

Annual charity drive underway in Cremona

Funds raised will benefit 20 causes

BY PATRICIA RILEY

MVP Staff

The Cremona and District Community Chest's annual charity drive is underway and volunteers are going door to door this month to collect donations for 20 different causes.

The society's treasurer, Natalie Falkenberg, said canvassers cover all of Cremona as well as the rural areas east to Carstairs, north to Olds and south to Cochrane.

The money raised from this year's charity drive will be divided equally and donated to The Salvation Army, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Red Cross, Horizon School, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Alberta Children's Hospital, Rosebud Health Foundation and Mountain View

Food Bank.

Other charities benefiting from the drive include ones that support diabetes, paraplegic spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cancer research, arthritis, ALS, Alzheimer's, lung disease, hemochromatosis and Parkinson's disease, according to Falkenberg.

Some of the money raised will also go towards a local emergency fund for people who lose their belongings in a fire or some other kind of emergency, she said.

More than \$44,000 was raised last year and donated to the same causes, she said, adding she is still looking for people to volunteer as canvassers.

"There's always a need for more volunteers," said Falkenberg.

"I think of it as neighbours helping neighbours, but it really is so much more."