



Let us show you the impact that you are making!

The Rotary Club of Calgary and Bow Valley College established a relationship in 1999, undertaking projects that target the improvement of adult literacy. The Rotary Club of Calgary has committed over \$200,000 which has supported a number of literacy initiatives at the College. Your generosity helped to support Bow Valley College's quest to achieve its vision of becoming the number one community college in North America. Thank you for your ongoing support!

The Rotary Club Literacy Scholarships

The Rotary Club of Calgary Literacy Scholarships reward students for their hard work and dedication to their studies and provides these adult learners with a pathway to improving their lives.

Bow Valley College thanks all Rotary Club of Calgary members for their support through the Adult Literacy bursaries – you are all helping people make changes, and you are all difference makers!



Sentiments of Gratitude, In our Students' words...

Meet Kristen....

High School Upgrading student and recent recipient of the Rotary Club of Calgary Literacy Bursary



Al McMillan, Rotary Club of Calgary, with Adult Literacy Bursary recipient, Kristen Bishop at the March 2016 Centre for Excellence in Foundational Learning Awards Ceremony

Kristen wanted a change. After a traumatic experience in August 2014 she found herself spiraling downhill, needing the health care system. She needed treatment and she was able to find the right support. Therapy helped her to believe in herself for the first time. Eventually, when she found the courage to return to school to help her make a change, the supports she found at Bow Valley College (BVC) made her feel comfortable.

At BVC, Kristen felt welcomed and encouraged with the support from staff and instructors. *“It really amazes me that it’s been so supportive and encouraging; the tutoring, learning coach, counselling – I try to utilize all of the supports that I can.”* At Bow Valley College there are others who believe in her too.

Being out of school since 2000, *“...it’s hard work”* lamented Kristen, who is working part-time, attending classes full-time and is a single mom. *“The Rotary Club of Calgary bursary has motivated me and has lit a fire in my belly to continue to work hard.”* And her path to reaching her goals is becoming clearer. She aspires to enroll in the Practical Nurse Diploma program at Bow Valley College, a goal that is three years away along the upgrading path she is on.

The Rotary Club of Calgary bursary was another form of recognition that boosted Kristen and supported her in more ways than just financially. On receiving the bursary in December 2015 *“it helped me give my son the Christmas he deserved. This spring, the bursary filled some budgetary gaps. It’s so nice to receive these funds to help me balance my budget and not worry so much.”*

“Before BVC, I felt completely hopeless. But - I’m a mom - I had to break the cycle for my son and I am here on my own path, making a new way for us. It would mean the world to me to graduate and it will make a huge difference in both of our lives. I really appreciate the Rotary Club of Calgary’s support through the bursary.”

Thank you!

Bow Valley College Alumni Recipients of The Rotary Club of Calgary Literacy Bursary

Your generosity gives relief in the moment but also has lasting effects long past the initial disbursement. These Bow Valley alumni are examples of how your gift provided the hand up needed to elevate their lives and contribute to the community.



Ruth Beza and her son.

Ruth received The Rotary Club of Calgary Literacy Bursary in 2012.

“It meant a lot to me and I have always appreciated what they did, and I hope they keep helping others who are in school now.”

A Bit About Ruth Beza...

Daunting to anyone else, but a golden opportunity for Ruth Beza. That’s what it felt like for the young single mom from Ethiopia, who’d spent the past seven years living in the uncertain limbo of a refugee camp in Kenya, trying to raise and protect her son.

Calgary was chilly and unfamiliar, but here in Canada, Beza and her 12-year-old son had a chance for a new life – even though it meant going back to school and learning most skills over again, to give the determined mom a chance at a good job.

Beza has a great job now – she’s a nursing attendant, employed by Alberta Health Services – but back in 2012, she was at Bow Valley College, upgrading her education.

“I had to learn everything from scratch,” she remembers.

That’s not a complaint, and Beza makes it clear she saw the chance to go to school and live in Calgary as a blessing: *“I never took it for granted, not once.”*

And when the single mom found her efforts had been rewarded with a bursary from The Rotary Club of Calgary, she was ecstatic.

“I was living paycheque to paycheque, struggling to survive, and what the Rotary Club did, that money helped to provide for me and my son,” recalls Beza. *“We could pay bills, and buy groceries.”*

She says the money was vital to her success at the time, and it kept her going on a path that would later see her enrolled in the Health Care Aide program.

Beza says she hopes The Rotary Club of Calgary understands what the support means for students like herself.

“I am so grateful to them, and I still am even now,” she says.



Candace Vedres with her fiancé, Evan.

Candace was a 2014 recipient of The Rotary Club of Calgary Literacy Bursary.

“It was more than the money, it was being recognized. It felt good, like an acknowledgement of all that hard work, that it was worthwhile.”

A Bit About Candace Vedres...

Candace Vedres knows all about the importance of ingredients, when it comes to putting together a recipe for success. As the owner and founder of her own cake and cupcake business, the 25-year-old Calgary entrepreneur has already gained a small following of devotees for the handcrafted goods produced under the Baking By Candace brand.

And no wonder: from elaborate wedding cakes to whimsical holiday cupcakes, Vedres treats her sweet palette of colourful icing sugars like an artist tackling a blank canvas.

“Cakes just made sense to me, because I’ve always been really artsy, and I can never just sit still and do nothing – I just love to create,” she explains.

“But I can’t really draw or paint, so cakes just came naturally as the perfect creative outlet.” Vedres knows that raw talent can only take you so far, and that a successful business means more than just beautifully-rendered icing or tasty batter.

Determined to succeed, she decided to go back to school to learn all about business and running her own small company – but first, she needed to upgrade her marks to qualify.

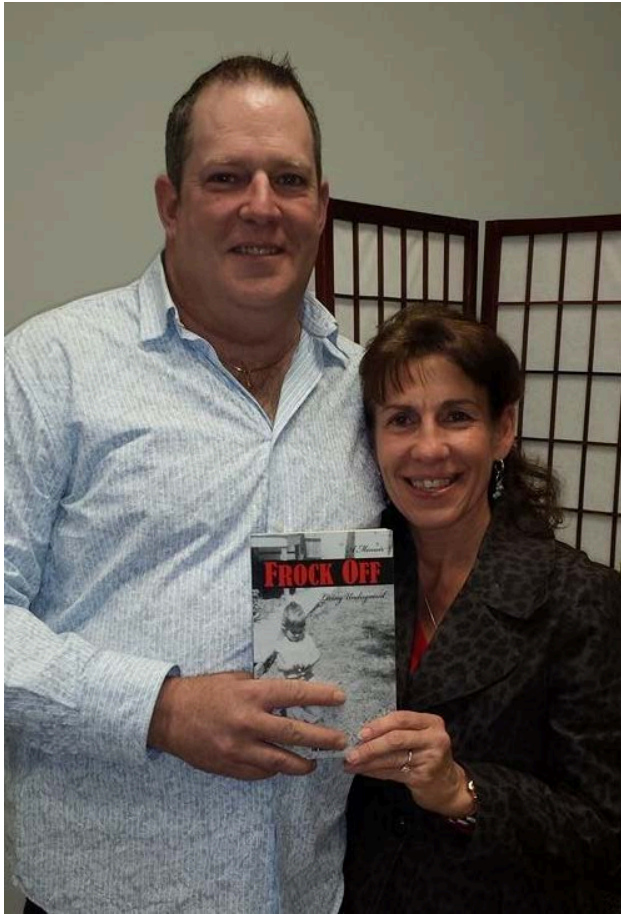
“Math was a big one, but I needed to upgrade and that’s why I went to Bow Valley College,” recalls Vedres.

Apparently, cakes aren’t her only skill, and Vedres soon found she was doing very well in her academic pursuits, to the point that she was acing exams and getting solid marks. But like many students, she was also struggling to make ends meet – and that’s why The Rotary Club of Calgary Literacy Bursary made such a difference back in 2014, both financially and emotionally.

“I’m so thankful to the Rotary Club, and it was very welcome,” remembers Vedres.

And it helped encourage Vedres to keep going – and now, even as she plans her upcoming wedding to her fiancé Evan, Vedres is looking forward to attending Bow Valley College this fall, in the Business Administration program.

“I’ll be learning how to run a small business,” says Vedres.



“I want to say thank you to them, and tell them how much their donations help people like me. I was so grateful, and it came out of left field.”

A Bit About Robert Sheridan...

It wasn't Robert Sheridan's choice to go back to school – his arm made the decision for him. At least what was left of his arm, which had served him well for an entire career in music and the movie special effects industry before that fateful day.

“I got hurt, and it permanently damaged the nerves in my right arm,” remembers Sheridan, of that otherwise ordinary day on the set.

“Basically, I banged my funny bone on a post, but it was bad – it partially severed the nerves in my arm, and it's never been the same since.”

Nearly 50 and raising a young son, the accident meant starting over, and for a man who'd spent his entire life in the same industry, it was a daunting task.

“I'd been working all my life in film and music, and that was over,” explains Sheridan, now 52.

“I had no Grade 12, so doing anything else meant I'd have to go back to school.”

Robert Sheridan with his wife.

Robert was a 2014 recipient of The Rotary Club of Calgary Literacy Bursary.

At least he had a plan, and Sheridan's new goal was becoming a life coach – and with a high school diploma, he could take the post-secondary courses on psychology and leadership that would make that possible.

“I was already on that path, and I knew then, this is what I want to do,” he says.

And so it was off to Bow Valley College, to finally finish what he had started more than three decades earlier. Last time, Sheridan wasn't exactly a star student, but this time, he found himself on the honour roll – and then he found himself holding a \$500 cheque after being awarded The Rotary Club of Calgary Literacy award.

“I was shaking, I just didn't expect it at all,” he recalls. *“I was struggling so much at the time, being in the position I was, and that money helped me get better 150 percent.”*

Sheridan says he's never forgotten that generosity.

The Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary

Scholarships and bursaries play a crucial role in our students' lives, often making the defining difference for a successful program completion. This year's recipients of The Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary wanted to ensure that you received their words of thanks.



2016 Student Recipients of The Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary with Catherine Koch, Bow Valley College VP Learner Services and Chief Student Services Officer.

Left to Right - **Anita Dagher** (Business Administration Diploma), **Catherine Koch**, **Claire Santos** (Medical Office Assistant Certificate) and **Charlotte Graham** (Legal Assistant Diploma). Unable to attend **Heather Cook** (Business Administration Diploma)

Sentiments of Gratitude, In our Students' words...

“A most sincere thank you for making the decision to become a donor to Bow Valley College. The college and its programs and services have been an integral part of my success as a student here and I am extremely fortunate to be named as a recipient for The Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary.

“I have just completed my Business Administration Diploma and am embarking on the job search journey. I am extremely proud to have completed this program as I did not graduate high school and am ecstatic to finally say, "I can walk the stage!" The toughest decision was being a single mother with two children and making the decision to enroll full-time in study.

“I have spent four years of my life at this college upgrading and working towards achieving my goals and I have never experienced an organization that values the success of their community members as much as the faculty and partners of Bow Valley College. I can't thank you enough.”

Anita Dagher, Business Administration Diploma, 2016 Graduate



In her video message, taken at BVC's June 2016 Graduation Ceremony: *"I just wanted to say thank you to all of the donors who participated in the BVC donor program. You don't understand what a difference you have made to my success as a student here at Bow Valley College, as well as to my family's success. Again, from me to you, thank you so much."*
 – Anita Dagher

“Thank you for establishing a scholarship at Bow Valley College. It is an honour to be this year’s recipient of the Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary.

“I was a student in the Medical Office Assistant Program at Bow Valley College and graduated last October 2015. I enjoyed taking the program. I especially enjoyed our practical exams near the end of the course. We got to perform with a partner and showcase the skills we learned all throughout the semester. I also took a practicum for 4 weeks at Alberta Children’s Hospital Health Records/Information Unit to get work experience. After this year, I might continue studying, and take up Licensed Practical Nursing Program at the same institute.



Claire Santos – Medical Office Assistant Certificate Student accepting her award from Catherine Koch.

“I came from the Philippines and we immigrated to Canada 5 years ago. Since I was 12, my mother has been the only one to support my family’s financial needs. I am the eldest child and we live a simple life, together with my three other siblings. Today, I am still searching for a job related to Medical Office Assisting in both hospitals and clinics. I am yet to get accepted for a job, so for the meantime, I work full-time at Cinnzeo Cinnaroll Bakeries as a Supervisor to help support our daily expenses at home and to pay my student loans.

“Once again, I thank you for this award. This will help me achieve my goals and this will also inspire me to reach new lengths and climb new heights not only in my career but with my personal growth. I hope that you continue helping other students just like what you did to me.”

Claire Santos, Medical Office Assistant, 2015 Graduate



Charlotte Graham – Legal Assistant Diploma Student accepting her award from Catherine Koch.

“I would like to take a moment to thank you for establishing the Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary at Bow Valley College.

“I am currently in the Legal Assistant Diploma Online program. I am returning to school as a mature student. I look forward to combining my past work experience with my education from Bow Valley and taking both of these assets to the work force.

“As a single parent this bursary helps tremendously. Being recognized for my dedication and commitment to my education means a lot to me. Other than full-time school and parenting my other interests include yoga and teaching myself to play guitar.

“Once again, thank you for this award and contribution towards my education.”

Charlotte Graham, Legal Assistant Diploma student

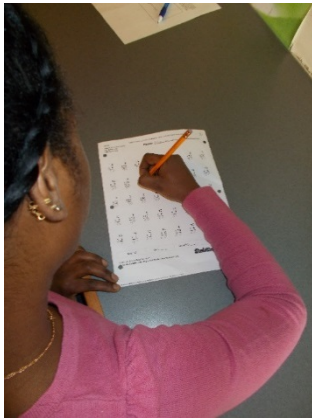
“I would like to thank you for establishing a scholarship at Bow Valley College here in Calgary. I cannot express how much it is an honor to be this year's recipient of The Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary. Having completed my first year in the Business Administration program, I have decided to work towards specializing in Event Management in my second year.

“At 48, it was a hard decision to go back to school, I had my doubts about being able to even accomplish my high school upgrading. It was to my surprise that I not only upgraded but also acquired my high school diploma after all these years. Bow Valley College helped give me the encouragement I needed to complete this and to take a step forward into furthering my education, and entering the Business Administration program.

“Thank you again for establishing this scholarship, I will definitely keep in mind your generosity and use it as a guideline for the decisions I make in my future.”

Heather Cook, Business Administration Diploma Student

Advancements in Technology Improve Adult Literacy Learning Programs



Since 2009, The Rotary Club of Calgary has supported adult literacy through the Speech Assisted Reading and Writing Program (SARAW) and Adult Basic Literacy Education Program (ABLE).

SARAW was a specialty software designed for adults with developmental disabilities whose literacy skills tested at a grade 1-6 level. The product's unique speech assisted programming helped improve basic literacy reading, writing, computer and math skills. Over time, advancements in technology challenged the program's ability to connect to modern technology. This provided the administrators an opportunity to update all of the equipment and research alternatives to better meets the needs of learners of today.

Learners in the **Supported Adult Learning** classroom (formerly SARAW) will now be able to interface with new software, *Clicker 7*, a more intuitive-based program and continue the learning beyond the classroom and on their own devices, utilizing speciality learning applications.

Bow Valley College recently addressed another learning gap with literacy programming with the project, “Answers May Vary”. Funding from Calgary Learns provided the opportunity to develop a facilitation guide to train the Community Support Workers/Aides that accompany these learners and increase their knowledge of how to better support adult literacy. Bow Valley College delivered 10 workshops for 150 aides, employment counsellors and other support workers in 2016.



We are now looking at requests to disseminate the “Answers May Vary Training” throughout the province. This project would not have moved forward without the support of Calgary Learns and The Rotary Club of Calgary. Your sustained funding to SARAW allowed us the time to evaluate and create these new literacy opportunities.


Thank you for your ongoing support of our literacy programs. You have changed the lives of countless adults with physical or learning disabilities by providing a pathway to learning through these unique and high-in-demand, vital programs.

Rotary Homework Support Project

This program – a pilot project in 2015/2016 – intended to engage families, in particular, parents with low literacy skills, and provide them with a more intensive, facilitated learning environment so they can build the skills needed to assist with their children’s homework and support their learning process. Nine families registered for the six week program and seven completed the curriculum.


Facilitators were so pleased with the outcomes and the positive impact that the course had with the families. The parents gradually built their confidence and reported that they used their new found skills at home and in the community. One unexpected result was the emergence of an informal support group where participants could share their concerns and frustrations with others in the same situation.

Representatives from Bow Valley College’s Centre for Excellence in Foundational Learning are currently working with the Calgary Public Library and the Rotary Club to determine how to best maximize the benefits of this program and potentially branching out to additional communities and partners.



Homework Support and dinner for Families

Over a FREE family dinner, you and your children will learn new ways to make learning fun and homework easier.




Do you live near Village Square Library and have a child in Grade 1 to 6?

Join us for Homework Support and dinner for Families

Village Square Library, 2623 56 St NE
Tuesdays, April 19-June 7
5:30-7:30 p.m.
(Registration Required)

- Parents will learn new skills, and discover tools and resources to help their kids be successful at school – while their children will be engaged in fun literacy-based activities.
- Each FREE session will end with an opportunity for parents and children to engage in fun, interactive, learning activities together.
- A FREE meal will be provided for participants at each session.
- Parents who attend all sessions in this eight-week program will be eligible for further learning at Bow Valley College.
- Homework Support and dinner for Families is a FREE program delivered in partnership by Bow Valley College and Calgary Public Library, with funding support from the Rotary Club of Calgary.

To register for this FREE program, please contact:
Candace Witkowskyj, Instructor Lead, Literacy and Disability
at 403.355.4664 or cwitkowskyj@bowvalleycollege.ca



Giving History for The Rotary Club of Calgary

For 17 years, The Rotary Club of Calgary has been investing in the community through education at Bow Valley College and providing support to Bow Valley College students, making positive changes in so many lives.

	Years of Giving	Total Giving
Rotary Club Literacy Scholarship	2010-2015	\$107,250
Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary	2006-2016	\$66,000
SARAW	2009 - 2015	\$20,980
Adult Basic Literacy Education	1999 - 2016	\$5,900
Homework Support Project	2015	\$13,850
Bert Foster Christmas Fund	2015	\$365
Total		\$214,315

How you are changing lives and communities forever

By contributing to Bow Valley College, you help students triumph. Your generosity makes a difference, helping our students to pursue their studies and launch or enhance their careers. You alleviate some of the financial burden that many of our students face, helping them pay for child care, or tuition, or simply continue with their studies. You help us achieve our vision to be an innovative world-class college, rooted in communities, enabling people to Learn a Better Living™ and live a better life.

Because of you. Thank you!

Terms of Reference for the Rotary Club of Calgary Literacy Bursary

Amount: \$500 each
Number of Awards: 6 awards per semester
Consideration: Nomination
Criteria:

- Available to Calgary Campus students only
- Full- or part-time students registered in a Basic Education Literacy program (Grades 1-9)
- Financial need
- Commitment to continue your education

Terms of Reference for the Rotary Club of Calgary MacEachern Bursary

This award is provided to students who have completed Bow Valley College Academic Upgrading or ELL and who have been accepted in a full-time School of Business program at Bow Valley College. Recipients have demonstrated that they are motivated, have overcome barriers, are working to their full potential, and interested in entering the business world.

Amount: \$1,500 each
Number of Awards: 4 awards
Consideration: Application
Criteria:

- Financial Need
- Motivated, working to full potential and interested in entering the business world
- Overcome barriers or hardships
- Consistently demonstrates effort and positive attitude
- First consideration given as an entrance award for students who have completed Bow Valley College Academic upgrading or ELL who have been accepted in a full time School of Business program at Bow Valley College
- Second consideration given to any full-time student in a school of Business program who has completed at least one term of their program at time of application