

# CIF FEATURE STORY:

## SEARCH Core & Mental Health Programs



June 2017

### Feature Story: *SEARCH Core and Mental Health Programs, Student Energy in Action for Regina Community Health, Inc.*

Student Energy in Action for Regina Community Health, Inc. (SEARCH) is a non-profit student-run, interdisciplinary primary health care initiative in the North Central community of Regina. SEARCH prides itself on being a volunteer run organization where each week, student volunteers from various post-secondary institutions dedicate their time to work under the guidance of trained professional mentors. **“SEARCH’s aim is two-fold. We strive to educate and empower our clients while also educating our students on the social determinants of health and primary health care to create a more socially responsive future of health care professionals,”** shared Kelly Husack, Executive Director of SEARCH.

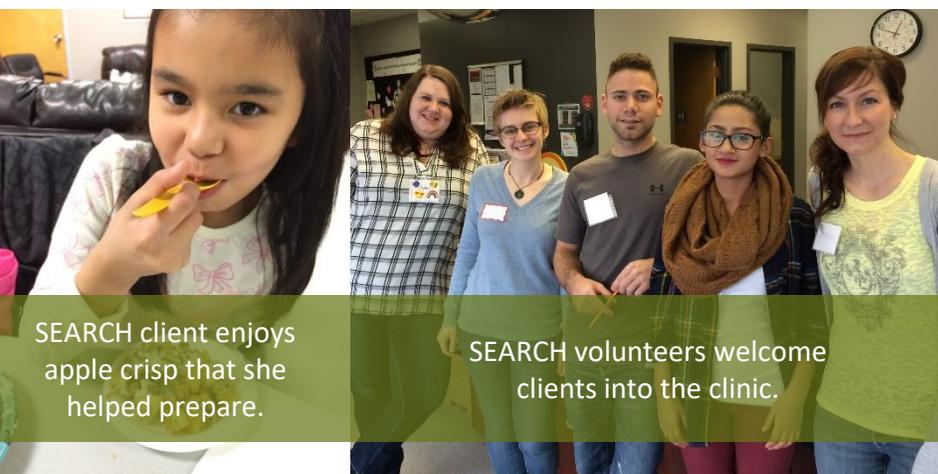
Located in the heart of the North Central community, SEARCH provides services and social programs in an after-hours setting, when most other local services are closed. SEARCH’s programming reduces barriers to accessing health care services, facilitates learning among volunteers and clients, and promotes volunteerism. SEARCH provides a safe place for the community to drop in for a healthy meal and take part in culturally appropriate programs targeting needs identified by community members. Clients are also able to consult with health care professionals and students providing a variety of services. **“SEARCH is continually re-evaluating our delivery of care to ensure the changing needs of the community are being addressed to ensure participation and positive outcomes are achieved. This is reflected in the programming hosted in our clinic,”** stated Kelly.

**“I learn how to eat properly and not waste food. It is possible to eat lots as well, if you eat right. I also learn how to prepare, store food, and follow my diet plans because I have diabetes. The Nutrition Mentor teaches me how to do that.”**

- SEARCH participant

**“CIF supports SEARCH’s core programs that operate on an ongoing basis including medical primary health care services, nutrition programming, cultural support, and mental health programming offering adult counselling services and women’s group talking circles,”** shared Kelly. **“We aim to create healthy individuals and families, so that safer and more resilient communities will be created. Community members and students also leave empowered to create a healthier community at large.”**

SEARCH aims to improve the health and wellbeing of community members through equitable, accessible programming that is delivered by a collaborative, interdisciplinary team. The many families that attend programming each week share that they never have to worry about their children’s safety while at SEARCH. SEARCH provides a safe place for families to spend time together and build relationships within their community, increasing not only individual wellbeing but also strengthening the community as a whole.



SEARCH client enjoys apple crisp that she helped prepare.

SEARCH volunteers welcome clients into the clinic.



Photo credit: Kelly Husack

SEARCH hosts Rainbow Dance Troupe for a dancing and drumming demonstration for National Aboriginal History Month.