# community hubs initiative

WHERE COMMUNITY HAPPENS




Annual
**Impact Report**

Calgary | Rotary | United Way Calgary and Area

**The Community Hubs Initiative,** a partnership between The City of Calgary and United Way of Calgary and area, with Rotary Clubs of Calgary recognized as a founding partner, **demonstrates the impact that can be achieved when community organizations, residents and local leaders come together around a common goal—well-being.**



> The partnership between The City of Calgary and United Way of Calgary and Area demonstrates the power of working together to strengthen belonging, create opportunities and build resilient communities where everyone can thrive. We are making life better every day, for everyone, one connection at a time.
>
> — Eren Cervantes-Altamirano, Director, Community Strategies
> The City of Calgary



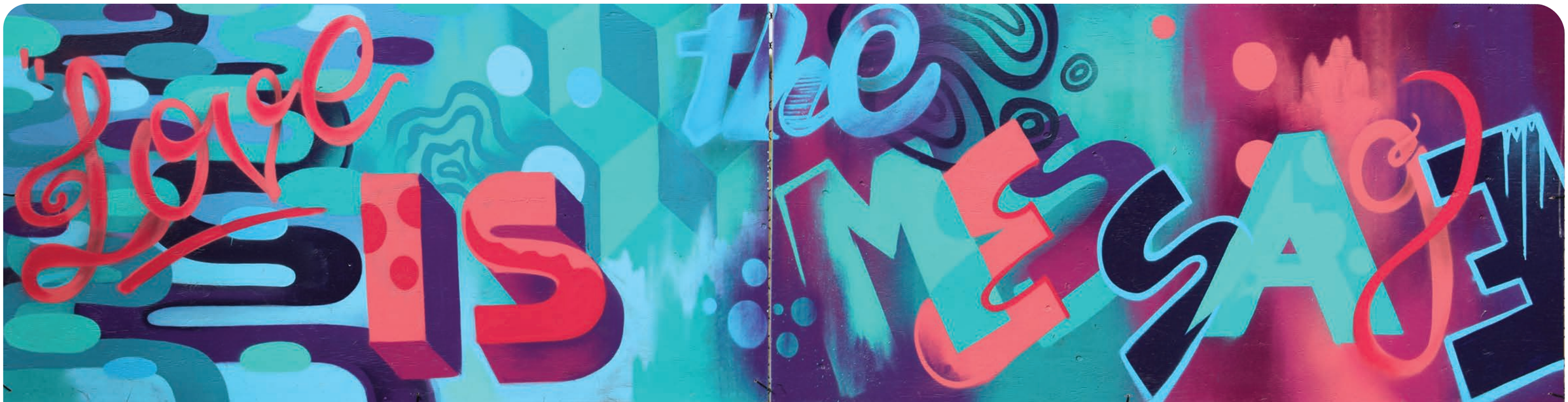
> Strong communities aren't built by buildings. They're built by people who feel connected, valued and empowered to make a difference. Community Hubs create the space for those connections to grow, turning individual strengths into collective possibility.
>
> — Karen Young, President and CEO
> United Way of Calgary and Area

**Everyone deserves to feel connected to their community and to have somewhere they can turn for support**. Yet for many Calgarians, financial pressure, isolation and barriers to services can make that connection harder to find.

Across the city, Community Hubs respond by bringing residents, organizations and local partners together in welcoming neighbourhood spaces shaped by the people who live there.

They are places where people can meet a neighbour, find support, share culture, build skills and turn local ideas into action.

And increasingly, Calgarians aren't simply participating in their communities: **they're helping create them.**



# 2025 **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

**$1.08 million** invested.

**69,452** connections to community made.

In 2025, **$1,078,000 was invested** in Community Hubs, **helping create more than 69,000 opportunities** for Calgarians to connect, participate and lead.

**Participation** in Community Hub activities **has grown by more than 60 per cent, over the last three years.**

Behind that growth are thousands of opportunities for Calgarians to find support, build relationships, develop confidence and contribute to their communities.

## A closer look

**STRONGER SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

**44,572**

participants connected with services, networks and resources.

**BELONGING & INCLUSION**

**17,786**

participants strengthened relationships and community connections.

**UNLOCKING POTENTIAL**

**5,367**

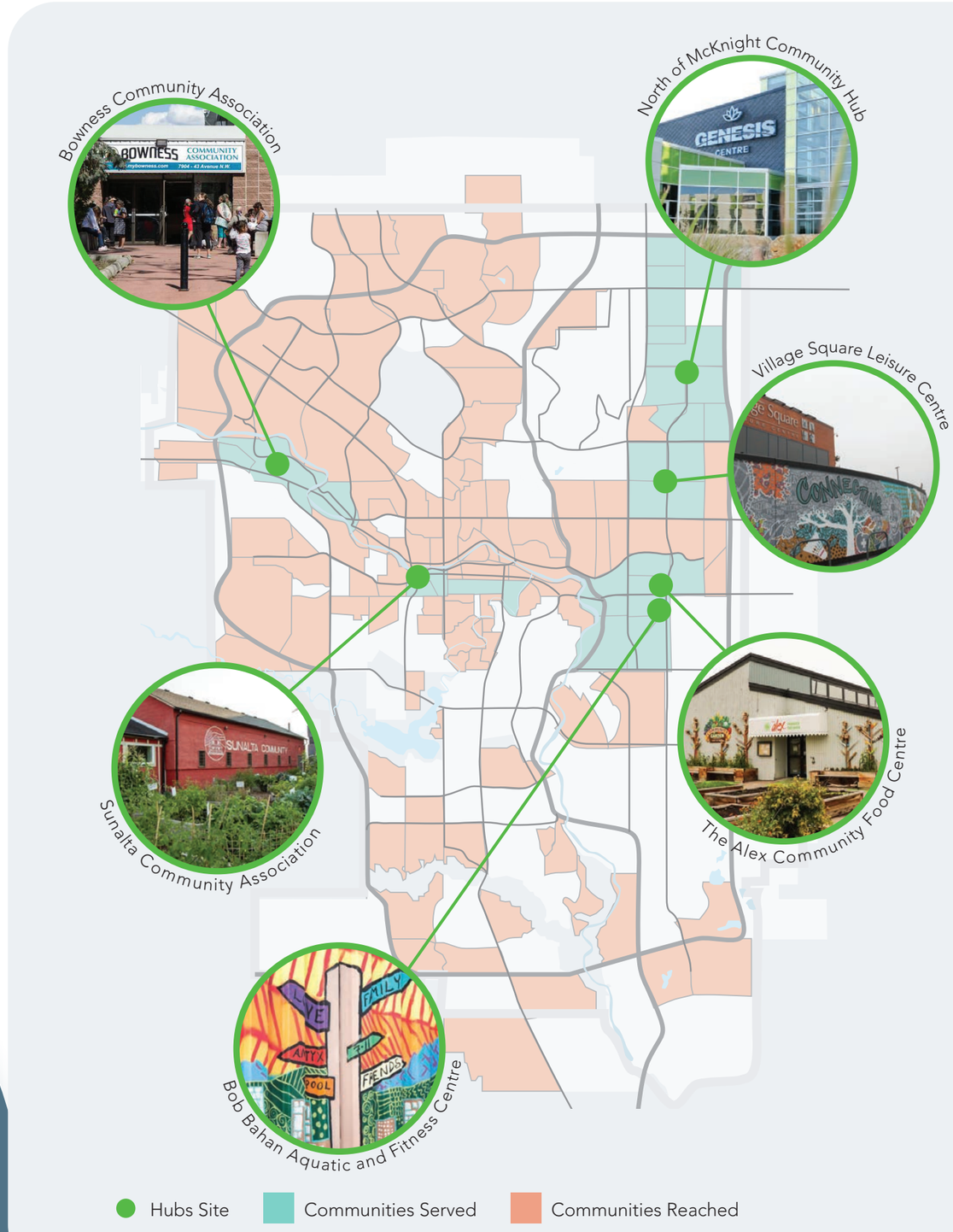
participants built their capacity and confidence as leaders.

**BUILDING FINANCIAL FUTURES**

**1,727**

participants increased their opportunities for economic participation.

Since it started, **more than 590,000 connections have been made** through programs, events and community outreach efforts.





# BELONGING STARTS WITH **CONNECTION**

> We have so much that was torn away from us. This is a part of healing, a part of our spirituality. It's like you lost something and you want to find it.
>
> *–Community Hubs participant*

## COMMUNITY HUBS WORK BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE THAN PLACES WHERE PROGRAMS HAPPEN.

The hubs create opportunities for neighbours to meet, relationships to grow and people who might otherwise feel disconnected to become part of something bigger.

**Culture can be an especially powerful bridge.**

Through Indigenous Community Connectors, cultural sharing, markets and community-led activities are creating opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents to learn from one another and build relationships over time.

The results from the **Community Hubs resident poll show that 94% of those surveyed reported feeling welcome, meeting people from their neighbourhood and participating in community activities.** These connections are more than just social inclusion–they form the foundation of resilient communities where residents can find support, work together and feel prepared for times of change or challenge.





# MORE THAN MEETING **IMMEDIATE NEEDS**

## A COMMUNITY HUB CAN HELP SOMEONE MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS, NAVIGATE SERVICES OR LEARN TO MANAGE THEIR FINANCES.

But the impact doesn't stop there. Across Calgary, people are building the skills, relationships and confidence to create solutions within their own communities.

In Bowness, neighbours are coming together around food access and shared learning. In Greater Forest Lawn, community meals, affordable produce and food garden programming connect residents with nourishment not only for the body, but for the soul.

The same approach extends to economic well-being. **In the Matched Savings Program, participants increased their average monthly savings more than sixfold,** while reporting greater confidence managing money and a stronger awareness of available supports.

**The goal isn't simply access to a program. It's creating the conditions for people to move forward.**

In Sunalta, a garden is growing more than vegetables: **it's growing connection, confidence and a sense of belonging.**

When Liza and her daughter Niki moved to Canada from Ukraine, they found a welcoming community through the Sunalta Community Hub's Wildflower Garden.

For Liza, Wednesday evenings in the garden became a chance to unwind after work and connect with neighbours. For Niki, it meant watering plants, exploring the garden and, of course, eating raspberries.

Their experience is one of many.

Residents are helping shape community life through gardening, neighbourhood events and resident-led programs that turn shared interests and ideas into opportunities to connect.

That's the power of a Community Hub: creating the conditions for people to find one another, contribute their talents and build a community where more people feel they belong.

Because when residents have a place to connect, they don't just participate in community: **they help create it.**






# IDEAS BECOME **ACTION**





**ACROSS CALGARY, PEOPLE ARE TURNING LOCAL IDEAS INTO PRACTICAL ACTION—REFLECTING THEIR COMMUNITIES' STRENGTHS, INTERESTS AND PRIORITIES.**

At the North of McKnight Community Hub, Repair Cafés transform broken household items into opportunities to learn, connect and share skills. **What began as a pilot has become an ongoing program, serving 400 people and helping inspire a tool-lending library** where neighbours can continue to share resources and knowledge.

At the Alex Community Food Centre, Youth Nourishing Oasis gives young people opportunities to plan, cook and share healthy meals while building leadership skills and relationships. Project M.U.N.C.H. brings residents together through supporting basic needs, cooking and supporting multigenerational learning. Both initiatives were supported through Activate Greater Forest Lawn grants, which helped **residents lead 10 community projects, deliver 15 sessions and create 260 participant connections.**

These projects are part of a broader movement. **In 2025, 211 activities across Community Hubs focused on resident leadership**, giving people opportunities to build confidence, contribute their skills and work with others on solutions shaped by local needs.

Different communities. Different ideas. One principle: Calgarians know what their communities need, and **Community Hubs give those ideas room to grow—and the support to become action.**

# THE POWER OF **PLACE**

**AFTER NEARLY A DECADE OF COMMUNITY HUBS, ONE LESSON STANDS OUT:**

**Place matters, but what people build there matters even more.**

Community resilience isn't created only when something goes wrong. It grows every day through relationships, trust, leadership and neighbours knowing they can count on one another.

> "As a resident of my neighbourhood for more than 30 years, I realized that I didn't know many other residents. This gave me an opportunity to meet people in my community and make new friends."
>
> *–Community Hubs member*

When residents have welcoming places to gather, opportunities to contribute and the confidence to take action, communities are better equipped to respond to challenges and shape their own futures.





# WHAT'S **NEXT**

**SINCE LAUNCHING IN 2017, COMMUNITY HUBS HAVE DEMONSTRATED WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL PARTNERS WORK TOGETHER.**

As we approach the 10-year milestone of Community Hubs, we are looking ahead with excitement and purpose. United Way and our partners are developing a forward-looking strategy that builds on the initiative's greatest strengths while exploring opportunities to extend its impact to more communities across Calgary. At the same time, we are focused on supporting neighbourhoods to take increasing ownership of the solutions they have helped create, ensuring that local leadership, capacity and momentum continue to thrive for years to come.

The next chapter of Community Hubs is about sustainability, scale and community leadership. It is about preserving what works, strengthening what has been learned and creating new opportunities for residents to shape the future of their neighbourhoods. We look forward to inviting our donors, partners and community members to be part of this exciting evolution. Together, we can build on a decade of success and help more Calgary neighbourhoods become places where everyone has the opportunity to belong, contribute and thrive.

**The ambition remains simple: more Calgarians with a place to connect, contribute and belong.**





## THANK **YOU**

Community Hubs are possible because you choose to invest not only in programs, but in communities.

Together, we're creating places where relationships can begin, ideas can grow and more Calgarians can experience what it means to belong.

## FOUNDING **PARTNERS**

The Community Hubs Initiative is an important partnership between **United Way of Calgary and Area** and **The City of Calgary**, with founding partner **Rotary Clubs of Calgary.**

## 2025 **DONORS AND PARTNERS** ($10,000+)

**Thank you to the following donors and partners who contributed $10,000 or more to the initiative in 2025.**

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

**$100,000+**
Gutrath Family Fund

### CORPORATE/FOUNDATION PARTNERS

**$100,000+**
CIBC

**$10,000–$99,999**
Intact Financial Corporation
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
Mawer Investment Management Ltd.



## CUMULATIVE **DONORS AND PARTNERS** ($100,000+)

Thank you to all the donors who have supported the Community Hubs Initiative over the years.

**Listed below are the individual donors, foundations, corporations and government partners who have made a cumulative investment of more than $100,000 to the initiative.**

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

**$1,000,000–$4,999,999**
Mike & Sue Rose
Bill & Sharon Siebens

**$500,000–$999,999**
Shaw Family Foundation

**$100,000–$499,999**
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Kanovsky Family Foundation

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**LEGACY CIRCLE** ($1,000,000+)
Pembina Pipeline Corporation
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CIBC

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