

2011

# Arthur R. Smith Awards

McDougall Centre  
Thursday, April 12, 2012



Calgary  
Homeless  
Foundation

# The 2011 Arthur R. Smith Awards

The Arthur R. Smith Awards were created in the name of the founder of the Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF) to recognize and honour front-line staff, teams and volunteers who provide housing and support to individuals who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness Calgary. These awards are open to staff and volunteers, excluding executive directors.

Successful nominations showed that nominees' results contributed to the long-term goal of ending homelessness by helping people move towards independence in housing. Award recipients were seen as demonstrating exemplary leadership, innovation and commitment to clients. Nominators included compelling stories from clients or observers.

The selection of winners has been made by the CHF's Community and Stakeholder Relations Committee.

## Selection Committee

Mr. Stephen Clark

Mr. Trevor Daroux

Mr. Barry Davidson

Bishop Fred Henry

Ms. Amal Remu

Mr. Robin Wortman

# About Arthur Smith



**Hon. Col. Arthur R. Smith,**  
OC, AOE, DFC, Hon. LLD

**May 16, 1919 – June 30, 2008**

Arthur was a friend, colleague, mentor and so much more to the people involved with the CHF, as well as to many other Calgarians, Albertans and Canadians. Arthur understood the plight of people facing homelessness and helped others understand as well. His foresight, compassion and energy led him to develop the CHF in 1998. Before his passing, he provided wise counsel on the path forward with Calgary's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

We continue to draw upon Arthur's initiative and example to guide our mission to end homelessness in Calgary. We are honoured to have Ms. Betty Ann Smith, Arthur's wife, with us today to present the awards. These recipients reflect Arthur's vision in the quality and compassionate service they provide to our neighbours at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

## Whose Work Makes a Contribution In Any Way to Those at Risk of Homelessness



### Dennis Halstead

Community Volunteer

#### **Nominated by:**

Community members, including Craig Evans, Brenda Hayley (Wild Rose Bakery), Rick Long, and the Dube family

Dennis Halstead is a dedicated Calgarian who started his own food distribution initiative 44 years ago. His desire to help Calgary's less fortunate started when as a police officer, he would collect boots, toques and mitts and give them to homeless persons he came across.

He now serves approximately 70 working low-income families. Most have accommodation, but can't afford necessities such as food. Dennis' efforts are making a tangible difference in preventing family homelessness.

Dennis makes daily food collection trips every week. He has set up a mini-warehouse operating out of his garage, with shelving, refrigerators and deep freezers, where families can come one of three evenings a week to pick up as many items as they need. When the family is large (such as a mother who has eight children), Dennis makes up a food hamper ahead of time.

The Dube family shared how Dennis' support helped their in-laws, who were financially strapped as the father-in-law had back surgery and was unable to go back to work. Rick Long, who now volunteers with Dennis, first came to Calgary looking for work and ended up living in his car. Dennis was the one who took him in and helped him find groceries and a small apartment.

**“Dennis has 70 working poor families who rely on his goodwill for food.”**

*Craig Evans, Nominator.*

## Who Provides Housing and/or Support to Those At Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness

### Scott Calling Last

Elbow River Healing Lodge

#### Nominated by:

A group of colleagues and co-workers including Susan Scott (author) and Keith Loewen (social worker, Murdoch Manor)



As an experienced outreach worker for 15 years, Scott Calling Last has been helping some of Calgary's most vulnerable people get into homes with the support they need. For example, he intervened for an elderly, incontinent, blind woman, who was seen as "un-housable" due to her addictions and the conflict surrounding her. Against all odds, Scott found her a care-home bed, and she has been happily housed and sober for several years.

He excels at crisis counselling, calmly presenting options to his clients, while encouraging them to make appropriate and healthier decisions. As his nominators explain, "People on the streets respond to Scott and his fierce determination to do the best by them because he treats them with respect and dignity. He puts them at ease by genuinely listening to them, and uses a harm reduction approach to come up with solutions that suit them, not him."

**"Scott is a trusted ally and sought out street worker."**

*Summer Stonechild,  
Elbow River Healing Lodge*

Scott has also generously shared his knowledge, by training others in case management 'best practices' and giving presentations on cultural

sensitivity. He has taught his methods to professionals in the medical, social services, policing and addictions support fields, all the while working to change attitudes and foster respect and compassion for those he serves.

# Front-line Team

Which Provides Housing and/or  
Support to Those At Risk of  
or Experiencing Homelessness

## Inn from the Cold

Case Management Team

### Two nominations by:

- Jennifer Martinuk, Program Manager at Inn from the Cold; and
- Gary Nissen, President of Dome Britannia Properties Inc.



### Team members:

*(L-R starting in the back row)*

Leslie Lewis, Sandra Nasheim, Nicole Ritchie, Susan Matsalla, Leanne Tombe, Katelyn Lucas, Angela Clarke, Nicole Brown, Emily Lepowick, Alynn Gausvik, Jana Boehm, Nicolle Hans, Trisha Rhoden

The Inn from the Cold (the Inn) first began offering case management services to families in 2003. Since then, the service has grown into a 13-person team, offering an integrative and collaborative approach to ending homelessness. In 2011, the team facilitated housing placements for 133 families staying in the

Inn's shelter, as well as providing homelessness prevention services to 267 families and facilitating support and networking to 219 families that visited the shelter.

The team has a unified, service-oriented approach to client care. First, families are assigned to Primary and Secondary Family Support Workers to ensure that the unique needs of family members are met quickly and appropriately. Second, the

entire case management team meets weekly to discuss cases, explore new and emerging trends and strategies, and maximize team effectiveness. Experienced workers are partnered with new team members to ensure that constant 'hands-on' learning is provided and no one works in isolation.

The team is a 24/7 operation, with family support workers scheduled every day including weekends, holidays and evenings. By going beyond traditional service hours, they can provide immediate assistance to clients experiencing crisis or trauma.

No matter how complex the issues may be, the team follows the mantra that no family should be left behind. A family that arrived at the shelter in 2009 exemplifies this. They arrived in a state of crisis without existing networks or family supports and lacking the necessary life skills to transition to big-city living. In the last three years, the family has overcome incredible obstacles, including addiction, trauma, family violence, mental health, lack of problem-solving skills, and lack of proper parenting structures.

As the nominators explain, "The journey took consistency, persistence and the development of a trusting relationship to assist this family to a place of stability, even when, at times, their stability was thwarted by regression into old trauma."

Though the children were taken away, through her hard work, life skills training, and support from the Case Management Team, the mother now has the children back in her care. "The team works intentionally and diligently with the understanding that subtle changes take time for the more obvious changes to happen."

**"The team works intentionally and diligently with the understanding that subtle changes take time for the more obvious changes to happen." Nominators**

# Recognition

The nominees and recipients of the 2011 Arthur R. Smith Awards are representative of the tremendous effort and compassion of the front line work being done in the Calgary community to end homelessness.

The Calgary Homeless Foundation and the Community Relations Stakeholder Committee wishes to thank and honour everyone who was nominated, as well as those who submitted nominations, for their outstanding work and commitment to ending homelessness in Calgary. In total, we received 32 submissions.

**Volunteer** whose work makes a significant contribution in any way to those without a home or at risk of homelessness.

Nominee	Nominated by
<b>Herb Buist</b> The Mustard Seed	<b>Jeremy Siemens</b> The Mustard Seed
<b>Edmund Collins</b> Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre	<b>Jorge Campusano</b> Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre
<b>Anita Lindemulder</b> Jesus Loves You Society	<b>Becky Spencer</b> Jesus Loves You Society
<b>Michelle Linteau</b> Jesus Loves You Society	<b>Becky Spencer</b> Jesus Loves You Society
<b>Duane Norleen</b> Jesus Loves You Society	<b>Becky Spencer</b> Jesus Loves You Society
<b>Phil &amp; Jackie Reimer</b> Servants Anonymous Society of Calgary	<b>Siewwke Kozielski</b> Servants Anonymous Society of Calgary
<b>Sharon Robertson</b> Pathways to Housing, The Alex	<b>Lora Harvey</b> Pathways to Housing, The Alex



**Front-line individual** who provides housing and/or support to those at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Nominee	Nominated by
<b>Ina Biriucova</b> Rapid Exit, CUPS	<b>Gayle Gardiner</b> Rapid Exit, CUPS
<b>Pamela Cameron</b> The Mustard Seed	<b>Tammy McIvor</b> The Mustard Seed
<b>Randi Campbell</b> Aspen Family and Community Network Society	<b>Christopher Scissons</b> Aspen Family and Community Network Society
<b>Josh Clarke</b> The Mustard Seed	<b>Colin Tessier</b> The Mustard Seed
<b>Pamela Cole</b> Mary Dover House, YWCA of Calgary	<b>Sherri Berkshire</b> Program Support, YWCA of Calgary
<b>Mona Cooley</b> Pathways to Housing, The Alex	<b>Sue Fortune</b> Pathways to Housing, The Alex
<b>Jeremiah McKenna</b> Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre	<b>Abe Brown</b> Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre
<b>Adam Melnyk</b> Hope Team, CUPS	<b>Sarah Knopp</b> Renfrew Recovery Centre, Alberta Health Services
<b>Elizabeth Olorenshaw</b> Adult Addiction Services, Alberta Health Services	<b>Leta Hart</b> Adult Addiction Services, Alberta Health Services
<b>Cheryl Sklapsky</b> Keys To Recovery, Fresh Start Recovery Centre	<b>Const. Shawn Casselton</b> Calgary Police Services
<b>Karen Strong</b> HomeBase, The Alex	<b>Lisa Garrisen</b> HomeBase, The Alex
<b>Natalie St. Denis</b> Aspen Family and Community Network Society	<b>Doreen Kot</b> Affordable Housing Group, Kairos Calgary
<b>Russell Wood</b> Rapid Exit, CUPS	<b>Gayle Gardiner</b> Rapid Exit, CUPS

# Recognition (cont'd)

**Front-line team** which provides housing and/or support to those at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

## Nominee

## Nominated by

Alpha House Housing Team

Dan Grover  
CUPS

Wilson Dang  
Candice Giammarino  
Zoe Logan  
Nicole Nearing  
Phil Wan

Dolly Earl-Smith  
Samantha Hung  
Paul McDonald  
Melissa Velasquez  
Russell Wood

Alex Youth Health Centre Team

Danene Lenstra  
The Alex

Tasha Belix  
Dr. Sunita Chacko  
Emily Fraser  
Dr. Maya Grover  
Rachelle Hilman, RN  
Sarah Parsons  
Dr. Theresa Truong  
Alyson Young

Lauri Comoli  
Meghan Finnbogason  
Judy McCuaig  
Kate Hawkworth  
Dr. Carla Morden  
Dr. Kerri Treherne  
Barb Weisberger, RN

Discovery House Community  
Housing Team

Heather Morley  
Discovery House Family  
Violence Prevention Society

Remy Acedera  
Lana Bentley  
Melissa Foster  
Mayra Jarillo-Alvarado  
Hilda Lam  
Lisa Sheldon

Brenda Bartos  
Alison Casey  
Alyssa Geiger  
Paula Jones  
Deb Phillips

Hattie and Joe Foote  
Highbanks Society

Stephanie Schoenberg  
Highbanks Society

**Nominee****Nominated by****Kerby Rotary Shelter Team**

**Dorothy Dooley**  
Kerby Centre of Excellence

Valerie Bilinsky                      Sheryl Bohna  
Carol-Lyne Carter                      Tariq Darr  
Allian Liu                                  Amanda Priddel  
Rahim Ali Shaheed

**CUPS Rapid Exit Team**

**Gayle Gardiner**  
CUPS Rapid Exit Team

Tamara Aldred                      Katy Anderson  
Randy Bachman                      Crystal Bain  
Ina Biriucova                          Amanda Dubois  
Gayle Gardiner                      Thisbe Guevarra  
Richard Mugford                      Michelle Percy  
Mallory Richard                      Nadia Scotto  
Amanda St. Laurent                      James Witney  
Russell Wood

**Street Outreach & Stabilization  
(SOS) Team**

**Kathy Talon**  
Canadian Mental Health  
Association, Calgary Region

Bryn Davis-Taylor                      Larry Fedun  
Daniel Lenfest-Jameson                      Nicole Tailfeathers  
Noelle West                              Adrienne Yee

**Servants Anonymous Facilitated Exit  
(SAFE) Team**

**Theresa Jenkins**  
Servants Anonymous  
Society of Calgary

Rebecca Bradbury                      Leyla Constanza  
Liz Gibson                              Gesselle Godoy  
Colleen Hemsing                      Amy Krill  
Deborah McMillan

Our mission is to end  
homelessness in Calgary.

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