 6 months. With limitation on visitors at Louise Dean Centre, Commons Church has been a convenient spot to meet; especially with dads. Because of your willingness to share your space, we were able to throw our Fathers Moving Forward Christmas party.



"Honestly, something I really like about their support is how easy they make it for us to organize. They really are such great neighbours. We know that if we reach out they are quick to get back to us and always willing to work through any details with us. We really appreciate them."

Joylaine, Manager
Early Parenthood and Infant Mental Health

A NEW HOME FOR LOUISE DEAN?

Commons Church has been such a faithful neighbour, coming alongside Kindred's programming across the street at the Louise Dean Centre, supporting young expecting and new parents. You may have heard that Louise Dean programs, including Kindred Connections Society (Kindred) and Alberta Health Services (AHS) are considering a relocation in ongoing partnership with the Calgary Board of Education (CBE). Here's what we know:

- CBE envisions Louise Dean continuing as "sheltered programming" at Jack James High School in Forest Lawn. They want our students to be able to access all the support they do now (through Kindred and AHS), while also being able to access more course options and other supports, such as programming for Indigenous students and English Language Learners.
- The move presents some great opportunities for students. Jack James is closer to where a majority of our current participants live. Shorter and easier commutes will make it easier for more students to attend school more regularly. Additionally, the new site will allow us to serve young dads with the same wrap-around programming (education, mental health, and health services) that young moms currently experience at Louise Dean.
- CBE has been a great partner through the process and remains very open to our feedback about what elements of the current programming should be kept.
- According to CBE processes and timelines, the community engagement phase is ongoing
- The CBE Board of Trustees will meet to discuss the move in September, with a final decision anticipated in November. As faithful neighbours, we will keep the people of Commons Church updated as we learn more.



Kindred Connections Society