

# vital impact

Stories of community in action

## DON'T GIVE UP ON GIVING

### *The Importance of Philanthropy in Tough Times*

In the face of economic uncertainty, community needs are escalating – while donations are declining. There's never been a more compelling time to give as charities struggle to do more, with less. There's a real responsibility for The Calgary Foundation (TCF) to inspire philanthropy and provide leadership to sustain the charitable sector.

The Calgary Foundation is not immune to the economic downturn. Fortunately, our long term investment perspective will enable TCF to disburse 5% of our endowment this year to support the Calgary and area community.

#### TCF Community Leadership Initiatives

##### Sometimes we lead...

As a catalyst and convener, TCF creates a 'meeting place' by developing relationships with a diverse group of networks to identify and address community needs.

- **Calgary's Vital Signs** engages over 1000 citizens in the development of an annual report card that provides a snapshot of the quality of life in Calgary.
- The **Forever Funds Speaker Series** engages citizens in conversations that inspire increased leadership and investment in five areas of emerging needs.
- **Reshaping the Charitable Sector Forum** will convene community stakeholders seeking transformational solutions to support the sustainability of the charitable sector through innovation, collaboration, engagement and leadership.

##### Sometimes we partner...

- **Gaining Ground Summit** ([gaininggroundsummit.com](http://gaininggroundsummit.com)) – will support a sustainable urban development leadership conference.
- **Tides Canada Foundation** ([tidescanada.org](http://tidescanada.org)) – will support a research study to enhance the capacities of urban Aboriginal communities.

##### *Moving forward, by looking back...*

Over fifty years ago, twenty individuals each contributed \$5,000 to establish The Calgary Foundation, recognizing that we all depend on each other to create a caring, giving and healthy community.

In facing our current challenges, TCF maintains the conviction of those visionary leaders who realized that change happens when we connect and inspire others. □



Donald G. Cormack, C.A.  
Chair, Board of Directors

Eva Friesen  
President & CEO

CALGARY'S

# VitalSigns®

## Taking The pulse of Calgary

What are Calgarians most concerned about?  
How can we contribute to building a healthy community?

Have your say on quality of life issues at:

Community Discussion Table

Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 11:30 am

La Joie de Vivre - 1008 14<sup>th</sup> Street SE

RSVP online at [calgaryvitalsigns.ca](http://calgaryvitalsigns.ca) or call 403-802-7719

Be a grader for Calgary's 2009 Vital Signs Report. Visit [calgaryvitalsigns.ca](http://calgaryvitalsigns.ca)

Calgary's 2009 Vital Signs Report will be published in the Calgary Herald on Oct. 6.

By combining facts, opinions and perceptions, Calgary's Vital Signs report card provides a realistic look at our strengths and weaknesses today, so we can effectively move toward the city we want to create for ourselves and our children. □



THE CALGARY  
FOUNDATION

FOR CALGARY FOREVER

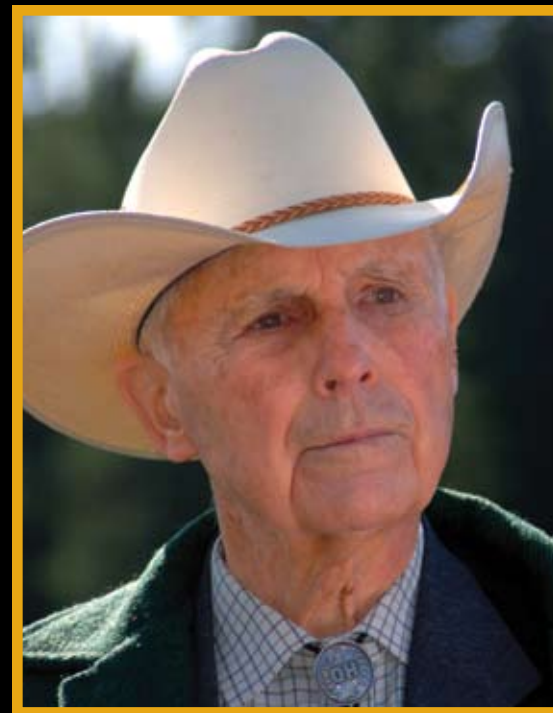


Photo Courtesy Russell Moore Images

## DOC, 1922-2009

### Legendary Leader

*"I think you want to feel you have been of good service not only to your community, but your country," Doc Seaman*

Daryl K. (Doc) Seaman believed that inspired giving could help transform the world. He was a connector, bringing people together and through connections made incredible things happen.

Through his lifetime devotion to community, Doc's philanthropy touched every area of the community and thousands of Calgarians have been quietly helped.

Doc Seaman is recognized for his creativity in looking for opportunities to contribute.

In 1995, he established the Daryl K. Seaman Foundation Fund in the Community Fund at The Calgary Foundation (TCF). The unrestricted funds in the Community Fund are pooled to support hundreds of charitable organizations, in all sectors of the community, in addressing immediate and emerging needs. Doc recognized the value of TCF in identifying community priorities.

Through other Funds at TCF, Doc supported a wide range of causes and activities, including outdoor hockey, new medical technologies and research, environmental conservation and aboriginal advancement.

Doc Seaman was, quite simply, a great man, connecting, mentoring and inspiring new generations of philanthropists, leaders and committed citizens.

*"Doc represents the generation that built modern Canada, but Doc's philosophy is also crucial for modern times. The underlying value is hard work, entrepreneurial spirit, and being true to your word," Murray Edwards, entrepreneur and Flames co-owner.*

Quote from *Staying in the Game: The Remarkable Story of Doc Seaman* by award-winning author Sydney Sharpe

Publication of **vital impact** supported by:



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INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT



The Calgary Foundation believes that strong and vibrant neighbourhoods are the heart of any great city. So too are local people who engage neighbours, groups and public institutions in dialogue and shared projects.

## Neighbour Grants

*Building Pathways to Vibrant Communities*



The Calgary Foundation's *Neighbour Grants* Program builds participation and leadership in neighbourhoods through support of resident-led projects that engage people in the well-being of their communities. At the heart of these neighbourhoods are people who care about their community and are willing to share their gifts and talents. They are supported by local organizations that are able to respond to community concerns through cooperation among residents and groups in the neighbourhood.

*Neighbour Grants* of up to \$5,000 support resident-led projects that:

- Bring together people in a neighbourhood or community to achieve a common goal;
- Help create a new or renewed sense of belonging, welcome and neighbourliness;
- Build connections between diverse groups in neighbourhoods and communities;
- Create meaningful partnerships;
- Express neighbourliness, creativity, and meaningful resident leadership and involvement;
- Spark further involvement of residents and new local opportunities;
- Benefit a wide circle of people and groups in neighbourhoods and communities.

Since 1999, *Neighbour Grants* has supported over 250 projects with grants totaling more than \$1,332,000 that have touched every quadrant of the city. Proposals are reviewed every two months by an advisory committee composed of knowledgeable community volunteers. Supported projects have included planning and action projects that engage people in local concerns, cultural and generational exchange projects that strengthen understanding and acceptance, local history and art projects that build a sense of belonging and sharing, and volunteer-built community gardens, naturalization areas and playgrounds. □



### The Good Life Community Bike Shop

The *Good Life Community Bike Shop* is a non-profit community bicycle education and resource centre located in Eau Claire Market. Opened in 2008, it is operated solely by volunteers. At the *Good Life*, Calgarians of all walks of life can use the space, tools and resources to learn how to fix and maintain their bicycles. The Calgary Foundation's Neighbour Grants program supported the development of a volunteer program at the *Good Life*.

The *Good Life* promotes cycling as a healthy and environmentally sustainable way for Calgarians to travel in their day-to-day lives. Membership and education are both free as the *Good Life* seeks to empower its cycling and soon-to-be cycling community. □

[goodlifebikes.ca](http://goodlifebikes.ca)



### Evanston/Creekside Clean Team

In the summer of 2008, a group of volunteers mobilized to clean up their local green spaces and get to know neighbours in the new and expanding neighbourhood of Evanston/Creekside. With the support of the *Stepping Stones* program, volunteers set up an a-frame sign in a park in the neighbourhood, inviting neighbours to join a clean-up day. Each month, the sign was moved to a different park and more people joined in. By the end of the summer, several green spaces were freed of litter and people in a new neighbourhood were connected and building a sense of community. □



## Second Annual Jane's Walk in Calgary

**JOIN US ON MAY 2 & 3 2009!**

*Jane's Walk* is a street-level celebration of famed urbanist Jane Jacobs. *Jane's Walk* combines the simple act of walking with personal observations, urban history and local lore as a means of knitting people together into strong and resourceful communities.

The first *Jane's Walk* was held in Toronto in 2007 and has since spread to over a dozen other cities, including Ottawa, Calgary, Halifax, Guelph, Winnipeg, Charlottetown, Vancouver, Salt Lake City and New York. Over 6,000 people explored over 140 Canadian neighbourhoods during last year's Jane's Walk. The Centre for City Ecology supports the event throughout North America, and The Calgary Foundation supports the event locally.

*Jane's Walk* is an exceptional opportunity to discover our city—both the places we think we know well and the places we want to explore. There is still time to sign-up for a walk and get an insider's take on our city's inner-city and suburban neighbourhoods. □

[janeswalk.net](http://janeswalk.net)

## Stepping Stones

*A Neighbourly First Step*



In 2006, The Calgary Foundation and First Calgary Savings partnered to introduce *Stepping Stones*, a granting program that supports small, neighbourly projects in the early stages of development. *Stepping Stones* offers grants of \$100 to \$600 to help Calgarians undertake small creative projects—neighbourly first steps.

*Stepping Stones* supports resident-led initiatives that:

- Benefit the neighbourhood and community;
- Involve new people and isolated people in the community;
- Make the most of existing local skills and resources;
- Build on people's interests and what they enjoy doing;
- Develop local leadership;
- Take no more than two months to complete.

Projects have included neighbourhood groups (running club; art studio; park clean-up crew), skill-building workshops (prairie gardening; responding to domestic violence) and gatherings to share cultures and local experience (multicultural new year's celebration, youth anti-racism art exhibit). □

## The Forever Funds - Catalyst for Postive Action

The *Forever Funds* initiative was established to facilitate discussions and encourage civic engagement in five areas of emerging need that require increased leadership and funding in the Calgary and area community: Mental Health, Arts & Heritage, Diversity & Inclusion, Seniors and the Environment.

### Towards an Art Incubator

Through extensive consultation and discussion, the need for stable creative working space emerged as the Arts community's most critical issue. The Calgary Foundation has, from the beginning, been engaged with Calgary Arts Development's (CADA's) work on arts spaces as a funder, champion and potential partner in space development. Working with CADA, the Foundation convened the arts community to discuss the benefits of an "arts incubator," an interdisciplinary venue for artistic creation. Set up as a place for collaboration and experimentation for all ages and broad artistic disciplines, an incubator fosters the development of new work and plays a key role in feeding Calgary's artistic engine. Uses include graphic and digital arts, literary arts, theatre, music, and dance.

Plans are underway to make an Arts Incubator a reality. Working with partners, TCF is exploring the regeneration of a block of buildings on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue southwest and contributing to the long-term development of creative arts spaces.

### Seniors Transportation

As part of the *Forever Funds* work in the area of Seniors, the most critical issue identified was isolation. The Calgary Foundation believes we can make a difference through improved seniors transportation. With the goal of having the best assisted seniors transportation system in North America, The Foundation seeks to engage as many community partners as possible in a coordinated and focused effort.

As part of this effort, a unique partnership has been established between the Calgary Seniors Resource Society (CSRS), the Calgary Motor Dealers Association (CMDA) and ElderNet Calgary for an innovative cross-sectoral enhancement of the Seniors' Social Link program. This partnership involves CMDA members making available their courtesy shuttle vans and drivers at no cost, to transport low income and/or isolated seniors around the city to particular social and recreation activities. Apart from the morning and late afternoon rush, these vans sit for the most part unused in the middle of the day. This is a win-win situation for all participants. The Calgary Foundation has supported this partnership by providing funding to pilot the initiative, assess risk, and provide screening, scheduling, training and orientation to drivers.



## Harvie Passage

It has been over 100 years since the Bow River flowed freely through the City of Calgary. Since 1904, a weir to divert water for irrigation has blocked passage on the Bow. The current structure, built in 1975 near Inglewood, performs the important function of diverting water into a canal for use by farmers in the Western Irrigation District.

Construction on the Harvie Passage, a multi-million dollar project that will remove the hazard and allow the Bow River to once again flow freely, is now underway. Throughout construction, the safety and health of the fish in the river are being closely monitored and steps are being taken to enhance the shoreline. For each tree cut down, three new trees will be planted, and significant public art and landscaping design will add interest to the area.

Funding partners include The Calgary Foundation, the City of Calgary, Alberta Lotteries and the Province of Alberta. The Harvie Passage is administered by Parks Foundation Calgary.

[harviepassage.ca](http://harviepassage.ca)

**Arts and culture play a central role in Calgarians' view of what it means to have a high quality of life. Calgarians want visionary thinking with a vibrant city centre featuring iconic facilities and incubator spaces, supported by arts-infused communities.**

*Calgary Arts Development*

## Alberta Ballet

As the largest professional ballet company and school west of Winnipeg, **Alberta Ballet** not only showcases some of the finest dance talent of today, but also, through *The School of Alberta Ballet*, creates the artists of tomorrow. For over 40 years, **Alberta Ballet** has played a vital role in developing ballet and dance in our province, and the company has moved rapidly to the forefront of the world dance scene.



*"In order to continue to create great art and artists, we have recognized that a new home is necessary – one that reflects our leading role and that will allow for responsible growth over the next 40 years."* Darryl Lindenbach, Executive Director, **Alberta Ballet**.

The historic Nat Christie Centre in Calgary has housed **Alberta Ballet's** artists, administrative and production staff since 1991. The company has nearly doubled in size since then, and has outgrown the current facility. With an eye on long-term needs, **Alberta Ballet** is undertaking an ambitious plan to build a new facility to house both the company and school. The Calgary Foundation is supporting the planning and design phases of the new facility.

The current facility carries both civic and provincial heritage designations, and **Alberta Ballet** is committed to maintaining it. The new facility will integrate the architecture of the existing building, and maintain an important heritage building in Calgary's dwindling supply. □

[albertaballet.com](http://albertaballet.com)

## Downstage Performance Society

Through a unique partnership, The Unitarian Church of Calgary and the **Downstage Performance Society** are launching a feasibility study in an effort to address the shortage of affordable and accessible rehearsal and performance space in Calgary.

The feasibility study will assess the cost and logistical issues encountered in undertaking a significant renovation and enhancement of the *birds and stone* performance space, in the basement of the Unitarian Church of Calgary, located outside of the downtown core. The immediate needs of the space, most notably the replacement of the theatre seating, will also be addressed. Tickets for **Downstage's** exciting performances sell quickly - get yours early! □

[downstage.ca](http://downstage.ca)

## Lunchbox Theatre



For over 30 years, **Lunchbox Theatre** has been bringing excitement to the average work day in downtown Calgary by providing accessible noon-hour theatre to all Calgarians. With a focus on downtown workers, **Lunchbox Theatre** also has a loyal following of seniors and youth. The company is the only noon-hour theatre company in Canada, and a leading developer of new Canadian one-act plays.

"In 2008, we undertook the largest task in our 34 year history – transforming an empty shell of a space at the base of the Calgary Tower into a brand new theatre. Many of the improvements to our marketing programs, fund development activities and mentorship programs can be directly attributed to the generosity of The Calgary Foundation and its donors," says Leslie Biles, General Manager, **Lunchbox Theatre**.

The incredible strain on art spaces in Calgary forced **Lunchbox Theatre** to relocate. The new space, located at the base of the Calgary Tower, can seat up to 150 patrons, in three different configurations.

"To put it simply, **Lunchbox Theatre** is now a stronger, healthier organization because of The Calgary Foundation's grant," says Biles. □

[lunchboxtheatre.com](http://lunchboxtheatre.com)





Along with Calgary's prosperity comes the importance of stepping back and taking the pulse of our community so we as citizens can better respond to both the opportunities and the challenges.

## Engaging Calgary's Communities

Community associations have an important role to play in urban planning. They help shape and communicate community goals and aspirations in both policy planning and implementation of plans. They provide city authorities and development applicants with advice and



insight into neighbourhood issues, and concerns. Community associations are positioned to better engage their residents in larger urban planning issues, if they have the proper support. The

Calgary Foundation supported a new project (launched by the *Friends of the Federation of Calgary Communities*) that endeavors to train and support volunteers, beyond current efforts, to enhance understanding of good planning practices and community engagement so that people can work together to create vibrant and well-designed communities. □

[calgarycommunities.com](http://calgarycommunities.com)

## Reducing Ecological Footprints

Alberta is a leader in environmental education, with citizens who are informed and motivated to live more sustainably, be responsible stewards of the environment, and help ensure future generations' quality of life. The Alberta Council for Environmental Education (ACEE) works in collaboration with others to advance environmental education in Alberta.

Every year, ACEE engages over a half-million Albertans, including 200,000 Calgarians, in positive environmental action, helping them reduce their consumption and steward the environment. To do this, ACEE utilizes a network of over 180 environmental education organizations. The Calgary Foundation has supported ACEE in convening workshops and leadership clinics in an effort to increase organizational capacity to reach out to Albertans regarding their environmental citizenship. □

[abcee.org](http://abcee.org)



**ACEE** Alberta Council for Environmental Education  
ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ALBERTA



## Taking The Garden Path

### Inglewood's Garden Path Society - Cornucopia Program

The *Cornucopia* program seeks to increase public participation in organic food production to create an environmentally sustainable local food supply. Organizers are concerned about the lack of locally grown produce and with the environmental impact of the commercial food system. They aim to educate Calgarians on waste reduction, organic growing practices and food production issues to help reduce the ecological footprint of imported, commercial food.

The Calgary Foundation's support helped with the development of a 1600 m<sup>2</sup> piece of land in Inglewood with a target of 4,000+ pounds of produce. A minimum of 1,000 pounds was designated for donation to neighbourhood charities and the remaining was available to *Garden Path Society* members. Planting, caring for, and harvesting of the crops was done by members and volunteers under the direction of garden coordinators. Throughout the summer and fall, members came together to care for and harvest the crops.

By donating a portion of the produce, *Cornucopia* strengthens the community by helping the less fortunate and fostering a spirit of sharing and collaboration to address community issues. The project generates a wealth of volunteering opportunities and enables a diverse mix of people to participate. □

[calgarygardenpath.ca](http://calgarygardenpath.ca)



## Northern Lights Small Grants



The *Northern Lights Small Grants Initiative* supports small neighbourhood projects in Saddle Ridge, Castleridge, Falconridge, Taradale, Martindale and Coral Springs. Twice a year, grant applications will be accepted from people who live in these northeast communities. Residents are invited to submit a simple application form if they have a project idea they'd like to try. A volunteer group of residents will review the applications and help determine which ideas are most likely to benefit the community. Grant amounts will range from \$50 to \$600.

*Northern Lights* was launched on March 28, 2009. Over 300 people attended the event to learn about the program and to celebrate the neighbourhoods. Project partners include The Calgary Foundation, United Way of Calgary and Area, Terry Fox Junior High School, City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services, Calgary Public Library, North of McKnight Community Resource Centre and a group of local residents. □

[northofmcknightcrc.ca/northern\\_lights.html](http://northofmcknightcrc.ca/northern_lights.html)



## The Universe is Calling

For the past three years, the *Rothney Astrophysical Observatory's (RAO)* fledgling outreach efforts have provided Alberta students with an experiential learning opportunity in a unique research environment. The Calgary Foundation is supporting RAO's new project, 'The Universe is Calling,' which aims to make programs an experiential learning adventure that will engage up to 1,500 Alberta students. The focus is to provide students with supplemental, hands-on tools to aid them in understanding the complex scientific concepts that they learn in the classroom. The initiative involves the development and delivery of new sky science activities built around practical applications and using a computer controlled telescope equipped with imaging detectors.



The *RAO* offers students an opportunity to learn through a unique experience that is different from other science museums or centres in Southern Alberta. Through the installation of a new dome for the *RAO's* 35 cm telescope, more students will be able to participate in the practical applications of what they learn in the classroom. The design of the telescope is perfect for demonstrating how light is collected and moves through a telescope. □

## Educational Support for Sudanese Families

There are over 10,000 Sudanese living in Calgary. As the largest group of African newcomers, the Sudanese community has struggled with a wide range of integration challenges in all spheres of civic life. Many Sudanese arrive in Canada with disrupted educational experiences and low literacy skills, resulting in low academic performance and high dropout rates.

The Sudanese community is diverse in terms of tribal affiliation, history, interests and levels of integration. All community members, however, share concern for their children's education. Many Sudanese leaders see educational and literacy support for families as a common ground around which to mobilize and unite various groups in the community to work toward common goals.

With support from The Calgary Foundation, a new collaboration between the All Nations Theatre Society and the Coalition for Equal Access to Education will focus on two key areas: educational and literacy support for Sudanese children and youth and their families, and development and enhancement of leadership capacity in the Sudanese community. □



## Transitioning to Choice

Since 1988, *The Doorway* has assisted young people exiting street culture to become self-sufficient and engaged members of society. Abandoned by ineffective systems and institutions that promise to support their development, children are forced to look within themselves to guide their continued existence.

The starting point for *The Doorway* approach is in the acknowledgement of the realities experienced by many children in our society. It has been said often, but 'really heard' less often, that as adults and elders of our society, we must offer safety and nurture to all children.

*The Doorway* seeks to create new futures for young people through interaction with engaged citizens. The Calgary Foundation supports the *MyPLAN* project, which seeks to bring the proven approach of nurturing self-determined problem-solving and ownership of one's life to an online environment for street youth who have no access or do not have regular access to the physical location. The project also seeks to enrich the on-site environment for current participants. It is well documented that the experience of street youth is universal and world wide. *MyPLAN* will be developed locally, with 100% transferability in measured growth to regional, national and international contexts. □

[thedorway.ca](http://thedorway.ca)



## Waste at Work

*Clean Calgary* offers a wide variety of presentations to businesses and organizations to help answer tough questions about the environment, explain practical ways to become green and share Calgary-specific knowledge. These can be delivered as part of a staff meeting, as a 'Lunch and Learn' or at any other time.

"Waste at Work" is a 50 minute presentation primarily aimed at educating employees on steps they can take to reduce, reuse and recycle materials at work. *Clean Calgary* Association's education team has delivered this presentation to over 200 businesses and organizations resulting in internal changes like full service recycling programs or employee competitions to produce the least amount of waste per individual or department. Most organizations have introduced new initiatives which led to reducing the organization's footprint related to waste, water and energy. □

[cleancalgary.org](http://cleancalgary.org)





## An Evening with Jerry Seinfeld

### Celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of The Owen Hart Foundation

The Owen Hart Foundation is thrilled to announce a very special and unforgettable evening with Jerry Seinfeld on June 16, 2009 at the

Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. This extraordinary evening of fun and laughter will celebrate The Owen Hart Foundation's 10 years of humanitarian service and commitment to helping those with limited resources, but with unlimited potential.

"The Owen Hart Foundation has endeavored to provide much needed funds for education and a variety of other invaluable social programs. With the ongoing support of so many wonderful Calgarians, The Owen Hart Foundation has grown into a staple charity within the Calgary community and has also served as an incredible celebration of Owen Hart's life. It has been this collective effort that has greatly contributed to the continued success of The Owen Hart Foundation," says Martha Hart, founder. □

[owenhartfoundation.org](http://owenhartfoundation.org)



## Twenty-five Years of Invigorating Dance

In celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, *Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (DJD)* is presenting *twentyfive*, a live music/dance show featuring 25 things that have made *DJD* immensely popular with audiences. The Calgary Foundation is proud to support the production of *twentyfive*.



Different from a regular *DJD* production, *twentyfive* will honour the company's history, highlight artists who have worked with *DJD* over the years, and bring back some of the company's most popular dance moments from the past – in particular, segments from the 1992 production of *No Small Feets*, featuring the music of Clarence "Big" Miller.

*twentyfive* will run at the Max Bell Theatre (EPCOR Centre for the Performing Arts) June 3-14, 2009.

Get your tickets today by calling 403-245-3533 or order online at [decidedlyjazz.com](http://decidedlyjazz.com) □

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