

The Arrow

Fall 2010



Artists David Craig and Joyce Okura display their respective paintings, both of which are featured in the 2010 Christmas card set.

Greeting the World Robin Hood Christmas Cards

The debut set of Robin Hood Christmas Cards is available for purchase and they are going fast! This very attractive set of twelve cards features the artwork of individuals enrolled in Robin Hood's Fine Arts program.

Please consider purchasing your Christmas cards from Robin Hood this year. In doing so, you will help us continue to provide quality services to people with disabilities. Most importantly, you will help promote the fantastic art of individuals served by Robin Hood, who are proud to have their paintings featured in this set.

This box of 12 cards is available for only \$12, and can be purchased at:

- **The Learning Centre**
(141 Broadway Blvd)
- **Children & Youth Community Centre** (3 Spruce Avenue)

- **Online:** robinhoodassoc.com - click on 'Robin Hood Store'.
- **Purple Daisy Flower Shop**
(Sherwood Park Mall)

Many thanks to Arlene Sneider at **Purple Daisy Flower Shop** for her very faithful support of the Robin Hood Association. In addition to stocking and selling our Christmas cards, Arlene has provided complimentary floral arrangements for many Robin Hood events. Visit purpledaisyflowershop.com to see their beautiful and unique arrangements for yourself!

For more information on Christmas cards, or to place an order by phone or email, call Alice at (780) 467-7140 Ext. 226 or email aka.alida@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

Alice Kos
Resource Developer

The 12-card package features two of each of the following images:



Baby Sale a Success

Robin Hood's 9th "Out with the Old" Child/Baby Items sale was another success!

We raised over \$1800 at our May 1st sale. A huge thanks to our volunteers who helped at the sale, with set-up and clean-up! Congratulations to Maggie Maxwell who won the 50/50 draw. If you're interested in helping out at our next sale, please contact Carrie at 780-640-9401 ext. 226 or pattison@robinhoodassoc.com.



Please see the enclosed info on the 2010 Target the Hood Campaign!

Autumn Greetings from the Family Guild

The Family Guild continues to meet the second Wednesday evening of every month between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm. This year our focus has been on self awareness; the ability to learn to know ourselves and understand our own responses. Our goal is to enhance communications with one another and truly become partners in the care and support of our family members who are part of the Robin Hood programs and services.

In September we hosted a True Colors workshop facilitated by Anne Carol. The True Colors regime is a modified version of the Meyer Briggs Personality Testing. The event was well attended and people had fun while learning bits and pieces of their personalities.

We are also holding the 5th annual Cookies and Carols on Sunday December 5th from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Robin Hood Learning Centre. Pattie Mitchell is doing a wonderful job of building new ideas such as special activities for the children. More info will be posted at both the Learning Centre and Children's Centre. This is a time for visiting, eating, singing and getting ourselves fully into the holiday season. Come and join the fun.

In the New Year we will be back to our regular Wednesday evening gatherings at the Center, learning a few more signing skills, sharing our journeys and focusing on friendships and communications with everyone around us.

Margie Koop
Family Guild Chair

Exclusive Vendor of Pharmaceuticals and Related Health Products

We recently completed an extensive review of the administration and delivery systems of our medication and related health care products. The amount of time required for staff to decipher the differences in packaging, fees, medication compatibility and ordering processes has been an increasing concern. This created safety risks to our clients.

As a result, a thorough Request for Proposal (RFP) was developed to offer pharmacies the opportunity to be the exclusive vendor for all Robin Hood clientele. Benefits of an exclusive vendor include the following points:

1. A consistent and uniform medication delivery system will serve to decrease the potential for medication errors. One system (packaging, labeling and tracking) across all program areas eliminates the need for staff to learn multiple systems, thus reducing the risk of errors. This also greatly reduces the liability risk for the Association.
2. Designated pharmacists will work specifically with and for our clientele. This means they will work aggressively to reduce medications and ensure medication compatibility.
3. Designated pharmacists will liaise between families/guardians (the client) and their respective physicians to resolve medication challenges, rather than leaving that to staff, thus further reducing the liability risk to the Association.
4. The pharmacy will deliver to all of Robin Hood's homes and program areas, resulting in reduced staff mileage costs.

A number of pharmacies were keenly interested in this opportunity. After an extensive review process, Sherwood Dispensaries (located on Brentwood Blvd.) was selected. Owner and Pharmacist Arlene Raimondi and her staff have been working very diligently with our staff to create a transition plan for all clients served by Robin Hood. Sherwood Dispensaries has provided exceptional service to many Robin Hood clients and their families for over 25 years. We are extremely confident that they will extend the same level of service and dedication as Robin Hood's exclusive vendor.

All individuals served by Robin Hood who require medications and/or health products (including AADL supported products) will be obliged to use Sherwood Dispensaries if Robin Hood staff are involved. This will reduce the Association's liability risk, and more importantly, increase client safety.

The transition plan is now underway and we expect the partnership to be fully operational by January 31, 2011.

A side benefit of an exclusive vendor relationship is an expected re-investment strategy (as required in the RFP) to help support Robin Hood's efforts and fundraising needs.

Should you want to learn more about this exclusive vendor relationship, please contact Brad Kotowich, Director of Organizational Development at (780) 467-7140 Ext. 224, or email kotowich@robinhoodassoc.com.



A Robin Hood para-transit vehicle sports an ad for Matheson Insurance and Sherwood Park Registries, as part of the van sponsorship fundraising initiative.



Left to right: Dave Quest, Daryl Meyer, Mayor Cathy Oleson, Hon. Mary Ann Jablonski, Hon. Iris Evans, Ed Riediger

Aspen Village Official Opening

September 20, 2010 marked the official opening of Aspen Village. Honorable Mary Ann Jablonski, Honorable Iris Evans, and Mayor Cathy Oleson extended congratulations on the successful completion of this project. Staff and residents proudly hosted tours for approximately 80 guests who attended the opening.

Aspen Village is the product of the co-operative efforts of Strathcona County, the Government of Alberta and the Robin Hood Association. The result is a very attractive, apartment-type

facility that will serve 36 individuals that represent a wide range of support needs.

The cost of developing Aspen Village was approximately eight million dollars. The use of modular construction included many challenges but one of the advantages was a construction term of less than a year.

The development of Aspen Village has generated considerable interest in the world of community services for

people with disabilities. The idea of a larger building is contrary to the ideology of our recent past where "smaller" was always "better". It has become very evident that our current service system is not sustainable and a more efficient system is required. Aspen Village represents one way a service system can be more efficient while retaining and enhancing a quality lifestyle for the residents.

*Ed Riediger
Chief Executive Officer*

"We Read and Play" Library on Wheels

The "We Read and Play" Library on Wheels bus stops by the Children & Youth Community Centre every Tuesday between 10:30 to noon. The bus is accessible for all ages and abilities and is packed full of books, videos, games, computer access and more.

The W.R.A.P. program is provided in partnership with the Strathcona County Library Bookmobile Program and Parent Link Centre.

For more information, call the Children & Youth Community Centre at 780-640-9401.



What's All This Talk About Pooh, Eeyore, Tigger & Engines?

A group of 9 children in the 6 to 10 age group, and their parent(s), have learned that their engines are often in "energetic Tigger" gear.

The "How Does Your Engine Run?"[®] *The Alert Program*[®] for *Self-Regulation* was developed by two internationally known occupational therapists, Mary Sue Williams and Sherry Shellenberger.

Children are taught about their "engines" going into high gear (hyper) or into low gear (lethargic) or into a "just right" gear (attentive and focused). By using the engine analogy to teach self-regulation (changing how alert we feel), we are helping children learn what to do if they are in the wrong gear for their setting. We teach children that there are five ways to change how alert they feel: put something in the mouth, move, touch, look, or listen.

The Edmonton Fetal Alcohol Network sponsored the "How Does Your Engine Run?" program, which is offered at the Child & Youth Community Centre at 3 Spruce Ave, Sherwood Park. The next series is for children in the 3 to 6 age group, and will run February and March of 2011.

To read more about the Alert Program[®], please visit www.AlertProgram.com.

'Tis the Season!

Robin Hood Children's Christmas Party

What: A Children's Christmas Party for families supported by Robin Hood and families of Robin Hood staff.

When: Friday, December 3, 2010, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Where: Children & Youth Community Centre, 3 Spruce Ave, Sherwood Park
Join us for a jolly fun-filled evening of activities for children 0 - 18 yrs, including cookie decorating, games, crafts, face painting and a special visit from Santa. Don't forget your camera!

Space is limited. We really hope that you will join us. Please **RSVP by December 1** to familysupport@robinhoodassoc.com or call 780-640-9401 Ext. 221.



Cookies and Carols

You are invited to join us for the Family Guild's 5th Annual

Cookies and Carols

Sunday, December 5, 2010

Robin Hood Learning Centre (141 Broadway Blvd, Sherwood Park)

Families and friends of the Robin Hood Association are welcome to drop by between 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM. There will be Christmas crafts to be made, cookies to be iced and carols to be sung.

Be sure to mark this date on your calendar and bring your whole family out to enjoy an afternoon of Christmas cheer with friends! If you are planning to attend, please bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies.

Please RSVP to Margie (rmkoop@shaw.ca) or Pattie (ppppmitchell@shaw.ca).

What people are saying about

Box Social Catering

"Let us express our heartfelt gratitude to you, Shannon, for your efforts in making our convention a resounding success. We received many, many compliments on the menu selection and on its quality. No one went away hungry or disappointed. All the credit goes to you and for that we say 'thank you' and applaud you."

- Lawrence & Don, Convention Chairmen, Sherwood Park Gyro District VIII Convention, August 2010

"I just wanted to let you know the comments I received from the wedding regarding the food. EVERYONE loved it!!! It was amazing and my grandma said it was the best food she has ever had at a wedding (she has 7 kids so she's been to a lot of weddings!!). One of the ladies was part of a gourmet dinner club and she was so impressed with the food she told her husband to have his staff Christmas parties there. You did such a great job!"

- Amanda, bride, June 2010

Catering services and events can be provided both at the Learning Centre or at the venue of the client's choice. Contact Shannon by phone at (780)467-7140 ext 259 or email smckinney@robinhoodassoc.com.

