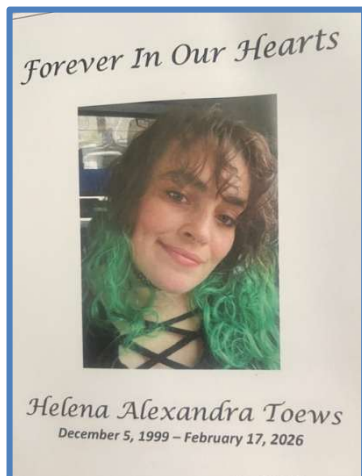


Olds & District Special Family Voices Newsletter

Issue 9 – Spring 2026

Forever In Our Hearts:

On behalf of Special Family Voices Council (SFV), we want to take a moment to reflect on the tragic loss to our community of a very special person.



On February 17th, Alex (Helena Alexandra Toews), daughter of Linda (SFV Vice President) and Danny, sister of Nate and Grady, passed away following a long battle with a severe illness. Alex was an avid volunteer with a number of organizations in Olds and Area including on the communications team of Special Family Voices and with Special Olympics, Olds & District. She was loved by many athletes and others from the special needs community for her brilliant smile and warm, supportive presence.

Alex loved to design our social media posts and help host the Games events at Pandora's among other things. She was also integral to her family's market ventures including their Gun & Antique Show held twice annually that has donated significant funds to both Special Olympics and SFV, while engaging members of our community in meaningful roles with the event. A celebration of Alex's life was held March 21st at the Hope Pointe Community Church and was overflowing with friends and family.

Disabilities and Finance Related Events:

A series of financial wellness sessions tailored to people with disabilities were held by SFV at the Olds Legion, in March, April and May offering families, caregivers and adults with special needs the opportunity to speak directly with Brandy Gassner, Financial Advisor, ATB Securities Inc. and Co-Chair of ATB's Mental Health Action Team. Sessions were very information and interactive, addressing the questions and concerns of attendees.

The live sessions were held to complement a free six-part Disabilities and Finance Financial Wellness series offered virtually by Brandy on topics including Planning for Retirement; Registered Disability Savings Plans; Estate Planning; Debt Management; Budgeting; and Emergency Funds.

The recorded sessions will be linked from Special Family Voices website when they become available. The website - <https://www.specialfamilyvoices.ca/> - is designed 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.



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.

Visit us:

Events, news and resources available on our website at www.specialfamilyvoices.ca.

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

Olds & District Special Family Voices Newsletter

Issue 8 – Winter 2025/26

Out and About in the Community:

Special Family Voices Council volunteers, members and collaborators are hosting and participating in a number of events aimed at enhancing the lives of people with special needs. From free movies to board games, lunch gatherings and shuffleboard, engagement opportunities continue to build. Our intention is to create opportunities for comradery and active living multiple times per week.

Starting in January, we offer a monthly **Movie Matinee** at the Olds Library on the last Friday of the month. **Don't miss Simon Birch, Friday, May 29 at 11:00 am and Aladdin (live action) Friday, June 26th.**

On Wednesdays at 11:30 am (weather permitting) we meet at Centennial Park for a picnic lunch and walk or friendly sports. On cooler days we meet at The Olds Legion for lunch before a friendly game of **Shuffleboard at 1:00**.

Please note lunch is not provided and we are sharing the space with others. All are welcome.

On Thursdays at 1:00 pm everyone is welcome for **Board Games at Pandora's Boox**. Games are provided and drinks and snacks are available for purchase (no outside food or drink please).

In March we began hosting **monthly coffee chats** that have generated very interesting conversations. There has been much discussion around the changes being made to Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) and the new Alberta Disabilities Assistance Program (ADAP) to be launched in July. We invite anyone interested in sharing and connecting to join us **Monday, June 15th at 7:00 pm** at Olds Community Connection Centre.



SFV promotions at local markets



Annual Red Shirt Day Celebration:

Please join us on **Wednesday, June 3 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm** as part of **National AccessAbility Week** (May 31 – June 6th). Lunch specials will be served, and a mini trade show of organizations supporting people with special needs will start in the Dieppe Room at noon. The program will begin at 1:00 and will include presentations from local dignitaries, performances by local music students and local entertainer, Joe Mattalo. Bring your dancing shoes. Cake and coffee will be served.

Annual Memberships Help Deliver Inclusive Events:

Annual membership is \$10 for individuals or \$20 for families. It supports the special needs community, gives you voting rights at our meetings and allows entry to all SFV events including our weekly summer swim program. **Donations are also greatly appreciated** and accepted at SFVOldsinfo@gmail.com. Please visit our website at www.specialfamilyvoices.ca for more information on our programs and events.

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