

ANNUAL REPORT

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give kids a chance charity inc.

OVERVIEW



A growing number of children and youth in Saskatchewan are faced with various social and economic challenges that adversely affect their quality of life.

These issues create barriers to sport, culture and recreation participation. A large proportion of children and youth attending schools in core neighbourhoods are less likely to be physically active than their counterparts in other schools. These children are restricted from accessing sport, culture and recreation activities due to barriers such as economic circumstance, awareness, cultural insensitivity, healthy nutrition and access to transportation. Caregivers in the core neighbourhoods need more support to provide greater opportunities that contribute to developing children and youth who are healthy, active, and successful members of their community. After all, when children perform on the stage, kick the soccer ball around the field or go for a group walk, they are not just competing, performing or having fun; they are learning fundamental skills that will benefit them in their personal lives and help them become future leaders.

Recognizing the importance of sport as a tool for social development, Sask Sport Inc. created Give Kids a Chance Charity Inc. (GKACC) as its charitable arm. The charity is in place to assist in identifying and relieving the barriers associated with poverty among disadvantaged children and youth. These barriers include but are not limited to: transportation, caregiver support, healthy nutrition, and awareness of opportunities. Providing economically disadvantaged children and youth with the means required to participate in quality sport, culture and recreation programming is a growing need that can and is being addressed through the charity. If all children and youth have the opportunity to play, to learn self-respect, gain confidence, and realize dreams through sport, culture and recreation; then those children and youth have a better chance

of becoming successful contributing members and leaders in their communities.

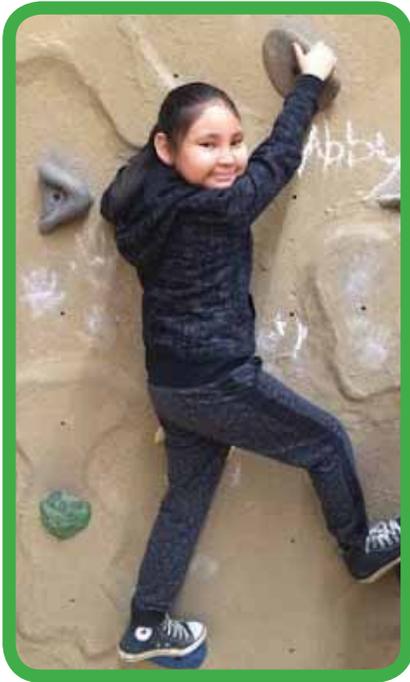
Today GKACC provides support for KidSport™, Dream Brokers, Creative Kids and the Northern Community and School Recreation Coordinator programs. These programs are school based or community initiatives that identify and help children and youth facing socio and economic barriers experience meaningful sport, culture and recreation activities. GKACC ensures that proper administrative and financial controls are in place to meet federal regulations and that community resources are leveraged in such a manner as to maximize their impact.

Thanks to the many GKACC supporters who have helped to increase the number of children and youth that are now able to take part in these activities and improve their self-esteem. The ongoing support to the charity assists children and youth to experience the benefits of participation such as developing positive relationships with others and instilling a sense of belonging. These benefits also transfer into the classroom, leading to higher grades and test scores, increased satisfaction in school, aspirations for higher learning and lower dropout rates.

In 2015, GKACC dedicated a total of \$2,362,247 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.

Zackery enjoys playing hockey and being part of a team. It has taught him sportsmanship and other skills as well. Watching him have fun while playing hockey puts a smile on my face and also a smile on his face. Thank you for all you do.

KidSport Parent



Very happy and grateful for the program. Creative Kids is helpful and non-intrusive and very supportive and positive to families in need.

Creative Kids Parent

KIDSPORT™ SASKATCHEWAN



\$1.4 million
raised through
fundraising and
donations

8,459 children
& youth supported

The KidSport program is dedicated to helping children from financially challenged families get involved in sport.

This ensures children have the chance to share and experience the tremendous benefits that sport can provide. 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, Wynyrd and Yorkton.

Volunteers throughout the province support local KidSport Committees to adjudicate, support and operate the program's various fundraising events. These individuals generously donate their time and skills to review grant applications and organize numerous fundraising events so others may benefit.

KidSport funds were raised through volunteer efforts, sponsorships, individual donors, and provincial efforts. Local committees often hosted steak nights, hot dog sales, raffle tickets and other events to help children in their communities. Martensville and Warman, for example, developed a raffle for a kids playhouse. Swift Current hosted a fundraising breakfast featuring Weston Dressler of the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Saskatoon hosted a mini golf tournament. These are just some of the many activities that KidSport communities continue to support throughout the year.

There are several provincial fundraising campaigns organized with assistance from KidSport Saskatchewan. This year KidSport and the Saskatchewan Roughriders continued their partnership by producing the 2015 Saskatchewan Roughrider Calendar with Harvard Western Insurance as the title sponsor. The fifth annual Invitational Golf Tournament at the Wascana Country Club in Regina was once again sold out and raised over \$60,000. The Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL) and SaskEnergy's Goals for KidSport program also continued in 2015. Throughout the season, the program sees \$20 donated to local committees for each home goal scored by their corresponding team, up to 1,000 goals. During game nights, SaskEnergy recognizes a volunteer in the community and also partners with the local committee to have a raffle, where 100 per cent of the proceeds stay with the local committee. The KidSport Fun and Fitness Corporate Challenge has become a huge fundraising success – last year it raised \$55,000 in Saskatoon and \$110,000 in Regina.

There are numerous individuals who support KidSport and provide donations that inspire others. Cody Hutchinson, a hockey player from Mossbank, for example, cut off his locks and raised \$1,474 to help KidSport. Taerjan Asmundson of Regina asked his friends for donations to KidSport on his ninth birthday, adding up to a \$240 donation. Michael Wirachowsky organized a raffle for two signed high school jerseys at a football game between the Comp Barons and the Holy Rosary Raiders in Lloydminster and raised \$832. These types of stories show how committed people can make a difference in the lives of children.

The corporate sector has also been very supportive. Organizations such as SaskTel, BHP Billiton, Canada Life, Great West Life, London Life, Saskatoon Media Group, the universities, Brandt Industries, Harvard Broadcasting, Bennett Dunlop Ford, and many others provided their support.

KidSport Month is held each May to promote the importance of the charity and create excitement for fundraising and promotional events throughout the province. This year the official launch took place at Albert Community School in Regina and featured local Member of the Legislative Assembly, Gene Makowsky; Dale Kraus, Vice President of Canada Life, Don McDougall of KidSport Saskatchewan, and Weldon Brown from the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

KidSport Saskatchewan also works closely with its counterparts in other provinces through KidSport Canada. One of the major initiatives this year was the Give the Gift of Sport campaign, a national online fundraising initiative.

This year marked another important milestone in making a difference in the lives of children, youth and families and providing them with the positive experiences and benefits of sport. The generosity of Saskatchewan residents is helping KidSport achieve its goal so all kids can play.

So ALL Kids Can Play!

KIDSPORT SASKATCHEWAN ALLOWS CHILDREN TO EMBRACE SPORT

This grant was so helpful for my family. Bella likes to figure skate, but figure skating is an expensive sport ... I can support Bella's figure skating because of KidSport.

Jennifer

As a newcomer in Canada, this kind of grant for my kids is very helpful because it helps us provide them with a happy childhood and experience these kinds of sports. Thank you very much and God bless.

Noemi

Maggie Stonechild had hoop dreams... the only problem was she didn't have the financial means to make this dream a reality.

Coming from a loving family that includes 10 brothers and sisters, Stonechild's parents never have quite enough to make ends meet. Of course, this doesn't stop them from doing the best job they can with a lot of love.

Luckily for Stonechild, KidSport Saskatchewan was able to provide funding that allowed the 11-year-old student at Albert Community School in Regina to become active in basketball. KidSport paid her registration costs for a three-on-three basketball league and for her year-long registration to the Regina community league.

All year, Stonechild never missed a practice or game. She said basketball has become something she looks forward to, because her whole family comes out to watch and she feels special. Stonechild's love of basketball has transferred over to other students. Albert Community School now has a full team for the city's spring league.

Stonechild is one of the many children who have embraced the opportunity to play sports thanks to KidSport.

The program helped Ammama Riaz become involved in boxing. She recently finished her second year of boxing with the New Line Boxing Academy in Regina. By rarely missing a practice, Riaz has become a better boxer. She's also gained confidence in being herself at school and is extremely proud of who she is and where she comes from.

KidSport enabled Riel Caisse to take up karate. Caisse comes from a large family, but is a somewhat shy kid in class who enjoys reading. Caisse first joined karate and quickly discovered a sense of purpose. He never misses a practice and has moved up three belt ranks in his first year and had the opportunity to travel to the Provincials.

Through all of the sports he has become involved with thanks to KidSport – including track, football and hockey – Kesar Shannon hardly has a free moment. That's just the way he likes it. As a member of the Excel Track Club last year, Shannon won four medals at the provincial championship. The next day at school he proudly wore all four and had tons of support from his classmates.



Maggie Stonechild's love of basketball has inspired others to join the team at Albert Community School. The school now has a full team registered for the city's spring league.

DREAM BROKERS



2,900
connections made
to sport, culture
& recreation
opportunities

2,400
children & youth
supported

It's a program that started with a dream – a dream that inner city children would have every opportunity to participate in community-based sport, culture and recreation programs. This was the vision shared by organizers of the 2005 Canada Summer Games in Regina. The event left a tremendous legacy in Saskatchewan, as funding was used to hire the first Dream Brokers.

Targeting children who are burdened by economic or social barriers, Dream Brokers partnered with parents/caregivers, school staff and service providers to focus on eliminating barriers and building community capacity to improve participation of underserved youth. A large proportion of children and youth attending schools in core neighbourhoods are especially impacted by barriers such as economic circumstance, awareness, cultural insensitivity, and access to transportation, make them far less likely to be physically active than their counterparts.

The vision of the Dream Broker program is to contribute to children and youth becoming healthy, active and successful members of their community. Dream Brokers are committed to

initiating and sustaining the participation of children and youth in new or existing arts, sports, cultural and recreational activities that advance their life skills, enhance their sense of belonging, and foster pride in their accomplishments.

Due to the need for the program, it has spread across five cities (Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Yorkton and North Battleford). The program has evolved with the tremendous support of Saskatoon Public Schools, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, Regina Public Schools, Regina Catholic Schools, Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, Prince Albert Catholic School Division, the Districts for sport, culture and recreation, and stakeholders in Yorkton and North Battleford, working in partnership with Sask Sport Inc., Sask Culture Inc., Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc.

This year the Dream Brokers program connected children and youth to 251 sport, 137 recreation and 125 cultural programs and clubs. Children and youth are connected to programs based on interest, personal commitment/support and availability of programs to meet their need. Hockey, dance, gymnastics, soccer, music lessons and day camps are the most popular activities. Arts and craft classes, swimming, ringette, Bricks for Kidz, martial arts, ball hockey, speed skating, baseball and softball are also popular activities.

The Saskatchewan Music Alliance partnered with the program to deliver summer music camps to 180 children in Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert. The program has also helped distribute 300 tickets to Dream Brokers participants and their families to attend a Christmas concert, fun activities and a tour of the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame donated by the Regina Symphony Orchestra. The Dream Brokers also coordinated donations from the Saskatoon Blades, the Regina Pats, the Saskatchewan Rush and the Saskatchewan Roughriders to attend regular season home games.

During the 2015-16 school year, 11 Dream Brokers serviced 18 schools this year. Approximately 2,900 connections were made to sport, culture and recreation opportunities and Dreams Brokers worked with approximately 2,400 children.

Previous surveys have found 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. They've also reported that the program has increased their children's self confidence levels, improved school attendance and created a better sense of belonging.

Perhaps the biggest success of the program has been the partnerships and relationships built within the community. The Dream Brokers continue to search for new partnerships as well as strengthen and nurture the existing ones in order to build capacity within the community to service and needs and interests of underprivileged children and youth.

GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITY THROUGH DREAM BROKERS

I am forever grateful for all the support you have given me. Before I got funding from my Dream Broker, I used to dream of becoming a professional martial artist master. Four years later I am still practicing martial arts to fulfill my dreams. Without the support this would never be possible. I can't thank you enough for the help you have given me throughout these four years. This program has helped me gain confidence to become more active and open minded. It has also helped me make better choices in becoming a better person, especially going into high school. It has strengthened my mind, body and spirit. If I wasn't in this program I would be getting into mischief and making bad choices. With that I give thanks from the bottom of my heart.

Nathan

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It was fate that led Sabrina Cote-Brooks of Regina to the Dream Brokers program eight years ago. After graduating with a bachelor in indigenous studies and a minor in linguistics from the First Nations University of Canada, she was still undecided about her future.

"I believe in fate," Cote-Brooks said. "I prayed and asked the Creator to put me where I was supposed to be. A friend told me about the Dream Broker position, so I applied."

In Regina, Cote-Brooks is one of four Dream Brokers who works in the North Central neighbourhood. These Dream Brokers reach children in four community schools including Albert, Seven Stones, Kitchener Community School and Sacred Heart.

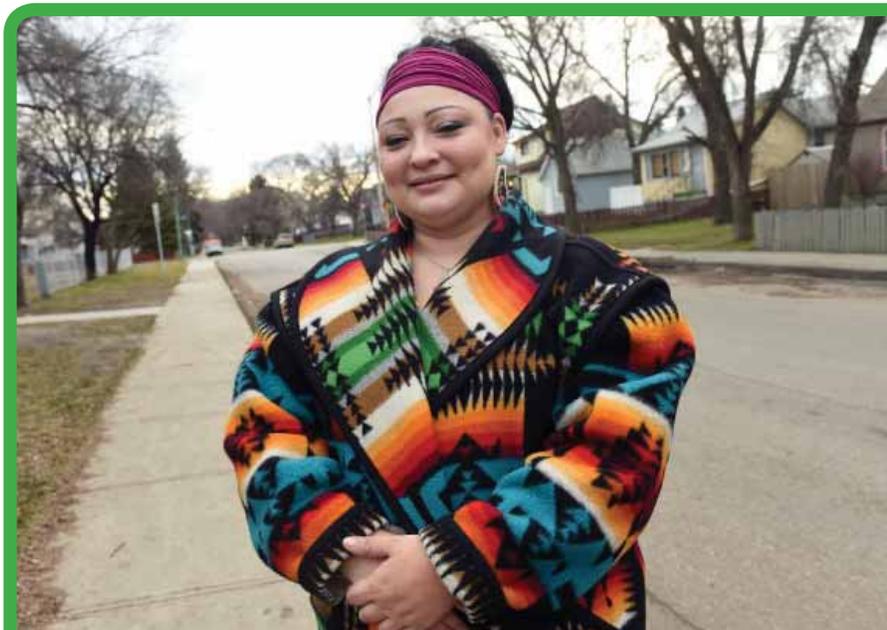
"To me, North Central is home. It's where I grew up. It's where I went to school. It's where I lived as a single mom," she said. "It's amazing to be able to return and connect children and families to activities they may otherwise not have had access to due to cost or even transportation."

Cote-Brooks said she can "see myself" in the kids she works with.

"When you are a kid growing up in a place with little or no opportunities, you never fully realize your own potential," she said. "I didn't participate in sports or anything extra-curricular unless it was offered at the school because there were no programs and if there was, we couldn't afford it."

Cote-Brooks became a mom when she was a teenager, which allows her to relate her experiences. She said when she was a teenager, there was an excellent support network in North Central that helped her graduate high school as a young mother. While she attended Scott Collegiate High School, she was able to take her baby with her and she said that she wasn't the only one.

"It's about giving a hand up, not a hand out and that's how I approach the families I work with," Cote-Brooks said.



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Sabrina Cote-Brooks is a Dream Broker in North Central Regina.

CREATIVE KIDS



SINCE INCEPTION IN 2010 ...

\$ 2,034,308 granted

4,579 applications funded

Creativity is all about turning new and imaginative ideas into reality. The Creative Kids program provides financial support so that participating in artistic and cultural activities can be a reality for Saskatchewan students. 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 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 teamwork, acquire an opportunity to discover a passion, and enhance their communication and problem solving skills.

SaskCulture Inc. administers the program in partnership with the GKACC 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.

Funds are raised through a variety of means including special events, sponsorships, donations, raffles, foundations and service clubs. Creative Kids works with hundreds of 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.

In 2015, Creative Kids was able to fund 1,279 out of 1,469 applications. A total of \$633,364 was granted, however, requests totalled more than \$889,363. Since its inception in 2010, Creative Kids has raised more than \$1.5 million to help over 4,500 kids in Saskatchewan access the cultural and creative activities of their choice. Kids in 176 communities have been able to access funding to participate in music, art, dance and other creative endeavours.

A number of successful events fuelled Creative Kids' fundraising efforts this year. One of the biggest corporate sponsors has been PotashCorp, which committed \$100,000 in 2012 to support the Colour a Kid's Life, and challenged other Saskatchewan businesses and individuals to match that contribution. PotashCorp also committed \$100,000 in both 2013 and 2014 and was the principal sponsor at the 2014 and 2015 RCMP Charity Galas.

Cameco is another strong corporate supporter of Creative Kids and has committed to providing \$90,000 over three years to support the Cameco Creative Kids Northern Cultural Fund. Great West Life was the first major sponsor to support Creative Kids and after five years has provided a total of \$75,000. The 2015 RCMP Charity Gala raised over \$95,000 this year and significantly raised the profile of the charity.

Creative Kids was the beneficiary of the Saskatoon Corporate Challenge, a week of exciting co-worker challenges such as a casino night, tennis tournament and bubble soccer. The event raised \$22,000 for Creative Kids which allowed the charity to fund 40 more kids. 100 Women Who Care Regina made a \$10,600 donation to Creative Kids.

Creative Kids has a way of bringing out the very best in people, whether it's the musical or artistic talents of creative kids or the generosity of those who want to see all kids benefit from engagement in cultural activity. One unexpected outcome has been seeing youth "pay it forward" to others by launching fundraising efforts to support Creative Kids. For example, Leigh-Ann, Jason, Parker and Brock Dale hosted their 2nd Annual Creative Idol and raised more than \$2,500. There were over a dozen talented young performers and more than 70 people in attendance for an event that featured raffles, door prizes and a concession.

Creative Kids believes it's important to feed the spirit of a child. For someone facing financial or social barriers to feel accepted and included, to develop their skills and to follow their dreams, the longed-for chance to make music, paint, act, or dance can be life changing.

SETH ARMSTRONG DOES SOME CREATIVE VOLUNTEERING

Thank you so much for what you have done for my children, neither have played an instrument, and now with guitar lessons and drum lessons they play away. These lessons have built up their self-esteem and now they can play and sing in front of crowds with confidence. They have both joined a youth church worship group and play Saturday nights and Sundays.

Creative Kids Parent

Growing up in Ottawa, Seth Armstrong was always more of an artsy kid than a sports kid. So when Armstrong learned of a unique opportunity to get involved in art through his school, he jumped at the chance.

"When high school came around, there was the opportunity to take a guitar class and get a credit," Armstrong said. "I thought this was the coolest thing ever. I had wanted to play guitar for ever, so when I discovered I could get a credit for learning the guitar instead of doing a second math or a second science – I was all over that."

Armstrong's creative flair didn't burn out as he got older. He attended Algonquin College's Radio Broadcasting program. Armstrong moved to Saskatchewan over five years ago and is currently the afternoon drive host/music director for Rock 102 at Rawlco Radio in Saskatoon. He said that creativity is a necessity to survive in radio.

Two years ago during a fundraiser, he met Canadian actor Kim Coates, who starred in the popular TV series Sons of Anarchy and is heavily involved with the community. Coates mentioned his involvement in Creative Kids and encouraged Armstrong to get involved.

"I was amazed to find out that this program existed that was providing artistic opportunities for unprivileged kids," Armstrong said. "I wasn't doing too much charity work, and with my creative background I thought it was an absolutely perfect fit."

Armstrong has now been volunteering with Creative Kids in Saskatoon for two years. He sits on the committee that determines where funding is distributed. The committee gathers all applications, reviews them – determining whether the applicants are in the income bracket and are the right fit for Creative Kids.

He's also heavily involved in putting together fundraising initiatives. Armstrong helped put together Saskatoon's second annual Creative Mayhem event, which featured Coates as the guest of honour and a special performance by The Sheepdogs. Armstrong said the whole process has been "super rewarding."

"The impact of Creative Kids is absolutely huge. We have one fundraiser called Creative Idol, and getting to go there and see the talent being displayed by kids around the ages of 5-7, through the help of Creative Kids, is remarkable," he continued. "It's that warm fuzzy feeling that you don't go after, but when you get it it's such a satisfying feeling. It's so great seeing the kids prospering and going with it. The volunteers are such a nice group of people and everybody gels so well. Everyone has that creative mind and we always bounced ideas off each other. These ideas always snowball into something huge."

Since he began volunteering with Creative Kids, Armstrong has noticed some positive developments take place with the charity.

"When I first started there were a few applications that would come in here and there, but now we're consistently having enormous amounts of applications coming in," he said. "I'm also noticing an influx in applications from new Canadians coming here from different countries. There are different cultural programs that allow them to stay in touch with their roots."



Seth Armstrong volunteers at the Creative Mayhem event.

NORTHERN COMMUNITY & SCHOOL RECREATION COORDINATOR PROGRAM



74,424
children & youth
assisted

210,545
sport, culture
& recreation
opportunities

1,224
programs

The Northern Community & School Recreation Coordinator Program strives to enhance 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 program contributes to the creation of opportunities needed by and for Northern communities and residents. Children and youth living in Northern Saskatchewan have limited access to opportunities because of the unique barriers that northerners face: such as higher cost of living; geographic separation, access to healthy fruit and vegetables, etc. Offering sport, culture and recreation programming through this initiative gives people the opportunity to have fun, develop new skills, learn proper values, and create new friendships.

The Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District (NSCRD) acts as a conduit for northern communities to access and develop these 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 CSRC.

These committees ensure that the programs are accessible to and benefit all members of the community and/or a target population and that these programs take place in community settings and involve community members in the design and implementation. These committees also ensure that they occur within or in the near vicinity of the community and that they are based on community needs and built on partnership strengths involving local organizations and individuals with interests in community programming.

This year, there were 22 coordinators employed at 25 schools. These coordinators assisted 74,424 children and youth to participate in 210,545 opportunities. The program is supported at the local level by means of a Steering Committee and strives to ensure that quality programming is achieved by the community. With 1,224 programs facilitated this year, it is difficult to describe all of the programs that are supported by these coordinators, but here is a sampling:

CSRC Jody Ratt partnered with Flora Ratt from the Jennie Bird Clinic to run a cooking program Kids Can Cook at Bells Point Elementary. Twice a week, Jody and Flora taught 10-12 kids how to use the ingredients in their homes to make a meal, such as stir fry, soup and bannock, cake from scratch, and quiche. In addition to learning about different foods, the Kids Can Cook program focused on teaching kids basic kitchen safety and hygiene, how long to cook different food items, read recipes, use measuring cups and develop meal plans.

CSRC Allyson Richards coordinated yoga classes at Gordon Denny Community School for two types of students: beginner and flow yoga (higher paced), both taking place once a week for an hour at a time. Each course is run by a trained instructor, and yoga mats and blocks are also available for participants to use from the school. She also developed the Community Walk evening program in which participants walk around the hallways and keep track of their distance. The program also featured The Walk Around the World Challenge in which the combined distance everyone walked were added to see if they had walked around the world.

Christian Kowalchuk, the Indispire award winner and Arkansas College Baseball Coach, visited the Lac La Ronge area last year, making a presentation at Bells Point Elementary that encouraged students to stay in school. Kowalchuck, who spent his whole life growing up in Saskatoon before receiving a full athletic scholarship to play college baseball in the USA, also facilitated a baseball clinic for La Ronge minor baseball athletes at the Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre.

CSRC Nelson Cook helped organize a week of water safety activities near Southend with the Lifesaving Society. The program averaged 40 to 50 kids each day and finished with a barbecue for all participants. During the Christmas break Nelson took a group of children aged 5-12 snowshoeing and led a cooking class.

The NCSRC program is responsible for implementing a large number of innovative programs and policies in northern communities. The challenge will be to ensure that successful models are shared and when appropriate implemented more broadly.

SANDRA JOLIBOIS LOVES HELPING TO KEEP KIDS BUSY

Some of it comes with just the isolation of the communities itself, the travel distances to actually participate in activities, and just having organized activities take place in the community. So that's where this program, the recreation coordinators, are really vital. In a lot of communities, there might not be anything else happening if the coordinator wasn't there to organize and facilitate those activities.

*Brandy Smart,
Program Manager
for the Northern
Community and
School Recreation
Coordinator Program*

According to Sandra Jolibois, the 9-to-5 office-job work set-up has never been her style. Luckily, as a Northern Community and School Recreation Coordinator in La Loche, Jolibois gets to spend plenty of time out of the office implementing sport, culture and recreation programs that benefit the entire community.

"I work from 1-8 p.m. every day and I also organize programming on the weekends. I love that through this job I get to focus on being out and having fun with the kids," Jolibois said.

Jolibois got involved in recreation as a summer student in high school and she's never steered away from this career path. She has been with the Northern Community and School Recreation Coordinator Program since it began.

Jolibois implements a number of community-based activities, such as square dancing for little children. She also runs craft nights, gym nights, cooking classes, ball hockey games and various other activities.

"If I can bring about change or help a student or child in any way that I can, that puts a smile on my face," she said. "In my square dancing group, for example, half of the kids don't even want to go home when it's over."

Before sitting down to be interviewed about her job, Jolibois was just finishing attending a literacy carnival that drew around 200 children.

"The event has been going on for years," she said. "Kids pay \$5 at the door and they can play as many games as they can and collect stamps. My partner and I put on a three-legged race, for example, and kids get one stamp just for participating and two for winning. If a child gets 25 stamps, they get a book or treat. Everybody had fun."

Jolibois appreciates the professional development opportunities presented through her work.

"Just the other day we took an archery clinic in Beauval. They certified me to be an archery coach and deliver archery programs," Jolibois said. "This is mandatory training that everyone has to attend. It's beneficial because it enables us to help youth develop their skills, and at the same time instructors are learning some new skills as well."



CSRC Sandra Jolibois hosts weekly ball hockey games for children in La Loche.



Give Kids a Chance Charity Inc.

Removing barriers to help children participate in sport, culture and recreation.

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