

# Common Ground Foundation

## 2025 Report to Community



***Welcome Everyone***

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# Community Commitment

## Welcome Everyone

Common Ground is deeply committed to partnership, respect, and collective growth, nurturing a vibrant community spirit that uplifts the diverse experiences and backgrounds that make Calgary special.

Throughout 2024, we made significant progress in bringing our shared vision to life, and as we move forward, our focus remains clear: building vibrant spaces and opportunities that reflect and serve our community. We continue to foster connection, mutual respect, and meaningful collaboration, working together toward lasting positive change.



# Letter From Leadership



We don't often recognize and appreciate the months, weeks and years of challenging preparation that people go through before they step into the public arena. When I am asked how our project is going, I often reply, "We are making progress slowly but surely." I am thankful for the contacts we have made and for those who have been added to our team.

Our directors, staff and volunteers are now focused on The Junction Phase One, raising funds and activating one corner of our 20-acre parcel to provide some tangible evidence of our work behind the scenes. We receive helpful input and referrals along the way as we make decisions that lay the groundwork for a project to be enjoyed by present and future generations.

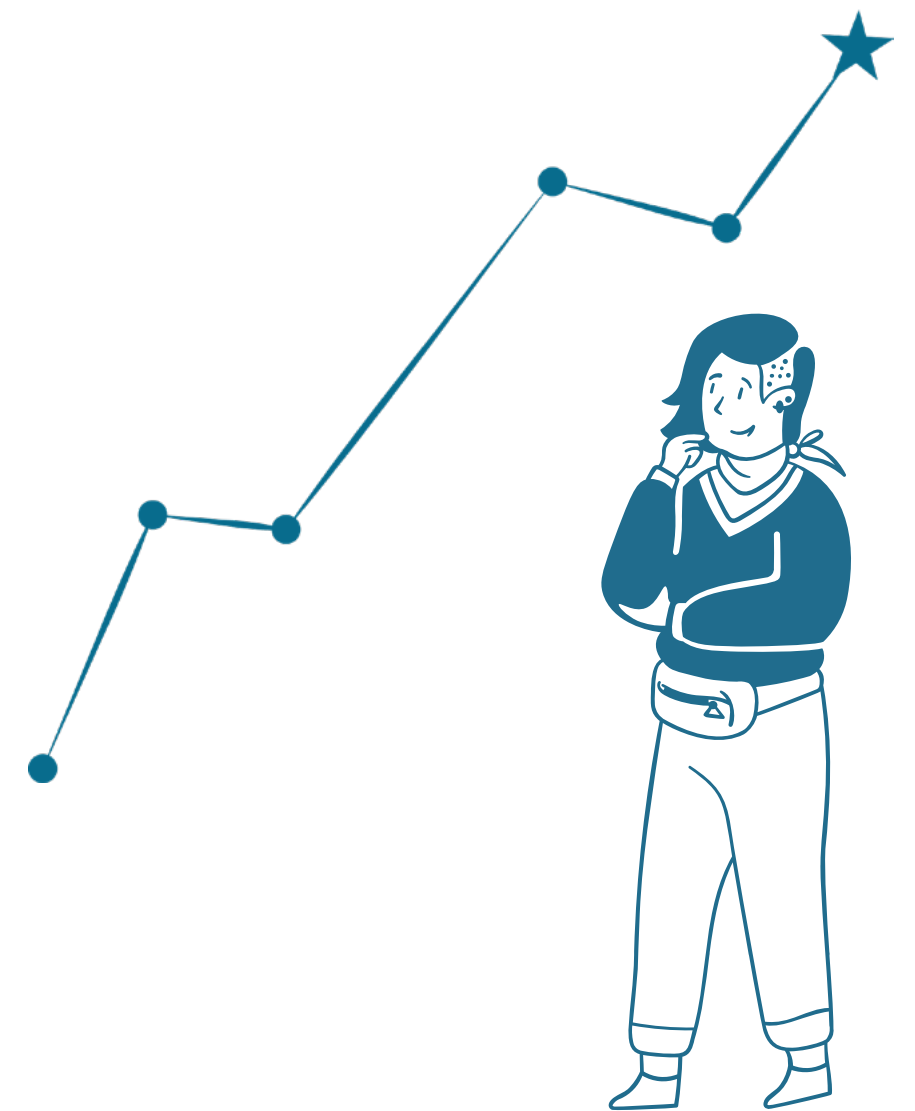
We continue to establish and strengthen local partnerships, including with residents of the community and region, our landowner neighbours and The City of Calgary. We are grateful for your support as we continue to make progress on Common Ground!

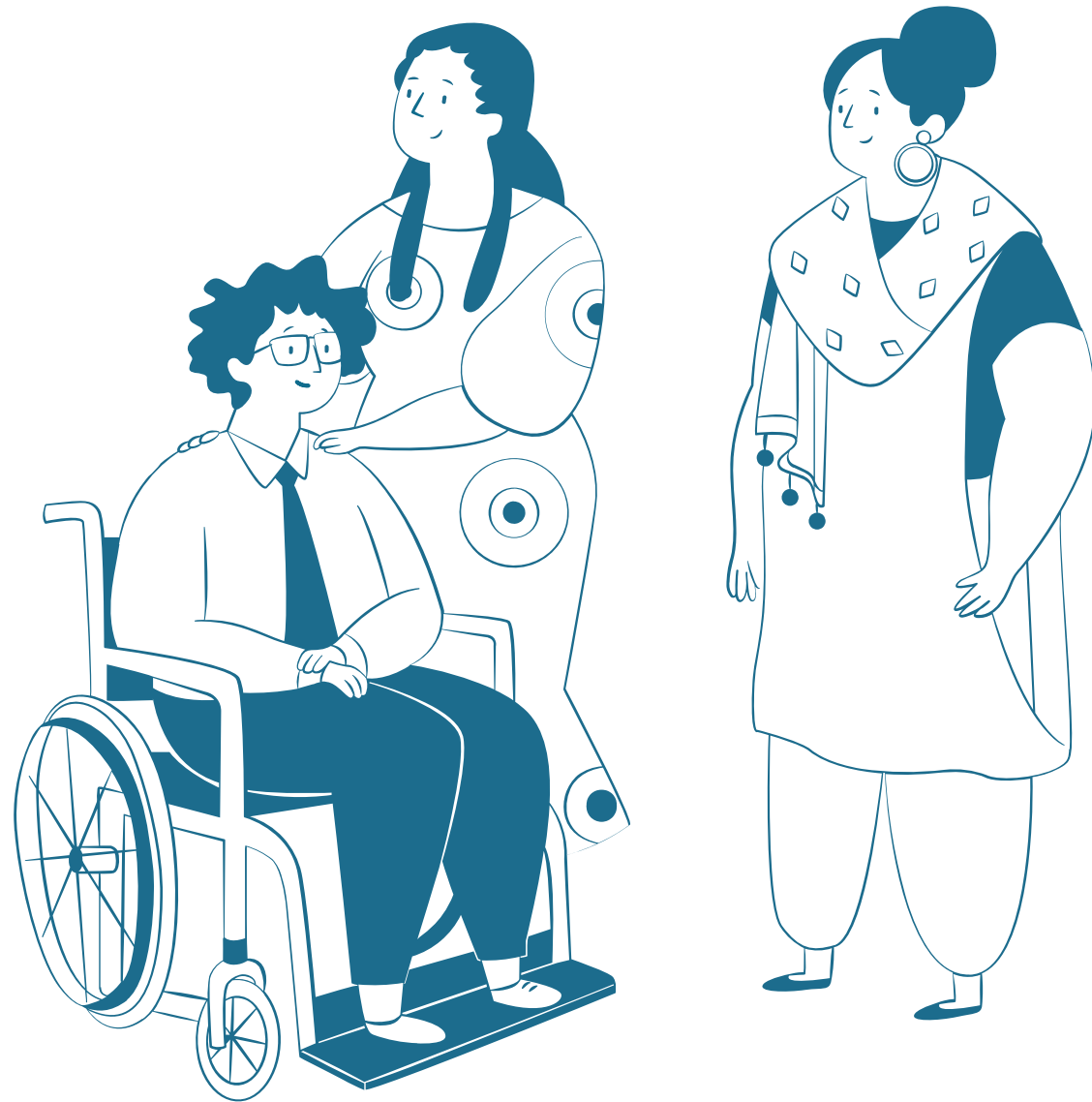
Allan Pole  
On behalf of the  
Common Ground Foundation Board of Directors



# 2024 Goals and Progress

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At the beginning of 2024, we set ambitious goals. We aimed to strengthen our leadership team and expand operational capacity, establish the Common Ground brand within Calgary, implement an awareness campaign targeting North Central Calgary, and advocate for vital infrastructure and municipal services essential for our vision at The Junction.

Through strategic expansion, we welcomed new team members and dedicated volunteers who enriched our operations and increased our community impact. Our outreach campaigns, events, and consistent public engagement efforts significantly raised awareness, deepening our relationships within the city. We reached important advocacy milestones, effectively positioning Common Ground to secure critical infrastructure from the City of Calgary. Our early-stage land activation initiatives have also moved forward substantially, bringing The Junction closer to detailed designs and accurate financial projections.

# Advancing Our Vision

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**Over the past year, we've witnessed meaningful momentum toward our long-term vision.**

## **The Junction on Common Ground**

Progress on The Junction on Common Ground has reached a critical stage, contingent on essential city services, including water, sewage, and transportation infrastructure. We continue our productive collaboration with neighbouring landowners and municipal authorities through the Area Structure Plan (ASP).

## **Community Impact**

Our ongoing community initiatives have ensured continuous engagement and support, independent of the development timeline, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to the community.



# Stories of Impact

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Common Ground has inspired local families, businesses, and community organizations. Our engagement has revitalized community spirit, encouraging greater participation and fostering deeper community bonds. Events held in Livingston, and surrounding areas have affirmed our purpose and reinforced our community's excitement and support for our initiatives.

Testimonials from residents, businesses, and local organizations speak powerfully to our shared impact, demonstrating the importance of continuing our mission of fostering community growth, connection, and belonging.



**Victoriya Rimdap**  
**Kids @ Churchill Park**



**Jessica Kovacs**



**Feversports Media & Education Society**



**Vivo for Healthier Generations**

# The Common Ground Foundation Story

In 1905, the Pole family purchased their very first piece of land in Alberta. At the time, Alberta was not a separate province yet.

It became an official province later that year! Since then, the family have had their roots deep in the farming community.

My father purchased his first farm at 21 years old. That was 1947, and distance was still measured in miles instead of kilometres!

That land is now the community of Beddington, in Calgary. Al and his siblings grew up on that farm...

I grew up on our first family farm until age 13. It was a great childhood. I remember playing shinny hockey at the nearby rink in Huntington Hills, but my favourite pastime was riding my minibike around the land. It took us an hour to bus to school in Airdrie, and we spent the ride teasing the bus driver. Joke's on me, since he later dated my sister!

Developers bought our farm in 1971 and asked us to move in 1976 so they could begin building the community of Beddington. We moved about 5 miles (8 kilometres) north to a new farm - where Livingston is now being developed. I upgraded from a Honda 50 to a Yamaha 80 motorcycle. Eventually, I set out on my own, met and married Brenda, and we started our own family.



In 2003, our family made the decision to move back onto the family farm with Al's father. He was a great person and very easy to live with!

That was the beginning of our new Calgary chapter. Then in 2005 Al's dad sold the Livingston family farm, and we found our new home nearby.

Later on that year, Al was driving just North of Calgary and spotted a 20 acre plot of land in just the right spot for us to bring our next vision to life...

We always felt inspired to share the land with our community, and create a space that met their needs.

We knew right away what we wanted to build: a new kind of community space that could be easily used every day: The Junction on Common

This land needed rezoning so that we could get our vision going. Our first big win came after city council approved our rezoning application! It was after that, that we began to build our team.

We all got down to what we think is the most important part of building a great community space: finding out what you want and need! We've been privileged to hear your thoughts and ideas so far, and we look forward to continuing to develop this project along with you!



# Our Team and Volunteers

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Behind our accomplishments is a dedicated team of leaders, staff, and volunteers whose passion and commitment drive our work.

Our thoughtful growth has expanded our operational capabilities while ensuring fiscal responsibility.

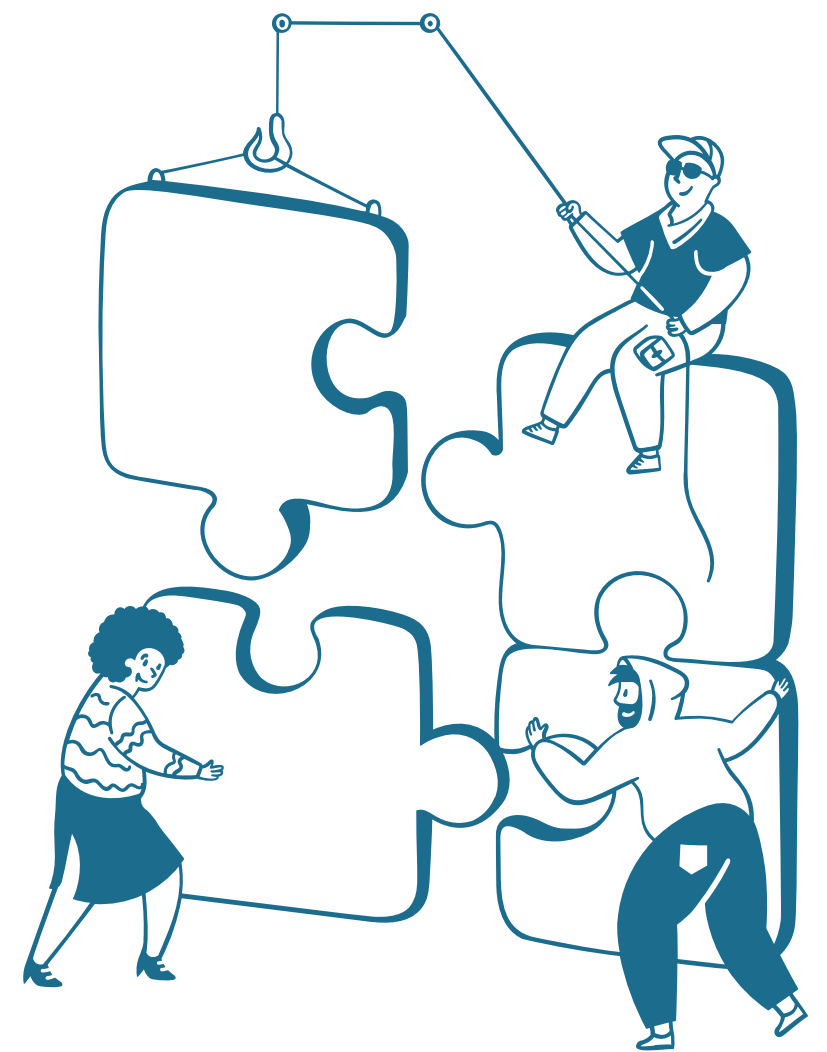
Volunteer contributions, integral to our success, have allowed us to extend our reach, deepen our engagement, and strengthen our community presence.

Collaborations with businesses such as Huggabowl illustrate the powerful outcomes that can arise from local partnership and mutual support.

**Thank you to our  
volunteers for your ongoing  
contributions!**

# Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2025

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Our strategic priorities for 2025 reflect our vision and commitment to community-driven development.

## These priorities include:

- 01 Securing funding and partnerships essential for initiating the physical development of The Junction
- 02 Enhancing community use and involvement through expanded land activation on Common Ground
- 03 Establishing charitable status to strengthen our donor network
- 04 Deepening relationships and advocacy with municipal authorities and community stakeholders
- 05 Cultivating supportive partnerships that align with our mission and goals



# Join Us in Making a Difference

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The success of Common Ground relies on community participation. We invite you to support our mission through donations, volunteerism, corporate and community partnerships, and active advocacy within your networks.

Together, we are building a meaningful legacy, ensuring a vibrant, connected, and thriving future for North Central Calgary. Join us in continuing to shape this extraordinary community.



## How Can You Join In?

Check out our website and register for our newsletter!

 [www.commongroundfoundation.ca](http://www.commongroundfoundation.ca)

Reach out to us!

 [hello@commongroundfoundation.ca](mailto:hello@commongroundfoundation.ca)

Follow us on social media, comment and share!

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

 [commongroundfoundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/commongroundfoundation)

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





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