

Spring  
2008



## RURAL COMMUNITY TRAINING INITIATIVE

Whether in small rural communities or large urban cities, every member of society has an inherent and significant need to be connected to individuals from other generations. While these connections are fundamental to our development and well being as a society, in North America the trend has been to substantially decrease the contact between generations as households and communities become increasingly segregated in their intergenerational interactions. Nowhere is this more evident than in the distance between youth and seniors.

For the past 14 years, LINKages has created, implemented and evaluated intergenerational programming by offering meaningful, outcomes-oriented programs. Our structured, mentored programs build bridges between the generations, decrease negative attitudes and myths, promote greater understanding and respect for generations and provide youth with the groundwork to become life-long volunteers.

Recently, with the support of Rural Alberta's Development Fund, LINKages have expanded their focus to work with organizations and agencies in rural Alberta to train and support organizational partners as they create their own intergenerational programs. LINKages has a strong belief in the value of creating partnerships with like-minded agencies and organizations. Collaboration with local organizations and individuals will be sought to ensure local needs, realities and flavor are reflected and respected. Once trained, communities can adapt the programs to best fit the needs in their area. LINKages will continue to provide support and follow up resources for one year to ensure the successful implementation of new programs.



Supportive communities  
are defined by their  
helping relationships.

Each of us, regardless of  
age, depends upon others  
in our lives for care and  
support.

The interdependence  
between individuals is an  
essential part of family  
and community life.

Understanding,  
cooperation and respect  
between generations are  
the ties that hold  
supportive communities  
together.

### Our Vision

To become a leader in the  
development, operation,  
promotion and expansion  
of Intergenerational  
Programs.

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## CONNECTING GENERATIONS

Our proven method of program delivery is through an Intergenerational Program Management and Skills Training Seminar for communities in rural Alberta. Our role is to create partnerships and provide resources to rural communities through:



- 1) Establishing partnerships with youth and senior serving agencies in targeted communities who see the value of IGP's as a natural extension of existing services they offer within the community.
- 2) Developing and delivering customized one day-long workshops tailored to the specific needs of each community designed to cover all elements of an IGP start-up and implementation.
- 3) Providing each participant with a LINKages Program and Resource Manual, a comprehensive guide to creating and implementing a successful IGP that can be adapted the specific needs of the community.
- 4) Provision one year of follow-up consultation services to facilitate program development and membership to a network of IGP program providers for further collaboration and learning.

This opportunity will provide training in all aspects of the startup and delivery of an intergenerational program to meet the needs in your community. Please contact us to explore how intergenerational programs can enhance your community!

This seminar is made possible through the generous Contribution from the Rural Alberta's Development Fund



## Our Mission

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

"The way we treat our children in the dawn of their lives, and the way we treat our elderly in the twilight of their lives is the measure of the quality of a nation."

Hubert Humphrey

## LINKages Society of Alberta

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