



GIFTS OF
KINDNESS



2025

Annual Impact Report

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

Date

April 2026

Prepared By

City of Chestermere



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Permission has been given for the use of client quotes/stories.





A Message To The Community

From the Community Support Services Department

The Gifts of Kindness Fund experienced one of its most successful years to date in 2025. As the recipient of the Second Annual Mayor and Council Golf Tournament, presented by Qualico Communities, the fund received the largest single contribution in its history. This support has significantly expanded our ability to assist residents facing urgent financial hardship.

This generosity reflects the strength of our community and the shared belief that no neighbour should face crisis alone. As the need for emergency financial support continues to evolve, our team remains committed to ensuring residents receive compassionate, timely assistance. We also work to connect individuals and families to the broader supports that help build long-term stability.



What is Gifts of Kindness?

Gifts of Kindness is a municipally administered fund that provides short-term emergency financial assistance and philanthropic support to residents experiencing unexpected crises or unplanned expenses that affect their ability to meet basic needs.

The program was created in recognition of the significant stress caused by events such as sudden job loss, family challenges, medical issues, or other difficult circumstances. It helps ease immediate financial pressure so individuals and families can focus on addressing the root causes of their situation with guidance from the team.

The Community Support Services (CSS) team administers the fund and connects recipients with additional supports and resources to help them move toward long-term stability. Gifts of Kindness also builds awareness of the barriers some residents experience, encouraging empathy and a stronger sense of belonging within the community.

Before a referral is made, CSS meets with residents to understand their circumstances, explore available options, and identify strategies that may offer financial relief. Referrals to the program are considered a last resort.





What Does Short-Term Financial Aid Include?

Basic Needs Support:



Assistance is available for essential living expenses such as food, clothing, shelter, transportation, utilities, medication, phone bills, childcare fees, educational courses, home mobility renovations, and government application fees.

Annual Programs:



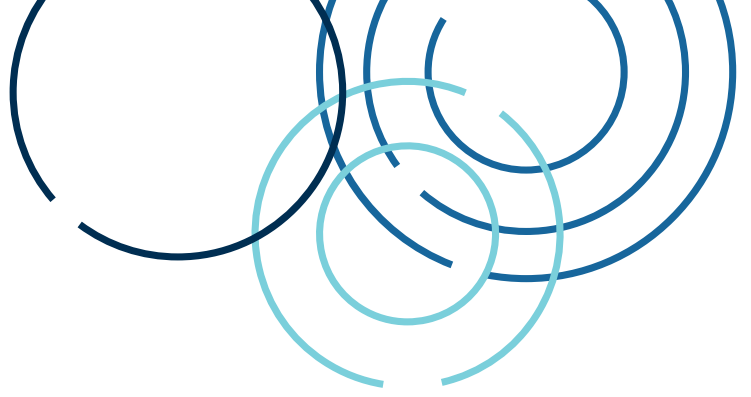
Individuals may be connected to a range of programs offered throughout the year, including the Community Access Program (CAP), transit subsidies, activities for children and youth, programs for older adults, and other supportive initiatives.

Emergency Support:



In urgent circumstances, Gifts of Kindness can provide grocery and gas gift cards to help address immediate needs.

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



Challenges, Adjustments and Achievements

This year, Gifts of Kindness was selected as the beneficiary of the Second Annual Mayor and Council Golf Tournament presented by Qualico Communities.

The resulting contribution strengthened the program's capacity to respond to urgent financial needs in the community.

Demand for emergency financial assistance increased this year, placing added pressure on available resources and reinforcing the importance of sustainable funding and community awareness. As more residents experienced unexpected financial strain, the program worked to balance rising requests with responsible stewardship of funds, ensuring resources remained accessible to those most in need.





What was the need?

Major Needs Observed:



Rent



Utilities



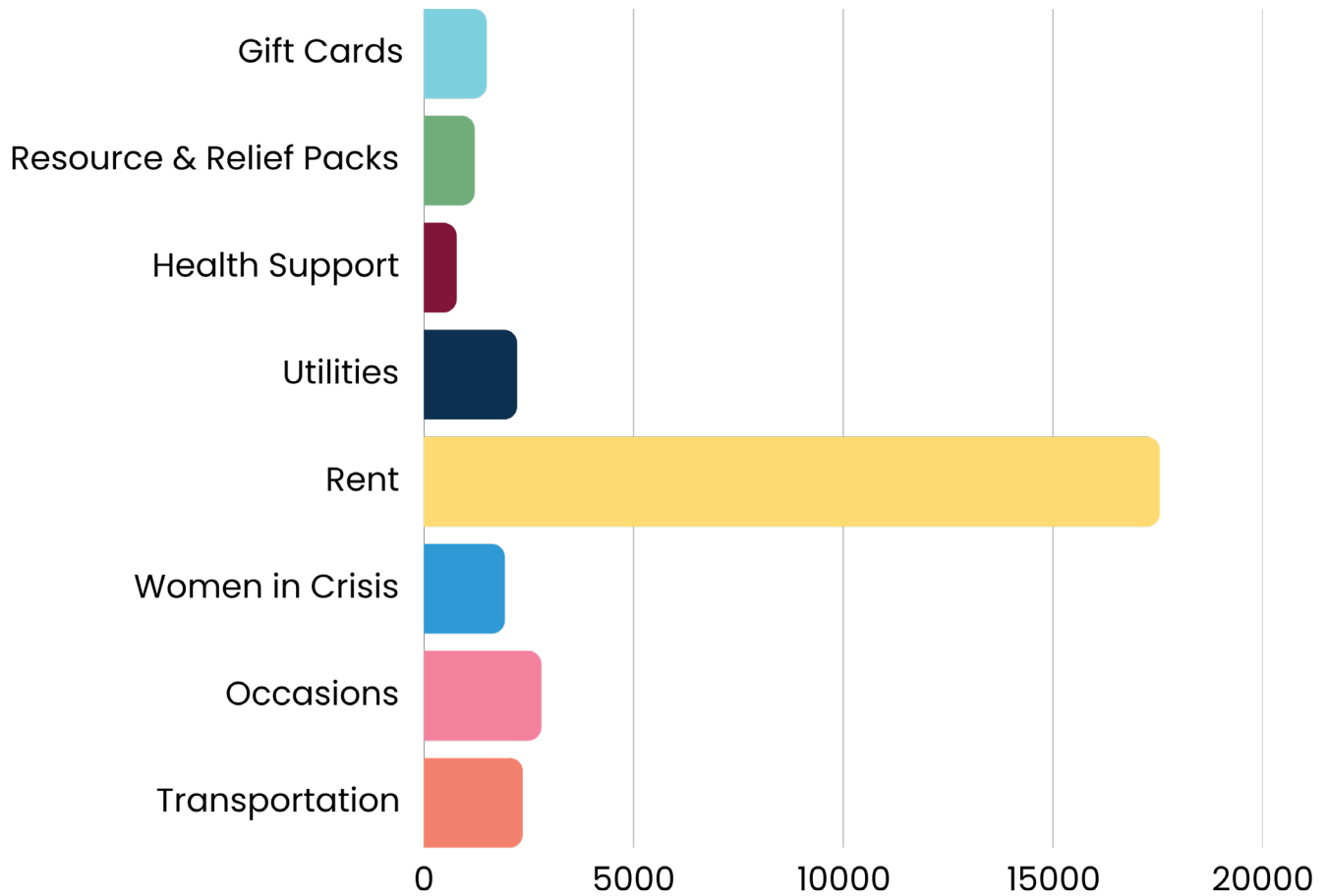
Transportation

In total, Gifts of Kindness contributed **\$30,384.40** to support community members.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the gift you gave my family during Christmas, at a time when I was out of work. Your generosity was truly a blessing to us and brought comfort, hope, and joy when we needed it the most."



Expense Breakdown



Gift Cards - \$1500

- Gas and grocery gift cards for residents with urgent needs.

Resource and Relief Packs - \$1216

- Immediate relief items, support with accessing shelter, and guidance on accessing resources.

Health Support - \$787.49

- Assistance with essential health-related costs, including prescriptions and medical procedures.

Utilities - \$2228.85

- Electricity, water, natural gas, heating, and sewage expenses.

Rent - \$17,550

- Assistance for residents at risk of eviction.

Women in Crisis - \$1935.36


- Support for women in Chestermere experiencing crisis situations.

Occasions - \$2804.73

- Necessities for low-income families, including Holiday Hampers.

Transportation - \$2361.97

- Access to transportation to attend appointments, services, and essential activities.



"Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience.

The Gifts of Kindness program had a truly life-changing impact on my family. At a time when our finances were incredibly tight, we were facing urgent housing deadlines that were critical to maintaining stability and ensuring my son could remain in his school.

During this period, I was navigating significant legal challenges and court proceedings, while also working to create a stable and supportive environment for my son and my family. The support provided through Gifts of Kindness allowed us to secure housing by assisting with the security deposit, which was paid directly to the landlord. This removed a major barrier at a time when we had very limited options.

What made this program especially meaningful was the ability to ask for help without shame or guilt. It provided not only practical support, but also a sense of dignity, relief, and reassurance that there is real support within the community.

This kind of service is truly life changing. It gave us stability when we needed it most and made a lasting impact on our ability to move forward.

We are incredibly grateful for the kindness and support we received."



11 Children (0-11)



55 Adults (18-64)



9 Youth (12-17)



10 Seniors (65+)



A dark blue background with scattered, colorful confetti pieces in shades of blue, yellow, orange, pink, and green.

In 2025 We Raised
\$111,819.34

Thanks to our generous donors who have
contributed to this year's fundraising efforts!

A large, faint, stylized graphic in the bottom right corner, featuring a heart shape above a leaf-like shape, all in a lighter shade of blue.

Thank You

To the City of Chestermere Mayor & Council Golf Tournament

The City of Chestermere hosted its Second Annual Mayor and Council Golf Tournament, presented by Qualico Communities, with proceeds supporting the event's chosen community initiative. Gifts of Kindness was honoured to be selected as the 2025 beneficiary, receiving \$92,327.61.

The event brought together community leaders, residents, and supporters for a memorable day at Lakeside Golf Club on June 26, 2025, raising critical funds to help residents facing unexpected financial challenges.

A sincere thank-you to all sponsors, municipal staff, and Mayor and Council for making this event possible.





Thank You To Our 2025 Donors!

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors. You embody the spirit of neighbours helping neighbours.

Brian Scheelar

Gregory Sereda

Gillian Hughes

City of Chestermere Staff

Chestermere Curling Association

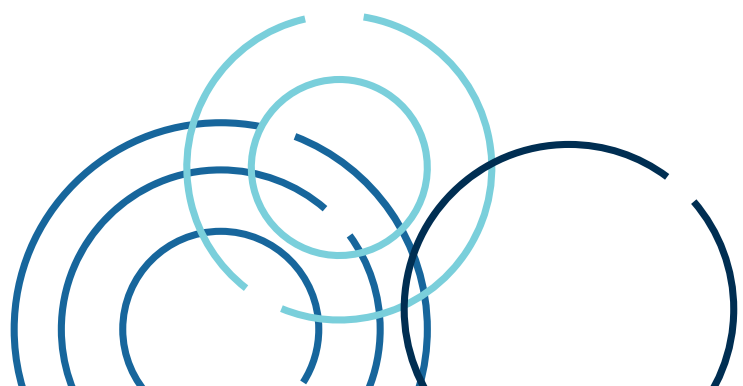
Rotary Club

Phil and Dian LaPrarie

Sonja and Greg Leduc

And to our anonymous donors...

Our sincere gratitude.



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.

Donations are accepted online, in person, or by cheque:

Visit the City of Chestermere website to donate online. In-person donations can be made at City Hall, 105 Marina Road, Chestermere, AB T1X 1V7. Cheques should be made payable to the City of Chestermere, with "Gifts of Kindness" included in the memo and mailed or dropped off at the same address. To make a special contribution, contact Community Support Services at 403-207-7079.



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

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

If you are a loved one requires support, please contact us.

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

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