

#### Celebrating 20 years of art

This year marked the 20th anniversary of Ranch Ehrlo's Art from the Heart exhibition at the Schaller Education Centre in Pilot Butte. The event celebrated creativity and connection, showcasing stunning youth artwork from Ranch Ehrlo participants across Saskatchewan.

Artists featured in the 2025 calendar signed copies and shared the inspiration behind their pieces, while all submissions were displayed for guests to enjoy. The event included a special surprise: a commemorative coffee table book featuring artwork from past years.

Congratulations to all the talented artists for 20 years of incredible art!

## A place of their own



The team at Ehrlo Housing and former tenants

Former tenants of Ehrlo Housing have received the keys to their castle. Virgie and



RANCH EHRLO SOCIETY NEWSLETTER Issue 137 January 2025

Cesar have purchased their first home after years of living in affordable housing geared to low-income families.

The couple, along with their son Ryan, immigrated from the Philippines in December 2019. While they worked hard to find their footing and navigate a competitive housing market, Virgie and Cesar found an affordable opportunity with Ehrlo Housing.

The family of three moved into a twobedroom suite at Lakeshore Village.

"The family were such good tenants, and we had nothing but great experiences with them," said Shelley Sayer, director of Ehrlo Housing. "They took good care of their unit and we're happy they found a new, beautiful home."

Virgie said accumulating a downpayment while working minimum-wage jobs proved challenging, but not impossible.

"It does take a certain amount of grit and gumption to be able to do this," Sayer agreed. "The family has to do the work. We can support them as much as possible through ensuring their housing is secure and in good condition, but really it's all them and their ability to make this happen for themselves."

"We're pretty proud of them," she continued.

Virgie and her family took possession and made the move to their new Whitmore Park home on September 30th.

The family is enjoying their new home, and a favourite place has quickly become their own backyard.

"We are now able to go into the garden and can move more freely. We have our backyard and are now experiencing mowing the grass and raking the leaves which we were not able to experience before," Virgie said proudly. "I feel so happy owning a home in Canada. I know it's privilege and it's a big opportunity," Virgie said.

Ehrlo Housing operates as part of Ranch Ehrlo Society's community services and its mandate is to provide affordable housing to low-income families, individuals with enduring mental health conditions, and young people transitioning from care.

#### **Connecting over ceremony**



Patti Petrucka and Paige Wells

The First Nations University (FNU) of Canada brought together staff from the Family Treatment Program (FTP) and other community organizations in Regina to connect through ceremony.

Paige Wells and Patti Petrucka took part in the FNU gathering on October 9th, strengthening their connection with the university and learning more about Indigenous ceremony.

The FNU pipe ceremony was the first
Wells has been part of, but it won't be the
last. "It was really beautiful," she said of the

ceremony. "I left feeling intrigued and wanting to know more."

The invitation to attend the ceremony was extended to both Wells and Petrucka for their previous work and connection to the university, hosting practicum students in years previous. Wells said it was a great opportunity to reconnect with the post-secondary school and to continue to build a relationship and helped her further realize the importance of spiritual health in the lives of her clients and families.

"We really support the mental health and the physical health of people but we're often missing that spiritual connection, and research shows how important that spiritual component really is when working with people who have experienced trauma," she explained. "I truly believe that when we're in this field of work we should be incorporating not only our clinical practices but traditional means of healing as well."

"We work with such diverse communities, so I think it's really important that we are always striving to be culturally competent," she continued. "A lot of what we do is clinically based but some of our clients have a negative history with psychologists or social workers, so if we can incorporate some of their traditional healing and ceremony it's a step toward healing the effects of colonization and working toward truth and reconciliation."

The pipe ceremony at FNU not only left Wells inspired, but it provided opportunity for her to connect with her clients. The FTP therapist explained that when she shared with families about her experience at the FNU, they too began sharing their own stories and experiences.

The FTP works with families to help improve family safety, family functioning and child-wellbeing after having children in care.

# Cookies bringing community together



Ehrlo Sport Venture's 2024 Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie campaign brought together community members, businesses, and donors to support local youth in sport and recreation. Held from November 18 to 24, the campaign raised \$42,397 for Ehrlo Sport Venture's five free sports leagues and Tim Hortons Foundation Camps.



With every cookie sale in Regina, Balgonie, and Emerald Park, supporters helped reduce financial barriers that prevent youth from participating in organized sports. Generous donors and sponsors made it possible to provide cookies to 12 inner-city schools, classrooms, and care homes, spreading holiday cheer throughout the community.

Highlights included the inaugural Cookie Classic hockey event at the mâmawêyatitân centre, where business sponsors competed for the coveted Cookie Classic Cup.

Gloria Patrick, Ehrlo Sport Venture manager, praised the campaign, and said, "This partnership showcases the power of collaboration and community connections. We are so grateful for everyone's support."

Thanks to the incredible effort from local businesses, donors, and Tim Hortons owners, the campaign continues to create opportunities for youth to thrive. Your contributions make a lasting difference—thank you for sharing smiles and supporting this meaningful initiative!

#### **Medicine pillows**

Youth in Prince Albert are weaving cultural and holistic ways of healing into their lives by creating their very own medicine pillows for themselves, and to give as gifts to loved ones.



Youth sewed the soft pillowcase shells and then stuffed them with holistic medicines such as tobacco, sweetgrass, sage, and cedar. The medicine pillows will be kept in the beds of the youth, under their pillows, or carried with them to provide guidance and strength.

# Music and generosity meet at Jam Street



Ranch Ehrlo youth from Buckland, Prince Albert, and Corman Park had an inspiring afternoon at Jam Street in November, where Mercy Glover, and Josh Stumpf and his band The Boys Downtown not only performed a lively concert but also delivered a special gift — brand-new musical instruments.

These instruments were purchased with funds raised at the third annual Sunset Music Festival this past summer. The event, organized by Stumpf and Glover, featured talented Saskatchewan musicians, with all proceeds going towards music programming for Ranch Ehrlo youth in the north.

Following sets from Stumpf and Glover, the band brought out the instruments and set them up for the kids to try.

The purchase of instruments, from Mosaic



Music in Prince Albert, was made possible by the incredible support of over 450 festival attendees who helped raise over \$5,000. The musicians were able to purchase two drum kits, five digital keyboards, 12 guitars, and an assortment of drumsticks and tuners. They were met with excitement as the youth explored the gear, asked questions, and learned tips from the band members.

"We're so grateful to everyone who came out to support us, and especially to Mosaic Music for hooking us up with this great gear," said Stumpf. "Seeing the kids' excitement today made everything worth it."

#### Thank you to our sponsors and donors

Thank you to all of our donors and sponsors who helped Ranch Ehrlo in the past several months:

- Children's Aid Foundation- Ted and Loretta Rogers Comfort Kit Program \$22,750 to Ranch Ehrlo
- South Saskatchewan Community Foundation Grant \$ 4,727.38 to OHL
- Anonymous donation in honour of Malcolm and Lisa \$ 100 to OHL
- Jumpstart MNF Grant \$2,883 to MNF
- KLM Ventures \$10,000 to Ranch Ehrlo
- Prairie South Central School Division office staff \$255 FCAP Christmas donation
- Frank Hart Cookies for a Care home- \$ 100
- Marsh Canada Cookies for a Care home- \$ 100
- Shippam & Assoc Cookies for a Care home- \$ 100
- Gordon Pritchard (Regina Pats) Cookies for a Care home- \$ 100
- CIBC Commercial Banking Cookie Classic for Classrooms Hockey Event \$300
- CIBC Wood Gundy Cookie Classic for Classrooms Hockey Event \$300
- Cornwall Centre Cookie Classic for Classrooms Hockey Event \$600
- Aon Risk Management \$ 200 Cookies for a Classrooms
- Heather Collins, \$1,000 to the Family Treatment Program

#### Holiday snack



Sweet Grass Café, run by participants in Ranch Ehrlo's Supported Living Programs, prepared a festive lunch for our board's December meeting. The service provides young adults in our program with vocational training and meaningful employment experience.

## House expansion



Exciting things are happening at Alex Guy House on our Buckland campus!

The expansion renovation is progressing smoothly. While weather may play a role in the timeline, we're on track for completion around January or February 2025. Stay tuned for more.

#### Solo exhibit



One of our talented youth celebrated his first solo exhibit at the Regina Comic Arts Festival! Showcasing unique, game-inspired characters, he wowed attendees and shared, "It felt really good [to have my artwork showcased]. People's positive comments make me feel good."

## Walk together



We're excited to announce the new pathway at Pilot Butte campus, reflecting our commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Take a virtual tour and explore it today on ehrlo.com!

## **Community connection**



Staff enjoyed the opportunity to connect with members of the community and share more about Ranch Ehrlo's work. The agency hosted a booth at the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations - FSIN Chief's Assembly on October 30th at TCU Place in Saskatoon.

