



# Summer of #LocalLove

*Dear Community Members,*

Summer is finally here! And what better way to celebrate the summer than with a little baseball? We are thrilled to announce the 8th Annual United Way Grand Slam Slo-Pitch Tournament, happening from July 12th to 14th at Syncrude Athletic Park. This event will raise vital funds for our community programs. Make your summer a home run with a chance to win up to \$10,000 in our 50/50 Raffle! Tickets are available online from July 5-14, 2024, so even if you can't make it to the games, you can still support United Way Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo!

Grab your tickets using the QR code on the right, and for more information about the tournament, visit our website at [fmwbunitedway.com](http://fmwbunitedway.com).



## *Volunteer Spotlight*

**TINA DELAINEY**



This month, we are excited to highlight Tina Delainey, the Executive Director of the Autism Society of the RMWB. Despite her demanding role, Tina always finds time to volunteer. Whether it's helping United Way with the Spring Trade Show or the Wood Buffalo Ribfest, she's there, making sure everything runs smoothly and stepping in wherever needed.

Her dedication and passion are truly inspiring. Tina's leadership and willingness to go above and beyond make a huge difference in our community. Thank you, Tina, for all that you do!

Given Tina's remarkable contributions, it's fitting to spotlight the incredible organization she leads. Autism Society of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) is a cornerstone of support for individuals with autism, their families, and ALL those living with neurodiversity and disabilities in our community. As a dedicated non-profit organization, the Autism Society of RMWB provides a wide range of essential services, resources, and advocacy efforts designed to enhance the quality of life for those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Support Services:** The Society offers numerous programs and services tailored to meet the unique needs of individuals with autism and their families. This includes support groups, workshops, and information sessions that provide valuable resources and a sense of community.

**Community Engagement:** The Autism Society of RMWB is deeply committed to fostering community engagement. They organize various events and activities throughout the year to promote awareness and inclusion. By working closely with local organizations, schools, and businesses, they help create a supportive and understanding environment for everyone.

**Advocacy:** Advocacy is at the heart of the Autism Society's mission. They work tirelessly to advocate for the rights and needs of individuals with autism at local, provincial, and national levels. Their efforts include collaborating with other autism organizations and stakeholders to influence policies and practices that impact the autism community.

**Education and Awareness:** Education and awareness initiatives are crucial components of their work. The Autism Society of RMWB conducts educational programs to increase understanding and acceptance of autism. They offer training and resources for educators, employers, and the general public to foster a more inclusive community.

We are incredibly proud to support the Autism Society of RMWB and their unwavering commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of individuals with autism and their families.




**Camp Kids First 2024**

Everyone is excited to kick off Camp Kids First. This is the 5th year Autism Society of the RMWB have been able to offer camp to neurodiverse kids in our community. Kids will get to experience exciting adventures including boat rides, beach days, helicopter tours, and so much more.

VISIT AUTISM SOCIETY HERE:

 [/AutismRMWB](https://www.facebook.com/AutismRMWB)

 [/autismrmwb](https://www.instagram.com/autismrmwb)

 [autismrmwb.org/](https://autismrmwb.org/)

# Community Highlight

## YMM TERMINAL 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We were thrilled to support YMM Airport as they celebrated their 10th anniversary. United Way Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo had the opportunity to bring fun to the event with bouncy castles and games, making the day extra special. Our team enjoyed engaging with the community and contributing to the celebration. We were joined by the Fort McMurray Air Cadets, Local HERO Foundation, and the Pets & Wellness Society, all working together to create wonderful memories.



Chelsea, one of our former United Way Summer Students, volunteers at one of the many games we offered at the YMM Terminal 10th Anniversary Celebration.



*Did you know...*

*Our long-time partners at YMM Airport raised an incredible \$6,150 for us at their Easter event alone? Over 1,500 guests enjoyed the festivities, including games, crafts, and a sensory-friendly hour, ensuring a fun and inclusive experience for all. We are deeply grateful for their continued support and commitment to our community.*

## Upcoming Events

### SPARKLE IN RED: DANCING WITH THE YMM STARS 2024

Join us for the 2nd Annual "Sparkle in Red: Dancing with the YMM Stars" event on October 26, 2024. Enjoy a night of dazzling performances by local celebrities and dance professionals. Stay tuned for more details and ticket information at: [fmwbunitedway.com/sparkleinred2024](http://fmwbunitedway.com/sparkleinred2024)



### NOVEMBERBURGER

Mark your calendars for the tastiest month, November! Join us in celebrating Novemberburger, where local restaurants compete to create the best burger in town. Proceeds support United Way initiatives. More information will be available soon. Let burger battle begin!



# Meet the Board

## NICOLE RYMES - PRESIDENT

*We are proud to introduce the dedicated members of our Board of Directors who work tirelessly to guide and support our mission.*



Nicole Rymes is a Manager of Mine Operations at Syncrude Mildred Lake and a dedicated community volunteer. She fully understands the importance of supporting the social profit sector to ensure everyone in every community has the opportunity to succeed. Nicole's commitment and leadership are truly inspiring.

Nicole's journey with United Way began unexpectedly. Initially skeptical, she was invited by a co-worker to help with campaign merchandise at Syncrude. They opened a little store on-site where employees could get United Way-branded shirts, hoodies, and more. Nicole found the experience fun and was hooked by the networking opportunities it provided. Meeting people from various parts of the site had a huge, positive impact on her career and opened up new opportunities. This experience made taking on roles such as a workplace campaign team member, then chair, then board member, now board President, a natural progression. Her leadership and professional skills grew alongside her passion for building strong communities through United Way.

Nicole's dedication to United Way was further sparked after her first Seeing is Believing tour, which highlighted the critical impact of the programs funded by United Way and their partner agencies. This experience reinforced her belief in the importance of these initiatives, motivating her to take further action.

In addition to her role on the board, Nicole is the Team Captain for the Syncrude/Suncor Team in the Inter Pipeline Fort McMurray Marathon on Sunday, September 22, 2024. The "Run for a Reason" program allows local charities and non-profits to fundraise through the marathon. Nicole leads her team by embodying the marathon's motto: "We run for more than medals - we run for a reason."

As Board Chair, Nicole leads a fairly new set of directors with a clear vision. She believes everyone must do their part to build a region where everyone has the opportunity to succeed. For her, this means pitching in to help and volunteering time with United Way. She firmly believes that if everyone stepped up to support their neighbors or vulnerable people, social issues like poverty, homelessness, and addictions could be significantly reduced.

*Stay tuned for more introductions in our upcoming newsletters!*

A dark teal banner with a white and yellow 'LACE UP LET'S GO!' slogan on the left. On the right, there is a QR code surrounded by a circular pattern of white dots. Text in the center reads: 'Support Nicole and her team in the Inter Pipeline Fort McMurray Marathon by scanning the QR code to make a donation today!'.

