

2026 Annual Report



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Our Vision and Purpose

Our Vision

Together, we the citizens of the Boundary area can create a culture of health and well being for ourselves and for our communities.

Our Purpose

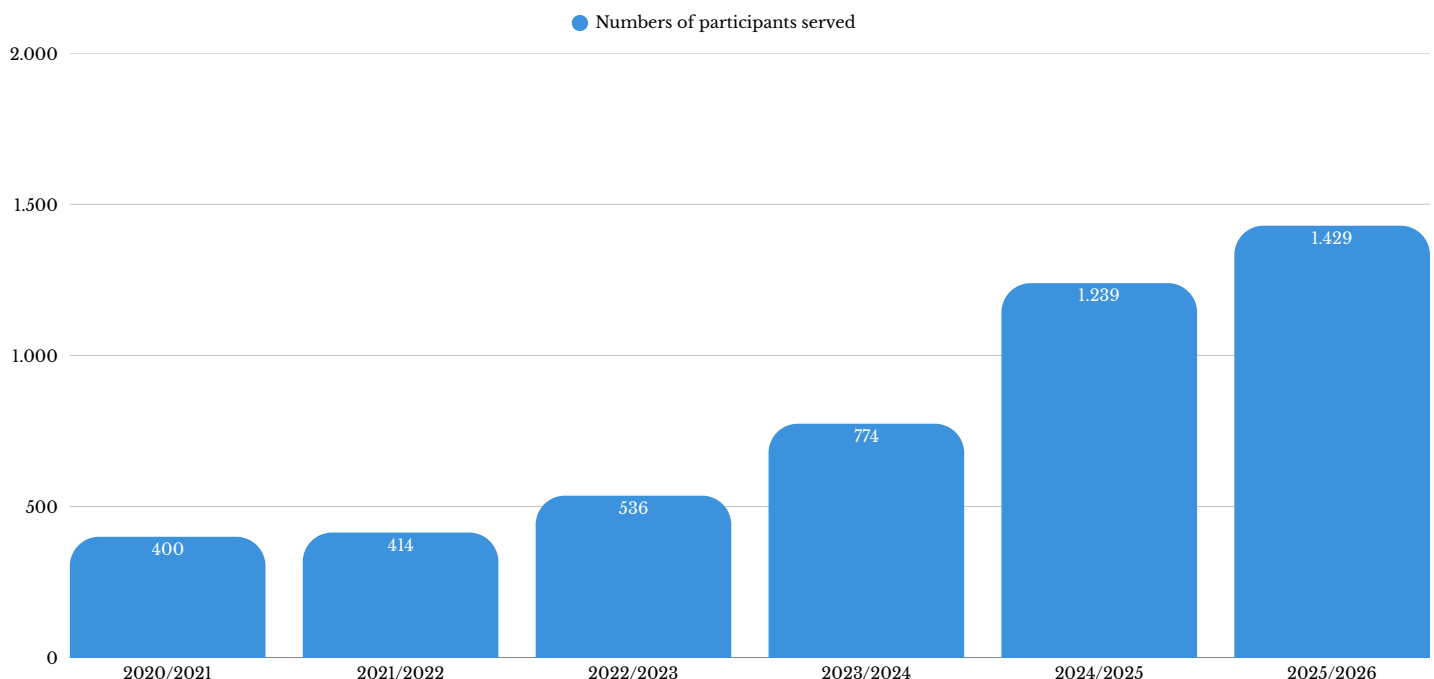
The Purpose of Boundary Family Services is to provide services that promote and develop healthy families and healthy communities in the Boundary area.

Our Mission

We build partnerships and collaborations with families and community by delivering a range of services that enrich lives and transform our future for generations.

The number of participants served by Boundary Family Services (BFS) has steadily increased over the past several years. This growth has been supported by the addition of BC Housing services and Seniors Services to the range of programs available to residents of the Boundary area.

While BFS has always provided assistance to more individuals through a variety of service delivery methods than were captured in the agency's original database statistics, a significant improvement occurred in the fall of 2022 when BFS entered into a partnership with Nucleus Data Systems. The implementation of this system helps ensure that all individuals receiving services through every BFS program are accurately recorded and accounted for in agency reporting.



Executive Director Report

This truly is an amazing time to be a part of Boundary Family Services.

Fifty years of service to the Region is an accomplishment worth celebrating, and we must again acknowledge that we stand on the shoulders of giants. The strengths of this Agency have been ingrained in the foundation laid by the founders, previous Boards and operational team members. The culture of integrity, commitment to equitable, high-quality service that is accountable and informed by best practices comes from those that led the way for us.

The ever-evolving scope of services that we provide coupled with the increasing complexity of our world and the impacts on those we serve has meant that there have been times that “growing pains” were inevitable. Through this, the values that reflect the culture have not changed. If anything, they ensured that decisions were made in the right way, at the right time and for the right reasons.

We as an Agency continue to lead from the front and are the cornerstone in the collaborative care of so many people. That model of care should acknowledge the support and encouragement of our funders past and present, as well as the collaborative partnerships that many of them bring.

Moving into 2027, we will see another cycle of strategic planning that will set the vision for the next three years of BFS. This will ensure the health and ongoing evolution of the Agency.

I am grateful to work with an amazing Board, Leadership Team, and all the operational staff that make Boundary Family Services what it is.

It truly is the people that make this Agency what it is.

Darren Pratt



Administration Report

Linda Stooshinoff – Operations Officer

I began my career at Boundary Family Services in 2007 as a part-time receptionist and program support worker. I am now a part of our incredible Leadership Team and I help to ensure that participants are assisted in a welcoming and efficient manner, that our staff have the resources required to be successful in their work, that our participant data collection system is kept current and that our Agency meets CARF Accreditation Standards in all of its policies and procedures. It is great to be a part of a team that has the community's best interests in their hearts. This is evident in how service is provided to our participants. Our staff are masters in minimizing barriers to service and always open to new ideas for programming and different funding opportunities. The Agency continues to grow in a positive way that allows us to assist a broader range of age groups in a larger variety of ways, and I am very happy to be a part of the adventure.

Emma Wiebe - Admin Support and Board Secretary

I have been with Boundary Family Services for two and a half years as Administrative Support and Board Secretary. In my roles, I provide administrative support to staff and participants and prepare Board meeting agendas and minutes.

It has been another wonderful year with the Agency, and I am grateful to be part of such an amazing team. Every day brings new opportunities to learn and contribute in meaningful ways and I appreciate the opportunity to support the important work that BFS does every day.

Laura Greaves - Financial Officer

I am a member of the Management team and responsible for financial surveillance, budgeting, financial reporting and human resources support for the Agency. As a long term employee of over 21 years, I am very proud of all that we have done and continue to do in our community

April Anderson - Financial Assistant

As a financial assistant for the past 5 years, I am responsible for tracking accounts receivable, processing accounts payable, payroll recording for both of our companies, administration support of our housing tenants, and submitting applications for various BC Housing rental support and affordable housing programs. In 2025/26, payroll fluctuated between 44-54 employees depending on the active programs. I continue to process the annual reviews for Raven Place tenant subsidy application renewals as well as for the Canada BC Housing Benefit Program. I'm happy to support and contribute to the BFS mission in serving our communities in the multiple ways we do.



Children, Youth, and Families Supervisor Report

It is a privilege to reflect on another year of work within the Children, Youth and Families (CYF) team at Boundary Family Services. Our team continues to provide a broad continuum of services designed to support children, youth and families in the Boundary through prevention, education, advocacy, practical support and specialized services.

Some families need practical support and encouragement. Some children require additional assistance to participate fully in their homes, schools and communities. Youth may need someone to listen, help them navigate challenges or simply provide a consistent and safe relationship. Other families are facing significant circumstances that require advocacy, specialized support or assistance navigating complex systems. Our ability to provide this range of services is one of our greatest strengths.

One of the clearest themes we continue to see in our work is the importance of connection. Children and youth thrive when they have safe, supportive adults in their lives. Families are more resilient when they know they do not have to navigate difficult circumstances alone. Early support can make an important difference before challenges become crises. Often, the most meaningful impact comes through something that may seem simple: showing up, building trust and letting someone know that they matter. None of this work happens without the dedication of our CYF Team. The work of supporting children, youth and families can be incredibly rewarding, but it can also be challenging and emotionally demanding. Our staff bring professionalism, compassion, creativity and perseverance to their work every day.

I am grateful for the way our team continues to show up for the people we serve. I am also grateful to the families, children and youth who allow us to walk alongside them. Their courage, resilience and willingness to engage in the process of change are at the heart of why we do this work.

Finally, thank you to our community partners, funders, volunteers and the broader Boundary community for continuing to recognize the importance of investing in children, youth and families.

Together, we are helping create a community where children and families have opportunities to be safe, connected, supported and hopeful.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Warriner, Administrative Supervisor CYF Team



Family Support Program Report

The past year of the Family Support program has been one of adaptability. The supported housing program that was launched last year has concluded with great success. It resulted in sufficient stability and skill building to allow for the reunification of the family and the closure of a long-term file. Continued partnership both within and without the Agency has allowed for the program to be a strong, reliable support for the families of the Boundary. This has had positive impact for families, no matter their support needs. I am proud to continue to serve our community alongside such dedicated professionals.

Damon Sutton

I work with the Family Support program at Boundary Family, where we empower parents to build strong, resilient families. We offer practical strategies and resources covering everything from sleep routines and emotional regulation to budgeting and family scheduling. Recently, we have focused on helping families build local support networks to foster deeper community connections. Seeing parents gain confidence, find hope, and leave our program equipped with lasting tools has been the absolute highlight of my year.

While the Boundary region faces barriers due to a lack of local specialists and broader resources, we continuously work to bridge these gaps and connect people to the care they need. I deeply value Boundary Family's commitment to quality service and ongoing professional development for staff. We remain dedicated to lowering barriers and ensuring our services are accessible and available to every family in our community, regardless of their location or economic background.

Nathan Ball



Family Support Program Report

Mission and Purpose

The Family Support Program plays a vital role in strengthening family well-being. It addresses challenges that impact families and helps them develop the skills and resources needed to thrive. Family Support Workers will assess individual family needs and create tailored intervention plans, based on the families' goals, while aligning with program guidelines and best practices. This program supports families navigate complex life circumstances through referrals, guidance, advocacy, and practical problem-solving strategies, helping them achieving positive outcomes.

Key Responsibilities

- Deliver parenting education and skill-building sessions.
- Provide emotional support, encouragement, and constructive feedback.
- Facilitate healthy communication, routine development, co-regulation techniques, conflict resolution, and co-parenting strategies.
- Connect families with appropriate community resources and supports.
- Empower families to build confidence, resilience, and independence.

Program Distinctions

What sets the Family Support Program apart is its individualized, family-centered approach. Services are individualized to meet the unique strengths, needs, and goals of each family, ensuring that support is meaningful, relevant, and effective.

A rewarding aspect of the program is the opportunity to strengthen parent-child relationships. By fostering healthy attachment, positive parenting practices, and supportive family dynamics, Family Support Workers help build a strong foundation for long-term family success. The program strives to ensure that parents leave feeling empowered, supported, and confident in their abilities.

Strategic Goals and Highlights of the Year

A notable highlight this year was supporting single mothers in developing cooking skills within a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment. This initiative promoted confidence, self-sufficiency, and community connection while providing valuable opportunities for learning and personal growth.

Key Achievements and Milestones

Throughout the year, clients successfully identified and achieved personal and family-centered goals. Family's demonstrated increased confidence and improved coping strategies that contributed to greater overall well-being and stability.

Challenges and Barriers

Transportation continued to present challenges for some families accessing services. Options were discussed to help ensure transportation will be less of an obstacle for families in the future.

Rebecca Mattick

PEACE Report

The PEACE program provides group and individual support services for children and youth ages 3-18 who have experienced and/or witnessed domestic violence in their home. PEACE stands for prevention, education, advocacy, counselling, and empowerment. The goal of the PEACE program is to support children and youth whose emotional and mental health has been affected due to violence, support children and youth to manage and express their emotions/feelings, teach safety skills, create an environment for children and youth to feel safe and comfortable, and to encourage self-esteem, all while communicating with parents/guardians to ensure we are working collaboratively as a team for the child's best interest.

The PEACE program is a privilege to be a part of. Striving to make positive changes for the children and youth in the community is rewarding. This year, Tayden, another PEACE Support Worker at Boundary Family Services, facilitated multiple VIP (Violence is Preventable) groups at one of the elementary schools in Grand Forks. Educating and providing valuable information to our youth. This summer I have been running a friendship group that consists of many key points in the VIP curriculum such as friendship, safety, healthy relationships, emotions, confidence, and mental/physical health.

This year we were a part of the BC Society of Transition Houses Menstrual Equity Project. This project is funded by the Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health. The hope of the BCSTH Menstrual Equity Project is to make menstrual products available to women and girls experiencing violence and poverty. The combined effects of poverty and violence create barriers to equality, well-being, and full participation in society. This initiative aims to help address one of the many challenges for women and girls in need.

I feel I have learned a lot from my coworkers and supervisor here at Boundary Family this year and look forward to continuing to develop skills and strategies for the benefit of the PEACE program. Our goal is to continue growing the program, and to help support the children and youth of our community.

Meagan Gorman



PEACE Report

My name is Tayden Woods, and I am a PEACE support worker, for the PEACE program at Boundary Family Services.

My role includes both 1 to 1 sessions with kids ages 3-18 who have witnessed or experienced violence in their families, as well as group sessions with similar aged students, providing them life skills and violence prevention strategies. I communicate with parents before and/or after the sessions to ensure we work collaboratively as a team for the best interest of the child. During the sessions I work with the kids to develop a space where they feel comfortable working and sharing their experiences with me so that they can develop skills, tools and healthy outlets that support their mental well-being. Specific things we may work on in both individual and group settings include but are not limited to, self-esteem, safety skills and strategies, managing emotions such as anger or sadness, responsibility, identifying and creating healthy relationships, and creating change and awareness of abuse to stop the cycle.

This year I also was able to implement and conduct 2 separate groups, under the VIP (violence is preventable) program at Hutton elementary. The groups consisted of a boys group and then a girls group, and spanned over multiple months, meeting weekly and following a progression through course material. This was during school hours in conjunction with teachers of the kids and co-facilitated by the counselor at Hutton, Rebecca Mattick. PEACE is unique in that the program allows me and participants to get creative with how and where we conduct our sessions and work towards the unique individual goals they may have. We may be outdoors, we may play sports, we may do arts and crafts, we may play board games, or we may simply be inside the designated PEACE room we have in our building. This past year I developed relationships at Hutton Elementary, GFSS and also in Rock Creek at the West Boundary Elementary School, working with students at each one of those locations. This consistency also allowed me to build relationships with teachers, principals, and administrators at each of those places.

Being a PEACE worker is a privilege, and I have the opportunity to make positive change for the youth in the community ranging from Christina Lake to Big White. The entire team including coworkers and bosses at BFS are incredibly supportive, which allows me to do my job, while feeling supported and in an environment where I'm eager to learn and make positive changes every day.



CYMH/SAIP Report

Community-Based Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) Program

The Community-Based Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) Program provides support to children and youth under the age of 19 who would benefit from mild to moderate mental health interventions. Services include psychoeducation, skill development, support with navigating interpersonal relationships, and assistance in identifying and strengthening natural support systems.

As an outreach counselling program, CYMH serves families throughout the Boundary region and travels to communities to provide accessible services. Since joining the program earlier this year, there has been a continued focus on increasing the program's presence in the West Boundary. This includes bi-weekly outreach visits to Boundary Central Secondary School in Midway, allowing youth to access support within their school community.

Sexual Assault Intervention Program (SAIP)

The Sexual Assault Intervention Program (SAIP) is an outreach service for children and youth under the age of 19 who have been impacted by sexual abuse, sexual assault, or exploitation. The program emphasizes meeting participants where they feel most comfortable and providing a safe, supportive, and trauma-informed environment. Services include offering resources, coping strategies, safety planning, and caregiver support. A key component of the program is helping children, youth, and their families build strong support networks through collaboration with community partners and the development of wraparound care teams that promote healing, safety, and long-term well-being.

Nathan Ball



Community Integration Program Report

I specifically work with children with support needs to strengthen life skills, social skills, emotional regulation, and other support needs. I support families alongside MCFD and CYSN workers to provide safe, engaging and social activity groups for these children.

During the school year groups ran after school hours and on Fridays. I had 2 teen groups per week and 2 play groups per week. The life skill groups started just before summer, which ran 2 times a week as well for our older youth who will be transitioning to adulthood in the next year. In summer we ran more groups - 2 teen groups per week, 2 life skills groups per week and 4 play groups per week. The total number of participants this year was 20, with an increase in summer groups due to having 2 summer students.

Some group activities included: Fire station and fire safety visit, the community library and outdoor gardens, many hours at the pool, CLBC meetings at the high school with Local CLBC office, Funny Farm, Jersey Land Organics, lots of Sensory crafts and learning regulation routines. Every week we included a beach day or water activity day for each of the groups.

The most common theme heard from parents was that they love the difference in activities and how it changes weekly so their kids get a lot of skills and socializing.

One of the biggest struggles we had was moving back to a sign up due to low attendance and although it did help, we still struggled with expecting so many but only 1 or 2 would show up. Or we would have the opposite, only a couple would sign up then we would have more than expected show up.

Overall this year has been a great year for the CIP program and I am looking forward to what next year brings.

Sherri Havig



ASSAI Report

Coordinator and Art Leader – Carol Mitchell

This amazing program has been running since 2011. We run programs in every elementary school from Christina Lake to Big White for grades 4 to 6. The goal of the program is to increase connectivity with school and community, through fun and inclusive groups that build on strengths and support challenges. The focus of sports group is moving your body and being comfortable in the gym, as well as building fundamental movement skills and practicing fair play. In art group the focus is on taking creative risks, exploring a variety of art mediums and finding individual creativity. We run many more art groups than sports groups.

The youth that join are “targeted” as the space is limited. The program strives to create opportunities for students that might not otherwise be able to attend groups. The reason youth are invited varies; it might be that a youth is anxious, neurodivergent, or simply new to town. We try to support all the children that want to attend groups. At the larger elementary schools we run lunch hour groups for the younger students, or those who can’t attend after school. We have a grant for youth with diverse abilities, who require more support.

The Fabulous ASSAI Team 2025/26

Sports- Damon Sutton, Rebecca Mattick, Megan Gorman. West: Tanya Dagg and Trisha Paseka
Art- Leta Bak, Rocio Graham, Carol Mitchell, Lena Holmes, Sabrina Rougeau, Rebecca Mattick.
West: Nora Curiston

2025/26 Highlights

We now have three staff that live in the West, which helps to build relationships. We have started a collaboration with KRAC-Kettle River Art Collective (based in Greenwood).

We added a “Water is Life” project to the program. The youth made art about conservation of the riparian zone in the local water shed. We also had the young artists participate in “Festival of Trees” and make mushroom art for Mushroom Festival.

We ran our 15th annual Art Attack at Gallery 2, in Grand Forks. Hundreds of people (participants and their families) attended. Our Barbie Transformation Display was epic!

We gave out a “motivation award” to a youth who did art on their own then brought it in for us to see. A bus came from the West for the opening party. Later a smaller bus from Big White joined for a second celebration with some Hutton students.

For our opening we had a Dance Party with D.J. Lena (staff) in the Richard Reid gallery where Leta Bak (staff) had an exhibit! The show ran for three weeks while multiple classrooms and community toured the exhibit.

Carol Mitchell



Legal Support Services Report

The mission of Legal Support Services (LSS) is to connect the people of the Boundary/West Boundary to Legal Aid services. From over the phone, in person or in court, we provide assistance with paperwork, online applications and getting the right connections when needed.

We work with community partners across the Boundary, as well as attend events such as our Seniors' Fair and Overdose Awareness Day, providing pamphlets and other resources at our information booth. Our goal is to expand the knowledge of LSS throughout the Boundary/West Boundary and have positive, encouraging encounters with clients.

Since taking on the position of Legal Services, my relationships with community partners have strengthened, allowing for greater access to the potential clients in the area. I intend to expand the programs reach by attending more events in the future, promoting the name of LSS, and supporting those who need help throughout our catchment area.

Alyssa Humphries



Youth Support & Youth Outreach Report

The year in Youth Support has been one of great progress. Chiefly, the high school outreach program expanded to Boundary Central Secondary School in the West Boundary. This expansion has allowed Boundary Family to have more of a consistent presence for youth in our more rural communities. This has had the added benefit of increasing engagement of the youth out west in more regular programming. Groups continue to have strong attendance, with the Dungeons and Dragons group entering it's fifth year. This year of growth has been exciting to be a part of, and I am eager to see how it continues going forward.

Damon Sutton



Seniors Services Program Manager Report

Hi I am Susan Proudman; Senior Services Program Manager and I am so proud to be a part of Boundary Family Services. It is so exciting to be celebrating 50 years of services that have and will continue to support our communities in so many ways.

This has been an exciting year for Seniors Services as we have been able to help so many of our seniors live independently at home, make community connections, access navigation/peer support, and attend the coffee house and TAPS program.

What started in 2020 with one program has turned into a 7-person team, 4 programs, plus all our wonderful volunteers that are dedicated to supporting our seniors in as many ways as possible with thanks to our United Way funding. The outstanding work that the seniors' team has done this year is a true testament to their commitment and dedication to our seniors. In quarter one alone this year we have helped 297 different seniors through one of our programs or just helped guide them to the assistance they may need with a question or concern. We have continued to form great relationships throughout the Boundary area this year and have seen more seniors in Rock Creek, Midway, Greenwood, Christina Lake and Beavertown reach out and understand the services we have to support them as well as our Grand Forks seniors.

The coming years we will face many challenges in supporting our ever-growing seniors' population. I am thankful that Boundary Family Services is here to assist those seniors with these challenges and are always looking to bring on new programs to offer support as needed for our communities. Our team is excited to be a part of these changing and challenging times and we look forward to helping bring a smile to the faces of our seniors.



Better At Home Report

As Boundary Family Services celebrates 50 years of strengthening our communities, Better at Home is proud to continue that legacy by helping seniors remain independent, connected, and supported in the place they call home. Over the past year, our volunteer team continued to grow, welcoming an average of one new volunteer each month, allowing us to expand the reach of our services and strengthen the connections that make our communities so special. A highlight this year was our expanded Seniors Fair, where, for the first time, volunteer-provided transportation ensured more seniors could attend, participate, and connect with local resources.

While we provide practical supports such as transportation, housekeeping, grocery assistance, and friendly visits, our greatest impact is found in the relationships we build. Every ride, visit, and helping hand represents more than a service—it is an opportunity to reduce isolation, foster belonging, and remind seniors they are valued members of our community. As we celebrate this milestone year, we are grateful to our dedicated volunteers, community partners, and funders whose ongoing support helps make these connections possible.

Melanie Leslie

Hello, I'm Ariel Hlookoff, the Housekeeper for Better at Home Program. I have deep roots here in Grand Forks and have had the pleasure of calling it our family's forever home since 2019. The Housekeeping program is funded through United Way, which helps us provide a no-fee service to our clients. This program has now been running for a few years and I've had the pleasure of providing Housekeeping for the last couple of years. I have created great relationships with my clients, making them feel safe. I clean twice a month, making their home "happy" as one client explained it. We provide individuals with the ability to stay in their home for as long as they are physically able. As it stand, I am providing service for 25 clients in and around Grand Forks area.

I look forward to each visit with my clients.



Better At Home Report

My name is Maggie Malloff, I was raised and have lived most of my life in Grand Forks. Most of my working career was with seniors in one way or another. So it seemed natural in 2020 to join Boundary Family Services and be part of the birthing of the Seniors Better at Home Program in the Boundary Community. Rachel Warriner, the Program Coordinator at that time and I were the original two-man team. United Way partnered with the BC Ministry of Health provided funding to implement the Better at Home Program in our community and Boundary Family Services was willing to run it.

At first most of the work was done by the two of us as our volunteer list was small. We worked hard to establish new volunteer recruits and community participation in the Grand Forks, West Boundary and Christina Lake areas. Community participation, volunteers and our elder clients grew. From our small beginnings we now, in six years, have grown to a 7 person seniors' team, many volunteers and many senior clients from the Boundary area. This program is such a benefit for our Boundary seniors. Services that the Better at Home program provides allows many seniors to remain in their own homes, which most prefer, as there is limited availability in care facilities.

I am a regular shopper for several of our seniors. I see how difficult or impossible it would be for them to maneuver a grocery cart when they are blind or walk with a walker, don't drive and maybe don't get out at all. I hear their stories, woes and concerns and I feel their sincere gratitude for what is being done for them. It makes me feel so honoured that I can make such a difference in someone's day. At this point I would like to also thank both of our major grocery stores. They willingly and with smiles are able to accommodate me and my complicated shopping scenarios. Many tellers and employees in the stores know me by my first name and the different colour coded bags I use for my seniors.

Also, I host a seniors coffee shop social get together at the Seniors' Centre. The coffee and two dozen donuts are generously provided by Tim Hortons. Here seniors come together to visit, meet new acquaintances, reunite with old ones, keep track of one another and as one gentleman puts it "gab and catch up". They also like to get involved with setting up tables and chairs. They all welcome new attendees and love to listen to new stories and share their own. I feel so blessed to be able to work and be a part of the Boundary Better at Home program. My co-workers are fantastic to work with and are such a wonderful dedicated and responsible team. It is wonderful and a privilege to work for Boundary Family Services. It is such a great organization with friendly and wonderful staff. Thank you ALL.



Community Connector Report

My name is Christina Werry. I am a long-standing resident of Grand Forks, BC. It's such an honor to serve our seniors and their families in the Boundary region. In the role of Seniors Community Connector, my goal is to help seniors discover resources, make social connections, and access supports that make our communities vibrant places to thrive and age comfortably at home.

As the Seniors Community Connector, the focus is on creating a resilient support network for seniors across the Boundary region. This involves proactive outreach to identify those seniors who are isolated, helping them navigate complex systems to access housing, healthcare, and financial assistance.

In addition to direct support, this position builds crucial partnerships with local organizations, healthcare providers, and government agencies to ensure services are coordinated and responsive to changing community needs. By facilitating social activities and educational workshops, this role actively works to prevent loneliness and promote a high quality of life for seniors living in rural areas.



Seniors Navigation and Peer Support Program Report

My name is Christina Werry. It's a true privilege to walk alongside seniors as we navigate life challenges together. Through the Seniors Navigation and Peer Support program, my goal is to offer a compassionate hand and a listening ear, ensuring no one must face the complexities of health and wellbeing alone. Together, we can build a circle of support where every seniors voice is heard, and every step forward is taken with care and understanding.

Through the Seniors Navigation and Peer Support program, the focus is on empowering seniors and their families to confidently maneuver through intricate health and social systems. This entails providing personalized guidance to seniors so they can understand their options, access specialized services, and make informed choices about their care and wellbeing.

A key element of this work is fostering a supportive peer environment where seniors can share experiences and learn from each other. By facilitating these connections, this program helps reduce overwhelming feelings and builds a community of mutual support for navigating life transitions.



Therapeutic Activation Program for Seniors Report

Hello, my name is Diane Barker, and I'm proud to be part of the Seniors Team at Boundary Family Services. I have lived in Grand Forks for the past eight years. My journey with seniors began when I became a volunteer with the Better at Home program, where I spent two very rewarding years. That experience showed me just how much a friendly visit, a helping hand, and a little companionship can mean to someone who may be feeling isolated or alone. Last year, I started the TAPS program — Therapeutic Activation Program for Seniors. TAPS has now been running for almost a year, and it has grown into something very special. We currently meet in three communities: Monday and Tuesday in Grand Forks, Wednesday in Rock Creek, and Thursday in Greenwood.

TAPS is a place where isolated seniors can come together, connect with others, and feel a sense of belonging. We begin our mornings with coffee and a snack, followed by a look back at history and the interesting things that happened on that particular date. We sometimes welcome guest speakers from the Fire Department or Community Paramedic program, and we enjoy playing games, doing crafts, and, of course, working on jigsaw puzzles — a favourite activity at all of our locations! We finish our time together by sharing a nutritious lunch and, perhaps most importantly, sharing stories, laughter, and friendship. One of the most rewarding parts of TAPS has been watching the changes in the seniors who attend. People have made new friends, reconnected with people they haven't seen in years, and found a place where they feel valued and included. Some of the most meaningful words I hear are when seniors tell me that they now have a purpose and something to look forward to each week. That is what makes this program so special to me. For me, TAPS is about much more than activities and lunch. It's about connection, friendship, dignity, and making sure that seniors know they are not alone. I feel very fortunate to be part of something that brings people together and makes such a positive difference in our communities. Every week, I see firsthand that sometimes the greatest gift we can give someone is simply a place to belong.

My name is Wade Paul. I am a retired Paramedic of 35 years. I thought retirement would be golfing and hanging at the lake, but I really missed working with people, specifically Seniors. Lucky for me, a position came open in March this year with Boundary Family Services working with the TAPS program. I am grateful to be an assistant to this program and so happy that I am able to contribute to the health and welfare of this group of amazing people. Congratulations to Boundary Family Service on 50 years!



Early Years Supervisor Report

I have the honor of supervising all our Early Years programs at Boundary Family Services. Our Early Years programs range from pregnancy to families with children up to six years old. The programs and services are cost-free, and we offer drop-in programs with an exception to our closed four-to-eight-week preregistered groups.

The Early Years programs consist of the Baby Bumps and Beyond in both the east and the west (Community Action for Prenatal and Children Health Program), Infant Development Program, Family Connections in Midway- a collaboration group with community partners, Li'l Explorers in both east and west locations, and parenting programs such as Nobody's Perfect and Circle of Security.

I am very grateful for our dedicated Early Years team who work together to identify community needs and work wholeheartly to provide wraparound care from pregnancy to early parenting to meet the needs of the families in our community. Our childminders provide a warm safe play-based environment for the children so the parents/caregivers can relax. The childminding staff are an important part of our programs. Participants can have their children close by with capable and familiar caregivers in a fun play-based environment, as well as making connections with peers and take part in programming without distractions.

A highlight for me is the Teddy Bear Picnic community event we participated in this year. Attending community events is a way to connect with more families, strengthen partnerships, and foster a sense of community.

Our Wonderful Early Years Team for 2025/2026

Kristy Kuromi- Coordinator for Community Action for Prenatal and Children Health Program

Melanie Shenstone- Baby Bumps and Beyond, Li'l Explorers, Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program facilitator

Ashley Lacey- Infant Development Program Consultant, Circle of Security

Mary-Ann Dennis- West Boundary Baby Bumps and Beyond Facilitator, West Boundary Li'l Explorer

Lentina Kujala- Childminder for Boundary Family Services early year programs

Marissa Gorman- Childminder for Boundary Family Services early year programs

Nikki Little- On-Call Childminder for Boundary Family Services early year programs

Sandy Podmoroff- Early Years Program Supervisor



Baby Bumps and Beyond Program Report

The Baby Bumps and Beyond (BBB) program at Boundary Family Services provides individualized pre and postnatal support for families from early pregnancy until their youngest child is six years old. The program ensures that families have access to the knowledge, resources, and emotional support they need for the healthiest and most enjoyable parenting journey possible.

Overview

BBB serves families across the Boundary region, offering group-based and one-to-one support tailored to individual needs and preferences. Families can engage with the program at any point in their parenting journey, from a positive pregnancy test through to the beginning of school. Services are guided by evidence-based information and include support around healthy pregnancy, labour and delivery, breast/chestfeeding, attachment, and early parenting skills, with referrals to additional community supports where appropriate.

Delivery

After a thorough intake process, participants can access services in multiple formats, including:

- Weekly drop-in groups in Grand Forks, Midway, and Rock Creek
- Private, registration-only groups (e.g., Motherwise Mental Health Groups, Prenatal Classes, Circle of Security Parenting Program)
- Individualized support in the location of their choice
- Breast/chestfeeding support
- Parenting education and skill-building opportunities

This flexible and person-centered approach ensures that families can engage in ways that feel safe, comfortable, and meaningful.

Highlights of the Year

- The Early Years team worked collaboratively to successfully complete the program renewal process and implement the consolidation of CAPC and CPNP to create the new CAPCHP program.
- Partnerships with community organizations remain strong, allowing families to confidently access wraparound support services.
- Participant feedback reflects the deep impact of the program:
 - "Thank you for encouraging me to come back to the group. I didn't realize how much I needed it and the kids as well."
 - "I know that I'm not alone. It's so nice to feel safe to share and not feel judged"
 - "thank you for all your help and advice over the last 1.5 years as I navigated becoming a new mom. Coming to group was the best thing for us and I wouldn't be the same mom without it."



Kristy Kuromi

Baby Bumps and Beyond East Boundary Program Report

Mission/Purpose:

This is a facilitated program that aims to promote healthy families from pregnancy to age 6 and helps guide them through their parenting journey by learning new skills, making community connections, and creating relationships with other families.

2025/2026 Highlights:

In April, we started our new contract and program. Instead of Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) and Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) being separate programs, we are now one program. It was a lot of hard work but worth the effort as the program is now running smoothly.

What does the change look like? We are still facilitating 2 groups per week, but instead of both being drop-in and on the same day, one is now a registration only group, and they are on different days. The participants have been able to transition to the change and seem to be enjoying it.

Li'l Explorers- Grand Forks

Mission/Purpose:

To have fun and show families that you can be active together and connect outside in all seasons and all weather through singing, activities and learning.

2025/2026 Highlights:

This program is always well attended with multi-generational family members participating.

Mel Shenstone



Baby Bumps and Beyond West Boundary Program Report

I have worked for Boundary Family Services for four years and had a variety of experiences before arriving, including being a mother and grandmother. Since my time with BFSS, I have been able to continue growing in experience and training which I have the privilege of sharing with the families I work with. I was able to meet my goals for my commitment to competency and cultural awareness.

West Boundary Baby Bumps and Beyond (CAPCHP)

The West Boundary Baby Bumps and Beyond is a weekly drop-in group for West Boundary families with young children ages 0 to 6. The group is on Friday in Rock Creek and provides a space with child-led activities and discussions. The families attending are forming connections, engaged, and learning from the topics and resources provided.

Some families have moved from the city to live in a small rural community, and some families live quite remote and isolated. Since coming to the group, they are becoming more familiar with community partners and various resources available to them. The families appreciate socializing with each other, and the children are always excited to come and play with their friends and to meet new ones. New this year is an extra half hour for an outdoor playtime with physical activity.

West Boundary Li'l Explorers

The Li'l Explorers outdoor playgroup is very well attended. Participants comment on how much fun the group is, liking the child-led activities, the nature crafts, and the snacks provided.

Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program

The Nobody's Perfect parenting program uses a participant-centered, strength-based approach for families with young children. After my training I was able to facilitate programs in Midway and Beaverdell.

Mary-Ann Dennis



Infant Development Program Report

The Infant Development Program (IDP) at Boundary Family Services supports children from birth to six years old, with a primary focus on ages 0-3. The program serves children who have or are at risk of developmental delays. Using a person-centered approach, IDP works with families to identify the best ways to promote developmental milestones, health, and support overall well-being.

Overview

IDP's goal is to support parents and caregivers across the Boundary region by encouraging development directly or by connecting the family with community resources and support. This can be offered as one-on-one services and group-based opportunities when appropriate. Families may self-refer, and referrals are also welcomed from Public Health, physicians (such as Family Doctors or Pediatricians), and other community professionals. Once connected with IDP and an intake is completed, families can expect support in areas, such as:

Child Development Concerns: Addressing primary questions or concerns regarding your child's development and overall health.

SMART Goal Planning: Collaborative goal setting tailored to your child's developmental needs.

Developmental Assessments: Monitoring development across key domains such as Communication, Gross Motor, Fine Motor, Problem Solving, and Personal Social Skills.

Referral Coordination: Supporting referrals to additional services such as Pediatric Physiotherapy, Pediatric Occupational Therapy, and Speech & Language Pathology.

Appointment Planning: Determining the frequency and format of ongoing visits based on family needs.

Parent Education & Skill Building: Opportunities for learning and support through one-to-one sessions, or in group settings like Circle of Security Parenting, and drop-in groups like Families Matter in Midway.

Highlights of the Year

- Joining the Early Years Team as the Infant Development Consultant
- Strengthening community partnerships across the Boundary region
- Supporting families with resources, materials, and connections to a wide range of local services



Safe Stay Shelter Report

This year my management partner Robyn Kelly and I have had the pleasure of overseeing the Safe Stay Shelter on behalf of BFSS and BC Housing. The Safe Stay team provides a safe, judgement free space for Grand Forks and the Boundary's vulnerable unhoused population. We are open seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, providing beds and meals for up to fifteen people. Our goal is to be a safe place where participants can be empowered to overcome barriers to them becoming housed and thriving.

The Safe Stay Shelter is a stepping stone to something more permanent and stable. Our Support team connects with participants to help them assess both their barriers and their goals. From there we seek out the resources available that give them the tools to reach their goals. Everyone's journey is unique and so are their needs, for some it is finding suitable rentals. Some barriers are more complex and at times require connecting participants with one or more of our wonderful community partners.

The Safe Stay team:

Management:

Lexi Braun & Robyn Kelly

Support:

Dylan McCombs - Brendan Wheaton

Wayne Deryck - Dennis Smith

Frances Braun - Georgina Monteith

Jessie Burden - Spencer Monteith

Julia Janvier - Burnie Steinson

Ella Adams - Errol Schlase (Chef)



Community Outreach Report

Hello, my name is Alyssa, and I have been with Boundary Family Services for 6 years. As an Outreach Worker, my mission is to meet people where they are at, without judgement, and provide compassionate support to individuals experiencing homelessness and other forms of vulnerability. I strive to build trust through consistent respectful engagement, and to empower individuals by connecting them with essential services, resources, and community support. I aim to empower individuals, reduce barriers, and promote dignity. I support each person on their path toward stability, safety, and independence.

We recently held our 3rd annual Hamburgers and Haircuts event, where we partnered with Interior Health and other community partners to offer free haircuts, food, clothing, and information and resources. I am excited for next year as the event is getting bigger each year.

I will be attending my 3rd Overdose Awareness Day in support with Anchors to remember those we have lost.

Grants have been extremely helpful in helping with extreme weather. Over the last 6 years, the grants we received have tremendously helped us in providing clients with necessary living essentials.

I am hoping in the new year to help some longer-term clients find housing and help connect clients to any resources they need. I have also had the opportunity to bring on a volunteer who is actively involved in the community.

This job requires the ability to gain trust and build rapport with individuals from our vulnerable population, and at times can be emotionally challenging. I feel I have good support from the leadership team, and I am excited for the future I have with Boundary Family Services.



Our Funders

- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD)
- School District #51
- Ministry of Justice BC
- KBCSKoop
- Interior Health Authority
- United Way
- Legal Services Society of BC
- BC Housing
- Pheonix Foundation
- Community Donations