

E4C ENVOY

SPRING 2014



ON THE COVER:

A child in E4C's ArtStart celebrates his paper elephant creation



E4C's mission is to limit, alleviate and ultimately eliminate poverty.

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Charitable Registration Number: 13155-8140-RR0001

Please call or email if you wish to be added to the e-newsletter or removed from our mailing list.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Spring is here and with it brings feelings of renewal and anticipation of our events yet to come.

It is my pleasure to personally invite our Envoy family to attend [E4C's Public Annual General Meeting](#) at the Royal Alberta Museum on May 22, 2014.

Actor and inspirational speaker [Dakota House](#) will be joining us to share his *blue tray story*, highlighting the significant role our Snack Program and School Lunch Program played in his early years of growing up in Edmonton. Dakota will help us mark the 20th anniversary of E4C's School Lunch Program. Please consider joining us.

I look forward to meeting you and seeing you in the community during this bustling season of change, light and greenery.

Barb Spencer



E4C'S ARTSTART: CREATIVITY AND BEYOND

On the floor of the gymnasium at Bannerman School, seven children lay on brightly coloured fur mats painting ceramics. It's a fun learning environment full of positive connections.

Shar Anderson's [ArtStart](#) class, entitled "Listen, Think, Create and Play", is typically taught with everyone, including the instructor, seated in a circle. Shar is one of 28 volunteers who instruct ArtStart's after-school classes, ranging in visual art, drama, dance, and music. The class sizes are small, maxing out at 13 students, and volunteer instructors are paired together, to ensure the children get the individual attention they need.

Each semester has a new round of classes and each course has a core purpose built into it, such as how to deal with bullying, for example. "People associate art with learning a technique," says Program Manager, Eva Schneider, "What we want is for the children to have a safe place to express themselves through art. When the participants get positive feedback from a trustworthy adult and their peers, they gain

confidence. They realize what it feels like to succeed."

ArtStart began 11 years ago for families that did not have access to and could not afford these types of classes for their children. Schneider says, "Many of these families and kids face difficult circumstances. But when children get positive reinforcement, they improve in many other ways."

Today, more than 100,000 Edmontonians are still struggling to meet their basic needs. 30% of those are children.

[\(Edmonton Social Planning Council www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca\).](#)

Through ArtStart last year, 92% of participants told us that they made at least one new friend in their classes. When a 9 year-old child was asked why she attends ArtStart, she says, "Because I wanted to learn more, I wanted to see my creativity." The confidence is evident in her voice. She shares the multiple crafts she's working on and lists the songs she's planning on singing at her friend's birthday. She concludes with, "I just want to say that I'll enjoy ArtStart forever."



CREATIVE WAYS TO INVEST IN ARTSTART

Join us for a one-of-a-kind fundraiser for E4C's ArtStart. [Villains & Vigilantes](#) is a storybook-themed fundraiser on April 10th, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the TransAlta Arts Barns. Costumes are encouraged, food will be plentiful and art is purchasable (via an auction). Be a part of our story and become your favourite villain or vigilante in support of creativity. Tickets are available through Tix on the Square (780) 420-1757

Make a donation. You may specify "ArtStart" on your cheque, or visit us online at e4calberta.org/donate-to-e4c

We are always looking for volunteer instructors, particularly in dance and music. Please contact Eva at eschneider@e4calberta to get involved.

PROGRAM NEWS



SHARE YOUR BLUE TRAY STORY

Since 1993, [E4C's School Lunch Program](#) has served meals on blue trays to children in several Edmonton schools. In celebration of the program's 20th anniversary, we are looking for your blue tray story. If you attended any of the following schools, we want to know your experience and where you are now. E4C's School Lunch Program has helped thousands of students focus on their learning and be successful in their studies.

Email your story to: connect@e4calberta.org

Abbott	1999 – 2014	Prince Charles	1999 – 2014
Alex Taylor	1999 – 2003	R.J. Scott	1997 – 2014
Delton	2010 – 2014	Rundle	1997 – 2014
Eastwood	1997 – 2010	Sacred Heart	1994 – 2003
McCauley	1993 – 2010	Sherbrook	1999 – 2003
McDougall	1999 – 2014	St. Alphonsus	2003 – 2014
Mother Teresa	2003 – 2014	St. Francis	1994 – 2014
Norwood	1994 – 2014	St. Michael	1996 – 2003
Parkdale	2004 – 2010	St. Patrick	1993 – 2003

CALL FOR COMPACT DIGITAL CAMERAS

E4C is seeking in-kind donations of small "point-and-click" digital cameras for a new workshop series called Forward Together. Forward Together is a set of creative writing workshops and photo voice projects for community members.

Participants will be documenting their lives and neighbourhoods as a means to strengthen their voice on issues of poverty, family and community. They will be given the opportunity to learn about creative expression, while increasing social bonds and reducing isolation.

For more information on the Forward Together workshop series please contact David Prodan by email at dprodan@e4calberta.org, or by telephone at (780) 424-2870.

Donations are gratefully accepted Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at our main office in Alex Taylor School, 9321- Jasper Avenue.

MAKING THE MOST OF TAX SEASON

E4C's [Make Tax Time Pay \(MTTP\)](#) is in full swing, with tax sites operating throughout the city, all made possible by over 300 volunteers. MTTP, provided for low-income families and individuals, offers free income tax preparation and benefit assistance in Edmonton. Financial contributions are essential to this program. Thanks to those who have donated time, energy, and funds, over 4,200 tax returns were filed in 2013.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 DONORS AND SUPPORTERS. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING OUR STORIES IN 2014 WITH YOU.



United Way
Member Agency



YES! I WANT TO DONATE!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Payment Method: VISA MasterCard Cheque

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____

Your name as it appears on card: _____

Total Amount: \$ _____ ArtStart Program: _____



PLEASE COMPLETE
AND RETURN THIS
FORM TO E4C IN
THE ENVELOPE.