



Lois Hole Memorial Literacy Awards 2015

Adult Learner Award Winner



Jennifer Butt's tutor, Elaine, describes her as the kindest, most dedicated, and determined person she has ever met. Jennifer had two goals: to be the first person in her family to achieve their grade 12 diploma, and to secure a job in which she can support seniors.

Jennifer was referred to the Centre by NorQuest College. At the Centre, she participated in two eight-week group literacy classes while maintaining a full-time job. During this time she brought a GED study book to every class. Jennifer approached Elaine, the class instructor, and asked if she could help her study for her GED.

Depending on her work schedule, Jennifer met with Elaine three to four times a week, for four to six hours each time. She did many practice exercises and exams. She made suggestions as to how Elaine could help her succeed. She never complained, was rarely discouraged, and was almost always smiling.

On her first attempt Jennifer passed her GED Language Arts Reading, Language Arts Writing and Science – no easy task. On her second attempt, Jennifer passed the GED Math and was just a mark shy of passing the Social Studies section. She was very disappointed but not discouraged.

Jennifer was recently hired by an organization that assists seniors to continue to live independently – thus achieving one of her goals. On December 13, Jennifer wrote her GED Social Studies exam and she was successful, thus becoming the first person in her family to obtain their grade 12.

Family Learner Award Winner



Kerri Kelly works full-time at Elves Special Needs Society as part of a multi-disciplinary team that provides programming for children who have been diagnosed with varying disabilities.

As a parent, Kerri and her son Caleb participate in the Rhymes that Bind program at the Beverly Day Care and Resource Centre and have done so for three consecutive years. Caleb lives for the Rhymes that Bind program and Kerri has enrolled him in music lessons to compliment his already large repertoire of songs.

The Rhymes that Bind program has offered Kerri an opportunity to make new friends and to become a role model for other parents in the program. She is a leader in the Collective Kitchen Experience at the day care and has taken advantage of every program that is offered at the Family Resource Centre that helps her support her son Caleb's development.

Kerri was seven years old when she was diagnosed with Dyslexia. For Kerri, reading is a passion. She is a huge advocate of the library and visits on a regular basis. She reads out loud to Caleb almost every night and has him "read" his favourite book back to her.

Community Leadership Award



The Harley Owners Group

Chapters are non-profit organizations that, in addition to sharing the passion of riding, are committed to supporting their communities. According to Ron Beattie, Chapter Director, Old Strathcona Harley Owners Group, there are many community organizations to choose from.

In 2008 one member of the chapter, a teacher, suggested the Centre for Family would be a great organization to support. The Chapter Director at the time also had an interest in literacy, as his father had been a part-time driver of the Edmonton C.O.W. (Classroom on Wheels) Bus. And so the relationship began.

Every May, members of the organization ride their bikes out to the Edmonton C.O.W. Bus and visit with the Centre's staff and the families attending the program. They also deliver their annual donation to this program. The Centre likes to describe this as the day the HOGs come to visit the C.O.W.