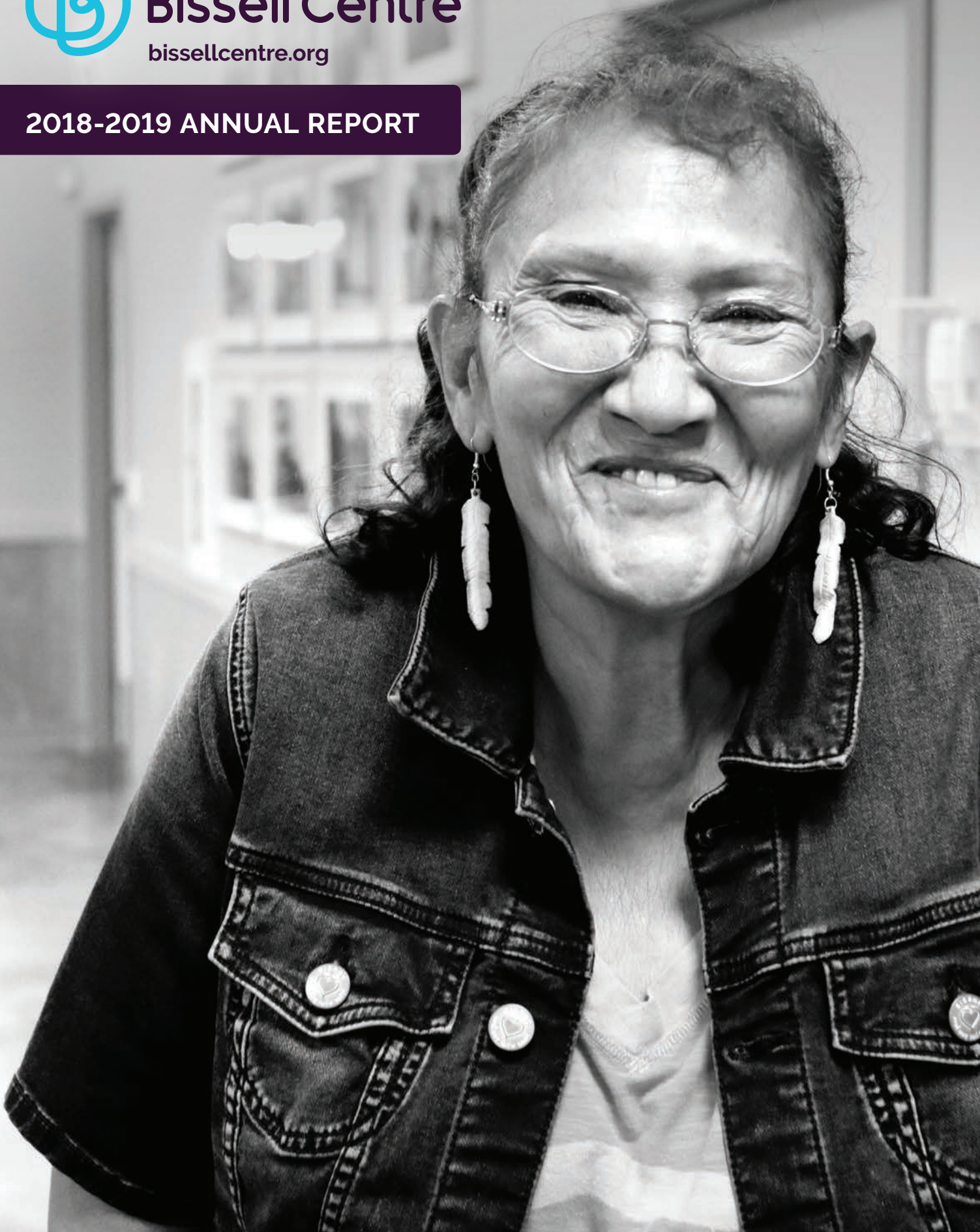




Bissell Centre

bissellcentre.org

2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Reflections from the CEO and Board Chair



This year, it's been incredible to watch our recently renovated Community Space become fully operational. We're seeing more clients than ever taking part in our community development workshops and programs.

We've introduced a new role in our Fetal Alcohol Spectrum of Services team to support engagement with the justice system. Far too often, people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder become unnecessarily involved with police and the courts, as their disability is either ignored or misunderstood.

Also, throughout 2018, our Employment Services Program increased casual labour placements, facilitating over 10,000 labour opportunities. Our complementary job skills training helps clients find employment and opens up a wider range of permanent employment opportunities.

These are just a few examples of the many significant initiatives made possible by our donors, funders, volunteers and supporters. A heartfelt thank you to all of you.

Together, we can eliminate poverty in our community!

Sincerely,

GARY ST. AMANT
CEO, BISSELL CENTRE



This past year has been full of growth for Bissell Centre, all thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and amazing community of supporters.

As my term on the Board of Governors draws to a close, it is difficult to put into words all I have seen and learned over the last six years. It has been an honour to assist, even in the smallest of ways, the work that goes on at Bissell.

I have always been humbled and impressed by the dedication of the entire organization, from the front line to sr. management, to the service of the marginalized in our community. The work that goes on here inspires me every time I am exposed to it.

I have also been blessed to work with some extremely talented and dedicated individuals on the Board.

As you know, our work is not done. I am completely confident in the organization's ability to forge ahead with you, working to eliminate poverty and strengthen communities in Edmonton.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

STEVEN FIX
BOARD CHAIR, BISSELL CENTRE



Mary Joe pictured volunteering at Bissell Centre. Thanks to all our amazing volunteers like Mary Joe for making our work possible!

Thriving After Left For Dead Mary Joe's Story of Resilience

Mary Joe heralds from B.C., but she was born in Edmonton. A mother of 9, she travelled from B.C. to Edmonton in 2016, hoping to create a new life for herself. Shortly after she arrived in Edmonton, Mary Joe learned that pursuing sobriety couldn't be accomplished simply by jumping provinces.

Succumbing to the ravages of alcoholism, she spent many months living on Edmonton's streets. Through balmy summers and bitterly cold winters, she survived the most difficult times under the cover of a tarp, in a sea of blankets with a group of people also experiencing homelessness.

Then, one morning, everything took a disastrous turn. Mary Joe had started her day drinking. She had \$200 and a bottle of alcohol in her pocket. That day, she was robbed by people she

thought were her friends—they left her for dead in minus 40 degree weather.

"If it wasn't for Bissell Centre, I don't know where I'd be. I'd probably be dead. But now I'm sober; I have a lot of support, and I have my kids and family back!"
—Mary Joe

"If it wasn't for this young kid and his friend who got me out of there, I would have frozen to death," says Mary Joe. "That was my sober point. I didn't come thousands of miles from B.C. to die here."

After that experience, Mary Joe went into a detox program. It was hard, but today she's

celebrating over 1 year sober! That's where Bissell Centre comes in. With help from our staff, Mary Joe got help finding a place to live. Today, you're likely to run into Mary Joe at Bissell Centre because she gives back by volunteering!

"If it wasn't for Bissell Centre, I don't know where I'd be. I'd probably be dead," says Mary Joe. "But now, I'm sober; I have a lot of support, and I have my kids and family back!"

Thanks for giving so people like Mary-Joe can get the support they need to thrive! And thanks for volunteering, Mary Joe! 🙌

You've helped support
566 families in 2018-19!

**Give today at
bissellcentre.org**

Purposeful Programming in 2018

Made Possible Thanks to You!



Workers taking part in our casual day labour program. Everybody wins! Workers gain income and job experience, and employers get their immediate staffing needs met.

Employment Services

Our Employment Services team helps people entering or reentering the workforce by helping people brush up on their skills, or connect with the right employment opportunities. We provide participants with assessments, referrals, life-management workshops, employment counselling, safety courses, resume writing, job search support, as well as placement opportunities.

We also provide people the opportunity to gain valuable work experience, as well as income through our Casual Labour Program. We have built several partnerships with businesses who look for casual labour in construction, moving services, food services, landscaping, warehousing, and more. Such experiences have helped highly motivated workers find long term or permanent employment.

Thanks for making this possible!



Barb Campbell, our new Justice Advocate in the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum of Services team!

FASS New Justice Component

Did you know Bissell Centre has been providing support for people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) for over 13 years? The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum of Services (FASS) program focuses on prevention and awareness to support individuals and families who are affected by FASD.

In 2018 we created a FASS justice advocate position to support individuals with FASD who are facing charges in the Justice System.

Our justice advocate works with a caseload of 15 individuals with the goal of educating judges, lawyers, jails, probation officers, police, and other justice officials on the presentations of FASD, so the community can become FASD informed.

Did you know...
...**163** people accessed FASD supports in 2018-19?



Jennifer and participants in Bissell Centre's Community Kitchen. Thanks for making this renovation possible, so more people can break the cycle of isolation and poverty.

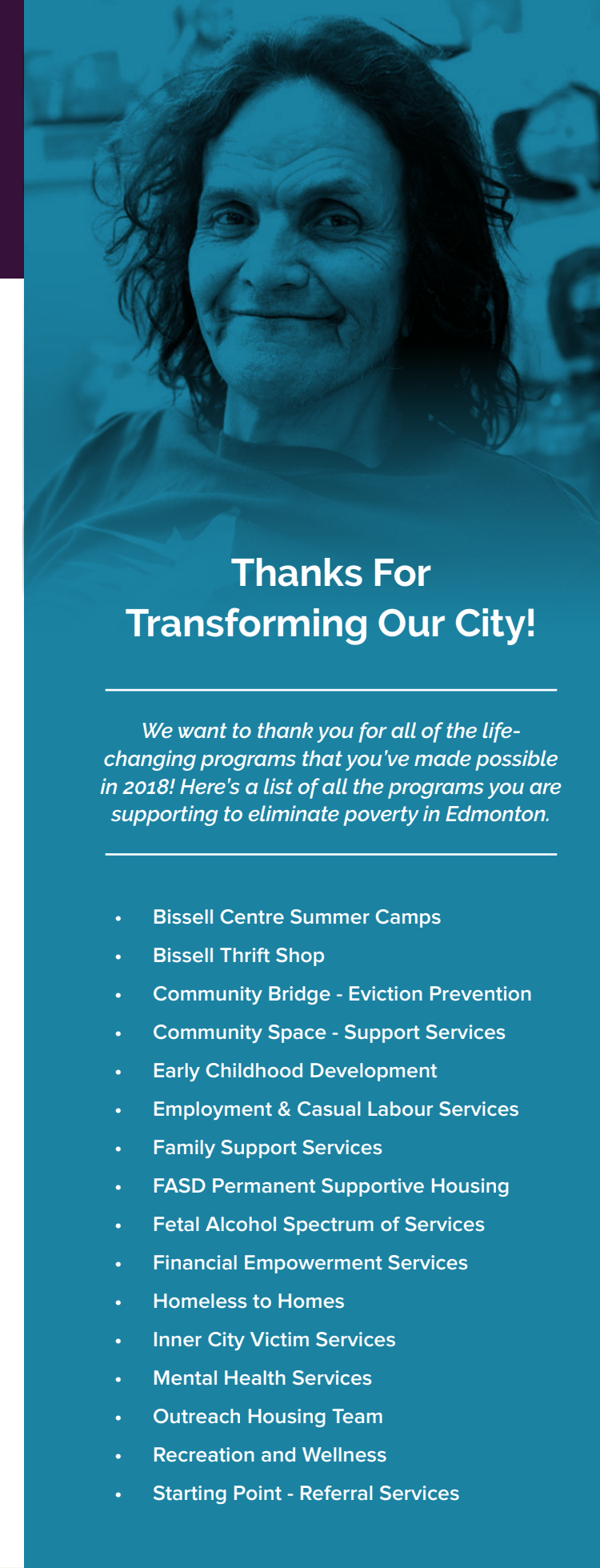
New Community Kitchen

In Bissell Centre's Community Kitchen, participants are diving into the culinary world. The Community Kitchen opened last October as part of the renovation of the Community Space. Since that time, we've seen numerous participants engage in the program.

Rocky, a participant in the program said, "There were things I wasn't taught, so now I'm learning them and I can cook for people."

Not only are participants learning how to cook nutritious and delicious meals, but also how to engage with one another in a positive and encouraging space, which helps to offset social isolation, so they can move out of poverty.

Did you know...
...**3822** people attended community workshops in 2018-19?



Thanks For Transforming Our City!

We want to thank you for all of the life-changing programs that you've made possible in 2018! Here's a list of all the programs you are supporting to eliminate poverty in Edmonton.

- Bissell Centre Summer Camps
- Bissell Thrift Shop
- Community Bridge - Eviction Prevention
- Community Space - Support Services
- Early Childhood Development
- Employment & Casual Labour Services
- Family Support Services
- FASD Permanent Supportive Housing
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum of Services
- Financial Empowerment Services
- Homeless to Homes
- Inner City Victim Services
- Mental Health Services
- Outreach Housing Team
- Recreation and Wellness
- Starting Point - Referral Services




Thank you for making our work possible!

Thank You to Supporters

This last year, the community provided incredible support, allowing us to open a newly re-imagined Community Space. Many years in the making, this space offers expanded basic needs services, and hosts over 20 community development programs each week.

Thanks to your support, we are seeing participants reconnect with their cultural heritage, expand their skills, and express their passions through a variety of artistic mediums. This wouldn't be possible without you.

You're walking alongside our participants every step of the way on their journey out of poverty. Thanks for your hard work and ongoing support!

We'd like to specifically thank our board members and the following community and corporate supporters for making our life-changing work possible. 



Did you know...

...Bissell Centre had **1,350** volunteers in 2018-19?

SUPPORTERS LIST 2018-19:

Alberta Foundation for the Arts
City of Edmonton
EcoCity Edmonton
Edmonton Civic Employees Charitable Assistance Fund
Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association
Edmonton Community Foundation
Eldon & Anne Foote Fund
EndPovertyEdmonton
ENMAX Corporation
Gateway Trailers
Shirley & Gordon Gifford Family Fund
Government of Alberta
Government of Canada
Homeward Trust
Inter Pipeline
McCarthy Family Fund
Melton Foundation
Wesley & Clarke Funds
Royal Alexandra Hospital Employees Charitable Donations Fund
Saint John's Legacy Foundation
Servus Credit Union
St Andrews United Church Thrift Shop
The Cliff and Rosemarie Cunningham Fund
The Stollery Charitable Foundation
Trust Under Will of Robert Tegler
United Church of Canada - Northern Spirit Region
United Way of the Alberta Capital Region
Wheaton Family Foundation


2018-19 BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

Steven Fix, Chair	Leanne Monsma
Jill Matthew, Vice-Chair	Joshua Moser
Ami Amato	Leigh Mulholland
Kelly Anderson	Jason Pincock
Gregory Boggs	Chris Schulte
Beverley Browne	Jennifer Tokar
Jason Gorman	Gina Wheatcroft
Hooman Hosseinkhannazer	Hendriatta Wong
Lee-Ann Leitch	

2018-2019 Year in Review

Bissell Centre is wholeheartedly committed to being transparent with our finances. That way, our supporters know we're financially accountable to them. By sharing how our funds are allocated, you can see that every donation you make goes towards improving the lives of real people struggling with poverty here in Edmonton.

In order to adhere to the highest organizational standards, our Financial Team maintains rigorous detail in all our financial records, ensuring Bissell Centre is accountable for every dollar, and using funds both effectively and efficiently. We believe this is an essential part of our work to eliminate poverty in our city.

Thank you for trusting us and partnering with us to break the cycle of poverty and isolation in the Greater Edmonton area! 

Revenue



2019



2018

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2018	2019
● Government Grants	\$5,672	\$6,096
● Fund Development & Earned Sales	\$3,425	\$3,111
● United Way	\$372	\$372
● Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	\$255	\$271

Expenditure



2019



2018

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2018	2019
● Staff	\$6,992	\$7,355
● Programs	\$1,416	\$993
● Building	\$444	\$521
● Office	\$424	\$434
● Publicity and Promotion	\$245	\$267
● Amortization of Capital Assets	\$394	\$398
● Deficiency of Revenue Over Expenditure	(\$192)	(\$119)

Statement of Financial Position

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2018	2019
Current Assets	\$2,722	\$2,731
Investments	\$136	\$144
Capital Assets	\$8,003	\$7,889
Total Assets	\$10,861	\$10,763
Current Liabilities	\$2,538	\$2,551
Deferred Capital Contributions	\$4,134	\$4,142
Total Liabilities	\$6,672	\$6,693
Total Net Assets	\$4,189	\$4,070
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$10,861	\$10,763


*This financial information has been prepared by management and has been audited.
Please find our full, audited financial statement on our website.

All Thanks to YOU!

Bissell Centre exists to empower people to move from poverty to cultural, social and economic prosperity. Your generosity makes that possible. We are immensely grateful to you for touching so many lives here in Edmonton.

Each number in these impact stats represents unique people, both individuals and families, each with their

own story, their own hopes, and their own dreams. I hope you're touched, knowing that you've made a wonderful difference in the lives that are represented by these numbers.

Thank you for your amazing support throughout 2018—your gifts have a far-reaching impact for people in need. 

Here's how your support has changed lives in Edmonton:



259

Victims of crime supported by Inner City Victim Services



998

Sessions with mental health workers



5353

Childcare visits (not unique visits)



259

Individuals assisted with taxes



264

People, including children, were housed



10673

Job placements through Casual Employment Program



398

Individuals were helped with accessing income supports



1031

Individuals were referred to the Community Closet or Family Closet



256

people helped with eviction prevention via Community Bridge program

THRIFT SHOP

8818-118 Avenue, Edmonton, AB 780.471.6644

Drop Off Hours:

Mon–Sat 10:00am to 4:30pm Closed Sunday

SOUTH-SIDE DONATION CENTRE

5120-122 Street, Edmonton, AB 780.432.2377

Drop Off Hours:

Mon–Sat 9:00am to 4:00pm Closed Sunday

