

CORE

JULY 2026 SUMMER *newsletter*



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

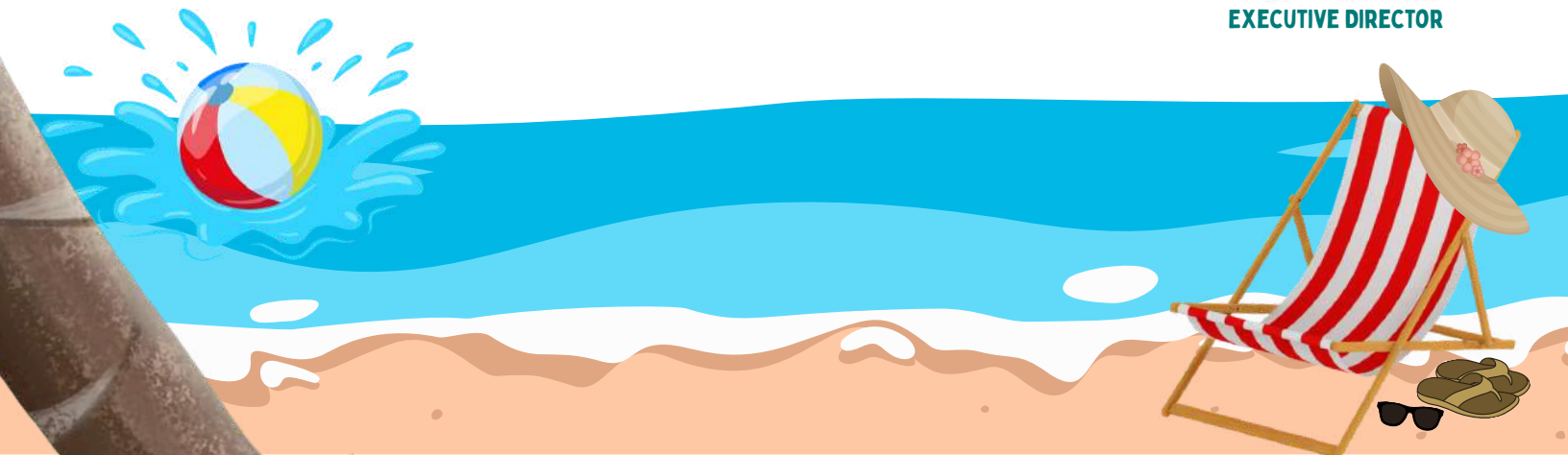
The past three months have been exciting at CORE. Our new home has been started and is progressing very quickly. We were thrilled to have received a grant from the Alberta Affordable Housing Program which will pay for a third of the construction costs. This is the first step towards the Board's goal of owning all wheelchair accessible homes for the people we serve.

We also started work on the launch of our Community Vibrancy Grant for Puppets in the Park. We were able to obtain an authentic script written by a young Metis and her Kookum, hire a coordinator, and start practicing. The sessions in the park started this month and have been already been well attended.

If you haven't joined CORE as a member yet we encourage you to do so. Many families think that they are members because of receiving services but memberships to the organization are separate from that. Memberships can be purchased anytime of year for \$5.00 which allows you vote at our Annual General meeting and any other Special meetings that may come up.

Our fundraising efforts and presence in the community continues to be strong, thanks to the staff and volunteers we are so fortunate to have. The summer will be busy with lots of events planned. You will find all those details in the newsletter. Have a safe summer, hopefully the heat comes soon. Our next newsletter will be in October.

Debbie Shaw
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



APRIL



**NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK**

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 19 - 25, 2026

**IGNITE
VOLUNTEERISM**

CORE

WHERE HEART MEETS COMMUNITY

Thank you
to our Volunteers.

Your dedication, time, and effort create meaningful change and bring communities together. Whether it's lending a helping hand, sharing expertise, or simply offering kindness, your contributions make the world a better place. You are the heart of positive action, and your impact is truly invaluable. Thank you for all that you do for us! You bring heart to our community.

412 3rd Street SE
Medicine Hat, AB

403-527-3302
www.coreassociation.ca

41494085 • 04/18/2026



We celebrated National Volunteer Week with an ad in the Medicine Hat News. Our ability to raise money for CORE is dependent upon good people who give up their time selflessly to help us. This includes our Bingo volunteers, Casino volunteers, Board of Directors, families, and staff who help outside of their work.

We can always use more help. If you see any events coming up that you have some time to help with please give us a call. Many hands make light work.

We attended the Cypress Bingo Association's Annual General Meeting which continues to support a number of local charities. We can always use more Bingo volunteers so we have a pool of people to draw on. You get a free meal, exercise, and work with a great group of people.

Donation of Office Furniture.

With the closing of the Crescent Heights branch of Servus Credit Union we were offered a large amount of office furniture, tables, and supplies. We appreciate being thought of and will make great use of everything.



MAY



SPRING TEA & BAKE SALE

Our Spring Tea and Bake Sale was a delightful event to usher in the new season! A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed baked goods and took part in this fundraiser, making it a resounding success!



COMMUNITY DISABILITY SERVICE PROFESSIONALS WEEK 2026

COMMUNITY DISABILITY SERVICE PROFESSIONALS WEEK MAY 18-24, 2026

Disability Service Professionals Week honors the vital contributions of support workers dedicated to assisting individuals with disabilities in leading fulfilling, connected, and independent lives.



Thank you to our dedicated staff for all that you do!

MEDICINE HAT MALL COMMUNITY CORNER

May 1 & 2 and June 5 & 6 we participated in the Community Corner at the Medicine Hat Mall, answering any questions people have about our services.



FIVE GUYS COMMUNITY EVENT FUNDRAISER

CORE collaborated with Five Guys to fundraise for our Sensory Home! We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part in this community event!



JUNE



INTER-ACT THEATRE SOCIETY FILM FESTIVAL

The Inter-Act Theatre Society hosted a five-day community documentary film festival at the historical Monarch Theatre. The films focused on life's difficult situations.

CORE collaborated with Inter-Act theatre on the film "These Four Walls." The documentary focuses on the experiences of survivors of institutionalization.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CORE hosted its Annual General Meeting on June 11 at the main downtown facility.

- Debbie Shaw and the Board of Directors presented the Bylaw revisions.
- Bernie Leahy was honored as the recipient of CORE Association's 2026 President's Award.

Thank you to everyone who attended!

TRUNK SALE - BBQ - BOTTLE DRIVE

This marks our second summer hosting a Garage Sale Fundraiser in our parking lot, along with a bottle drive and BBQ.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your support, donations, and for contributing to a memorable and enjoyable day!

CORE June 27, 2026
412 3rd Street SE
9am-3pm

Do you have items to sell but don't want people walking all over your lawn? We're opening up our parking lot for a one-day Car Trunk Sale! Simply pack up your car and pull into a stall to sell your items.
Cost: \$25.00 per stall

All proceeds go toward building a home for people with disabilities, and you keep the money you make.

At the end of the day, unsold items can be donated to the YMCA Thrift Store next door or taken home with you. We will also be hosting a BBQ and bottle drive on the same day. We suggest you bring a small table and chairs.

Call : 527-3302 to book your stall today, or stop in to the main office




JUNE



BATTLE OF THE AGENCIES

The Battle of the Agencies is an annual sporting and team-building event held in Cardston, Alberta. This inclusive occasion emphasizes hosting accessible and adapted games that honor adults with disabilities, while also fostering teamwork and connections among community agencies.



Team CORE



WINNER

The event brings nearly 500 participants and agency workers together to participate.

CORE took home the Trophy for the 2026 Battle of the Agencies!
Congratulations Team CORE!!!



JUNE



PUPPETS IN THE PARK

Our “Puppets in the Park” program launched in June, and we are excited to share some details!

- Enjoy weekly performances on ****Tuesdays** 10am & 11am** and ****Thursdays** 10am**
- Shows take place at different parks throughout the city.



From left, puppeteers Kevin Brannan, Erik Bizio, Brydon Marchand and Corbin Mayer pose with their puppets as they finish a rehearsal day for Puppets in the Park. NEWS PHOTO ANNA SMITH

CORE Assoc. using Puppets in the Park to share important story of local Indigenous, Métis peoples

ANNA SMITH
anna.smith@medhat.com
Local Journalism Initiative

The CORE Association is working to bring Indigenous awareness to children in Medicine Hat through the latest work in its puppetry program. Through partnership with the Miýwasin Friendship Centre and a Community Vibrancy Grant, Puppets in the Park will portray a story written by a local Métis youth and her grandmother about life in Saratoga Park, where the Métis and Indigenous communities once had their homestead. The project is about three months in the making, says puppet program co-ordinator Jeremy Berner, with extensive work to bring the story to life and ensure it is being honoured and presented in a proper way. “I am deeply grateful for the Puppets in the Park project. It is an honour to highlight the importance of Indigenous culture in our community, performing for Indigenous and Métis children in a way that empowers and strengthens their cultural connection in an incredible and meaningful way,” says Kayla Hourie. The show features four puppets depicting two Indigenous children and their grandparents, created by a member of Siksika Nation, drumming and as various prop pieces to symbolize the park. Hourie added that the project has been blessed to have the input of puppeteers with developmental disabilities, which she said are referred to as gifted spirits in her culture. “They are given the gift of thinking differently, whereas a lot of us think about everything in a straightforward way, they’re able to think about things, upside down and right side up and diagonally, and we learn a lot from them,” said Hourie. “Having them perform for kids in our community, and having everybody connect, despite differences or based on differences, is super important.” The first performance will take place at The Hills Are Alive, which starts June 4 in Elkwater, and will perform in different parks throughout Medicine Hat every Tuesday and Thursday until the end of summer. Those interested in seeing the performance are encouraged to stay tuned to the CORE Association Kids On The Block Facebook page to see where they can find the puppeteers that day. The CORE Association expressed gratitude to the Inter-Act Theatre Society for its support on the project.

Follow us on **FACEBOOK** to keep informed of our locations and times.

CORE KIDS ON THE BLOCK PRESENTS:

PUPPETS IN THE PARK

★ Stories in Saratoga ★

tawâw! Welcome!
Come enjoy an Indigenous Puppet play highlighting life in Saratoga Park

TUESDAYS 10:00 AM + 11:00 AM	THURSDAYS 10:00 AM
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FUN! STORIES! PUPPETS!

Visit **CORE Kids on the Block** Facebook Page to see park locations as they change each week!

Medicine Hat CORE

JUNE



FOUNDATIONS GRADUATES

Through the sponsorship of the Gilles Piche Fund three staff from Community Living have successfully completed the Alberta Council Of Disability Services Foundations program. ACDS Foundations equips entry-level Community Disability Services workers with the essential knowledge, skills, and values required to support individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Congratulations to Beberlina Ria,
Veronica Labasan, and
Khushwant Gangar.**

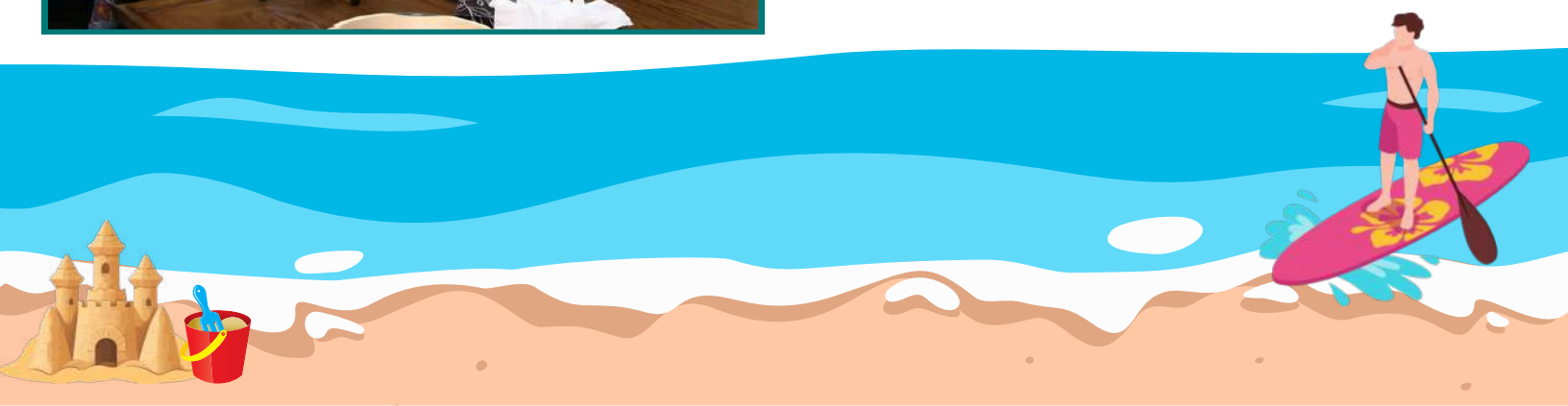


BRING BACK THE PORCH

CORE's "Puppets in the Park" were featured on the podcast *Bring Back the Porch.* Corbin and Kayla led an engaging session to showcase and promote our program!

If you missed the opportunity to watch the podcast, you can still find a clip on the "Bring Back the Porch" website.

Help us spread the word! We will be performing three shows each week, taking place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings this summer at various locations throughout the city!



BARRIER FREE AFFORDABLE HOUSING



5322 SOUTHLANDS DRIVE

We are near 50% completion on our new home.

Everything is coming together nicely and on budget so far. Some of the special features of this home will be a sensory room, therapeutic tub, walk-in tub/shower, wheelchair accessible shower, low decibal appliances, a water wall, and acoustic panels.

We invite you to help support this project by:

- making a financial donation towards appliances and equipment
- help us reach additional community supporters through your personal or business networks.



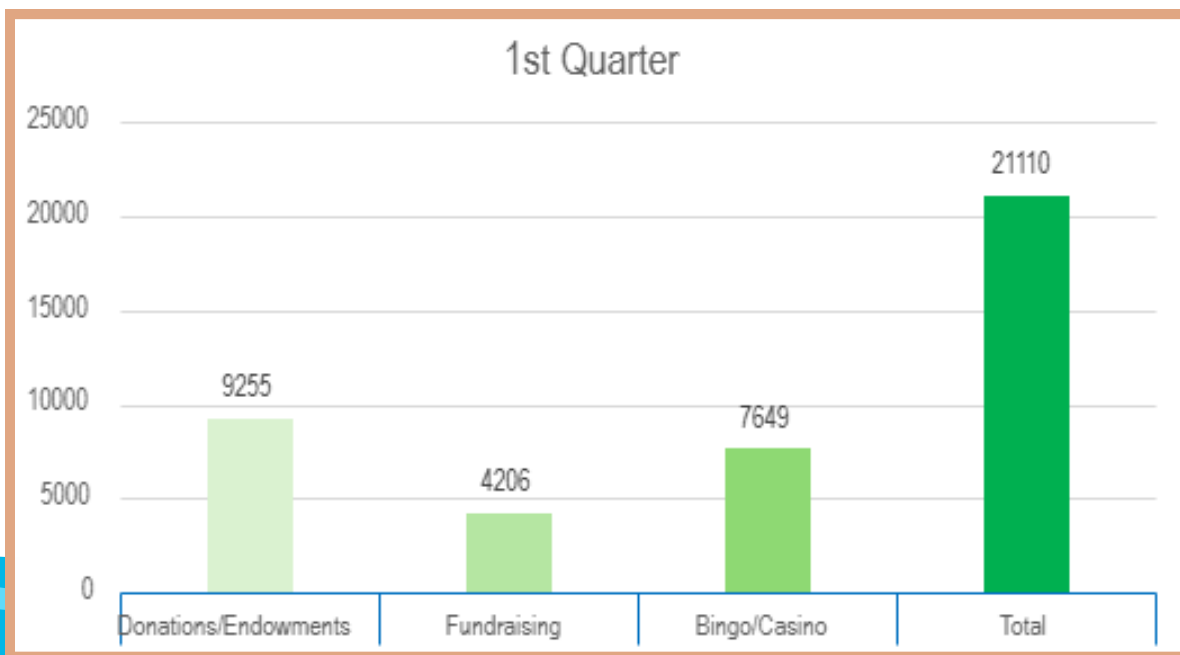
FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS



We have had a good start to our fiscal year with fundraising. Thank you to the staff who sit on the Fundraising Committee and those who volunteer for our events. This also includes our awesome Bingo workers!

Fundraisers over the past three months have included cash calendar/raffle ticket sales, Spring Tea, Trunk Sale, Bingos, Five Guys, CORE barbeques, and bottle returns.

In addition, we continue to receive support through donations on an ongoing basis. Big or small, every bit helps us to purchase items and support our programs and services. CORE does not use any donations or fundraisers to support administration.



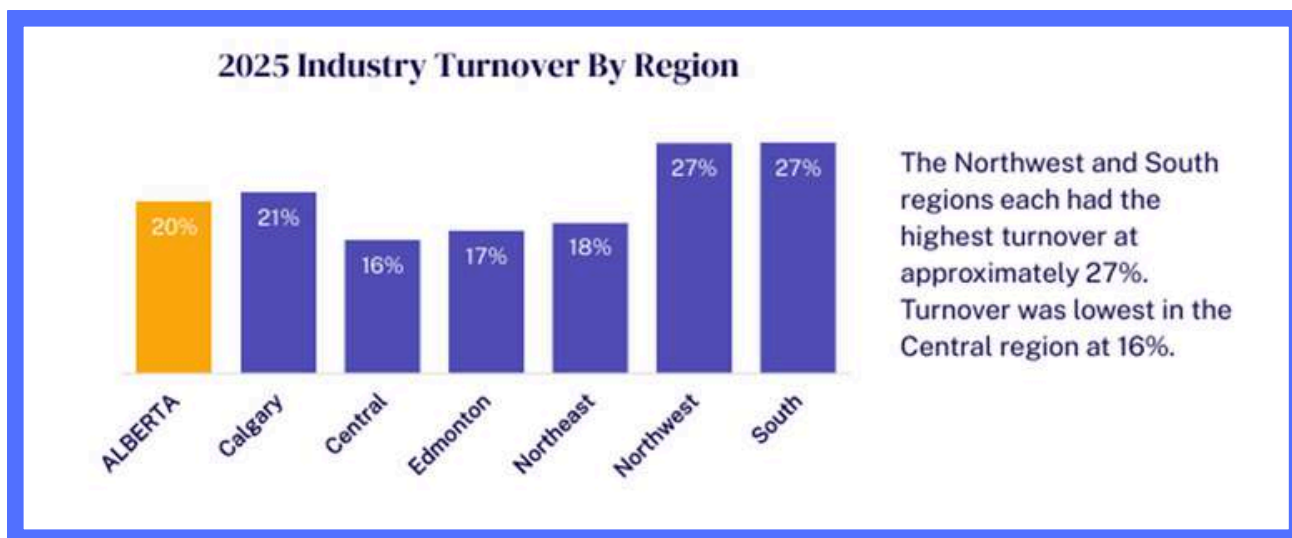
STAFF RETENTION AND APPRECIATION



As part of our Strategic Plan to improve staff retention we are now able to utilize a revised benchmark based on a 2025 report from the Alberta Council of Disability Services. Turnover rates in this sector are highest in the Northwest and South regions of the province.

CORE's turnover rate for the past three months is 11.7%. We will be changing how we track our hiring data and will include more information in the next newsletter.

Staff appreciation continues with our Employee of the Month and a variety of activities. The Health & Wellness committee is doing a great job!



Retrieved from: Alberta Council of Disability Services (2026). ACDS survey 2025: Workforce distribution, turnover, and wages. Alberta Council of Disability Services.



UPCOMING . . .



CASINO



CORE has received dates for our next Casino at the Medicine Hat Lodge, August 25 & 26. If you can volunteer for any shifts please contact Lanny at 403 527-3302 ext 106.

BINGO



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.

- Thursday, August 20, afternoon
- Saturday, September 12, afternoon
- Friday, October 23, afternoon
- Wednesday, November 18, afternoon
- Monday, December 7, afternoon
- Thursday, December 31, evening

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

UPCOMING ...



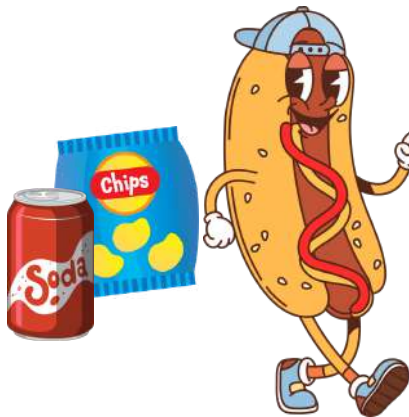
CO-OP BARBEQUE JULY 10TH

CORE has been approved to host a Grill Day fundraiser on Friday July 10 at the 13th Ave food store! Hamburgers will be ready at 11:30.



MEDICINE HAT STAMPEDE PARADE BBQ

Join us after the parade for hot dogs!



MEDICINE HAT MAVERICKS COMMUNITY CORNER JULY 26TH

Stop by and say "Hi" if you are at the game.



DOWNTOWN DAYS AUGUST 21 & 22

CORE will be participating in Downtown Days August 21 & 22. We will be holding a 50/50 draw and hosting a mini children's carnival. Come walk through the downtown and sample specials from a variety of stores. See what downtown Medicine Hat has to offer and support our local businesses.

