



The Heart and Future of
Our Community

In Our Own Backyard

Who We Are.

The Alternative School Centre provides students with an alternative to the conventional school environment. The focus of the school is to facilitate each student's person growth as well as to promote and develop skills which will allow the students to become responsible and life long learners as well as contributing members of our community both presently and in the future. The Alternative School Centre also exists as a safe and caring haven for youth in Red Deer who are forced to contend with daily struggles and circumstances that NO child should have to deal with.

Who We Serve.

We serve students with diverse and complex needs which includes:

- Mental Health
- Social Anxiety
- Substance Abuse
- Homelessness
- Poverty
- Adults who previously dropped out
- Teenage pregnancy
- Severe behaviours

Red Deer is confronted by many growing problems, but supporting our students is a means of addressing the looming challenges we will face as a community tomorrow.

For our students, education is not merely a stepping stone to success, but a stairway climbing towards a safer, more stable, and rewarding life and community.



The Red Deer Alternative School Centre currently provides free breakfast to the 125 kids on site each day, but the school's paid lunch program is still inaccessible for many.

The Heart and Future of Our Community

How we make a difference.



One area where students can gain work experience is in our very own kitchens, cooking meals for their peers.

When given the opportunity, our students are highly service-oriented, possessing an extraordinary passion for helping others. Through this and other programs at the Red Deer Alternative School Centre, we can help our community's young people to realize their potential and to explore new ideas and possibilities for their future. In 2019, 88 students graduated with their high school diplomas from the Red Deer Alternative School Centre. Some go on to pursue post-graduate studies while others use their newfound skills and relationships to enter the workforce, improving their own wellbeing and that of those closest to them.

The Red Deer Alternative School Centre is a place where young people who find themselves in these difficult situations can pursue their education and find community in their own way, on their own terms, and according to their own varying circumstances. This environment enables them to take lessons at their own pace, both in person or at home. We also employ a work experience program which connects students with local businesses and employers in order to learn essential workplace skills. In this way, students receive knowledge vital to their future success and are able to learn about the value in serving others.



Kids placed in the kitchens for the work experience program made Christmas cookies for their neighbors last December.

Feeding Their Success

What you can do to help.



A student could have lunch for as little as \$3.00 per day.

The Red Deer Alternative School **Centre** currently provides free breakfast for its students, a service which has become an important source of nutrition for the young people who attend classes on site. The school also offers a lunch program, **that did cost \$3.00 per meal**. Many of the kids who attend have no income and no financial support from their families, leaving them unable to pay for lunch. **(This year, however, by running a deficit budget we are able for the first time to offer lunch free. The school recognizes the benefits and value of nutrition and relationships built around food. However, the free lunch offered has created a deficit that we hope can be alleviated through donations. We are hoping that the community will invest in their future and we can continue to offer free lunches every year.)** Getting a good meal during the day can make all the difference in a student's ability to perform well in their studies. We believe that lunch should not be a reward for students, but a right. Our aim is to provide lunch to **all our** onsite students every day **during the** school year so that they can learn without the anxiety of wondering where their next meal will come from.



Changing Lives

Why we do what we do.

The impact a supportive community can have was never more apparent than when we met David, a young man who at that time was struggling with drug abuse and had even attempted to take his own life. With the encouragement and support of staff at Red Deer Alternative School Centre, he began attending classes more regularly, engaging with other students, and forming positive relationships. Even though David did not graduate, we later received a letter from his mother telling us that he greatly valued the education he had received, that he was now clean, and had been accepted into the University of Alberta's business program. David's story is a testament to the power which kindness and a supportive environment can have in a young person's life.

Estimated Cost Per Meal	Number of School Days	Total Cost To Feed 1 Student For 1 Year
\$3.00	180	\$540.00

There are many ways to support the Red Deer Alternative School Centre:

- Give now with a gift of cash.
- Craft a caring and compassionate legacy by remembering Red Deer Alternative School Centre in planning your estate.
- Share about the Alternative School with your friends, family, and neighbors to raise awareness about the work we are doing to alleviate poverty.

To learn more about how you can donate to this project, contact:

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