

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Give Kids a Chance Charity Inc.

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The benefits of participating in sport, culture and recreation activities are becoming increasingly well known. Through activities ranging from football and baseball to drama and art, kids learn fundamental skills they can use throughout their personal and professional lives. Youth programs help children and young people to develop positive relationships with others and to become involved in their communities. Participants also gain self-esteem and understand the importance of working with others to achieve common goals. These skills also transfer into the classroom. Kids want to do better in school and their cognitive functioning often improves leading to higher grades and test scores, increased satisfaction in school, aspirations for higher learning, and lower dropout rates.

The Give Kids a Chance Charity Inc. (GKACC) was created to help remove the barriers that may prevent some children from participating in sport, culture and recreational activities. The charity provides the administrative support for the KidSport, Dream Brokers, Creative Kids and Northern Community & School Recreation Coordinator programs. These programs help remove barriers to participate in sport, culture and recreation, so children and youth facing socio and economic barriers have the opportunity to experience these meaningful activities.

In 2014, GKACC dedicated a total of \$2.38 million in funding. GKACC also developed partnerships and leveraged existing community resources to raise funds through donations, grants and various other initiatives. The charity also provided charitable tax receipts for donations worth at least \$20.

This report highlights the work being done by these programs to truly Give Kids a Chance.



KidSport Saskatchewan

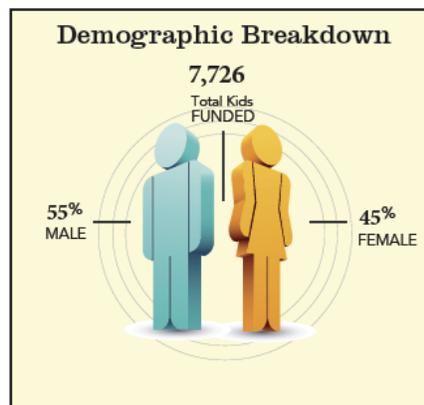
NO KID SHOULD BE LEFT ON THE SIDELINES: a simple message that has inspired KidSport™ Saskatchewan to help ensure that all kids can play. The program is dedicated to helping children from families facing financial obstacles participate in sport. This ensures children have the change to share and experience the tremendous benefits that sport can provide. After all, sport is more than a game. It can help children become physically active, improve their self-esteem and self-confidence, and make new friends.

There are currently 42 local KidSport™ Committees, administered by volunteers located in Asquith, Battlefords, Big River, Biggar, Carlyle, Carrot River, Eatonia, Esterhazy, Estevan, Eston, Foam Lake, Fort Qu'Appelle, Grenfell, Gull Lake, Hudson Bay, Humboldt, Indian Head, Kerrobert, Kindersley, Kipling, LaRonge, Lloydminster, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Moose Jaw, Montmartre, Nipawin, Pipestone Qu'Appelle, Porcupine Plain, Prince Albert, Regina, Rosetown, Saskatoon, Shaunavon, Swift Current, Tisdale, Unity, Warman, Watrous, Weyburn, Wynyard and Yorkton.

In 2014, KidSport™ distributed more than \$1.5 million in individual and program grants, helping over 7,750 children and youth to participate in more than 45 sports. More than 650 community volunteers and over 250 local committee volunteers supported the 43 local KidSport™ Committees in the province to adjudicate support and run the program's various fundraising events.

The work of KidSport™ has inspired others to contribute financially, and fundraising

has been very successful. Between the Saskatchewan Roughriders' calendar in Support of KidSport™, Peters & Pilon, Golf Invitational and corporate challenges in Saskatoon and Regina, KidSport™ Saskatchewan fundraised over \$350,000; and an additional \$175,000 at the local level.



"Thank you so much! Konner can play hockey this year because of the help of KidSport. He loves hockey and it's his favorite sport. We are so grateful for your help during our tough times. Konner is so happy to be playing a sport with his friends. He scored a goal in his first game!"

- Parent

"I've been playing soccer since I was 5. It has really become a passion of mine. I love to play! I couldn't imagine life without soccer and KidSport helps me with that. I like meeting new people and get to be with my new teammates all the time. Thank you so much KidSport!"

- Recipient

"I have been fencing for nine years, now, and it's been an experience that's really helped me on my way. I've made friendships that'll last a lifetime, and I can be with them while doing something I love and am good at. Thank you so much for the support. I wouldn't be the person I am today without you."

- Recipient



Dream Brokers

Dream Brokers is a program designed to facilitate the participation of children and youth who may otherwise not have the opportunity to participate in community-based sport, cultural and recreation programs due to economic or social barriers. A legacy program of the 2005 Canada Games in Regina, Dream Brokers works through strong partnerships with children, parents/caregivers, school staff, and service providers who focus on eliminating barriers and building community capacity to improve the participation of underserved youth.

During the 2014-15 school year, 13 Dream Brokers worked in 22 inner city schools and connected approximately 2,300 children with about 4,300 sport, culture and recreation opportunities. This represents almost double the number of children and opportunities from the previous year. These children are connected to programs based on their interest and commitment, and the availability of programs to meet their needs. Programs range from hockey and gymnastics to pottery and dance.

An evaluation was conducted this year to determine the impact of the program on participants. It was found that 40 of the 49

children who answered the questionnaire participated in programs in more than one time period, meaning there is a high level of continued participation. Parents/caregivers agreed that they wanted their children to remain involved in these types of programs.

There are several reasons for this continued involvement including lifestyle improvements. One parent said, "My son loves boxing and it keeps him busy and out of trouble and off his video games. He is more active and looks forward to boxing every week." When it comes to focus, almost half of the students and parents/caregivers agreed that the participants' ability to pay attention had improved from the previous year. Furthermore, parents/caregivers reported becoming more involved in their child's activities through the Dream Brokers programs. One parent noted, "We look online for more music for him to try at home. He has the keyboard to use now and it's helped us all be more together at practice time each day."

Many of the benefits have been seen to translate over to the classroom. Aboriginal students in Dream Broker schools, for example, achieved greater academic success than those in non-Dream Broker

schools. Forty-two percent of students, 44 per cent of school staff and 41 per cent of parents thought participants' attendance were better thanks to the program. One school staff said, "... students attend school because of what is provided through Dream Brokers." Another noted, "Students are more engaged and connected to the school community. They form stronger bonds with staff and peers." One school staff said the following: "Students are very proud of themselves and walk with more confidence!"

A key point is that an overwhelming majority of parents and caregivers and service providers feel Dream Brokers helped remove or reduce the barriers to children's participation in sport, culture and recreation programming in the areas of: awareness of programs, transportation to activities, registration costs, the registration process, equipment and nutrition.

DREAM BROKER SCHOOLS

REGINA

Kitchener Community School
Sacred Heart Community School
Seven Stones Community School

SASKATOON

St. Frances School
Fairhaven School
Howard Coad School
Sutherland School
Princess Alexandra Community School
Father Vachon School

PRINCE ALBERT

St. John Community School
W.J. Berezowsky Public School

DISTRICT DREAM BROKER SCHOOLS

REGINA

St. Augustine Community School
Albert Community School

NORTH BATTLEFORD

St. Mary's School
Connaught School

YORKTON

St. Mary's School
Dr. Brass Community School

SASKATOON

Pleasant Hill Community School
Bishop Roborecki Elementary School

PRINCE ALBERT

John Diefenbaker School
W.F.A. Turgeon Catholic Community School
Princess Margaret School

AUDREY ARMSTRONG | Dream Broker

Fairhaven School and Princess Alexandra School



Growing up, Audrey Armstrong always wanted to end up in the educational field as a "helper."

She attended the First Nations University of Canada for four years and received her degree in Social Work. While attending university, she spent her spare time helping youth and families in core neighbourhoods, working with youth in a group home setting as well as an emergency shelter setting. She also worked in transitional living settings with high risk families through the Ministry of Social Services.

Sport has also been a powerful tool Armstrong has used to help youth. With three sons of her own who are actively involved sports, Armstrong has realized the benefit of sport. She coaches soccer for the Saskatoon United Soccer Club.

She has been a Dream Broker at Fairhaven School and Princess Alexandra Community School since February of 2014 and also works casually with Crisis Intervention Services.

"All children will benefit from sport, culture and recreation," Armstrong said. "My passion is to work with young people to help them become active and healthy members of society."

Armstrong really appreciates being able to help kids participate in sports without putting extra stress on the parents.

"If a family needs transportation to a soccer game across the city, we can get transportation for them, there and home," she explained.

With the Saskatoon Police Service Cultural Unit, Armstrong delivers a Cadets program at Princess Alexandra, which she said has been "very successful thus far." She was recently awarded the Saskatoon Police Chief's Award for Community Service.

In her spare time, Armstrong spends time with her sons, either watching them play soccer, practicing soccer or getting in some quality time with them.

"I fully believe that by keeping my sons as active members of a team (and society), this will help them keep out of trouble," said Armstrong. "Additionally, it will help shape them into responsible adults."

"In Karate I learn how to protect myself, I'm not scared anymore."

- Participant

"If it weren't for football, I wouldn't do anything and get into trouble."

- Participant

"I know what's going on now. I feel more included."

- Parent

Creative Kids

"Thank you doesn't seem to cover how I feel knowing that my son can participate in this theatre class. I never thought there would be a time that I couldn't afford something for my son, and my self-esteem and pride were knocked down. Your assistance has put a smile on my face again because I was able to put a smile on my son's face. This has helped more than you know."

- Mother of Participant

"Kayla and I cannot think you enough for the funding she has received to take dance lessons both this year and last. She had her final recital last night and it was the BEST NIGHT EVER for all the dancers involved. Not to mention us proud parents. The funding you provided for Kayla has helped immensely. We live small and this is the only activity she is in and she loves it. She works hard and has improved greatly every year. Thanks again for all the work you do, we certainly appreciate it."

- Joanne and Kayla

Thank you for sponsoring our children for choir lessons at the conservatory. Choir for them is a place to meet friends and grow in discipline and team work. Music and singing softens their hearts and is like learning a new language. Thank you for providing this opportunity for them in our time of financial need. Blessings to your organization."

- Creative Kids Parent

Creative Kids provides financial support so all Saskatchewan children and youth have an opportunity to participate in artistic and cultural activities. The program supports costs for music lessons, dance classes, art camps, traditional First Nations art instruction, and many other creative and cultural activities. Creative Kids believes that "all Saskatchewan children and youth should have access to unique, life-changing artistic and cultural experiences." Creative Kids' impact was far-reaching in 2014, as 1,034 grants worth \$480,669 were distributed to support kids in 119 communities.

SaskCulture Inc. administers the program in partnership with the Give Kids A Chance Charity and the Saskatchewan Arts Board, and covers all of the administrative costs associated with the program. Seven Creative Kids Committees – Regina, Saskatoon, the Battlefords, Lakeland, Big River, Kindersley and Shaunavon – help adjudicate the program. Creative Kids has found that connecting children to their heritage and culture can provide them with a sense of identity, self-esteem and purpose. Children and youth who develop creative skills by participating in art classes, for example, foster lasting friendships, gain confidence in self-expression, establish an eagerness for team-work, acquire an opportunity to discover a passion and enhance their communication and problem solving skills.

Since the program was launched in 2010, Creative Kids has granted \$1.4 million in support of 3,500 kids from 144 communities. Funds are raised through a variety of means including special events, sponsorships, donations, raffles, foundations and service clubs.

There are a couple of major fundraising events for Creative Kids including the RCMP Charity Ball Gala and the Art-a-palooza Art Auction and Entertainment. The second annual Creative Mayhem fundraising event was a huge success, raising more than \$83,000 for Creative Kids in Saskatoon. The event was hosted once again by hometown movie and television star Kim Coates, who plays "Tig Trager" in Sons of Anarchy (SOA), and this year's event also featured a musical performance by The Sheepdogs.

Creative Kids work with approximately 450 service providers who teach and mentor kids in artistic and cultural activities. These service providers offer the connection between children and creative activities. They range from piano teachers offering private lessons from their homes to businesses with private and group lessons, to non-profit organizations that operate artistic, heritage and cultural programming for youth.



Northern Community & School Recreation Coordinator Program

The Northern Community & School Recreation Coordinator Program enhances the quality of life for northerners through the provision of community based sport, culture and recreation programs after school, in the evenings, on weekends and at community and school special events. The Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District (NSCRD) acts as a conduit for northern communities to access and develop local sport, culture and recreations programs.

A program manager works toward fulfilling NSCRD's strategic direction and operational mandate while northern community school and recreation coordinators (CSRCs) provide support to local steering committees. Local steering committees, consisting of local interagency and volunteer representatives oversee, advise, steer and direct the work of the CRSC. This year there were 26 full time coordinators and one part-time coordinator employed at 27 schools. These coordinators oversaw 1,015 unique programs. It is difficult to describe all of the programs that are supported by these coordinators, but here is a sampling:

The Ski Fit North Program was developed in 1989 as a means to promote and develop the health, lifestyle, sport and culture of cross country skiing in Northern Saskatchewan communities through school

and community-based ski clubs. The program is actively supported by CSCRs and field workers. Each year, an average of 2500 students participates in Ski Fit North activities. The Great Northern Ski Quest Loppet Series is part of this program in which students ski on trails outside their communities to meet new friends and renew old friendships along the way. The School Championships, which introduced more of a competitive component to the program, is held annually in La Ronge. It attracts more than 250 youth skiers and teachers every year.

CRSCs participate in the Northern Healthy Communities Partnership (NCHP) – Building Vibrant Youth Teams, along with representatives from health, education, justice and other sectors. The partnership aims to support and partner with positive youth development efforts across Northern Saskatchewan. Projects initiated this year included the Role Model Video Series and the Northern Role Model Campaign. Early in 2015, the NCHP selected role models to tour the north and facilitate their half-day workshop with younger youth groups.

Creighton Community School partnered with the Flin Flon Friendship Centre to create an in-house elder program, with the overall goal to share First Nation and

Metis culture. Elder Margaret Head-Steppan spends two Monday afternoons in the school and delivers classroom and family room sessions.

Jody Ratt-Franks is offering a program to students at Bell's Point Elementary School called "Kids Can Cook," in which she shares the knowledge of safe kitchen practices and shares simple recipes to prepare. Gordon Denny Community Schools also hosts a Community Walk every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. It allows the community to come together for exercise regardless of the weather.



"Thank you so much for supporting our travel team to compete against the best competition in the Province and give our youth that opportunity to compete against top competition."

- Paul Raycroft Coach
Valley View School
Beauval

First of all I would like to thank you Joel, for coming to Black Lake. It has been an honour to have you in our community. I have learned a lot from you. You have also motivated me to become a certified fitness leader. The evening classes were quite an experience. The warm ups, the stations, the workout of the day were challenging. It was such a rewarding feeling. I will definitely keep the cross-fit training going on in the community."

- Jacqueline Robillard
Black Lake, SK

"I always have a great time working with the passionate volunteers and teachers that support the youth in volleyball and I'm always treated very well when I come up here."

- Rob Tomyn
NCCP Facilitator

