

2021 LOIS HOLE MEMORIAL LITERACY AWARDS



Community Leadership Award

The Community Leadership Award recognizes an individual, organization or business who has:

- shown leadership in family literacy activities,
- raised funds for family literacy programs or organizations
- increased public awareness of family literacy issues

Our winner this year, **Nanette Jones**, Literacy Coordinator at Flagstaff Community Adult Learning has excelled in all of these areas.



Nanette's work includes building knowledge within the County of Flagstaff of the variety of literacy we use every day. What is most near and dear to her heart though is family literacy.

Eight years ago, Nanette saw the need for family literacy programming in the County and ever since she has been working tirelessly to build a program to support families. She started from scratch taking family literacy training, researching the right programs for the community, hiring staff and finding funding.

In support of family literacy, Nanette travels to communities throughout the County speaking to librarians, staff in elementary schools, and preschool teachers. She organizes meetings with Alberta Health Services, Fetal Alcohol Specialists, Healthy Families workers and is a leader in the Flagstaff Early Childhood Coalition.

She is tireless in her efforts and never stops. Presently, she is in the process of working to connect families participating in the Books for Babies program with the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library so families can receive a free book every month.

In the words of her nominee "there is no one in Flagstaff County who has done more for family literacy than Nanette Jones".

Adult Learner Award

Kelly Beusaert came to the Centre in the spring of 2020. She was matched with a one-on-one tutor to work to improve her reading and spelling skills, as her goal is to become a writer.



With her determination to learn, she quickly was able to join several of the Centre's book clubs as well as a group tutoring opportunity. In the group settings, Kelly is an active participant

giving practical suggestions to the group, is always eager to learn, and her sense of humor and thoughtful opinions add a great deal.

Despite facing significant trauma as a child and her education being sidelined, Kelly's determination to improve her literacy skills is quite remarkable. She is putting her skills to work in her daily life as she confided to her tutor that she is now able to write emails at work that her co-workers easily understand. She recently started volunteering with an organization that provides low price food options in various neighbourhoods.

Kelly's determination and great attitude lead all of her nominators to believe she will succeed in her goal of becoming a writer and they look forward to reading her work.

Family Learner Award

Our winner this year, **Minna Cai**, has demonstrated extraordinary dedication, perseverance, and commitment to her own growth, learning, and development, and that of her children.



Her list of program activities is long and noteworthy – actively and consistently attending programs for the past five years. She started with Rhymes that Bind, 321 FUN, and Learn Together Grow Together. Minna currently participates with her two children in:

- Family Book Club,
- Rhymes that Bind,
- Big Kids Story Slam,
- COW Corner and
- Big Kids Rhymes that Bind.

Being an English second language learner, and a parent navigating through teaching two languages, Minna has faced many challenges including struggles with communication to be understood and to understand in a program setting.

She has overcome these challenges through actively participating in the program, becoming an independent learner, and practicing as much as possible on her own time. When COVID hit, Minna quickly adapted to our online platform, making use of the chat and annotation features to ask question and share information.

Minna's efforts have made a measurable impact on her children's literacy. Every week she enthusiastically shares what the family has learned and how they have put that learning to use. Both of her children have significantly increased their vocabulary skills, and Minna encourages and celebrates her children's accomplishments. She takes her job of helping her children achieve their full potential very seriously.