

LINKages Society of Alberta

LINKages Society of Alberta is a nonprofit organization that provides programs and services that encourage young people to connect with seniors in ways that are mutually beneficial.

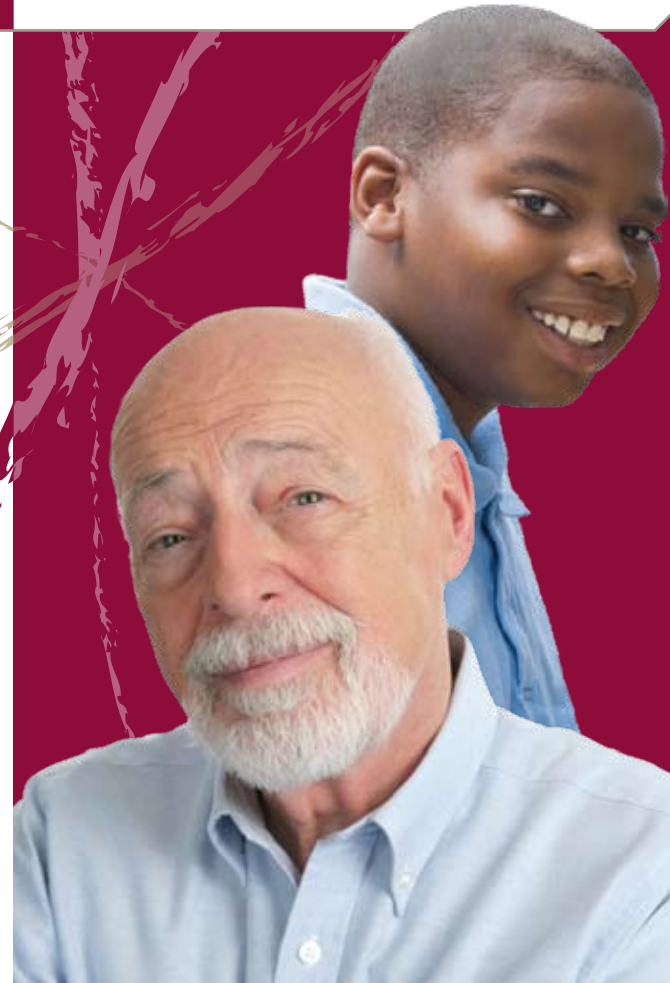
Our experience has taught us that young people want to make a difference, and they discover by volunteering with LINKages they do make a difference in a senior's life. We have also witnessed the benefits to seniors when visiting regularly with their young friends and have been inspired by the powerful connections that often grow between generations.



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Our Vision

To be a leader in the development, operation, promotion and expansion of intergenerational programs (IGPs).



Our Mission

To foster friendships between youth and seniors to enhance their personal strengths and quality of life by providing intergenerational programs and services.



School Programs

Our staff are dedicated to creating various ways of bringing generations together. LINKages works with several public and separate schools to create programs that encourage young people to meet with seniors residing in long-term care facilities. Youth volunteers participate in training and orientation sessions to learn about seniors' health issues, care facility policies and procedures, as well as individual expectations.

Junior High

- Visits take place bi-weekly over the lunch hour
- Transportation is provided both ways
- Many visits have planned activities
- Supervision and support provided as students may be new to volunteering
- Two students are matched with one senior

Senior High

- Visits are on their own time, usually after school and on the weekends
- LINKages' staff provides support with ongoing information and evaluations.
- Two students are matched with one senior



“ It is truly incredible the bonds and connection this has created for the teens and seniors. If you ever have the opportunity to support LINKages again in any of their endeavors we just wanted you to know that, from the experience of our family, it is truly a worthwhile organization. ”

“ To know by just your presence you can make such a difference in someone's life is indescribable. I have been taught the value of life. I have never in my life felt such compassion and dignity as I have when I am with my senior. ”



Young Adults Connecting with Seniors (YACS)

This program was designed as an extension of our high school programs by encouraging post-secondary students to reach out in the community to volunteer with isolated or lonely seniors who live independently or in senior residences. The YACS program focuses on connecting two generations to enhance healthier living. New collaborative partnerships with post-secondary institutions and senior assistance programs are ongoing.

Benefits of YACS

- Introduction to the emerging field of intergenerational studies to post-secondary students
- Allows young adults the chance to learn, share and appreciate the life experience of a senior
- Seniors discover a new sense of purpose sharing their personal stories and experiences

Linking Intergenerational Needs and Knowledge (LINK)

LINKages has developed a reputation as an expert in the delivery of intergenerational programs (IGPs) and we see the opportunity to advance our vision and impact more youth and seniors. LINKages has been approached by senior and youth serving organizations to transfer our knowledge and expertise when facilitating training and supporting the organization as they begin to develop their own intergenerational programs.

Benefits and Goals of LINK

- Raise community awareness on the significance of connecting generations
- Stimulate learning, dialogue and interaction with community groups and practitioners.

Participants experience increased self-esteem from being able to give to one another mutually.

Volunteer Opportunities

Think of it as an investment. Your volunteering can help make your community a better place to live. By sharing your time and your talents, you enrich all of our services and enable LINKages to provide comprehensive intergenerational programs. Volunteering is something you can do no matter how old you are. Call our office or visit our website if you would like more information.

Donations

We depend upon the financial support of individuals, agencies and corporations. Please help us and make a charitable donation by filling out this form or by visiting our website at www.link-ages.ca. Together we can make a difference in the lives of teens and seniors throughout Alberta.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone number _____

Cheque enclosed for \$ _____

Visa Mastercard \$ _____

Card # _____ Exp Date ____/____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Signature: _____

- Yes, I require a charitable receipt
- No, I don't require a charitable receipt
- Please send a complimentary newsletter