

CORE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May the coming year bring your family lasting harmony, good health, and meaningful moments together. I hope each season ahead is filled with shared joy, renewed strength, and opportunities to grow closer. Thank you for the kindness, support, and connection we've shared over the past year.

Wishing your home peace, prosperity, and happiness throughout the New Year.

This year marks an important milestone as we begin the work of building a new home designed specifically to support individuals with autism. Our goal is to create a space that offers comfort, stability, and opportunities for growth — a place where every person is valued, understood, and empowered to thrive. This project reflects our commitment to inclusion, respect, and meaningful care. We are dedicated to creating an environment that honors each individual's strengths, supports their unique needs, and fosters a true sense of belonging. Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts.

We are looking forward to our monthly cash draws for the Cash Calendar. Each draw is not only a moment of anticipation and fun, but also a reminder of the community support that makes this initiative possible. We're grateful to everyone who participated, and we can't wait to celebrate our winners throughout the year. Our first draw is January 9th for a gift certificate from TeasRMe. Watch our Facebook page for the winners of all our draws.



Deb Shaw
Executive Director

October

The Community Foundation Room has been given a much-needed fresh coat of paint. Additionally, wall guards have been installed to protect the walls from the tables.



On October 24th we celebrated several staff for long service awards.



25



Gladys Nickel and Elaine Fitzsimmons celebrated 25 years of service.

20



Lori Sidorsky celebrated 20 years.



15



Amanda Fettes received her award for 15 years of service. The family of the late Teresa Kusiak was in attendance to accept her award.

Other recipients included:

5 Years

Pamela Betts
Gabriel Briseno Ramirez
Debbie Olson
Sonapaz Celedonio
Shelley Pennifold

10 Years

Susana Owusu-Gyimah
Maribel Agno
Laura Harris
Laurie Drescher
Miadelle Belarmino

25 Years

Heather Koboah

Congratulations!

November



Participants in the Maintenance Skills program repurposed wood to create beautiful Christmas decorations.

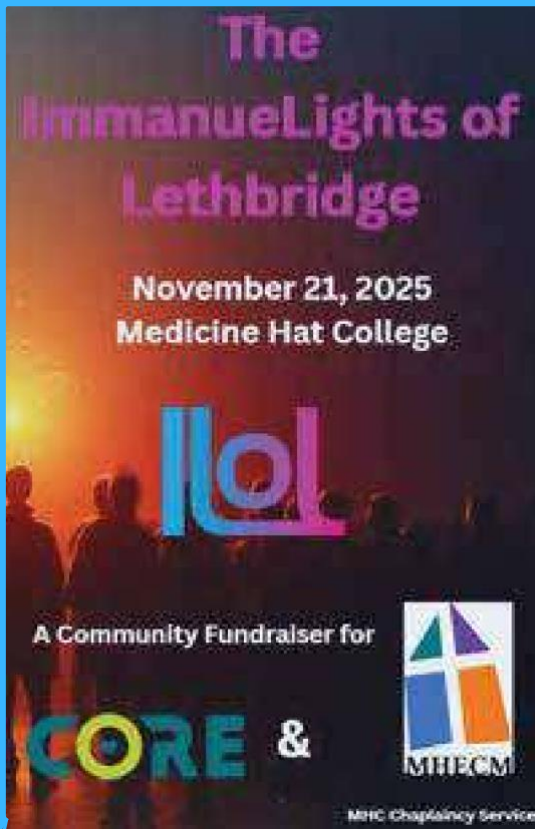




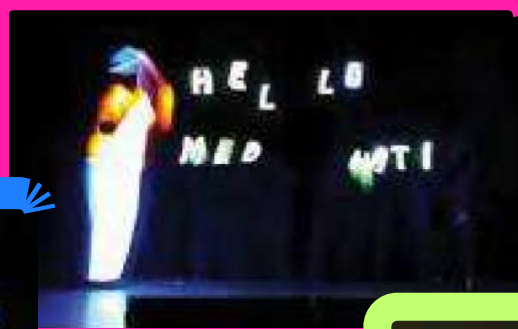
Aaron, Wendy and Lanny at the Tiger's Game for Community Corner November 7th.



Decals added to the front entrance of the Main Building.



In partnership with the Medicine Hat College Chaplain Services, we held an evening performance of the Immanuel Lights of Lethbridge at the Eresman Theatre on November 21st. Although attendance was not as high as we had anticipated, the event turned out to be a wonderful evening. We extend our gratitude to our sponsors for making this fundraiser a success.



Thank you

- Grassroots Landscaping & Irrigation Ltd.
- Big Marble Farms
- Medicine Hat Rotary Club
- Rolling Acres Greenhouse

Midnight

Sorry we didn't get many pictures. It was a very busy night.



50/50 Winner
Darren Klein



Thank you to all the staff , Board members, parents and guardians for volunteering their time to make this another wonderful night!



Thank you

Thanks also to everyone who baked for the Bale Sale!

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MADNESS

IDPD December

December 3rd marked International Day of Persons with Disabilities. CORE worked collaboratively with other agencies and businesses to present various topics about disabilities to the teachers and students at St. Louis Elementary School.



Through a grant from the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, we were also able to present some books to the Medicine Hat Public Library.



New Home in Southlands

We are pleased to announce that we have obtained our Building Permit from the City of Medicine Hat. After careful consideration, we have decided to commence construction in the Spring of 2026 to prevent any extra expenses linked to winter building. SWMW Design is currently working with the City on the relocation of utilities for the property.

Staff Retention and Appreciation

The turnover rate for this quarter increased to 10.8%. This is primarily a result of terminating casual staff who have not worked for several months. Based on the past three quarters, the projected annual rate is 37.7%.

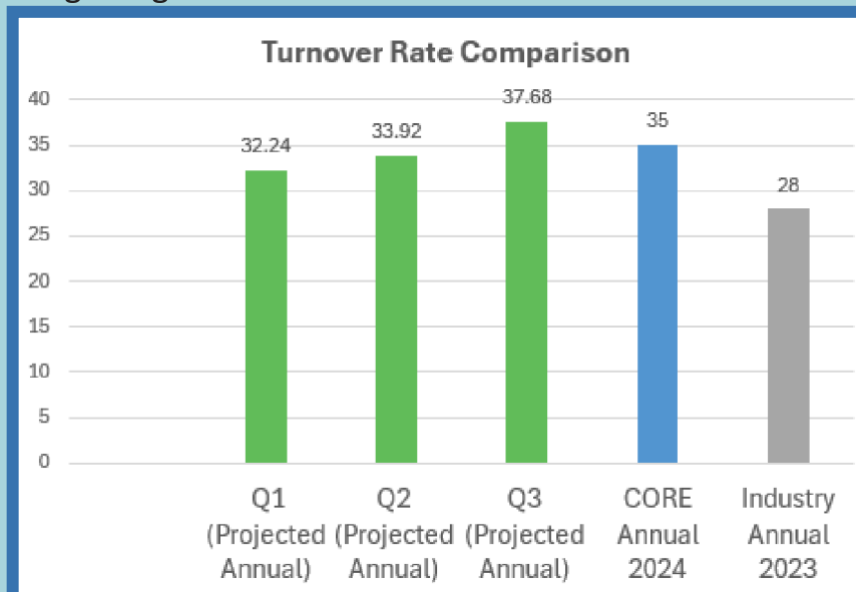
The Alberta Council of Disability Services (ACDS) is currently engaging with service providers to gather updated data related to turnover rates.

CORE is likely to still be within a couple of percentage points of the industry average as it



seems to be getting more difficult to retain

staff for everyone.



We have recently integrated our HR program with Indeed. This integration enables applications and resumes received on Indeed to be automatically transferred to ADP, allowing Team Leaders to view new applicants as they come in. We aim to reduce the time it takes to hire through this process. However, this change unfortunately means that we were unable to retrieve some application dates needed to compile our data.





A recent employee survey indicated that most staff are satisfied with the Health & Wellness Committee initiatives and are satisfied working for CORE.

Fundraising and Donations

November and December were busy months for fundraising. Calendar sales started the night of Midnight Madness. We attended a craft sale and set up at Save On Foods on a couple of Saturdays. Sales have been steady, and our final push will be during January. Although we set ambitious goals for our first year, we have not yet sold all 1,000 calendars that were printed.



Fundraising Events included:



\$20.00 each

Proudly featuring 12 different photographs or art pieces by CORE individuals, with all proceeds supporting a NEW 6-Bedroom Sensory Home

Raffle consisting of 27 draws totaling over **\$8,000 in cash and prizes**, including:

- 12 regular monthly draws of \$500
- 2 bonus draws of \$550
- 13 draws for local gift cards throughout the year

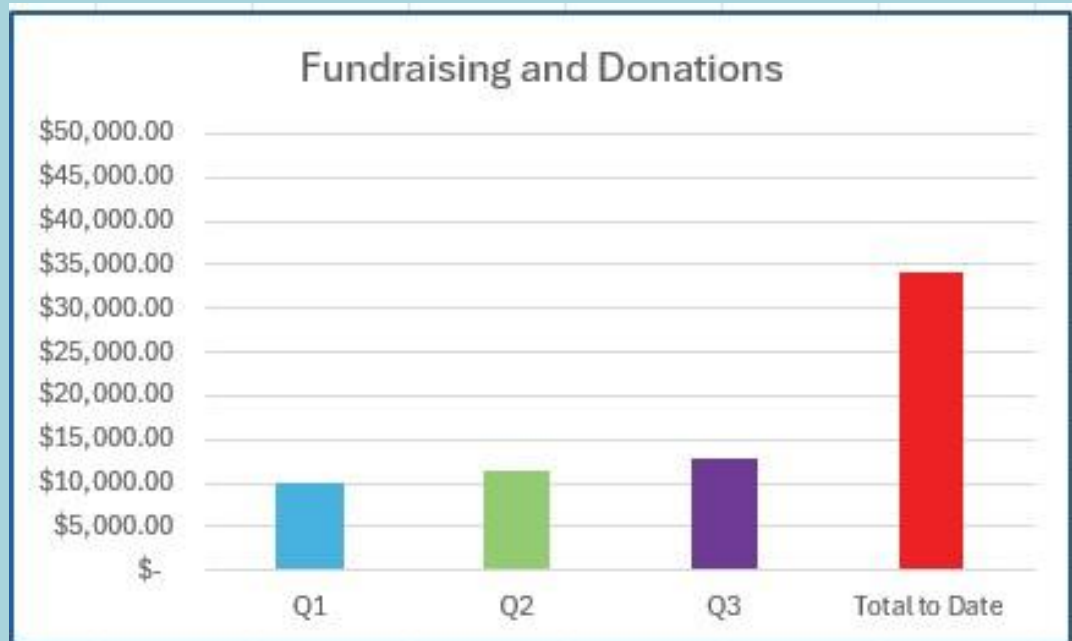
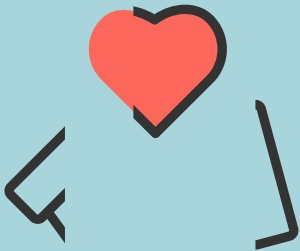
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SCAN HERE:



Only 1,000
calendars
printed!

Immanuel Lights
Midnight Madness
50/50 raffle
Calendar Sales



AGLC Revenue

CORE's Bingo and Casino proceeds year to date:



SAVE THE DATE!

We will be in need of Bingo Volunteers on the following dates this year. If you can help please email reception@coreassociation.ca or call the front desk 403 527 3302.



- Wednesday, January 21st, afternoon
- Thursday, May 14th, afternoon
- Sunday, February 22nd, afternoon
- Wednesday, June 3rd, afternoon
- Friday, March 13th, afternoon
- Saturday, June 27th, afternoon
- Friday, April 10 Evening

THANK YOU TO OUR FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS! THIS IS IMPORTANT REVENUE FOR CORE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.