

Community Spirit Award

Bonni MacKenzie

Recognized with the 2021 Community Spirit Award, Bonni MacKenzie moved to Leduc with her family in 1992. While her kids were growing up, she volunteered at their schools and sports associations. She was also the program coordinator of Sunnyvale Day Camp for almost 20 years, served as a board member at the Leduc Community Baptist Church, and still volunteers for the Leduc Hub Association.

Since 2004, Bonni has volunteered with Leduc and District Victim Services. The rigorous application process involves obtaining federal RCMP clearance and taking extensive training in areas ranging from crisis and suicide intervention to court support, human trafficking, homicide and domestic violence. The unit provides 24-hour support and resources for victims of crime and trauma, serving the City of Leduc, Edmonton International Airport, Beaumont, Devon, Thorsby, Breton and all areas in between. As a victim advocate, Bonni responds to calls received by the RCMP and provides support to victims in a wide range of traumatic situations.

Over the years, Bonni has always gone above and beyond the requirements of her volunteer role. She leads by example, taking extra shifts and mentoring new volunteers. Empathetic and competent in even the most volatile situations, Bonni has been an essential support both to victims and fellow advocates alike, all while managing her other volunteer work, a full-time job and family life. By the end of 2021, Bonni had volunteered more than 16,000 hours as a victim advocate.

When she's not working or volunteering, Bonni's favourite activity is spending time with her six grandchildren.