

SPARK FOUNDATION OF LLOYDMINSTER

ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	About Us
4	Messages from the Board & CEO
6	Mission, Vision & Values
7	Strategic Objectives & Pillars
9	Program Outcomes 2025-2026
14	Volunteer Impact
15	Thank You
16	Ignite Positive Change



ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Our Story | SPARK Foundation of Lloydminster

Originally known as the Lloydminster Interval Home Society, what started as an idea to create refuge for women and children in crisis has grown into the organization we see today. Through countless volunteer hours, tremendous staff commitment, and sincere community generosity, SPARK Foundation of Lloydminster has remained steadfast in its mission to serve our community.

SPARK Foundation is an ever-evolving, multifaceted organization that provides vulnerable individuals in the communities we serve with opportunities to access safety, support, and education, empowering safe connections and well-being for lifetimes.

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, **Brass & Thread Thrift Co.**, provides 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 programs aim 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 pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Annual General Meeting of SPARK Foundation of Lloydminster.

This year has been one of resilience, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to our mission of supporting individuals and families in our community when they need it most. Over the past year, we have continued to strengthen our identity as SPARK Foundation. What began as a rebranding initiative has evolved into a renewed sense of purpose and momentum.

Most importantly, throughout a challenging funding environment, we remained focused on our highest priority: ensuring that beds remained open at the Emergency Women's Shelter for those seeking safety and support. The women and children who rely on our services are at the heart of everything we do, and we are proud that, despite ongoing pressures, we have continued to provide this critical service to our community.

Fundraising continues to be a vital component of our sustainability, and I am pleased to recognize the success of several key initiatives this year. Our 2025 Brass & Thread Market was a tremendous success, bringing together vendors, shoppers, volunteers, and community supporters in a meaningful way. Likewise, our Chef's Got Your Back fundraiser once again demonstrated the generosity of our community while raising important funds to support our programs and services. These successes are encouraging, but they also remind us of the importance of continuing to explore new and creative ways to generate revenue and strengthen our long-term sustainability. As demand for our services continues and funding pressures remain, we must remain innovative and open to new opportunities that will help secure the future of our organization and the essential services we provide.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our management team and staff. Your dedication, compassion, and resilience continue to inspire us. Your commitment to those we serve, combined with your willingness to embrace change and pursue new opportunities, has been instrumental in our success this year. I also want to thank our volunteers, whose generosity of time and talent strengthens every aspect of our organization. Whether supporting our events, assisting at Brass & Thread Thrift Co., or contributing in countless other ways, your impact is immeasurable.

To my fellow Board members, thank you for your leadership, guidance, and commitment throughout the year. Your thoughtful governance helps ensure the Foundation remains strong, accountable, and focused on its mission. To our donors, sponsors, and community supporters, thank you for believing in our work. Your generosity makes it possible for us to keep vital services available, invest in new opportunities, and respond to the evolving needs of our community.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our sustainability, expanding volunteer engagement, growing community partnerships, and finding innovative ways to raise funds. Together, we are building a stronger organization and ensuring that women, children, and families in need continue to receive the support, safety, and hope they deserve.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of SPARK Foundation's journey.

Janey Decker
Board Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO | *ANGELA ROOKS-TROTZUK*

This past year has once again reminded us of both the profound challenges faced by individuals experiencing domestic violence and the extraordinary strength they carry within them.

Across our community, we have seen a continued rise in incidents of domestic violence. Behind these statistics are real people who are facing real fear and uncertainty. But, alongside these realities, we also see courage. We see survivors who choose to reach out and seek support on their journey toward safety and healing.

Our clients are the heart of our work. Whether they are taking the first step toward safety, rebuilding after a crisis, or rediscovering their autonomy, their journeys reflect immense strength. It is a privilege to walk alongside them as they reclaim their lives and hope for the future.

I recognize that this journey is not one we walk in isolation. I am deeply grateful to our dedicated staff, whose compassion and professionalism ensure that every person who comes through our doors is met with respect and care. Our volunteers generously give their time and energy, strengthening our ability to respond when it matters most. Our Board of Directors provides steady leadership and governance, guiding our organization with integrity and vision. And to our donors and community partners, whose generosity makes this important work possible. You are an essential part of every life we are able to support.

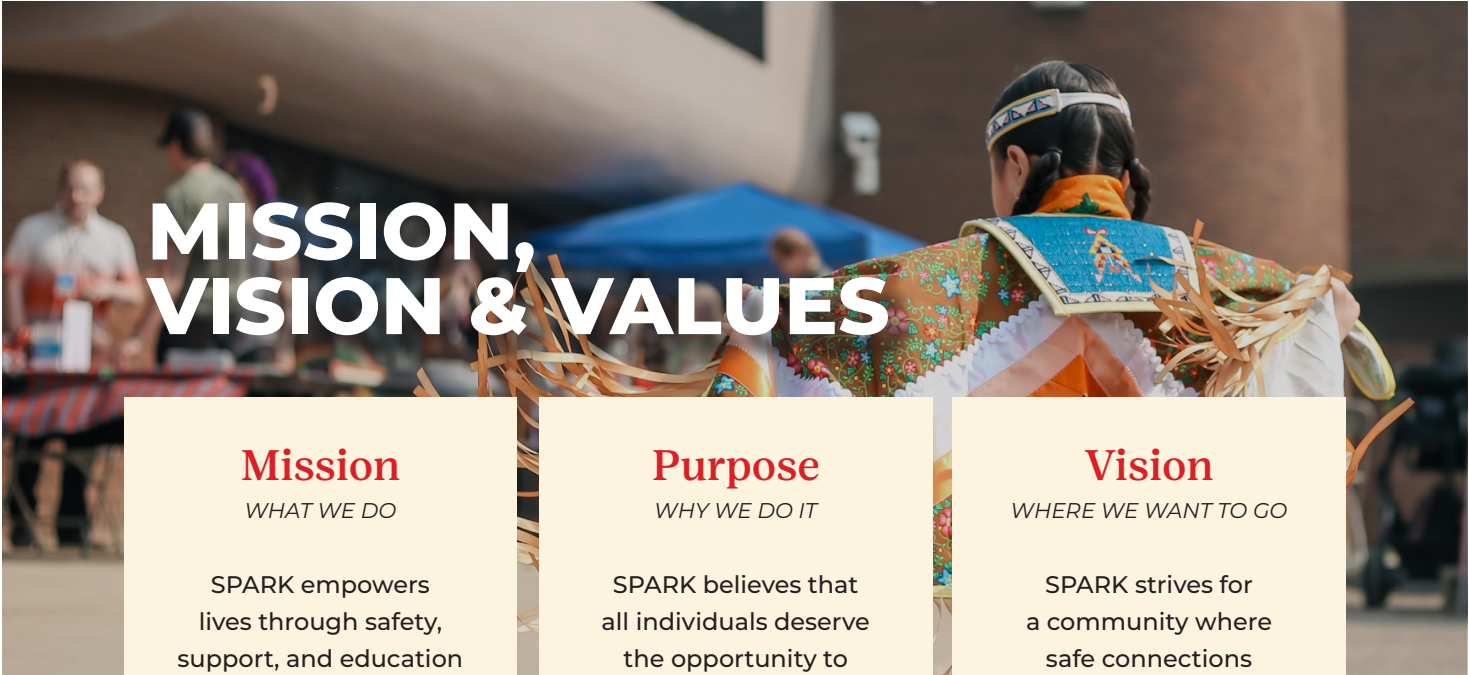
Together, we are building a safer, more responsive community where individuals experiencing violence are seen, heard, and supported. While the need continues to grow, so does our commitment to prevention, education, and responsive care.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our mission. We will continue to listen, to learn, and to adapt so we can meet emerging needs while advocating for lasting change. Most importantly, we will continue to centre the voices, strengths, and experiences of those we serve.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for your commitment to igniting positive change in our community.

With gratitude,

Angela Rooks-Trotzук
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 future-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

This year, the Emergency Shelter program continued to provide safe shelter, crisis support, and advocacy to women and children experiencing violence and other life crises.

Over the reporting period, we served a total of 427 clients, including 236 women and 191 children.

In addition, staff responded to **2,045 crisis calls** and **1,239 admission requests**. Although demand for emergency shelter services in our community remains high, **our turn-away numbers were lower this year compared to previous years**, with a total of 872 turn-aways recorded.

This reduction was largely due to operational improvements within the shelter. **For most of the year, all 12 shelter rooms remained open and fully operational**, allowing us to support more women and children in need of emergency shelter. Increased staffing capacity also allowed the program to safely accommodate a higher number of clients and provide enhanced support throughout their stay.

During the year, the shelter experienced a flood that impacted the upstairs dorm area. While challenging, this situation provided an opportunity to renovate and improve the space. **The updated dorm area now offers a brighter, warmer, and more welcoming environment for clients.**

To further support both staff safety and quality client care, double staffing was implemented on overnight shifts. This change has **improved staff support, increased responsiveness during crises, and enhanced the overall safety and wellbeing** of the shelter environment.

Recognizing the increasing barriers clients face in securing safe and affordable housing, the shelter **extended the standard length of stay from 21 days to 30 days, with the possibility of extensions when appropriate**. This change has provided clients with additional time to stabilize, access supports, and work toward securing safe housing options.

As we reflect on the past year, it has been a year of growth, change, and overall success within our operations. Through ongoing improvements to our programs and shelter environment, we have continued to strengthen the supports provided to women and children accessing our services.

Clients have expressed feeling cared for, supported, and safe while staying at the shelter. Staff have worked hard to create a welcoming, trauma-informed environment where clients feel respected and heard during some of the most difficult times in their lives.

The dedication, compassion, and adaptability of our team have played a significant role in the successes of this past year. Despite challenges, the program continued to evolve in ways that enhanced both client care and overall shelter operations.





RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS:

Dol-Mar Manor - Second Stage Housing

Our Transitional Housing Program at Dol-Mar Manor continues to be a vital source of safety, stability, and healing for women and children transitioning toward independence. Operating with five independent living units, the program **supported 9 women and 9 children/youth** this past year, providing families with the secure foundation and supportive environment needed to focus on healing, personal growth, and long-term stability.

This past year has been one of significant growth, development, and collaboration for the program. **We completely revamped our Life Skills programming** to better meet the evolving needs of participants and, in an exciting expansion, opened these programming opportunities to women staying within our Emergency Shelter Program.

By combining programming opportunities across all Residential Programs participants were able to access additional supports, maintain relationships with shelter staff and peers, and experience a more seamless continuum of care as they transitioned through services. This **increased connection between programs has fostered stronger engagement, greater peer support, and improved continuity** for women and children accessing our services.

To support this growth and expansion, **two new staff members joined the team**, bringing the program close to full staffing capacity. This additional support has allowed us to invest more deeply in program development, including **updating operational forms and policies, enhancing trauma informed practices, and implementing new programming opportunities** designed to increase engagement, connection, and independence for residents.

Through ongoing programming and long-term support, **residents continue to build confidence, strengthen parenting skills, and work toward self-sufficiency in a safe and empowering environment.**

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud of the continued growth of the program and the resilience demonstrated by the families we serve. **The dedication and compassion of staff remain at the heart of creating a welcoming, respectful, and empowering space where women and children feel supported** as they move forward on their journey toward independence.





COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

LCYC

Every young person deserves a place where they feel safe, seen, and supported. **At Lloydminster Community Youth Centre**, that sense of belonging is built every day through welcoming spaces, trusted relationships, and consistent care. More than a building, LCYC is a community where youth can connect, grow in confidence, and access social and emotional support beyond school and home. It is a place where young people are reminded—through every conversation, meal, and visit—that they do not have to face life's challenges alone.

This year's numbers tell the story of that impact clearly. **Over 198 days open, 143 members found their way through LCYC's doors, leading to 5,226 youth visits. Along the way, 4,286 hot meals were shared, 1,273 meals were sent home, and 4,789 virtual connections ensured support reached youth wherever they were.**

Together, these numbers reflect something deeply important: LCYC continues to be a vital part of our community, offering hope, stability, and a sense of value to vulnerable young people.

Youth Outreach Program

The Youth Outreach Program meets young people where they are—at school, in community spaces, and online. It brings **practical and emotional support to young people who may not otherwise access the Lloydminster Community Youth Centre.**

Through safety planning, basic needs support, education, referrals, and one-on-one guidance, youth build resilience, confidence, and stronger support networks as they move toward adulthood.

This year, the team made 32 school outreach visits, connected with 993 youth, and delivered 54 educational activities on healthy relationships, substance use awareness, and career development. Another 43 youth stepped into the Youth Volunteer Program, building leadership skills and stronger ties to the community.

Youth Mental Health Navigator

Behind every referral, conversation, and step forward is a young person seeking safety, connection, and hope. In our community, there are youth who are navigating anxiety or depression, struggling to build healthy peer relationships, lacking a trusted adult for guidance, or feeling uncertain about their future. **The Youth Mental Health Navigator program meets youth in that space with individualized support that helps them feel understood, supported, and less alone.**

Built on trust, rapport, and genuine care, **the program provides mental health information, advocacy, safety planning, emotional support, and connections to community resources.** Youth are supported in identifying their strengths, setting goals, and building the confidence and skills needed to protect their well-being and move toward a healthier, more hopeful future.

Through one-on-one support, safety planning, advocacy, goal setting, and supported referrals, youth are encouraged to take positive action for themselves while strengthening the network of support around them. **This year, our Youth Support Worker walked alongside 27 youth, helping them access the support, stability, and opportunities they needed most.**





COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Supports For Older Adult

The Supports for Older Adults program provides compassionate support for older adults experiencing elder abuse. Over the past year, **the program provided one-to-one outreach support to 4 individuals**, offered crisis support by phone, collaborated with community partners through the Lloydminster Elder Abuse Prevention Committee (LEAP), and raised awareness through elder abuse presentations and community events.

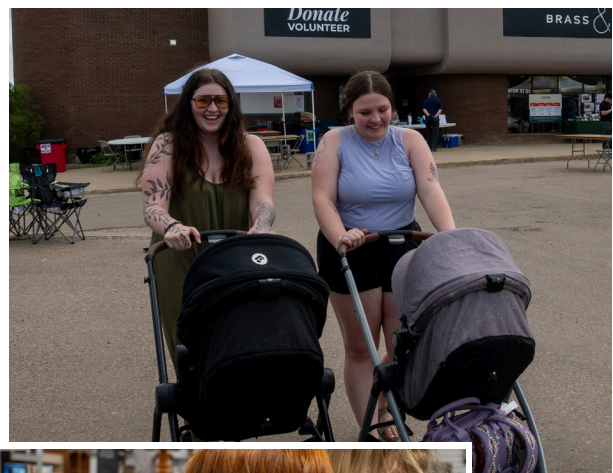
Group Sessions

The Self Empowerment for Women program provides a welcoming and **supportive space where women can build confidence, recognize their strengths, and explore healthy choices rooted in safety, respect, and equality**. This past year, **61 women participated** in the program's ten week and six week group sessions. Participants shared that they gained a deeper understanding of interpersonal violence, felt stronger emotionally and mentally, and developed greater confidence in using positive strategies in their lives.

The Strength to Change Men's program provides men with the opportunity to **reflect on their past behavior and work toward healthier, abuse-free relationships**. During the 2025–26 year, **6 participants took part** in the 16-session program. In a respectful and supportive group setting, participants-built skills that promote accountability, awareness, and positive change. Participants shared that they gained a stronger understanding of healthy relationships and greater insight into how their thoughts and actions affect themselves and others.

SPARK Family Violence Outreach

The Family Violence Outreach program provides a compassionate point of **connection for women affected by relationship violence**. Women are met with understanding, practical assistance and emotional support. Over the past year, **outreach staff connected with 86 women offering safety planning, advocacy, and referrals** to a wide range of community programs and services. Clients shared that this support helped them build confidence and move towards safer futures for themselves and their families.





SOCIAL ENTERPRISE 2025-2026

As we reflect on the past year at Brass & Thread Thrift Co., we are reminded that **impact is not always measured by major events or visible changes.** Sometimes, the most important work happens behind the scenes. **This year was one of rebuilding, strengthening our foundation, and ensuring that we remain a sustainable resource for both our community and SPARK Foundation of Lloydminster for years to come.**

Throughout the year, Brass & Thread continued to fulfill its dual purpose: providing affordable goods to the community while generating support for SPARK Foundation programs and services. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the support of our customers, we were able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of many individuals and families throughout Lloydminster and surrounding area.

One of the most significant areas of focus this year was rebuilding and strengthening our team.

Like many organizations, we experienced staffing changes that required substantial effort in recruitment, onboarding, and training. While this presented challenges, it also provided an opportunity to invest in developing a knowledgeable and capable team. The dedication, flexibility, and hard work of our staff ensured that daily operations continued smoothly while laying the groundwork for future growth.

As donation volumes remained strong, our team worked diligently to balance donation acceptance, customer service, inventory processing, and daily store operations. Managing the increasing volume of incoming goods continues to be one of our greatest operational challenges. Despite these pressures, our staff remained committed to ensuring donations were accepted, processed, and made available to shoppers in a timely manner.

The environmental impact of this work should not be overlooked. Through the generosity of our local partners and the efforts of our team, **multiple tonnes of clothing and textiles were diverted from the local landfill this year.** By giving usable items a second life, Brass & Thread continues to play an important role in promoting sustainability and reducing waste within our community.

Our furniture pickup program also continued to serve an important need by providing donors with a convenient way to contribute larger items that might otherwise be difficult to donate. This service has helped keep quality furniture and household goods in circulation while creating additional opportunities to support the work of SPARK Foundation of Lloydminster.

Perhaps the most meaningful measure of our impact can be seen through our gift card program. **Over the past year, more than 500 gift cards, valued at over \$17,500, were distributed** through SPARK programs and partnerships with local community agencies. **These gift cards provided individuals and families with access to clothing, furniture, household goods, and other essentials while allowing them the dignity and choice to select the items that best met their needs.** This program continues to be one of the most direct and meaningful ways that Brass & Thread supports vulnerable members of our community.

While much of this year's work focused on strengthening our operations, it also reinforced the important role Brass & Thread plays within Lloydminster. Every donation received, every item purchased, every volunteer hour contributed, and every gift card distributed represents a partnership between our store and the community we serve. Together, these efforts help create opportunities, reduce waste, provide essential support, and strengthen the programs delivered by SPARK Foundation.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on continuing to improve operational efficiency, increasing our capacity to process donations, supporting our staff and volunteers, and expanding the positive impact we can make in the community. The work completed this year has strengthened our foundation and positioned us for continued success in the years ahead.

On behalf of Brass & Thread Thrift Co., thank you to our donors, customers, volunteers, community partners, Board of Directors, and dedicated staff. Your support makes this work possible, and we look forward to building on this momentum together.

VOLUNTEER IMPACT 2025-2026

The Lifeblood of SPARK

Volunteers have been crucial to the success of our large-scale endeavors and continue to support our long-term sustainability! SPARK's Volunteer Impact Program (VIP) continues to grow and connect with those looking to make an impact for themselves and the lives of others.

Over the past year, our volunteer-base has continued a steady growth, and we are fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who give their time weekly at Brass & Thread Thrift Co.

Over 120 individuals volunteered their time within SPARK Foundation's various areas, including at Brass & Thread, LCYC, and the Emergency Shelter. **62 New Volunteers joined VIP throughout the year**, and this doesn't account for the groups that have brought in a variety of new faces to support our mission and values.

Timber Café, the 2SLGBTQIA+ Society of Lloydminster, Cenovus Cares, HUB International, Gold Horse Casino, MTM Energy, and many more clubs, groups, and businesses have supported every facet of the organization this year through donations of time, talent, and treasure!

In 2025, volunteers contributed a total of 5,132 hours within SPARK. Of those hours:

- 4,200 were at Brass & Thread,
- 745 were at LCYC, and
- 186 were elsewhere within the organization!

Volunteer Highlight

Our recently 5-year tenured volunteer, Janice, has supported Social Enterprise since 2020, at the height of the pandemic. Through consolidation of Impact Depot, to the rebrand and continued changes at Brass & Thread. She has continued to be a shining light; an ambassador for the Volunteer Impact Program, and we're always looking forward to hearing her stories of her adventures around the world yearly!

This March, Timber Café celebrated their 2-year volunteer anniversary at Brass & Thread.

As one of the first groups to join the Volunteer Impact Program in its current form, their continued support has set the standard for Group Volunteering with SPARK. We're grateful for the balance of professionalism and fun they bring each Volunteer Sunday we're lucky enough to have them!



We're always on the hunt

for more people wanting to build their skills, support the community at large, and join something fun and ever-changing! If you fit that description,

CALL or TEXT 306-307-8491

and join SPARK's Volunteer Impact Program!



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.





IGNITE POSITIVE CHANGE!

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.

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