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MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aspen Family and Community Network and Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary announce merger

CALGARY – Aspen Family and Community Network Society (Aspen) and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Calgary (BGCC) are excited to announce their decision to come together and merge these two social services agencies to create a new, unified organization that ensures stronger supports for vulnerable children, youth and families.

Together these organizations offer more than 120 years of service to Calgarians tackling issues that include youth and family homelessness, social isolation, parenting and child intervention challenges and poverty. Last year, BGCC served nearly 4,500 children and youth, and members of their families. Aspen served 4,400 children, youth and parents, and welcomed an additional 30,000 individuals who accessed services in their community spaces.

The new organization will leverage strengths of both parties and create enhanced service delivery to meet the evolving needs of the current population. “The needs of people in our communities are becoming more and more complex every day” says Aspen CEO, Shirley Purves. “Families, staff, funders and donors have all asked for us to do something different. We are not waiting for change to be done to us: we are creating a new solution.”

Management teams are navigating the details of integrating services and systems, with the work proceeding through 2020. The name of the new organization is expected to be unveiled in the fall. The BGCC and Aspen Boards have appointed Jeff Dyer, an experienced not-for-profit leader as the CEO of the new entity.

“In the short term, children, youth and families will continue accessing the programs and services at BGCC and Aspen respectively, which are so important in their lives,” says BGCC CEO, Jeff Dyer. “We will continue to seek the philanthropic support of Calgarians to both enable life-saving supports and realize our bold plans for stronger, more sustainable services in the years ahead.”

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For more information or to set-up an interview with Jeff Dyer or Shirley Purves please contact:

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**Boys & Girls Clubs
of Calgary**