

The LINK

July 2022



LINX AGM 2022

Thank you to everyone who attended LINX Annual General Meeting. We appreciate being able to celebrate how the last year has been for LINX. It also gave the membership a chance to elect the Board of Directors for the upcoming year.

The Board for 2022-2023

Ann Kurlovich - *Chairperson*
Nicole Murphy - *Vice-Chairperson*
Cortnee Brunet - *Treasurer*
Shannon Henry - *Secretary*
Cory Albert - *Client Rep*

We also had two members step down. Annis Mattiussi has been one of our parent reps on the Board for the last 6 years. She has always been willing to jump into whatever was needed of her, was our medical expert when we needed that kind of advice, and always was willing to share her fantastic perspective on whatever we were working on. I don't think any other Board member has ever played so many volunteer roles at LINX. Thank you for all you have done Annis!

Daniel Roberts has been our financial extraordinaire on the Board. He has supported the management to implement procedures making us much more transparent and accountable, assisted us in obtaining our new building, and has played various roles on the Board with the last few years being Chairperson. We so appreciate everything you have done for us Daniel. Don't go too far... we still have plans for you!

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Dates to remember:

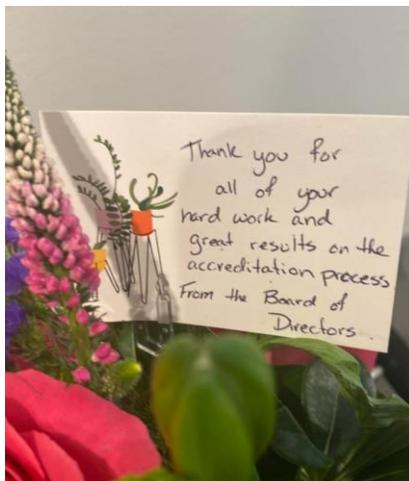


Board Members

Ann Kurlovich – Chairperson
Nicole Murphy – Vice-Chairperson
Cortnee Brunet – Treasurer
Shannon Henry – Secretary
Cory Albert – Client Rep

LINX Bottle Pick-Up

Give us a call, and we will pick up your bottles and give you a charitable tax receipt for your donation!



You can now safely donate to LINX online at www.linx.ngo

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Executive Director Report

In 1999, Creating Excellence Together (CET) became the new way that agencies were evaluated for accreditation. Then we were Leduc Works, and we became the first agency in Alberta to receive 100% on their CET results. Since then, we have done very well, but recognize there are always new things to learn and improve on.

The results are in for LINX's 2022 CET accreditation. We could not be prouder to announce that we have again received 100% for CET, with all indicators of excellence being met for the first time since 1999!

It is important to recognize the hard work that our staff and management put in to LINX every day. They did not achieve these results through studying or preparing for CET specifically. In fact, there was none of that. They receive the highest score for excellence because that is what they do everyday. The next time you connect with a LINX staff, please thank them for all they do for the clients we care so much about.



Day Program Report

The Day Program has been running fully in person, face to face for a full year! This time last year I reported to you that our clients were starting to be called back to their placements and we had even obtained a couple new inclusive employers. This year I am thrilled to report that all but 2 inclusive employers from pre-COVID had clients return to their placements. Although we were disappointed to lose those 2, we have added 11 new inclusive employers to our list including Peavey Mart, Tim Hortons (3 locations!), From the Sole Quilting, Leduc Food Processing Plant, Leduc Arts Foundry, Renewed Resilience, Sticks and Stones Restaurant, The Hub, The Pet Hospital, Brightpath Daycare and Lifestyles Options! Many of these new placements are paid employment, and I am thrilled to report that all follow up clients who are wanting paid employment are currently working! Considering the current economic state of Alberta, and the uncertainty that many businesses have been facing – this is a huge win for the individuals we work with and the staff who work so hard to support them!

We have offered many new classes over the last year including Occupational Health & Safety, Human Resources Basics, Community Focus, Ownership and We are LINX, an opportunity for clients to build a video resource to welcome new individuals to LINX and share with the community who we are and what we do!

The Day Program is fully staffed with 8 Job Coaches, and 3 instructors! We have welcomed many new faces this year, all of whom have contributed to creating the strong team that we have!

The Day Program has also welcomed 3 new clients in the last year, and we have 5 additional referrals in the works! Although the CEIS grant was not extended, we did receive all 3 new clients through the grant program! As my second year in the Day Program Manager role comes to a close, I still feel incredibly lucky to work for this organization and with our individuals. Here's to many more years and growth in our forever home!

Residential Program Report

It is an exciting time for the residential program. During COVID we did not have a lot of interest in the youth program. We currently have 3 youth that are interested in having youth services for at least the summer hours and maybe more. The Residential Program staff also be very proud of their contributions to passing accreditation this year. It was a lot of work, but we were able to get what we needed in place. Thank you for all that you did.

I am excited that some of the Support Homes are planning activities to do this summer and inviting all the other Support Home Providers. It is nice to see the camaraderie amongst the providers. It was also nice to see that one of the new providers was welcomed in with an invitation to go to the rodeo with some of the providers that had been with us for a long time. Thank you for all the support you do for each other.



Through Our Eyes

*“Any cowboy can carry a tune. The trouble comes when he tries to unload it”
-Cowboy Saying*

Our class had the opportunity earlier this month to interview Trevor, Dave & Barb from the Blackgold Rodeo Committee; between the three of them, they have over 50 years of experience planning Rodeos.

Trevor Wallace is the president and Dave is general manager and Barb is the Committee liaison. Between the three of them, they work hard to bring excitement to every People to Leduc and surrounding area, the rodeo started in 1969 and to the present of 2022. This year is particularly challenging due to the lack of Volunteers since Covid. When everything was closed due to COVID, the BlackGold Rodeo Association was not able to put on their annual Rodeo or the Rodeo of Smiles.

Barb fondly recalled helping to organize the cattle drive when the rodeo brought in cattle from local ranchers. She shared to bring the cattle in for the day to start the Rodeo following KFC at the end of the cattle drive. After her first-time volunteering for the cattle drive, she thought to herself, “What an association, you get to ride your horse and get fed!” and she has been volunteering with the committee ever since. Trevor, on the other hand, simply responded to a newspaper article looking for volunteers for the rodeo. Trevor grew up around horses in a small town and participated in chuckwagon racing, before becoming involved in Ag Society at another small town. When he helped to organize his first rodeo, he helped with the cabaret as he had run bars in the past, and it seemed like a natural fit for him.

Their passion for their work shined through in everything they said. Interesting people and interesting opportunities at the heart of this Volunteer Association where they coordinate people and make sure that all the communities work together as one team. Brainstorming and coming up with ideas are at the forefront of these volunteer positions.

We asked what the most important part of planning the rodeo is, which we got told, “It depends who you ask”. Trevor mentioned things like making sure committees are talking and have the resources they need, applying for grants and fundraisers, gathering insurance, and getting the word out there while Dave talked about working with the city of Leduc, stating that they are easy to work with and that the rodeo wouldn’t happen without them.

On the day of the rodeo, these three are busy, make sure everything goes smoothly and running in top shape before the crowd comes in to watch, Barb is the behind the scenes glue that holds it all together after the committees have done their jobs of organizing, making sure that paperwork is right and the money going in and out is right, managing floats for the people who are selling different things - tickets, 50/50 etc.

That’s a Yeehaw from us for this month of June. If you, or anyone you know, might be a good fit for a Through Our Eyes Interview reach out to us!



Our “...of the month” club!

There are so many people who make our world a better place. So, we have decided they needed individual recognition. Please help us celebrate our Employer, Client, Day Staff, and Residential Staff of the Month. If you see someone in any of these categories that you would like to see recognized, please let us know!

Employer of the Month: Tim Hortons

This month we are celebrating a new inclusive employer – Tim Hortons! 3 Leduc/Nisku locations have hired LINX clients on! Come see us on 50th Street, Sparrow Crescent and on 19th Avenue in Nisku Industrial Park!



Client of the Month: Sandy Schram

- 🐾 What drew you to LINX originally?
My brother moved me here from Ontario.
- 🐾 What is your favourite LINX memory?
The move to the new building.
- 🐾 What three words describe LINX?
Safe. Social. Supportive.
- 🐾 What is your favourite part about working with LINX?
The mornings, seeing the staff and clients.
- 🐾 If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?
Spaghetti!
- 🐾 If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring?
Bathing suit. Towel. Word Search.
- 🐾 What did you want to be when you were growing up?
Nurse. I wanted to take care of people.
- 🐾 What is the one thing you can't live without?
Word Search.



Day Program Staff of the Month: Lee-Ann Baker

Andrea has been an exceptional addition to the LINX team! Her positive attitude and creativity is very refreshing! We appreciate all your work Andrea!

- 🐾 What drew you to LINX originally? I was looking for a change from my current career. I was familiar with LINX and the service they offered and thought it would be a very rewarding place to work.
- 🐾 What is your favourite LINX memory? I was given the opportunity to join the recreation team at Lifestyle Options. It was an amazing experience, and taught me a lot about compassion, respect, and patience. The most interesting part was hearing all the stories that the residents had to share from their younger years. It really opens your eyes and heart on how to precious life truly is.
- 🐾 What three words describe LINX? Rewarding. Inclusion. Advocating.
- 🐾 What is your favourite part about working with LINX? Being part of a team that supports clients in achieving success and reaching their goals through the Day Program.
- 🐾 If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be? Turkey Dinner, but only if it had Oma's pickled pumpkin and red cabbage as a side!
- 🐾 If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring? My family. My friends. Food.
- 🐾 What did you want to be when you were growing up? I always wanted to be a mom! Career wise I really wanted to be a labour and delivery nurse.
- 🐾 What is the one thing you can't live without? My loved ones!



Residential Program Staff of the Month: Autumn Lang

Autumn Lang, she has helped by doing so many extras during an extreme short term staff shortage. Extra hours, split shifts, and more. The clients have so many things to say about working with her such as she is a hard worker. I always enjoy reading an ISP by her as well.

- 🐾 What drew you to LINX originally? I have worked with people with disabilities in the past as a summer job during University and I enjoyed being able to help people and wanted to continue working in the field once I completed my degree.
- 🐾 What is your favourite LINX memory? When I was in high school I used to dance and was able to teach 5 and 6 year olds Ballet as a part time job.
- 🐾 What three words describe LINX? Inclusive. Empowering. Supportive.
- 🐾 What is your favourite part about working with LINX? My favourite part about working at LINX is being able to help the clients and make a difference in their lives everyday.
- 🐾 If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be? Fettucine Alfredo from Olive Garden!
- 🐾 If you were stuck on an island, what three things would you bring? Bathing suit. Sunscreen. Water.
- 🐾 What did you want to be when you were growing up? Most of the time I wanted to be a dance teacher or a hair stylist
- 🐾 What is the one thing you can't live without? Fuzzy blankets



LINX Employers

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- ☘ A&W Nisku
- ☘ Bone & Biscuit
- ☘ Boston Pizza
- ☘ Boys and Girls Club of Leduc
- ☘ Canadian Tire
- ☘ Century Mile Casino
- ☘ City of Leduc
- ☘ Connectivity
- ☘ Co-op Food
- ☘ Days Inn & Suites
- ☘ Daystar Church
- ☘ Dollarama
- ☘ Flaman
- ☘ From the Sole
- ☘ Gateway Family Church
- ☘ Jireh Centre
- ☘ Leduc Arts Foundry
- ☘ Leduc Estates School
- ☘ Leduc Fellowship Church
- ☘ Leduc Food Processing Plant
- ☘ Leduc Public Library
- ☘ Leduc Martial Arts Academy
- ☘ Leduc Representative
- ☘ Lifestyle Options
- ☘ The Lighthouse Cowork
- ☘ McDonalds Leduc
- ☘ Peavey Mart
- ☘ Petro Canada Nisku
- ☘ Planeview Place
- ☘ Renewed Resilience
- ☘ RiseUp Society
- ☘ Safeway
- ☘ Salvation Army
- ☘ Sobeyes Beaumont
- ☘ Sticks and Stones
- ☘ St. Paul's Anglican Church
- ☘ Staples
- ☘ Subway Leduc Common
- ☘ The Hub
- ☘ The Pet Hospital
- ☘ Tim Hortons
- ☘ Wal-Mart