



News Release

Red Deer Catholic Board of Trustees supports The Mustard Seed with \$30,000 donation

For immediate release – October 3, 2024

During the August Board Meeting, the Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools (RDCRS) Board of Trustees reaffirmed their commitment to supporting vulnerable members of the community by announcing a \$30,000 donation to The Mustard Seed Red Deer. This donation will bolster The Mustard Seed's vital School Lunch Program, which provides thousands of nutritious meals to students across the division.

"Our Board's Strategic Plan emphasizes the importance of serving as ambassadors of faith and community, fostering trusted relationships not only within our school division but also across Central Alberta," said RDCRS Board Chair Murray Hollman. "By working closely with partners like The Mustard Seed, we can ensure that students in need receive essential supports that contribute to their well-being and success."

The Mustard Seed has long been a valued partner for RDCRS, providing essential services to students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. Last year alone, the organization delivered 25,000 lunches to RDCRS students. The program, entirely funded by donors, cost approximately \$95,000, with each lunch provided at an average cost of \$3.85.

During a recent meeting between RDCRS and The Mustard Seed's Executive Director and Director of Food Services, discussions centered on increasing the sustainability of the School Lunch Program, particularly how to lower costs without compromising quality. The Mustard Seed's largest expenses include fresh fruit, cheese, and meat, all critical components in providing balanced meals for students.

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Beyond providing meals, The Mustard Seed is actively working to raise awareness and funds through community-driven events, such as the upcoming “Bowls for Bellies” fundraiser and a Spring charity event. The agency is also collaborating with local schools to engage students and staff in innovative activities like a high school “Soup Cook Off” and seasonal initiatives such as donating turkeys at Thanksgiving.

“As we move forward, we will continue advocating for The Mustard Seed and encourage our school communities to contribute to their invaluable efforts,” added Hollman. “This year of service offers a unique opportunity for our students, staff, and school councils to volunteer and support this critical program, which aligns with the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan and our Division’s faith-based mission.”

The RDCRS Board of Trustees remains dedicated to working with community partners to meet the diverse needs of students and families. By supporting The Mustard Seed’s initiatives, RDCRS aims to make a lasting impact on student health, well-being, and academic success across the division.

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 9,700 students in 21 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds. It also supports the learning of over 850 students in a Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and within the means of the Division.

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