

Heartland's Local Community Partners

REACHING OUR WORLD - Small Group Resource

At Heartland we believe that serving our local community is a great way to show people that Jesus loves them, and we are so thankful for them and the work that they do. As a church family, which includes our small group network, there are a number of ways we can support our local community partners together! Here is a list of our local community partners and some ideas for how we can serve, encourage and support them. Ask the Holy Spirit which of these partners He would like for you to serve and how you can be a blessing to them!

A Safe Place – Sherwood Park

A Safe Place is a women's shelter in Sherwood Park which is supported by the non-profit organization Strathcona Shelter Society Ltd. Their mission is to end domestic abuse and violence in the lives of women and their children and impacting public policy through education and awareness. <https://www.asafeplace.ca>

BGC – Strathcona County

BGC (formerly known as Boys & Girls Club) is devoted to serving children and youth throughout Strathcona County. Believing in the positive potential of every child, programs are designed to create a continuum of opportunities that build leadership and character in every child throughout every stage of their life. <https://www.scbgc.com>

Big Brothers Big Sisters

The Big Brothers Big Sisters community consists of a volunteer (mentor) being paired up with a child or youth (mentee) who commit to spending at least one hour a week together for building friendship based on trust, support, common interests and fun! <https://bbbsstrathcona.ca>

Bridging the Gap

This collaborative support program provides services to help people in crisis get back on their feet. This is a partnership of government, churches and non-profits coming together. <https://bridging-the-gap.ca>

Capital Care Strathcona

This facility provides long-term care for seniors. Heartland volunteers provide care and support to residents through visits, church services and prayer.

<https://heartlandalliancechurch.churchcenter.com/groups/connex-groups-a-step-into-community/serving-at-capitalcare-strathcona>

County Clothes-Line Foundation

County Clothes-Line Foundation operates a second-hand store that gives back to the community through grants from the store's profits. For clients referred from local agencies, the store items are available for free in times of an emergency.

<http://countyclothes-line.com>

Family & Community Services – Strathcona

Family and Community Services' goal is to help build a safe, supported and connected community that encourages the well-being of children, youth, adults, older adults and families. <https://www.strathcona.ca/council-county/administration/departments/family-and-community-services>

Heartland Housing Foundation

Heartland Housing Foundation is a not-for-profit housing management body that provides affordable housing for over 600 residents of Strathcona County and Fort Saskatchewan. They operate 11 affordable housing sites, including four seniors' lodges and six seniors-only affordable apartment buildings.

<https://www.heartlandhousing.ca>

N60 Ministries

Cole and Jessica Haaf began N60 Ministries because of their love for the people of the Northwest Territories. N60's mission is to show God's love and to spread the word of God to children, teens and young adults in the Northern Territories.

www.n60ministries.org

Palm Ministries

Palm Ministries is a group of people compelled by God's love to share His love by word and deed with our new neighbours in Canada.

<https://palmmin.weebly.com>

Parents Empowering Parents (PEP Society)

Parents Empowering Parents supports and educates families dealing with the effects of substance abuse in youth and adult children. <https://pepsociety.ca>

Pregnancy Care Centre

The Pregnancy Care Centre provides care and support for those facing an unexpected pregnancy. Services include pregnancy testing, parenting preparation, adoption support and post-abortion care.

<https://www.pregnancycarecentre.ca>

Robin Hood Association

The Robin Hood Association is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to providing high-quality and innovative services to children and adults with developmental disabilities in Sherwood Park and Fort Saskatchewan.

<https://www.robinhoodassoc.com>

Saffron Centre – Sexual Assault Centre

The Saffron Centre is a non-profit organization working to support the healing and empowerment of those who have been affected by sexual trauma and violence.

<https://www.saffroncentre.com>

Shiloh Youth Ranch

Shiloh Youth Ranch is a Christian organization that offers a summer camp program for children and youth ages 7-17 living in high-risk situations.

<https://www.shilohhope.com>

Volunteer Strathcona

Volunteer Strathcona connects volunteers with opportunities, enabling the development of local organizations to meet various social needs in our community.

<https://volunteerstrathcona.ca>

Ways to Serve, Encourage, and Support Our Local Community Partners

- Adopt a partner to pray for on a regular basis as a small group.
- Put together a Christmas care package for staff and volunteers as a way of showing appreciation.
- Do a fundraiser for special project they are highlighting. This could include bake sales, garage sales and more!
- Connect regularly with a contact working in a local partner for updates and encouragement.
- Someone in your group could serve as a champion for that local partner at Heartland.
- Volunteer as a board member or community advocate.
- Anything else you and your group might come up with! These are just some initial ideas!

Small Group Dialogue

- What injustices or needs in our region would you like to see changed, and why?
- In what ways have you connected with, stayed informed about, or served at local agencies in our region?
- How can we as a small group encourage each other in reaching our world for Christ locally?

Additional Leader Resources

- *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert
- Serving Together - Small Group Resource
- Prayer Pointers for Non-Believers - Small Group Resource