

Rotary Employment Partnership E-Blast

D5360 & D5370

Congratulations Wendy!

We are thrilled to announce that Inclusion Alberta's Chief Operating Officer and fellow Rotarian Wendy McDonald is a recipient of Rotary International's Service Above Self Award.

Wendy was presented the Service Above Self Award in June from Rotary International Director Jeffry Cadorette with the following words of acknowledgement:

"In 2000, (Wendy McDonald) was preparing for her year as president of her club. She attended the Rotary International convention in Buenos Aires. At that convention she was inspired by the late incoming RI President Frank Devlin who challenged Rotarians and clubs to create employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. She describes this moment as a moment when her life as a Rotarian and her life as a mom collided. She and her husband have two sons, one of whom has a developmental disability.

Following the convention, she came home and began to do some research. In Alberta and across most of North America there is close to an 80% unemployment rate for individuals with developmental disabilities. This means that the individual lives a life of isolation, poverty and government assistance, a life without possibilities. Her club began the Rotary Employment Partnership in 2001, it became clear that Rotary could not do important work without partners. A partnership was formed between Inclusion Alberta and the Government of Alberta. The government of Alberta provides the funding for the partnership and Inclusion Alberta connects individuals with developmental disabilities to the jobs created by Rotarians and assisting the employers to sustain employment by utilizing natural support. By capitalizing on this substantial network, and the networking capacity of Rotarians to create jobs, this initiative has proven to be the most cost-effective employment strategy in Alberta in the last 19 years. There are currently over 30 clubs in Alberta involved, over 580 jobs have been created to date and the average wage is substantially above minimum-wage. The income of individuals with developmental disabilities increases by 50% on average upon the individual joining this partnership. There has been success in both urban and rural communities. The Rotary Employment Partnership has been recognized internationally by the ESSL Foundation's Zero Project as one of 40 innovative practices worldwide."



Wendy was deeply honoured to receive this prestigious honour and spoke about how it takes the support, drive and dedication of others to achieve the success of the Rotary Employment Partnership. "You don't do this work for 20 years by yourself, there is a whole bunch of Rotarians and others in community without whom we wouldn't have created almost 600 jobs".



Wendy and her sons

Seeing a Returning to Work!

As you know and may have experienced yourself, many workplaces shut down in Mid-March at the onset of COVID-19. This had a great impact on the individuals with developmental disabilities who were employed- with approximately 75% of the inclusive hires being temporarily laid-off or asked not to work in March through June. As the phases in Alberta allow businesses to re-open, we are seeing more and more inclusive hires return to their roles, and we've even developed some new jobs! There are now only about 20% of the Pre-Covid inclusive hires still out of work, some of which have been permanently laid off.

If you are interested in knowing how your workplace or Rotary Club can become involved, please contact:

Wendy McDonald, District 5370 Rotary Employment Partnership Committee Chair, Inclusion Alberta Chief Operating Officer:
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Trina Steed, Inclusion Alberta Provincial Director, Employment Partnerships: tsteed@inclusionAlberta.org | 780-451-3055 ext. 426

New Jobs Developed

Canada Safeway

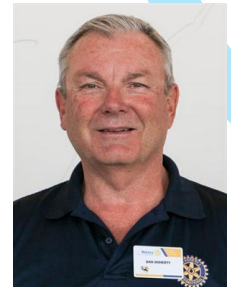
Kristy is a bright and enthusiastic young woman who began her career with Canada Safeway thirteen years ago. Beginning with the Wainwright store for three years, then moving to Red Deer, she continues to appreciate her role as a Courtesy Clerk at the Port O' Call location. Kristy enjoys every aspect of her position which includes: collecting carts, sweeping the main traffic areas, bagging customer purchases, washroom checks and restocking returns. Kristy is well liked by her coworkers, and her outgoing personality and noble work ethic makes her a valued member of the team. Kristy's short-term goal is to earn the Employee of the Month status and hopes to continue with her position at Safeway for many years to come.



Curve Distribution

Dan Doherty, a Rotarian from The Rotary Club of Calgary West, has been a significant supporter of the Rotary Employment Partnership. During his tenure as District Governor during the 2018-19 he promoted the partnership throughout the district and opened doors to employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

When Dan's company (Curve Distribution) needed some administrative support, he reached out to the Rotary Employment Partnership to find the right candidate. He found that candidate in Sayesha, who started working at Curve Distribution in July where she assists the administration team with organizing and filing documents. Her assistance has been greatly appreciated by the team and she is a great fit for Curve. Sayesha loves keeping busy and making a contribution, she said her shifts go by so fast as there is always important work to be done. Thanks to Dan and Jodi at Curve for giving Sayesha the opportunity to put her administration skills to work!



Job Seeker Profile

Chelsea M.

Chelsea M. has a passion for organization and is detail oriented. She has experience working in an administrative assistant position, assisting with set up and take down of meetings as well as front desk duties at a Rotary Club. Chelsea has good interpersonal skills and enjoys meeting and interacting with new people. Chelsea also has experience working in retail doing merchandising and is eager to find part time employment in a similar position. Chelsea is located in Edmonton.

Community Inclusion Awards

Every year, Inclusion Alberta recognizes individuals and organizations in Alberta whose actions on a day-to-day basis result in individuals with developmental disabilities having increased opportunities to be included in community life. Even though we had to cancel this year's Family Conference, we did not want to miss the opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contributions made by these employers in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.



GeoLOGIC has been an inclusive employer for over five years. When Davey, their employee, expressed an interest in growing in his role, they worked to figure out potential tasks that he would be interested in, expand his skill set and increase his value to GeoLOGIC. GeoLOGIC's actions have truly made a difference in the life of their employee. GeoLOGIC's CEO David Hood is also a member of the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown.



Congratulations to Rotarian Eric Madsen for receiving a Community Inclusion Award from Inclusion Alberta, our partner in the Rotary Employment Partnership. Prime Boilers has recently hired their third position through the Rotary Employment Partnership. Thanks to Rotarians such as Eric the partnership has now created close to 580 jobs across the Province!