



Lois Hole Memorial Literacy Awards 2020

Community Leadership Award



In the spring of 2008, **Jim Cuddy** agreed to be the first “guest speaker” at the Centre for Family Literacy’s inaugural *An Evening of Wine and Words*.

The purpose of the event was to raise money to help purchase a new C.O.W. Bus. The goal was to raise \$20,000. The

allure of Jim Cuddy made it a sold-out event and they raised \$37,000.

This was not a one off commitment for Jim; he has continued to support the Centre for the past 12 years and has expanded his involvement by bringing a variety of award-winning guests to perform with him.

Jim has been very open to helping promote Wine & Words, and gives generously of himself at the event—posing for photos with guests, signing programs, and being auctioned to sit at a guest’s table for the evening.

During their performance, Jim and his guest tell stories, sharing what inspired them to write the songs they are performing, and making a connection to the importance of literacy in their lives.

As a result of Jim’s ongoing efforts and commitment to the work of the Centre, *An Evening of Wine & Words* has raised over \$1M in support of family literacy programs in Edmonton.



Adult Learner Award

Abigail Agyeiwaa exemplifies the attributes of an award winner. She is goal-oriented, determined, relentless, inquisitive, intelligent, positive, and unstoppable.

Living in Ghana with her grandmother and brothers, half-brothers and half-sisters, totalling up to 15 at times, Abigail was responsible for most of the cooking and cleaning for the family.

She had to leave school after grade 6 as the family could not afford to pay, and education for females was not valued. At 25 years of age, she married a young man who had emigrated to Canada. Abigail was able to speak Twi and English, but was not able to read or write in either language when she arrived in our country.

When Abigail came to the Centre, her goal was to learn to read and write in order to help her children with their homework, read them stories, and understand their school notes and agendas.

She also wanted to have the ability to read a newspaper, fill out forms, and read her own mail.

Abigail’s reading and writing have improved tremendously. She spends many hours a week practicing on her own and with her children. Her confidence has improved and she is highly motivated and an inspiration.

Abigail started out at the very beginning, Level 1, and now with her tutor, she is able to read Level 3 materials. The effort she has put into her learning, for her own sake and for her family, makes her an outstanding winner of the Adult Learner award.

Family Learner Award



Rachael Raffray is a strong, independent role model for her children. As a single mom, she has dedicated her time to supporting them and continuously learning new ways to enrich *their* learning.

Rachael attends our Literacy Links program with her son Archer. As small children do, Archer tested his mom’s patience with what some would call the “terrible twos” or “trying threes”.

Many parents stop attending a program when it becomes too difficult with their child. Not so for Rachael! She continued attending, giving Archer the space he needed and the freedom to be his age. They always resolved their challenges in a positive manner.

Because of Rachael’s patience and commitment, Archer has also developed amazing patience and strong learning skills that will contribute to his success in school, and in life skills. Together they are great role models and they have had an incredible impact on what other families are able to learn in the program.

