

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **carya celebrates legacy of long-time CEO through establishment of children's reading space at new community hub in East Village**

October 6, 2021: On October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, not-for-profit social services agency **carya** was proud to reveal the Sue Mallon Reading Nook at their newly opened Village Commons space in East Village. The reading space acknowledges the dedicated service and leadership of the organization's long-time former CEO Sue Mallon.

**carya's** Interim CEO Theresa Watson describes the vision of the reading space, saying "our hope is that this beautiful new space in our community hub will nurture creativity, learning and connection between parents and children and foster a life-long love of reading for participants of **carya** programs and guests of Village Commons."

The Sue Mallon Reading Nook was designed and constructed during the summer of 2021 by Calgary Reads and local artist Karen Scarlett, who is also **carya's** second Artist in Residence working with older adults in watercolour workshops.

"At Calgary Reads we believe that a beautiful, joyful place inspires reading and readers," says Calgary Reads CEO Steacy Pinney. "A few years ago, we entered into a design experiment to understand the role environment plays in inspiring families to make time and place for reading in their busy lives and it worked! Adults and children are embracing reading as a key to success in school and life and families are intentionally creating joyful reading relationships. We are so proud that our beloved Little Red Reading House has inspired our sixth community reading place at **carya**."

The Sue Mallon Reading Nook at Village Commons was made possible through funding support from the Burns Memorial Fund for Children, a private foundation established as a legacy of Senator Patrick Burns — a Calgary pioneer and philanthropist who passed away in 1937. The Burns Memorial Fund for Children focuses on the health, education and recreation needs of low-income children and youth. A \$12,000 grant from Burns funded a portion of the construction costs of the space where children and families attending **carya** programs will discover the joy of reading together.

"Burns Memorial Fund for Children understands the importance of early literacy," says Executive Director Michelle Clarke in her remarks at the official opening. "The ability to read well is critically linked to success in school and life. We are proud to support this beautiful space where children and their families will share stories, explore the world together through books, and foster deep connections to reading."

The namesake of the reading space, Sue Mallon, served as **carya's** Chief Executive Officer for 17 years, and spent decades contributing to creating an inclusive community through public service, not-for-profit and advocacy roles. Prior to **carya**, Sue had a successful 20-year career with the City of Calgary. Sue is also a City of Calgary police commissioner. In the wake of Sue's retirement from **carya** in 2020, **carya's** Board of Directors set up a fund and collected contributions in her honour. The Sue Mallon Retirement Fund contributions supported the development of **carya's** new East Village community hub where the

Sue Mallon Reading Nook is located. Village Commons officially opened its doors to the public in July 2021.

"I can't think of anything more appropriate to be associated with than something about literacy and reading," says Mallon. "It's very true that reading to me is a whole world of adventure and exploration, and certainly you can watch it in children."

Board Member and chair of **carya's** Philanthropy Committee Barry Taylor made a personal contribution of \$25,000 to the Fund and says:

"Sue made significant contributions to **carya** during her tenure as CEO. She was a wonderful mentor to many within the organization, with an ability to listen, motivate and encourage, building a team with a depth of knowledge and a positive approach to leadership that is recognized and respected by all. Her brilliant leadership has led to **carya** being a best-in-class organization caring for family and communities in Calgary. Sue has made a difference in the lives of many people. It is a pleasure to contribute to a fund in Sue's name to recognize and honour her contributions and to help ensure her legacy."

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## **carya**

**carya** is a social profit agency located on Treaty 7 territory in Mohkinstsis/Calgary dedicated to creating strong families and communities for generations through support for mental, physical, emotional and financial wellbeing. Since 1910, **carya** has provided counselling, education, community development and in-home assistance, school-based support and more to thousands of Calgarians every year.

**carya's** community hub, Village Commons, is located at 610 Eighth Avenue S.E. in the former site of the Golden Age Club, offering a state-of-the-art community kitchen, studio space for art and fitness classes, and a counselling centre. The initiative is the result of a partnership between the Calgary Housing Company (CHC), Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) and **carya**. For more information about **carya**, visit [www.caryacalgary.ca](http://www.caryacalgary.ca)

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## **Calgary Reads**

With the help of a passionate community and many volunteers, Calgary Reads has been helping children read with confidence and joy since 2000. Our non-profit organization supports a variety of initiatives to enrich the reading lives of children, including a Book Bank, Little Red Reading House, wee read and LENA Start, a program that supports parent-infant interaction to improve literacy outcomes. Learn more at [Calgaryreads.com](http://Calgaryreads.com) and [LittleRedReading.House](http://LittleRedReading.House)

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## **Burns Memorial Fund**

Burns Memorial Fund (BMF) administers a private charitable foundation (The Children's Fund) that works to meet the health, education and recreation needs of low-income children and youth in Calgary. The Children's Fund provides financial assistance to children, youth and their families; allocates funding to Calgary-based charities working with vulnerable children and youth; and participates in community-wide collaborations intended to address the systemic issues that negatively impact low-income children, youth and their families.

In addition to the charitable foundation, BMF administers two non-profit trusts (The Police and Fire Funds) that provide post-secondary scholarships and other educational supports to the children of police officers and firefighters. For more information on BMF, visit [www.burnsfund.com](http://www.burnsfund.com).

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