



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Community Foundation introduces *Vital Kids*

Medicine Hat, Alberta (October 23, 2009) – The Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta today launched *Vital Kids*, an extension of its Vital Signs program.

Vital Kids is aimed at teaching children more about the community they live in. This is done by discussing some of the more kid-friendly facts featured in Medicine Hat's Vital Signs. Issues covered will include voting, neighbourhood populations, Canada Day activities, volunteering, youth employment rates and much more.

The first *Vital Kids* presentation was held in the grade three/four classroom at St. Mary's School today, led by Jennifer Thompson, community impact coordinator at the Community Foundation.

"Our *Vital Kids* presentations will be a conversation with the students," said Thompson. "We will cover fun facts about Medicine Hat and talk about what they can do to make their community an even better place to live."

The Community Foundation has produced Vital Signs for three years, joining more than a dozen Community Foundations across the country. Medicine Hat's Vital Signs has inspired programs such as Vital Activities and Vital Munch; Thompson hopes that *Vital Kids* will touch a new generation.

"We are so excited for the opportunity to share our publication with students," Thompson said. "We can get a glimpse into what is important to them, further encourage their own civic leadership, and perhaps gain an insight as to what they would like to see in future Vital Signs. Medicine Hat is an amazing place to live and we want to remind students why that is so."

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Mike Christie, Executive Director of the Community Foundation, said he sees the *Vital Kids* program as an extension of the Foundation's core values.

"Community leadership is an integral role of the Community Foundation," said Christie. "We see this as an expansion of that role. Children are the future of our society, and we're happy to help provide them with an introduction to community belonging and leadership."

Teachers or administrators interested in the *Vital Kids* presentation can contact Jennifer Thompson at (403) 527-9038 or email jennifer@mhcf.ca. Medicine Hat's Vital Signs can be viewed at www.medicinehatvitalsigns.ca.