



Hoops Unite Community....



The **United Hoops** project was initiated by three teens living in the SE communities of Deer Run, Deer Ridge and Queensland (DDQ). The teens were frustrated with the lack of accessible basketball courts in the area and wanted a community basketball hoop they could use whenever they wanted. Their interest was shared by other young people in the area - the small basketball net at the local **Deer Park United Church** was so well-used by neighbourhood youth that it kept breaking down.

The youth and their adult supporters successfully applied for a **Neighbour Grant** from **The Calgary Foundation**. The grant allowed them to purchase a basketball standard which was placed in the Church's parking lot. The youth, their parents and a wide circle of community residents came together to install the standard, and hosted a three-on-three basketball competition and a fair to celebrate the youth's contribution to the community.

The young people and their supporters report that since the installation of the hoop, teens from across the community are again enjoying this informal meeting space in their neighbourhood.

This project has been an ever-evolving inspiration for the whole community: the young people who initiated this project are now thinking of tackling other projects, there has been an increase in recreational programs for low-income families in the community, and the three-on-three competition and fair has become an annual event that continually keeps neighbours connected with each other and with local resources.