



Boys & Girls Clubs
of Edmonton

Dear Reader:



My name is Ed Hervey, former wide receiver for the Edmonton Eskimos and Honorary Chair of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Edmonton's Annual Fund.

Boys & Girls Clubs was a huge influence on me in my youth, helping me become the man I am today. So, I remain a passionate supporter. After seven years in an Eskimos uniform, I am still very much involved with the team and the city of Edmonton as Western U.S. Scout and Community Ambassador. As a city advocate and a sport professional, it is with great pride that I and other players have become involved with this much-respected organization.

Please join me in supporting Boys & Girls Clubs of Edmonton by making a gift to the Annual Fund. This year we need to raise more than \$2 million to keep our city's kids safe and motivated.

We operate nine clubs in low-income, high-risk neighborhoods across the city. On any given day, many young people must navigate substance abuse, the sex trade and other dangerous activities going on right outside their front doors. For children with low self-esteem, and limited family support, activities like these can be a powerful magnet. They can easily become lures unless people like you and I provide these young people with other choices. Boys & Girls Clubs of Edmonton play a key role in these communities, offering the core support and safe environment these children need. We provide windows of opportunity and positive role models. It doesn't take long for a child to become lost, alone, cold, hungry, or terrified if there is no anchor for them.

Kids need options, strong role models and someone who says "I believe in you." Your support makes that happen.

Thanks to the community support received in 2008, we continue to make great strides. In this past year, we:

- Remained a haven for young people removed from unsafe homes and gave shelter, supervision, primary care and 24-hour support to hundreds of children and youths whose life circumstances placed them at risk and in harm's way.
- Served more than 72,000 hot meals for kids who might otherwise have gone hungry. We ensured that more than 4,000 children went to school with fuller tummies, got help with their homework after class, had access to our computer labs and were provided with a supportive atmosphere—all things conducive to learning and all delivered in a safe, supportive setting.
- Ensured that more than 300 under-privileged children experienced the joy of attending summer camp.
- Were recognized as one of only six organizations to receive a three-year provincial grant for programming aimed at promoting healthy eating choices and physical activity among Alberta's youth.

These are but a few examples of what Boys & Girls Clubs of Edmonton is capable of doing with ongoing support. For nearly half a century, our organization has devoted itself to bettering the lives of Edmonton's youth, and like our donors, the board and staff take pride in the number of young people we have helped mentor through to adulthood over the years. We hope you will help us to carry on that tradition in 2009.

Please make a gift today. You'll ensure that a child in Edmonton gets a 'leg up' in his or her next year of life. In doing so, you'll be investing in the future of this city. You can choose to make a one-time donation or join our monthly giving program. Knowing that your support is ongoing will help us enhance opportunities for the children we serve.

You, too, can help give children in need the power to believe in themselves...and succeed.

Together, we will make a difference.

Most sincerely,

Ed Hervey
Honorary Chair, BGCE Annual Fund

p.s. Many Albertans who make annual charitable gifts are now eligible for increased tax benefits. You can receive a 50 per cent provincial/federal tax credit for every dollar donated over the first \$200.