



# in **action** *upstart*

Champions for Children and Youth

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## Year End Message from Director Phil Carlton

2011 was a year that passed quickly for me, having just taken on the role of Director of UpStart in October of 2010. As I reflect on the year behind us, the work of UpStart, the growth of this important initiative in support of our city's children and how much potential there is to make a significant impact on the lives of Calgary's young people, I am both humbled by what we have accomplished and excited about what opportunities are ahead.

We have assembled a highly-skilled team that supports the work, have a powerful force behind us in the Council of Champions and are fortunate to have a group of very committed volunteers actively engaged in developing solutions to the issues confronting children as they navigate their path towards adulthood.

As we begin 2012, we have a clear mandate and a focused direction. I am looking forward to being a part of this experience as we move the cradle to career agenda further down the path to success for all of Calgary's youth.

## Christmas Toy Drive for The Children's Cottage

In celebration of National Child Day, November 20, UpStart staff initiated a drive for Christmas presents for The Children's Cottage.

Gifts for children were collected for almost three weeks and included educational and learning-based toys, stuffed animals and bicycles. On December 7, Daisy McGee of UpStart delivered a van load full of Christmas joy and again on December 12 to a very grateful Children's Cottage. The Children's Cottage offers a wide range of programs for parents and children in Calgary through a network of crisis, respite and support services to help strengthen families.



**UpStart Strategy Leads Daisy McGee and Nicole Genoux pose with some of the many toys collected for the Children's Cottage.**

## Final 2011 Council of Champions Meeting

The final Council of Champions meeting for 2011 was held at United Way of Calgary and Area on December 9 to a packed board room.

The usual business of the council was enhanced by special guest Dave Hancock, former Minister of Education and current Human Services Minister in the provincial government. The minister spoke about his vision for the portfolio and his passion to create a province which supports all young people.

As well, Nancy Mannix, Chair and Patron of the Norlien Foundation, a private foundation with offices in Calgary and Edmonton, made a special presentation on the work of the foundation being supported through the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative. The Foundation is focused on creating alignments between science, policy and practice in the areas of brain development and its connection to addiction in order to bring about effective, comprehensive and integrated services for Alberta families.

Outgoing co-chairs David Marshall and Stephanie Felesky provided a look back into the history of UpStart, reflecting on the earliest days when Fraser Mustard created a heightened awareness on brain development, circa 1999, which resulted in the Calgary Children's Initiative. They also spoke about how the work has transformed the landscape in Calgary with respect to support for the city's children. Incoming co-chair Marie Delorme was also in attendance as part of the transition process.

## Volunteer Awards - Innovation and Champion

As a way to recognize the invaluable contribution volunteers make to the community, UpStart created two volunteer awards: the UpStart Innovation Award and the UpStart Champion Award, which were presented at a year end Volunteer Appreciation reception held December 8.

The **Innovation Award** recognizes a contribution in one or more of the following:

- › Employing a new approach to addressing social challenges
- › Working to support, develop and strengthen collective impact in the community
- › Providing strong leadership, commitment and/or resources to one or more of the priority areas
- › Showing leadership in thinking beyond the scope of their usual operations
- › Showing commitment through time, resources and expertise to advancing new ideas

The 2011 winners of the UpStart Innovation Award were Jill Beattie and Kimberley Dunsmore from Bantrel, who were recognized for their leadership and championing of UpStart's work within their company.

The **Champion Award** recognizes a contribution in one or more of the following:

- › Consistently providing strong leadership in support of UpStart's work
- › A long-term commitment with resources and expertise
- › Advocating on behalf of the issues and solutions
- › Promoting data and evidence-based decision making
- › Promoting continuous learning

The 2011 winner of the UpStart Champion Award is the Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary for their consistent leadership in the Aboriginal Youth Education Strategy as well as the Calgary Learning Village Collaborative.



**United Way**  
Calgary and Area

UpStart is a United Way initiative directed by community leaders.

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Our newsletter is published several times each year, distributed primarily via email and is available on our website.