

Enjoy a....
*Cup of Coffee with the
Cupboard!*



*From the desk of our
Executive Director
Lori Shatto....*

Good morning,

We hope you are doing well and had a great couple of weeks.

Welcome to May! It is hard to believe we just had our 2023 Ladies' Luncheon. What a fantastic sight to see so many beautiful and strong women in one place. Thank you to everyone that came out to support this event and TLC - we are so grateful that you chose to spend your lunch hour with us. Thank you as well to our many sponsors, speakers and volunteers! It was so wonderful to see everyone.

In the coming weeks, we will be releasing our Spring newsletter. Please watch for it as it will contain lots of information.

Please remember that we are here to support your medical equipment and daily living aid needs. Please call us at 403-356-1678 or stop by if you have any questions. We are here to help!

Take care,

Lori Shatto

*What's happening at the
Cupboard*

Our annual Ladies' Luncheon - a time to celebrate
the strength and resiliency of women!



We had a full house for our Ladies' Luncheon on May 11 at RDP!



Our volunteer Elva struts her stuff during the fashion show segment!

It was a delightful afternoon of fun, laughter and inspiration during our annual Ladies' Luncheon at Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP) on May 11.

Another highlight! We were sold out - and we couldn't be more grateful for the tremendous support of our community!

Lori Shatto, our executive director, noted that looking out over the audience "does wonders for the heart. We are delighted to see each and every one of you here for a wonderful time with us this afternoon."

"When planning for this day, so many things came to mind. And what continues to be front and center is women's strength, resiliency, and kindness. These things have been very evident from the beginning of The Lending Cupboard."

Lori explained how Jacqui Joys founded the organization in the summer of 2006.

"But she didn't do it alone. She had the power of other women and local organizations supporting her. She recognized medical equipment needs and the importance for individuals, including her family. And so The Lending Cupboard was started."

Another exciting chapter was launched with the start of the annual Ladies' Luncheon 12 years ago. "Women gathered for the first Ladies' Luncheon to help support this amazing organization," she said.

"It was thanks to two amazing women who knew there was strength in numbers and in the power of women coming together to celebrate each other and to support their community. Thanks to the early work of Eileen Cole and Marlis McPherson, we continue to celebrate one another and the TLC story."

Lori noted that the 'diamond' motif would be evident to our guests, from the lovely diamond-shaped paperweights to the exquisitely-crafted diamond ring from Red Deer Goldsmiths, our featured raffle prize that went to a very lucky Lois Moen.

"They are the strongest, most durable and most resilient of gems. Sometimes, it takes years to see their beauty and to be molded into their perfection. It's just like all of us - we all experience different journeys. Our trials and successes mold us into the beautiful, strong and caring people that we are," she said.

"We all bring something powerful and beautiful to those around us and our communities."

Lori also paid special tribute to one of our beloved volunteers - Sarah White - who passed away just one day before our event.

"I would like to take just a few moments to recognize one special lady - Sarah White. After a courageous and valiant battle with cancer, Sarah passed away this week. On behalf of TLC, we express our most sincere condolences to Sarah's family and friends.

"She served TLC and its clients with incredible dedication and compassion. Her amazing kindness shone through in her every interaction. She will be dearly missed by all who had the absolute pleasure of working with her."

To end the welcome, Shatto noted

"Let's shine bright - like diamonds - and shine light in our communities."



Here is Lois Moen, who won our lovely raffle prize of a diamond ring from Red Deer Goldsmiths, and our exceptional speaker Val Jensen!





Remembering our dear volunteer Sarah White



It's with heavy hearts that we here at TLC share the sad news of the passing of our long-time volunteer Sarah White.

Sarah passed away on May 10th after a courageous and valiant battle with cancer.

Her commitment to TLC was nothing short of amazing and inspiring - she started working with us on January 18, 2016, and she proved to be a faithful, dedicated, and compassionate member of our team.

"Her amazing kindness and love for people shone through in her every interaction," said Lori Shatto, TLC's executive director. "She will be dearly missed by all who had the absolute pleasure of working with her. Sarah will always hold a special part in the TLC story.

"For me personally, I will never forget and cherish Sarah's tremendous strength and her positive attitude in every situation."

Our systems coordinator, Kathy Cole, described Sarah as always upbeat, positive and kind.

"I don't recall ever hearing her complain about her health issues; she just handled things with grace and dignity. She also formed some close friendships with other volunteers here, and a group of them were 'dinner' buddies," said Kathy, adding that Sarah went through so much during the course of her time with us here at TLC, including her first diagnosis with cancer and her subsequent course of treatment.

"She was then given a clean bill of health. But then her husband was diagnosed with cancer and passed away. Shortly after his death, she had to put her dog down (she had gotten the dog for her husband). Then, shortly after that, her next cancer diagnosis came. Again, she handled it so well," explained Kathy.

Each struggle was faced with grace and an unmistakable sense of determination to 'press on'. "I don't think I ever saw Sarah angry. I also always enjoyed listening to her deal with clients," Kathy added. "Sarah is missed, and we all feel her loss."

Brenda Radu, TLC's volunteer coordinator, explained that Sarah's professionalism always shone through her interactions with clients with sincerity and warmth. "She was comforting to people, and she was happy. She had a great smile, too.

"We all loved Sarah - she was a woman who had incredible strength," added Brenda, referring to Sarah's battles with cancer. "And no matter what she was facing, she always showed up for her shift with a smile."

Brenda recalled how when Sarah's husband passed on; it wasn't long before she returned to her volunteer post.

"She said she needed to be with her TLC family. And she was family - like all of our volunteers. She was cool and calm and had an attitude of, 'We will get through this.' It didn't matter what was going on, how busy it was or what she was dealing with personally. I'm going to miss her - Wednesday afternoons will have a big void in them."

Sarah's good friend Charlotte, who also volunteers at TLC, noted how the two became very close over the years. "I don't know how to describe her. She was someone that you knew you could share things with. She also shared herself, and she understood you. She was a very, very good friend."



Happy
Mother's
Day!

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