Annual Report

2024 - 2025

SPARK
FOUNDATION OF LLOYDMINSTER

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About the Organization

Our Story

The idea of a home for women in crisis in Lloydminster was a vision that took root in 1979 with Dolores Cummine, Marge Nattress, and other concerned members of the community. Originally known as the Lloydminster Interval Home Society, this organization has grown into what we see today through countless volunteer hours, community generosity, and determination in the face of countless obstacles. Debuting with a new name in 2024, SPARK Foundation of Lloydminster has remained steadfast in it's mission to serve our community.

SPARK Foundation is an ever-evolving and multi-faceted organization, providing vulnerable individuals in the communities we serve with opportunities to access safety, support, and education, empowering lifetimes of safe connections and well-being.

Residential Programming

With the operation of the Emergency Crisis Shelter and Transitional Housing, we are able to provide women and children fleeing domestic violence with a safe place to stay, emotional support, family planning, and access to basic necessities such as clothing, food, and toiletries.

Social Enterprise

Our thrift store, 'For the Interval' Store, had some major updates and rebranding in 2025; it has been renamed to **Brass & Thread Thrift Co.** Though the name is new, the vision and mission remain the same! We provide clothing and a wide variety of household goods to women, children and community members in need. Brass & Thread Thrift Co. is a significant financial revenue stream aimed at supporting our programming that is not government funded.

Lloydminster Community Youth Centre

Young people in our community can find refuge and access to support via the Lloydminster Community Youth Centre, a recreation based drop-in centre. The Centre provides youth with a welcoming environment, after-school pickups, hot meals, safe rides home, and programming to support healthy growth and development.

Community Programs

Our Community Outreach Centre aims to provide educational opportunities such as Self - Empowerment, Family Violence Outreach, Strength to Change and Supports for Older Adults. These programs are intended for individuals outside of the shelter and transitional facilities that are in need of additional support.

Message from the Board Chair: *Janey Decker*

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my honour to welcome you to the 2025 Annual General Meeting of SPARK Foundation of Lloydminster.

This year feels especially significant, as we not only gather to celebrate our progress and prepare for the year ahead, but also to embrace the new identity. The name **SPARK** reflects our desire to ignite something new! With this new name comes renewed energy and focus. One of the most visible transformations has been at our store, now proudly called **Brass and Thread Thrift Co.** This change is more than cosmetic—it represents innovation, resilience, and a fresh chapter in how we connect with the community, create opportunities, and build long-term sustainability.

The past year has tested us in many ways. To continue delivering essential services —safe shelter and housing, youth drop-in programs, community outreach, education, and social enterprise—the Board made the decision to approve a deficit budget. We asked management to sharpen priorities and expanded our advocacy with government to secure critical financial support. While there is still work to be done, we stand shoulder to shoulder with other shelters in Alberta and Saskatchewan, determined to make our collective voice heard.

I want to sincerely thank our management and staff for their unwavering commitment, their creativity, and their drive to move SPARK forward. Your efforts, especially in growing social enterprise and volunteer engagement, are laying the foundation for a brighter, more sustainable future. To my fellow Board members, thank you for offering your time, wisdom, and leadership—we are stronger because of your guidance. And as always, we invite new members to join us, particularly those with expertise in advocacy, legal affairs, or other areas that will strengthen our impact.

To our donors—you are the fuel behind the SPARK. Your generosity reduced last year's deficit and ensured that our programs continued with minimal disruption. The launch of Brass and Thread Thrift Co. and the success of our services would not have been possible without your belief in us.

Together, we are not just maintaining services—we are building something new, bold, and lasting. SPARK is more than a name; it's a promise to light the way forward for our community. **Thank you.**
Sincerely,

Janey Decker
Board Chair

Message from the CEO: *Angela Rooks-Trotzuk*

Today is a chance to reflect on the past year—on our challenges, our achievements, and the remarkable people who make our work possible. It is also a moment to celebrate the strength of our community: our staff, our volunteers, our donors, and most importantly, the clients who inspire us every single day. Together, we continue to move forward with hope, determination, and a shared commitment to building a safer, more inclusive future.

Our first big highlight is, following the successful rebranding of the Lloydminster Interval Home Society to SPARK Foundation of Lloydminster, we were excited to take the next step in our journey: the rebranding of “For the Interval” Store to Brass & Thread Thrift Co. While the name has changed, the heart of the store remains the same. We are keeping the spirit and purpose of “For the Interval” Store — supporting our mission and serving our community — while widening our reach and strengthening our connection to those we serve. Brass & Thread Thrift Co. reflects both resilience and creativity, and we are eager to see how this new chapter will continue to inspire and support our community.

Another highlight was the continued growth of our Volunteer Impact Program. We saw an incredible increase not only the hours contributed, but the relationships built with the business community who chose to share their teams’ talents with us. Quite simply, we could not provide the essential services we do without volunteers, and we are so grateful for their generosity and time.

I want to take a moment to thank our incredible staff. They are the ones who bring our strategy to life each day, turning vision into action and ensuring that our mission has a real and lasting impact. Their tireless work on the front lines, always for the good of our community, is the reason we can serve those who need us most. I am deeply proud of the professionalism, dedication, and compassion they bring to their work, and I am grateful for the meaningful difference they make in the lives of others.

I also want to extend my deepest thanks to our funders and donors. Your continued generosity, loyalty, compassion, and care for our community are remarkable. Because of your support, we can provide vital programs and services that change lives and build hope. Your commitment not only sustains our work but also inspires us to keep striving for a safer, stronger, and more inclusive community.

As I reflect on this past year, I am truly inspired to continue working hard, even in the face of the inevitable obstacles that come our way. It is our clients—their courage, resilience, and hope—that inspire us to do the hard work of helping, day after day. Their strength reminds us why we are here and fuels our commitment to building a future filled with safety, dignity, and possibility for all.

Angela Rooks-Trotzuk
CEO

Mission, Vision, & Values

Mission

WHAT WE DO

SPARK empowers lives through safety, support, and education - building stronger, more connected communities.

Purpose

WHY WE DO IT

SPARK believes that all individuals deserve the opportunity to grow to their full potential in an abuse-free society.

Vision

WHERE WE WANT TO GO

SPARK strives for a community where safe connections foster lasting well-being for all.

Values

Our values are the core beliefs that guide how we work with clients and volunteers, how we interact as staff and board members, and how we engage in the community.

- **RESPECT**
  Treating people in a positive and dignified manner.
- **INTEGRITY**
  The quality of being honest and having a strong moral principle.
- **COMPASSION**
  The ability to show kindness and willingness to help.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**
  Taking responsibility and being authentic in your actions.
- **TRAILBLAZING**
  Surrounding our organization with people and resources that enhance and help us beyond our own strengths ... making the impossible possible.

Strategic Objectives

SPARK's **Strategic Objectives** are the **goals we are striving to achieve to move us towards our Vision during the term of this strategic plan.** They were developed through an informed and consultative approach, following an external organizational review, employee and board of directors' surveys and strategic planning workshops.

#1 Foster a workplace culture that strengthens the resiliency of employees, inspires individual growth and unites our teams to our common purpose.

#2 Magnify board member engagement and impact through strong governance systems.

#3 Become a leading voice in advocating for support services for women, youth, and children.

#4 Develop & nurture community relationships and strategic partnerships.

#5 Strengthen connected pathways of care that adapt to meet individual client needs respectfully and with compassion.

#6 Clients are safe and secure in SPARK facilities and programs.

#7 Enhance financial and operational stability.

Strategic Pillars

This plan includes four priorities essential to achieving our Strategic Objectives. These priorities build upon the great work our team has done to date and were selected to provide focus and align efforts to our goals. Each year, a number of Strategic Projects will be selected and implemented to advance the priorities of each Strategic Pillar.

Leading With Heart & Purpose

Our people are the heart of SPARK's mission. We are committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable workplace culture grounded in compassion, respect, and integrity — where each team member feels supported, valued and empowered.

By investing in professional development, strengthening organizational competencies, and prioritizing employee retention and engagement, we will ensure SPARK Remains resilient and futre-ready.

Connected Pathways of Care

To further enhance the well-being of those we serve, we will continue to expand and deepen our network of community partners. By working collaboratively with institutions, agencies, and individuals, we will create comprehensive care pathways that meet the unique needs of each person we serve.

This relationship-based approach provides our clients with holistic support and empowers them to overcome challenges to achieve lasting well-being.

Voices That Move Change

Each day we advocate for the individuals we serve but to create systemic change, we will amplify their voices further. Through intentional advocacy, public education and collaboration with policymakers and community leaders, we will elevate awareness, shift public perception and drive meaningful action.

By speaking up, our efforts will strengthen support networks, enhance access to critical resources and build more just and compassionate communities.

Resilient Funding For Long-Term Impact

Swings in funding, unexpected events and unplanned expenses are no longer rare occurrences, with funding uncertainty becoming the norm.

We will continue to seek financial stability through social enterprise, donor development, partnerships and other long-term funding strategies to safeguard the sustainability of our current work and boldly build toward the future.

Residential Programs

Lloydminster Interval Home - Emergency Shelter

The Lloydminster Interval Home continues to be a warm and supportive “home” environment, offering secure, temporary housing when home is no longer a safe option. Residents are provided with safety, support, information, and referrals that empower them to improve their overall wellbeing.

Through ongoing case management, residents work with staff to identify needs, create action plans, and set achievable goals. Our Family Support Program further addresses the unique needs of families by building on their strengths and nurturing the bond between mothers and their children, helping them move forward together.

This past year brought its share of challenges and growth. Our staff worked tirelessly to keep services accessible and effective, while ensuring the shelter remained a safe and welcoming place.

Shelter Services Provided:
211 women and 198 children

24/7 Crisis Line Calls:
2,451 calls received

Capacity Limitations:
1,465 women and 1,404 children turned away due to limitations

This represents an increase from previous years and highlights the growing demand for shelter services.

We also witnessed many individual moments of resilience. One mother, at first hesitant about her child joining programming, accepted gentle encouragement to try. Her non-verbal child quickly lit up during one-on-one time with staff, and she could see how much he benefited. This story shows the impact of providing families with a safe and supportive place to play, grow, and express themselves.

As we reflect on the past year of resilience and growth, we remain motivated and hopeful for the future. The increasing demand for shelter emphasizes the importance of our services, and we continue to respond with compassion, innovation, and strength.

Dol-Mar Manor - Second Stage Housing

Our Transitional Housing Program at Dol-Mar Manor continues to provide a safe and stable home for women and children. With five independent units, we supported four women and four children/youth this year, giving them the security and space to focus on their personal goals. Through programming and long-term support, residents are building confidence, independence, and parenting skills.

One mother arrived with her two children after leaving a violent situation, seeking safety above all else. At first, her focus was finding a secure place for her family. Over time, with the support of staff and the stability of her new environment, she began to rebuild her confidence. She is now strengthening her parenting, developing life skills, and creating a more hopeful future for herself and her children. Her journey reflects the importance of safe housing and the supportive programs that help families move forward.

Thanks to a generous grant from RONA, we also completed major renovations to the units. New flooring and fresh paint have brightened the building, while upgraded bathroom features and the addition of Indigenous artwork are creating a more welcoming and culturally meaningful space.

In addition, we dedicated time to updating programming and forms, reviewing and strengthening our systems so we can better support residents in their journey toward a life free from violence. We look forward to the year ahead as these changes take root, allowing us to continue offering meaningful support to the women and children at Dol-Mar Manor.

Community Programs

2024-2025 has been a full and rewarding year for the Community Programs Department. Led by our Director and Team Lead, our Community Program staff have worked very hard to provide a wide range of engaging programs and supportive services to individuals connecting with us through LCYC, the Community Outreach Center and our community programming sessions.

LCYC

At the **Lloydminster Community Youth Center**, we offer a safe place for youth where they can develop strong relationships, build protective factors and receive social and emotional supports outside of school and family connections.

- **203 Days Open**
- **151 Members**
- **5,922 Youth Visits**
- **4,819 Hot Meals**
- **1,198 Meals Sent Home**

Youth Outreach Program

There's always something great happening at the Youth Centre! This year, we had 40 youth participating in the Youth Volunteer Program.

- **45 Educational Activities Delivered.** Topics: healthy relationships, tobacco reduction, alcohol awareness, and education/career development support.
- **33 Outreach Visits to Lloydminster Schools**

Youth Mental Health Navigator

This program, designed to provide one-on-one supports to youth looking to connect with additional community services, completed the second year of funding from Cenovus. Our Youth Support Worker supported 27 youth with goal setting, accountability and referrals.

SPARK Family Violence Outreach

This program empowers women impacted by relationship violence to recognize their strengths, realize their goals and to move forward from the experience of harm and towards more safety and wellbeing. Over the past year, our Outreach Workers have worked with 103 women, providing emotional support, safety planning, DV information, advocacy and supported referrals to a wide range of community supports and services.

Supports For Older Adults

We were very happy to receive continued funding for the Supports for Older Adults Program which provides specialized services to older adults who experience harm and abuse in a trusting relationship. The program supported 3 individuals, contributed to community coordination through the LEAP Committee and provided educational presentations to community members and other organisations serving older adults.

Group Sessions

We currently offer two group programs for community members who are seeking support with the experience of domestic violence. Our **Self-Empowerment for Women Program** had a great turnout with 56 women participating in the group sessions this past year. The ten-week and 6-week programs support women to strengthen their resiliency and to make positive changes in their lives through information, self-reflection, group activities and the application of new thinking and healthy strategies. While their journeys are each unique, women who have completed the program consistently reported having more understanding about interpersonal violence, feeling strengthened emotionally/mentally and having an increased ability to recognize and implement positive strategies.

The **Strength to Change Men's Program** had 9 participants in the 2024-25 year. This program is vital in supporting men who use abusive behaviors in relationships to change their thinking and behavior to an abuse-free approach. Within a respectful, supportive environment, participants explore and learn healthy relationship skills that support an abuse-free lifestyle. It truly does take courage and strength to change! Many of the individuals who complete the 16 program sessions identify that they not only have more knowledge about intimate partner violence and healthy relationship skills, but they often see themselves as making positive changes and being more aware of how their thinking and behavior affects themselves and others. Neil and Laurie Harris retired from facilitating Strength to Change after the fall session, and two new facilitators revised the program during the winter. We look forward to offering the updated program in the coming year.

2024 - 2025 Social Enterprise

Milestones & Memories

As we close in on the end of 2025, now is the time to reflect on the last two incredible years at **Brass & Thread Thrift Co.** — a thrift store where every purchase has a purpose, powered by community and driven by heart.

Our shelves have held more than just second-hand treasures—they've carried stories, sparked connections, and supported the mission of SPARK Foundation in Lloydminster.

From welcoming new staff, customers, donors, & volunteers to expanding our impact across the community, Brass & Thread has grown into more than a store—it's become a hub of giving, sustainability, and local pride. Here's a look back at the milestones, memories, and moments that made 2024 and 2025 truly special

Summer 2024

The consolidation of "For the Interval" Store and the Impact Depot began. During the consolidation walls were torn down and new ones constructed, and many sales took place to help manage the donations that were held at the Impact Depot location. While the store was able to stay open during most of the transition, the Impact Depot was closed to the public on September 13th and only one week later we reopened with all operations now under one roof at "For the Interval" Store, but the work didn't stop there.

Spring 2025

On **May 30 of 2025, we announced our new store name Brass & Thread Thrift Co.** as part of our first annual Spring community market, featuring local vendors and entertainment. It was a day of fun, food and excitement and plans are already underway to make next years event even better!

Summer 2025

We also launched a local **furniture pick up** program. This service gives donors the ability to donate large items they may not have the means to bring to the store themselves. We have already been able to do **25 pickups in just the first 3 months!**

Gift Card Program

Our gift card program has allowed our clients and community members in need to shop with us confidentially and to choose whichever items they need most, including furniture. Gift cards are used support many community agencies as well as all our internal programs; **over 600 gift cards were used to support programing, totaling more than $20,000!**

Volunteer Impact Program 2024 - 2025

We want to recognize and thank all of our wonderful and generous volunteers! Their support has "enhanced and helped us beyond our own strengths ... making the impossible possible!"

2024-2025 has been a year of growth and successes for SPARK's Volunteer Impact Program with volunteers continuing to be a vital part of our organization! Their contributions of time, treasures and talent have helped SPARK to support women, children and youth in need. From the consolidation process of Impact Depot to our newly established monthly Sunday Volunteer Opportunities, volunteers have been integral to reaching our goals and making good things happen.

Our Volunteer Impact program was supported by over 113 individual volunteers who came in to do their part, 62 of which were new volunteers to SPARK. Along with these individuals, various groups of volunteers have been instrumental in contributing to a range of activities such as daily operations and seasonal changeovers at Brass & Thread as well as making meals for the youth at LCYC.

These groups include **Timber Café, Cenovus Cares, Bea Fisher Centre, Lloydminster Youth Council, Lloydminster Kinettes, and more!**

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

Marg G. is one of our all-stars at Brass & Thread. She's willing to take on any task, learn something new if it's needed, and will never let the chance to help pass by. She has consistently come in 3 times per week since January 2024, leading her to accumulate a hefty 484 hours between April 1, 2024 & March 31, 2025.

In December, Pat R., another all-star and our toys & games expert at Brass & Thread, hit a major milestone in her volunteer career with SPARK. She is currently our most tenured volunteer and celebrated her 15-year Volunteer Anniversary with us this past winter! We are forever grateful for the fun; compassionate energy she brings any time that she is in! We couldn't imagine Brass & Thread without her!

Thank you all so very much!

If you'd like to learn more about how you can contribute and get involved in the great work SPARK leads in our community, please visit our website: **SPARKLLOYDMINSTER.CA**

You Can Donate Today!

Donating to SPARK Foundation of Lloydminster directly supports women, children, and youth in crisis.

Your contributions ensure essential programs and services continue providing safety, support, and hope. Every dollar helps rebuild lives and strengthens our community.

Become a part of sparking positive change and fostering a brighter future.

CONTACT US

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Thank You!
To Our Funders & Donors

We want to extend our deepest gratitude

to the many individuals, community members, and local businesses who have supported SPARK Foundation of Lloydminster this year. Your generosity, whether through donations, time, resources, or encouragement, has made it possible for us to continue our work in igniting positive change in our community. Every contribution helps us provide programs and support that truly make a difference.

It is because of your kindness, commitment, and belief in our mission that we are able to move forward with strength and purpose. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for standing with us.

Alberta Provincial Family Resource Networks

Alberta Government

Government of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan

Rotary International

Autumn Leaves Charity Open

The Home Depot Canada Foundation

Community Initiatives Fund
Connect • Engage • Thrive

Sask Lotteries

ATB

FCSS Lloydminster
Family and Community Support Services

HOG

RONA Foundation

Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health

Notes

SPARK

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