**MEDIA RELEASE**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, November 27, 2020

**ALBERTA GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES PROGRAM**

**GRANTS $50,000 TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF RED DEER
IN SUPPORT OF FACILITY OVERHEAD FUNDING FOR CAMP ALEXO**

**Red Deer, AB** – The Boys and Girls Club and Youth HQ is very pleased to announce this funding support for facility costs at Camp Alexo. Like many children and youth camps throughout Alberta the impact of closing the camp due to COVID-19 has had a significant impact not only on the many children and families we serve, but also on revenues to support operating costs. The costs to maintain these facilities remains, even though we have not been able to generate the revenues needed to support operations.

This past year has been challenging for many charities. “The support from the Community Initiatives Program will enable us to ensure that Camp Alexo is operating and ready to welcome back the hundreds of children and youth who look forward to camp opportunities and experiences throughout the year”, states Rob Lewis, Executive Director.

Camp serves more than 2,200 children, youth and community groups throughout Central Alberta every year. Camp provides children and youth the opportunity to grow and discover their potential, learn life-long skills and to create connections and interests through numerous opportunities and experiences. We look forward to welcoming back the children, families and communities we serve in 2021. Camp Alexo is a place where memories are made.

Thank you to Leela Sharon Aheer, Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women and to the honourable Jason Nixon, MLA for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain-Sundre for helping us to continue to make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve through Camp Alexo.

For more information on Camp Alexo please visit www.youthhq.ca.

 ###

**About Boys & Girls Club of Red Deer and District**

Boys and Girls Club provides fun after school and out-of-school programs and activities to give young people the opportunities to develop their potential and achieve their dreams. As youth develop positive, healthy relationships with peers, role models and family members, they can become the best versions of themselves and develop into the leaders of tomorrow. Boys and Girls Club of Red Deer & District was started in 1983, and currently serves over 1,500 youth in 12 communities around central Alberta.

**About Youth HQ**

Youth HQ empowers youth by fostering a community of support. Our network seeks to instill young people with confidence in their unique identities and abilities, providing them with skills for life through knowledge, healthy relationships, and quality experiences while providing safe environments to learn and grow. Youth HQ coordinates programming for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Red Deer & District and Boys & Girls Club of Red Deer & District, offering numerous programs and services that support children, youth and families.

**For more information, contact:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rob Lewis | John Johnston |
| Executive Director | Community Engagement Manager |
| 403-342-6500 x 105 | 403-342-6500 x 114 |
| robl@youthhq.ca | johnj@youthhq.ca |