

# WINS E-News

## September 2014

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### **WINS Welcomes New Executive Director: Laura Dickson**

**The Women In Need Society is pleased to welcome Laura Dickson as its new Executive Director, after former Executive Director, Cathy Coutts, moved to Kenya to join her husband. Laura is a business and operations professional with over 15 years of experience in health and social services planning and delivery.**

**"I have a passion for social inclusion, citizenship and participation," says Laura. "I am thrilled to join an organization that helps strengthen women and families so that they can feel a bigger part of their community."**

**Laura has a background in public administration and not for profit management and was the Chief Operating Officer of the Calgary Homeless Foundation from 2009 through 2011 before returning to school to complete an MBA. With expertise in finance, performance monitoring and measurement, and program development, we know that Laura will be a great addition to the WINS team!**



## Farewell to Cathy Coutts

After leading WINS through many successes, former Executive Director, Cathy Coutts, left Calgary earlier this month to join her husband in Kenya who is working for an organization called One Acre Fund. Cathy left this message for the WINS teams and partners:

***"After 3 years as the Executive Director of WINS, I hand over the reins to Laura Dickson. I am confident Laura will do an outstanding job moving the organization forward.***

***Working with the staff, clients, and Board has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life as I learned tonnes, made lifelong friends, and met amazing people. The passion of the staff to make life just a little bit better for our clients and the smiles and the gratitude of the women and children WINS helped made going to work each day a joy. The teamwork and commitment of the team is contagious and motivating as they bring their hearts and souls to the job each day. The support of partnering agencies and funders was overwhelming and the smile of the child that no longer would have to sleep on the cold floor often brought tears to my eyes.***

***While I leave to explore new adventures with my husband in Africa, I will miss working with the team at WINS and our time together will forever be embedded in my memory. Thank you for the amazing opportunity. My life is certainly better for the experience!"***

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## Bikes for Tykes at WINS

WINS  
Thrift Stores  
September  
Promotions

## Great deals on Back to School Items at WINS!

Customer Appreciation Days

September 20  
**Dover and Bowness**  
Don't forget: Every Tuesday at WINS Thrift Stores is Seniors Day. Customers aged 55 and over can join all our locations for 20% off!

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### WINS FACT

The WINS FRC Team were able to distribute over 250 school backpacks to low income school children from Kindergarten to Grade 12 during the month of August. These are thanks to our ongoing partnership with Fluor, who generously



No childhood is complete without a bicycle! WINS and Kiwanis turned July 24 into a great day for 18 children at WINS' Family Resource Centre in Shaganappi.

The Kiwanis **Bikes 4 Tykes** program held their **5000<sup>th</sup> Bike**

**Giveaway** and 18 bikes were distributed to four families, along with helmets.

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**WINS Still Supporting Flood Victims A Year Later**

- *Nadima, Chranek, Free Goods Referral Program Coordinator*

**"Sarah" lost everything she owned in High River during the flood last year. Her then-husband filed for divorce and took everything, leaving her homeless with 2 young children to look after. The family had been in and out of homeless shelters since the flood and had finally, almost a year later, had found a new home. However, Sarah had no furniture, mattresses, or household goods for their new lives.**

The only income Sarah was receiving was a family allowance of \$290 a month and her rent was \$280 a month, making it impossible for her to purchase

supplies the backpacks and their contents.



**WINS published its bi-annual newsletter in August.**

**If you missed it, click on the butterfly to download a PDF copy!**



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the items she needed to set up her home. "Sarah" shared her story with our Free Goods Referral Program Facilitator, Kerrie, and the FGRP Coordinator, Nadima, who gave her a voucher to purchase the items she need in our store.

When the staff at the WINS Dover Thrift Store learned of "Sarah's" situation, they took it a step further. With enough items in stock the



team was able to ensure the family a mattress and a dresser, as well as a kitchen table set, a microwave, television and dishes. "Sarah" and her family were now ready to leave the 2013 floods behind them and launch into their new lives!

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