

# EEDC Highlights

## October 2011



### **International Students Thanksgiving**

Edmonton Economic Development Corporation hosted 1,600 post-secondary students on October 6 for a traditional Canadian Thanksgiving dinner.

As the students live and work in Edmonton, they are ambassadors for our city to their home countries, families and friends. This is a small investment in earning their goodwill and how they represent Edmonton in their networks and circles. Our city's post-secondary institutions do a remarkable job of attracting international students because of their reputation and the work that they do; we are working with them to retain international students and to ensure that they consider Edmonton as a place to work and settle in. A key part of EEDC's economic development strategy is to attract and retain smart people who will be key to Edmonton's future and success ("smart people" are defined by their ability to be innovative and creative and to seek out solutions to the problems of today and tomorrow).

### **Homeless Connect**

As a founding partner, Shaw Conference Centre hosted Homeless Connect on October 16, which connected 1,600 homeless and at-risk-of-becoming-homeless Edmontonians to essential community services.

Guests received services from organizations such as Pearle Vision, Marvel College, Coinamatic, Alberta Health Services and Mac's Convenience Stores. Services provided included haircuts, dentistry, eye-care, counseling, pre-natal support, Internet access, laundry and a warm meal. Many guests take advantage of discussing employment opportunities and getting housing support information from helpful service providers. Every guest left with a care package that contained essential items such as toothpaste, shampoo, soap and deodorant. This fall event was made possible with the support of 400 community volunteers, 65 service providers and 23 sponsors. Since the program began, more than 2,400 volunteers have provided services to more than 9,200 homeless and those at-risk-of-becoming-homeless through Homeless Connect Edmonton.

### **Research Park Tenants in the News**

Edmonton Research Park tenants have been in the news for their innovation and successes.

California's Quiksilver has bought into Frontech Technologies productivity software. Fission Media's Back in Black iPhone app was number one in Canada in October, and in the top 50 in the US. Innovative Trauma Care won the Banff Venture Forum's best presenting company award. One in every 10 of Techvibes Startup Edmonton's October index of top 50 Edmonton information technology firms was either a research park tenant or graduate. PureInBox, in addition to being a member of the top 50, won incubator space in Plug and Play Tech Centre, a Silicon Valley IT-focused incubator.