

# NEWSLETTER - December 2015

## EAST KOOTENAY FRIENDS OF CHILDREN



There has been a lot of activity at  
**EK Friends of Children**  
This has led to growth in fundraising, staffing,  
and assistance to families!



### **Promotions**

#### Dairy Queen Blizzard

Day One dollar from every Blizzard sold at Dairy Queen on June 12<sup>th</sup> was donated to Friends of Children. Volunteers were on hand to help out and assist in raising \$1703.00. We're hoping that we can coordinate all the Dairy Queen stores in the EK health region next year and make Blizzard Day an annual event across our entire area.

#### Lordco BBQ Fundraiser

Thank you to Mark at Lordco for hosting us at their "Show and Shine" event in August. We served up some delicious burgers and raised almost \$500.00.



#### Barney Bentall and the Cariboo Express

We are thrilled that Friends of Children was chosen by Barney Bentall to receive the proceeds from his concert at the Key City Theatre on November 9th. The show was a great success, nearly sold out and will be back next year. Very special thank yous to Jess Niedermayer, Shelby Knudsen, Laura Cain, and Sacha Bentall for bringing them to Cranbrook, to our volunteers; Kate, Hailey, Sam, Jill, and Beth for selling raffle tickets and band merchandise, to the local businesses who supported Friends of Children with their generous sponsorships, and to everyone who bought a ticket and came out to enjoy this entertaining, fun-filled night!

### **Funding**

#### Cutter Ranch Meat Raffle

A special thank you to Sacha and Tyler from Cutter Ranch for donating \$500.00 worth of farm raised chicken, pork, beef, and lamb for our raffle. The draw took place at the Cariboo Express show on November 9th and the proceeds are just over \$2300.00

#### CIBC – Wood Gundy



On November 26, CIBC Wood Gundy donated \$4350.50 to Friends of Children. This donation was made possible through the proceeds from CIBC Miracle Day. On Miracle Day, CIBC Wood Gundy Investment Advisors donate their fees and commissions in support of children's charities. Since 1984, nearly \$80 million has been distributed through the CIBC Children's Foundation to organizations across Canada.

## Donations

*Thank you* to the following supporters of Friends of Children! Through your generosity, we are able to continue to provide assistance to East Kootenay families.

**A Break in Time Café** in Creston held a fundraiser and raised \$500.00. Employee Crystal Trent initiated the event after receiving support from Friends of Children.

**John Wolfe Construction** – \$1000.00 donated at the request of an employee connected to a family helped by Friends of Children

**Kimberley Fellowship** - Faith group donated two months of congregation donations equaling \$368.00.

### **Cranbrook Rotary**

...donated \$4000.00 in July and also committed another \$1150.00 to complete the creation of our endowment fund. The fund is set up through the CDCF and will be able to assist families on behalf of Friends of Children long into the future.

### **United Way East Kootenay**

**Friends of Children is now a Member Agency of United Way East Kootenay and we continue to receive quarterly installments of \$1000.00 to assist families.**

## Presentations- Delegations-Outreach

We set up a table at the **Baby and Toddler Expo** in the Tamarack Center in October and reached many parents in that very target rich environment. Pat was able to touch base with several families who've used our services previously as well as quite a few who may become clients in the future.



In early November, Gail gave a warmly received presentation to **Sunrise Rotary**. Some of the members weren't fully aware of the scale of our work or how we assist families and it was therefore very beneficial to the Club to hear about Friends of Children. One of the members committed to donating some hotel room stays for East Kootenay families that have to travel to Cranbrook for appointments or treatments. They also auctioned two tickets to Barney Bentall and the Cariboo Express, and we sold 25 raffle tickets.

Our road trip to visit **Mayor and Council at the Town of Creston** was cancelled on November 24<sup>th</sup> due to the great snowfall that morning, but has been rescheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Office & Organization

In October, Friends of Children hired Sheila Hall as Administrative Assistant to work part time on office duties, fundraising & event planning in order to allow Pat more time to focus on serving families. Our email addresses have changed and you can now reach us at:

**Pat Chisholm:** ekfamilysupport  
@friendsofchildren .ca

**Sheila Hall:** ekoffice  
@friendsofchildren.ca

We have about a dozen **little backpacks** packed with stuffies, quilts, and a few other items and they're available for families of the children we've supported. If you know anyone on that list that we haven't contacted yet, or have a child in mind that needs our support, please help us get in contact.



We also have **Dairy Queen** gift certificates in the office – Call Sheila @ 250-417-9851

## *In Your Words...*

"I've been aware of the E.K. Friends of Children (EKFOC) program since its inception and had often thought of getting involved, so when I was approached about volunteering I didn't hesitate. I already knew that they offered a great service for families in our region, but since volunteering I've gained an even greater appreciation for how significant that assistance is for the many families they support.

Families experience a great deal of financial and emotional stress when their child is sick, let alone when they have to travel out of the region for medical services, and I believe that having access to a program that can help to alleviate some of that stress can make the difference between a family coping and a family falling apart. That's what makes volunteering for E.K. Friends of Children such a worthwhile commitment."

Beth Carter - Volunteer

"I can't thank you enough for booking that hotel! It was such a relief to have a room to go back to and relax while we waited for the roads to clear.

This was a difficult trip for my son and he endured so much at the hospital. I was stressed out about getting my little 7 year old, that can't talk, to get an ECHO, an EKG, an 18 hour heart monitor, respiratory tubes and over 32 electrodes glued to him (including 6 on his face). It was SO nice not to have to stress about all the other things!"

Julia – a Mom

If you have questions or would like to make a submission please email:  
[ekoffice@friendsofchildren.ca](mailto:ekoffice@friendsofchildren.ca)

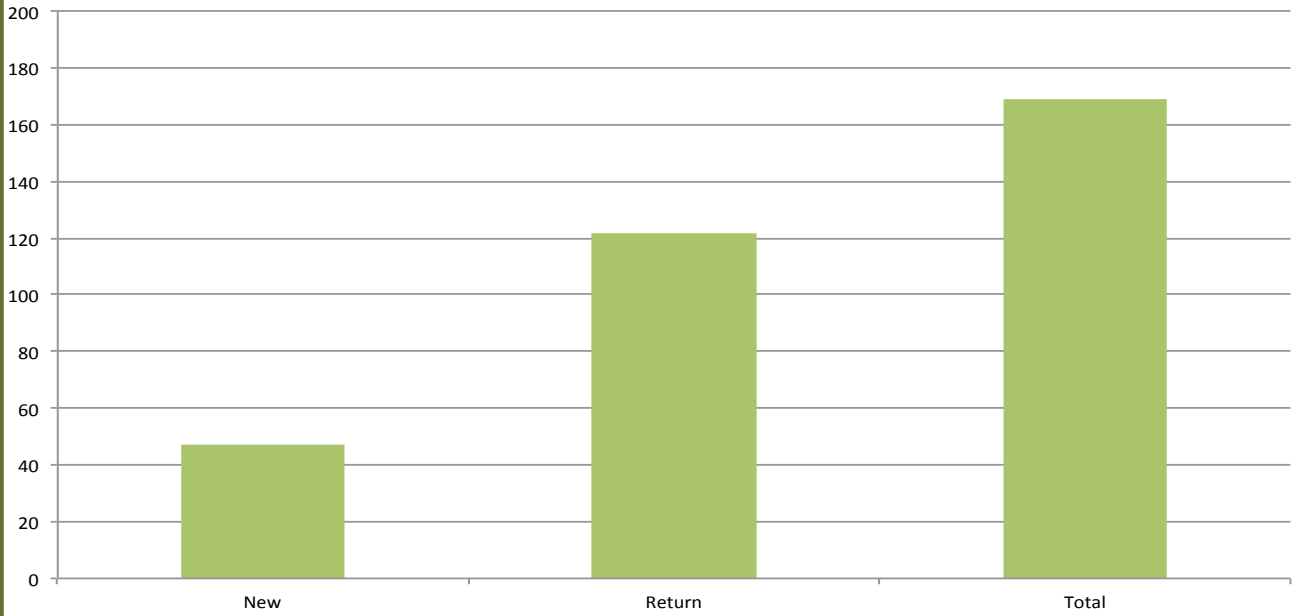
We are building a master email list of volunteers who are interested in assisting with Fundraisers, helping with phone calls, and representing Friends of Children at public events etc. If you'd like to be a part of our team and receive a copy of our schedule please contact:

[ekoffice@friendsofchildren.ca](mailto:ekoffice@friendsofchildren.ca) or call  
Sheila @ 250-417-9851

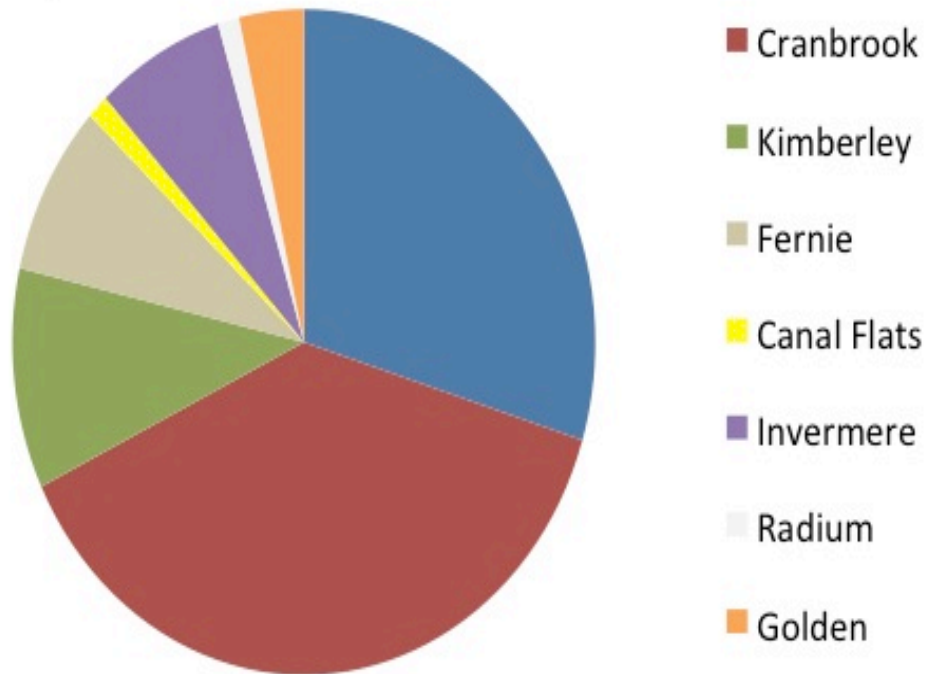


# Statistics to September 30<sup>th</sup>,

## New and Return Requests January - September 2015



## Requests by Community January - September 2015



Coming next!



GIFTS THAT GIVE HOPE



**DECEMBER 5TH**  
**FREE FAMILY**  
**EVENT**

WESTERN FINANCIAL PLACE 10AM – 4PM

Please join us on Saturday at Western Financial Place. Many of us are so blessed and looking for a gratifying way to give this season. The event features 14 local charities, gifts starting at only \$5.00 and children will get their own shopping lists so they can participate in the sharing and caring. This is a FREE family event; Kids crafts start at 10am, skating is from 11-1pm and family swim from 1- 3. See you there!

*If you have a **question** to ask, or a family to **refer**, please contact us!*

**Email: [ekoffice@friendsofchildren.ca](mailto:ekoffice@friendsofchildren.ca)**

*Or*

**Toll Free: 1-866-564-2217**

**Direct phone: 250 420-1759**

**Suite 101, 16-12<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Cranbrook, BC V1C 3V7**

**[www.friendsofchildren.ca](http://www.friendsofchildren.ca)**