



GIFTS OF
KINDNESS



2024 Annual Impact Report

Empowering Change, One Act of **Kindness** at a Time



Date

May 2025

Prepared by

The City of Chestermere

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A Message To The Community

From The Community Services Department

It has been another remarkable year for the City of Chestermere and the Gifts of Kindness Fund.

This year has been one of growth. Emerging from a period of uncertainty and hardship, we are now witnessing the results of tenacity and community spirit coming to fruition.

With this time to prepare, we are able to strengthen the fund for the future, ensuring that resources are available when they are needed most.

What Is Gifts Of Kindness?

Gifts of Kindness is a municipally managed fund used for philanthropic support, and temporary emergency financial aid for local residents.

The existence of Gifts of Kindness stems from the recognition that unexpected emergencies or unforeseen expenses can leave many individuals and families struggling to meet their basic needs.

During these times of heightened stress, Gifts of Kindness can alleviate financial burdens, allowing people to address the underlying causes of their situations, such as sudden unemployment, family breakdowns, medical issues, or other challenging circumstances. The Community Services team responsible for administering Gifts of Kindness funds also assists recipients by connecting them with additional resources to support their long-term goals.

Beyond addressing immediate needs, Gifts of Kindness raises awareness about the impact of poverty within the community. By sharing information about the support provided, it helps educate the community about the realities faced by many of our neighbours and friends. This, in turn, contributes to reducing the stigma associated with poverty, fostering a collective effort to support community members in need.

Upon referral, the City's Community Services team can meet with individuals or families experiencing financial hardship to discuss their current situation and offer strategies and resources that may provide financial relief.

What does short term financial aid include?

Basic Needs Support: We provide assistance for essential living expenses, including food, clothing, shelter, transportation, utilities, medication, phone bills, childcare fees, educational courses, home mobility renovations, and government application fees.

Annual Programs: Connect with a variety of programs offered throughout the year, such as the Community Access Program (CAP), transit subsidies, activities for children and youth, older adult programs, and more.

Emergency Support: In urgent situations, Gifts of Kindness can offer grocery and gas gift cards to help meet immediate needs.





Challenges, Adjustments & Achievements:

Gifts of Kindness has done a commendable job so far by understanding and responding to the consistent needs of our community. Thanks to a strong partnership with the municipality, we have built a solid foundation. But to keep up with the steady demand, we are now focusing on bringing more outside donors on board to help keep the fund going strong for the long haul.

We truly believe this fund should be a community-driven effort—empowered by the people it serves. That is why we are actively exploring new partnerships and opportunities that can provide a steady stream of support. This forward-thinking approach will help us continue meeting the needs of our neighbours in meaningful ways.

We are proud of what we have accomplished so far, especially in building a reliable base of support. Looking ahead, 2025 is shaping up to be an exciting year of growth and new connections. By working together, we can make sure Gifts of Kindness continues to grow and make a lasting impact in our community.



In 2024 We Raised
\$19,843.65

**Thanks to the generous support of local residents,
City team members, businesses and organizations!**

What was the need?

Despite prevailing national social trends, 2024 saw an unexpectedly low demand for resources—highlighting the strength of community support systems.

Major Needs Observed:

1. Housing/Rent
2. Utilities
3. Health Support/Expenses

In total, Gifts of Kindness contributed **\$21,564.98** to support community members.



Expense Breakdown

\$21,564.98 Total funds spent to help 120 individuals

(8 senior, 57 adult, 30 youth, 8 children) to maintain their housing, access medications and surgery, or to purchase groceries and other essential goods.



8 Children (0-11)



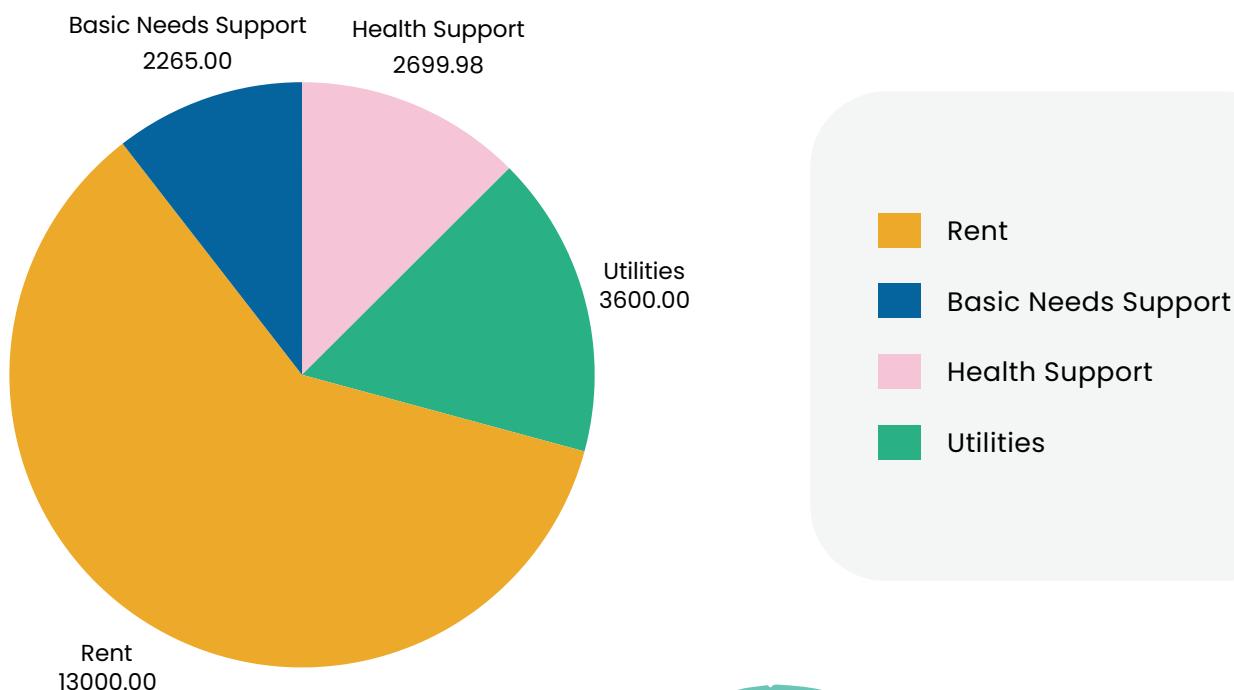
57 Adults (18-64)



30 Youth (12-17)



8 Seniors (65+)





Thank You To Our 2024 Donors!

**We are so grateful for our 2024 donors!
Your support matters immensely.**

St Gabriel Catholic Women's League Council

Steven Burness

Pamela Willet

Lenore Matcyk

Jason Baranyk

Don Montpetit

Sonja & Greg LeDuc

Grace McKenna

Kathleen & Greg Sereda

Brian Scheelar

Chestermere Curling Association

Bryce Eidsness

Jennifer Peddlesden

Alan Hughes and Gillian Hughes

Rotary Club of Chestermere



And to our many anonymous donors...

THANK YOU!



How To Donate

Any time during the year, you can make a difference in the lives of Chestermere and South East Rocky View residents by donating any amount.

Send a cheque: Cheques can be made out to the City of Chestermere with the memo being Gifts of Kindness. Cheques can be dropped off or mailed to 105 Marina Road, Chestermere, AB T1X 1V7.

Contact Community Services (403-207-7079) if you'd like to make a special donation.



To donate online scan the QR code, or visit the link below.

thecityofchestermere.ca/community-services/product/gifts-of-kindness-donation

If you or a loved one is in need of support, please reach out.

If you are facing financial challenges and need support, connect with our Community Support Services Team by calling 403-207-7079 or completing the intake form online: thecityofchestermere.ca/community-services/gifts-of-kindness

Scan the QR code to complete the intake form or visit the link below

thecityofchestermere.ca/community-services/gifts-of-kindness





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