



Calgary Awards Committee
The City of Calgary

Dear Members of the Calgary Awards Jury,

It is with great enthusiasm we write this letter to support the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park for the prestigious Community Achievement Award. Their unwavering commitment to enhancing the lives of youth in our community through initiatives like the Kids at Heart Golf Tournament exemplifies the spirit of generosity that makes Calgary one of the best cities in Canada in which to live.

The Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park generously allocated a phenomenal \$95,000.00 to YouthLink Calgary, along with two other vital charities. This remarkable investment is not merely a financial contribution; it is a profound commitment to the future of our city. By supporting youth who face significant hurdles during their formative years, the Rotary Club at Stampede Park is directly contributing to the health and vitality of our entire community.

At YouthLink Calgary, we are using this generous support to fund Police School, a transformative four-day immersive crime prevention program that will empower over 600 youth from schools from all quadrants of the city. This program equips young individuals with essential knowledge, coping strategies, and self-protection tips, enabling them to navigate challenges and become active, engaged citizens. By preventing youth from becoming victims of crime and instilling in them the confidence to overcome obstacles, the Rotary Club of Stampede Park is fostering a safer, more resilient Calgary.

The impact of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park extends far beyond their financial contributions. The tireless efforts and community spirit of their members are a shining example of what it means to invest in the collective well-being of our city. Their initiatives not only uplift individual lives but also strengthen the fabric of our community, creating a ripple effect that benefits all Calgarians. By prioritizing the needs of youth and families, the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park is helping to build a brighter, more inclusive future for everyone.

Calgary stands out as a vibrant and welcoming city because of organizations like the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. Their leadership, vision, and dedication to community service inspire others to join in the effort to create positive change. They understand that a thriving community is built on the foundation of empowered youth, and their unwavering commitment to this cause is truly commendable.

In closing, YouthLink Calgary wholeheartedly endorses the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park for the Community Achievement Award. Their exceptional leadership and tireless dedication to the youth of Calgary not only transform individual lives but also enhance the overall quality of life in our city. They are so deserving of this recognition!

Thank you for considering this remarkable organization for this prestigious honour.

Warmest regards,
Tara Robinson
Executive Director
YouthLink Calgary Police Interpretive Centre
trobinson@calgarypolice.ca



December 9, 2024

Re: Letter of Support for Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park

Calgary Awards Committee at The City of Calgary,

On behalf of Kids Up Front Calgary, I would like to express our steadfast support for the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park's application for the Community Achievement Award. Their incredible dedication to the community, volunteer time, and dollars raised to improve the lives of deserving kids and youth in our community is a shining example of community spirit, hard work, big heartedness, and selflessness that Calgary is known for.

"I want to let you know how overwhelmed the youth who went to the Flames game Saturday was. He couldn't believe we had chosen him and said the seats were fantastic. At 17, he had never been to an NHL game and was constantly saying thank you throughout the game. He got to go to Peter's Drive Inn (a rare treat for him, too) and, on the way home, was caught wiping the tears from his eyes more than once. He lives with his elderly grandmother and was staying at a youth shelter before that because his mother didn't want him. He considers us his family. He had donated hundreds of hours to the set-up and teardown at one of our events, and we were able to acknowledge his extremely hard work and capabilities of dealing with numerous challenges he has overcome. Thank you, Kids Up Front, for helping us make his Holiday season a whole lot brighter and giving him an evening he will never forget."

This is one very heartwarming story of Kids Up Front programming making an impact, and because of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park's support, dedication and their \$95,500 donation, another 4,500 stories like this will be made possible through the end of 2024 and through 2025. These experiences have an impact that is long-lasting. They help strengthen relationships, reduce social isolation, build community, and provide respite to those facing barriers.

These stories and this impact are only possible because of supporters like the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. The hard work, collaboration, commitment to the community, and the time they give make it all possible.

As for the event itself and the experience we had with the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, it was nothing short of fantastic and it was transformative for our organization in so many ways. Getting the chance to perfect our pitch and refine our proposal has been an incredible opportunity. Building relationships and getting to know many of the Rotarians very well over several meetings, emails and on a hole-in-one during the tournament was such a rewarding part of this experience.

Joy. Inclusion. Strong Communities. Enriching Experiences.



This group and what they accomplish with this event, all on volunteer time, is incredible. I truly cannot stress enough how proud we are to have been a part of this event and to be witness to such community spirit. Kids Up Front will never forget this experience and the collaboration and friendship we now have with the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. It has been an incredible journey and has strengthened our organization in so many ways.

The Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park is an exemplary organization that improves the lives of thousands of kids and youth each year in so many ways and believe me the size of their hearts and what they contribute to the community is huge. I am very proud to support their application, and believe they deserve this opportunity to be recognized for their efforts and investment in the city's future and most importantly the well-being of our children and young people.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicky Nash".

Nicky Nash, Executive Director
Kids Up Front Calgary



Calgary Awards Committee
The City of Calgary

Dear Members of the Calgary Awards Jury,

I am delighted to express my strong support for the Rotary Club at Stampede Park as a candidate for the Community Achievement Award. Their dedication to improving the lives of children and families through initiatives like the Kids at Heart Golf Tournament has made a profound and enduring impact on our community.

This past year, the Rotary Club at Stampede Park worked with and supported three charities through their Kids at Heart Golf Tournament. The tournament raised an impressive \$286,500, which was split evenly among all three charities, with KidSport Calgary and the Flames Sport Bank receiving \$95,000. This remarkable contribution is more than a generous donation—it is a direct investment in the future of 270 children in Calgary, providing them with the opportunity to participate in organized sports. For these children, access to sport means more than physical activity. It represents belonging, confidence, and a chance to thrive within their communities.

At KidSport Calgary, we work to eliminate financial barriers for children aged 0–18, helping families access sport programs and equipment regardless of their circumstances. This year, we are on track to assist over 10,000 children with registration fees and equipment. Yet, the rising costs of participation and the growing demand for our services make partnerships like the one we share with the Rotary Club at Stampede Park essential. Their support directly fuels our ability to deliver on our mission, enabling us to meet the needs of families and children who turn to us for help.

The Rotary Club at Stampede Park exemplifies the spirit of community service. Their tireless efforts extend far beyond their financial contributions. Their passion for creating meaningful change in the community is evident in their unwavering commitment, collaboration, and leadership. They understand the power of supporting families, children and youth in order to strengthen individuals and communities alike, and they have championed this cause with generosity and heart.

Sincerely,
Mirela Rahneva
Partnership Development Manager
KidSport Calgary & Flames Sport Bank
mirela@kidsportcalgary.ca

So ALL Kids Can Play!