



Dear Staff,

Fall, 2011

***“Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.” (Proverbs 22:9)***

***“50 Years. Changing Lives. Countless reasons to support Sign of Hope!”*** is this year's Catholic Social Services (CSS) theme for their annual fundraising campaign. Join the staff of CSS as they work to build stronger family and community lives for many individuals in our city and surrounding communities. Catholic Social Services' staff dedicate their lives to serving people in need - people of all faiths and cultures. People battling addictions, persons with disabilities, street youth who are sexually exploited, and families devastated by domestic violence are all individuals served by CSS.

Your gift to the Sign of Hope will be used wisely – **91 cents of every dollar you donate goes directly to programs** that benefit those in need of emotional, physical, and spiritual help in our communities:

- 2% helps persons with physical and/or developmental disabilities
- 3% helps mothers, children, and families affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- 3% helps seniors who are experiencing abuse or neglect
- 5% alleviates poverty and homelessness
- 6% helps “street” youth
- 8% provides care and support for women and men living with HIV/AIDS
- 9% provides housing and social supports to women and their children who are leaving domestic violence and abuse
- 9% helps men and women recovering from drug/alcohol addictions
- 9% assists new Canadians as they adjust to life in the community
- 9% provides spiritual life resources and volunteer services
- 12% provides in-home supports for families “at risk”; parent teen mediation; foster care; and family capacity support
- 25% provides individual and family counselling services; psycho-educational workshops; and adoption support and referral

**It is your support for more than 100 programs offered to 60,000 people of ALL faiths, cultural and social backgrounds that will stop the violence and abuse.** Please consider supporting Catholic Social Services... ***countless reasons to support!*** Now, more than ever, those we serve need your help.

**This year our goal in Edmonton Catholic Schools is to raise at least \$100,000.** The Sign of Hope campaign also provides a wonderful opportunity to involve our students in raising funds for Catholic Social Services through Kids Care Challenge. Under the leadership of staff members, Sandra Talarico and Terry Volk, who have spearheaded this campaign for the last 15 years, Kids Care Challenge raised over \$58,000 last year.

I invite all of you to consider supporting this campaign. You can donate directly and indicate your wish to support the education sector, or donate electronically by logging onto [www.ecsd.net/signofhope](http://www.ecsd.net/signofhope). Each year we begin a new campaign; **deductions are not carried forward.**

***‘Countless reasons to support’***...please give to The Sign of Hope. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Superintendent