

# **Philanthropy Awareness Week, Nov 9-17, 2011**

## **Change the World with a Giving Heart**

### **Calgary Herald - Association of Fundraising Professionals**

#### **Calgary & Area Chapter Insert**

**Philanthropy awareness week celebrates the countless individuals who give and care in endless ways to enhance the lives of others. The Association of fundraising professionals (AFP) Calgary and area chapter is grateful for the generosity of our supporters whose support exemplifies how you can change the world with a giving heart.**

## **Page 14 - Foundation Connects Kids with Music**

Seven years ago Darryl Wernham and his wife Sandra quite their jobs and poured their resources into getting disadvantaged children excited about the future again.

What would become the Legacy Children's Foundation began partly as a tribute to Sandra's late father, Dr. Stanley G. Finn, a prominent musician and former head of the music department at the University of Calgary. But it was mainly meant to bring the gift of music to youth across Alberta who would never otherwise have access to it.

Legacy currently has nine projects in Calgary providing access to music and voice lessons, instruments and music studios at sites across the city. It also funds guitar, drum and voice lessons for children in Cold Lake, a community three hours north

of Edmonton, as well as Aboriginal youth in the Stoney First Nations communities of Morley, Eden Valley and Big Horn.

"Music is a powerful draw and a natural way to reach out to young people that doesn't stigmatize them," says Darryl, who has a background in clinical social work and a commitment to preventative programming for children.

"It also helps them do better in math and literacy, and score better on entrance exams for university. Playing in a band, where there are leaders and followers, is the ultimate way to learn about being on a team."

"When we researched other programs like this in the U.S., we saw they all had success rates of at least 80 percent. And I can't begin to tell you how many people in the

industry have told me that music has saved their lives."

Teachers have already seen remarkable growth in students taking lessons funded by Legacy, from an increase in grades and participation to visible excitement, jamming in the hallways and starting impromptu bands.

"Our big successes in what we have seen with our kids is in how many of them are coming to lessons religiously, not getting in trouble with the law, and going on to study music programs at Grant MacEwan or the University of Victoria," says Wernham.

"The program also has huge social and economic advantages for all of society by helping kids stay in school and become contributing adults."