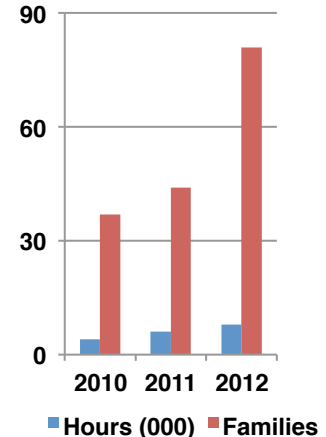


Strengthening Families in 2012

2012 was a stand-out year for Connections. We were able to bring a number of families into service from our waiting list. **We have assembled a high-quality team of 13 people to provide In-Home services** – developing relationships with families for: parenting skills development, baby and child ages/stages, building on strengths to maintain a safe and stable home.

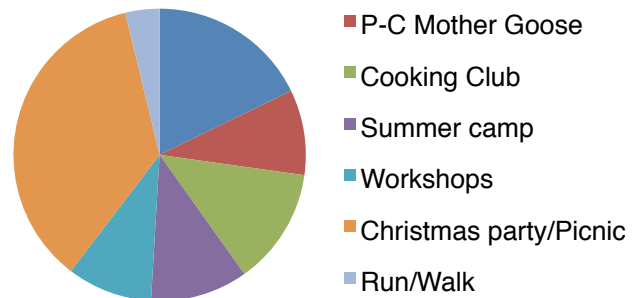
Families Supported	2012	% chg.	2011	% chg.	2010
Families	81	84	44	19	37
Individuals	265	95	136	10	124
In-Home hrs. of service	8,137	33	6,091	50	4,039
Counselling hrs. (contract)	696	12	620	2	608



In 2012, we set a goal to increase family group activity, creating the opportunity for families to get to know each other and develop natural supports. It worked! When one of our moms was recuperating from minor surgery, another mom stayed with her to help with childcare. These two moms rekindled an old friendship by meeting again at a Connections event. By developing these natural supports, Connections ensures our long-term support strengthens families and reduces families' dependence.

Family Activities

371 clients + families participated in 2012



How families found Connections

52 new families referred in 2012

- ◆ 11 from Persons with Developmental Disabilities
- ◆ 31 from Child & Family Services – AVIRT, Aboriginal services and area offices: Forest Lawn, Dover, Hunterhorn, McKnight, Bowness, South
- ◆ 10 from Public Health Nurses, Prospect, CLASS, Scope, Salvation Army, Autism Calgary, Gateways, Pregnancy Care Centre, Best Beginnings and Louise Dean Centre

Focussing on Strengths is Effective

We measure indicators that research shows link to successful parenting with a cognitive challenge.

- ◆ **82%** of our families increased willingness to be engaged or maintained engagement, reflected in making and keeping appointments
- ◆ **85%** of families had reduced number of crises or upheaval in their day-to-day lives

helping parents be the best they can be

connections

*Friends of Connections...
...are the best!!!*

Many organizations and individuals support our families. Our model is based on research that tells us support has to be consistent. And so the financial support that allows us to be there for our families when they need us is valued –well, more than valued, it's crucial.

Thank you.

We have been honoured to participate in the Calgary Women's Run and be the recipient of the funds raised. 2013 was the third year and the best ever – our families, and our team, love taking part.

We feel part of the team with the Alberta Government's Persons with Developmental Disabilities and with Calgary Region Child and Family Services. They take the time to understand our approach and our families and, together, we are helping families be successful and feel a part of the community.

University of Calgary's "Committee of 10,000," student-funded philanthropy, supported Connections in 2012.



Our **Sibshops** program continues to provide tremendous support to families by offering a fun program for children who have a sibling with a disability. The Westin/QR77 Children's Foundation has been a dedicated supporter.

2012 Budget: \$659,100
2011 Budget: \$492,045

*2012, \$2,000 surplus;
2011, \$33,000 surplus.*

70% of total budget goes to In-Home team salaries (front-line services)
6% of total budget goes to program supplies/delivery

How we can help more children stay safe

- ◆ **\$52,000 fund to support 7 families** whose funding is interrupted – continuous support is key to successful parenting
- ◆ **"Good Enough" Parenting resource project –\$75,000.** Connections is eager to share resources and build capacity in the province through a website and other communications tools we can develop.
- ◆ **\$8,750 Adopt-a-Family:** funding that supports one family for one year – we continue to have a long waiting list for families who need support and want to be the best parents they can be.

Thank you to our valued supporters.



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