

Olds & District Special Family Voices Newsletter

Issue 8 – Winter 2025/26

What's New:

Special Family Voices Council members, volunteers and community collaborators hosted several events in December including Holiday Card making at the Mountain View Museum, a movie at the Olds Library a potluck at the Olds College Residence and a Free Family Swim at the Olds Aquatic Centre. The latter three events were part of a week-long celebration which kicked off at the



Two friends re-unite at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities event at the Olds Legion.

Olds Legion in recognition of **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**. This is the third year that SFV has hosted this event. *The theme of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025, “Fostering disability inclusive societies for advancing social progress”, builds on the reaffirmed commitment of world leaders gathered at the Second World Summit for Social Development to build a more just, inclusive, equitable and sustainable world and their understanding that advancing progress on social development depends on, and indeed necessitates, the inclusion of all segments of society. (United Nations, 2025)

About 100 people came out to join in the festivities, with many dancing and singing along to familiar tunes played by the always entertaining Dean Ray. Olds Mayor Dan Daley and Didsbury Councilors Norm Quantz and Will Stevens attended. Mayor Daley is a member of SFV Council and spoke about his family’s experience with special needs. Learn more in this [article in The Albertan](#).

At the event we also **announced the launch of Special Family Voices website**. We hope you will check it out at <https://www.specialfamilyvoices.ca/>. The website is meant to provide people with special needs, their families and caregivers a place to find programs and events for inclusive social engagement as well as [resources](#) on government, community and family support services.

For instance, Brandy Gassner, Financial Advisor, ATB Securities Inc. and Co-Chair Mental Health Action Team is hosting a **Free, six-part Financial Wellness Webinar Series: DISABILITIES AND FINANCE** starting on **January 15th** and running every two weeks. Sessions include: Income Sources; DTC and RDSP; Retirement Planning; Estate Planning; Debt Management; Budgeting; and Emergency Funds. Register [here](#) or email bgassner@atb.com.



INCLUSION. CONNECTIONS. FUN!

Our Vision: To be a leading community that empowers people with special needs through meaningful collaboration.

Our Mission: To enrich the lives of people with special needs.

Follow-us:

Send an email to SFVoldsinfo@gmail.com to become a member and receive our e-news bulletins directly to your inbox and follow us on [Facebook](#).

Contact us:

Forward your questions to SFVoldsinfo@gmail.com or call Cindy at 403-556-5559 for more information.

Thank you to our Supporters:

Olds Family and Community Support Services (FCSS Olds)
FCSS Mountain View County
Olds Antique & Gun Show
Individual Members

Donations are accepted and appreciated!

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Upcoming Events:

All are welcome **Wednesday's at 1:00 p.m.** to share laughs and comradery over a friendly game of **Shuffleboard at The Olds Legion**. Many arrive early and enjoy lunch together. Starting **Wednesday, January 13th, at 11:30 a.m.**, Bev Randers, SFV council member will also facilitate weekly discussions to promote community leadership in planning SFV programs and activities. Please join the conversation.

Drop by the **Sweetheart Market Jan 24/25** (10-4) presented by Linda Toews and family, dedicated SFV volunteers.

Join us for our **Coffee Chat to be held Friday, January 30th at 9:00 a.m. at the Olds Library**. A great way to build a circle of friends and connect with other people, families and caregivers in a casual atmosphere.

Come out to see **The Unbreakable Boy**, at our monthly **Movie Matinee at The Olds Library**. Friday, January 30th at 1:30 p.m.

Please note, **Games events at Pandora's Boox** are on hold for January.

We are looking for a volunteer(s) to host these or an agency/organization to collaborate with.



Friends gather for Shuffleboard Wednesdays at the Olds Legion.

Did You Know:

Albertans can share their priorities for the **2026–27 provincial budget**, the survey is open until **January 15, 2026**, and can **be accessed here**. This is an important opportunity to remind government of the need for adequate funding for programs and supports that enable children and adults with intellectual disabilities—and their families—to live inclusive, meaningful lives. Visit [Inclusion Alberta's website](#) for more information.

Inclusion Alberta 2025 Inclusion Alberta Awards nominations are open until February 15, 2026. The awards recognize those in Alberta who are creating inclusive communities. Categories include community inclusion, leadership, long-term voluntary contribution and the National Inclusive Education Award.

Annual membership is only \$10 and is a great way to help us cover costs associated with bringing inclusive events to the community. **Membership fees and donations are greatly appreciated** and accepted at SFVOldsinfo@gmail.com. Help us build an inclusive community in Olds and area where everyone is welcome. Join us at our events, follow us on [Facebook](#) and/or email us at SFVOldsinfo@gmail.com.

Enriching the lives of people with special needs.

*Olds & District Special Family Voices (SFV)
Become a Member and Follow us on Facebook!*