

Sandi Jarrett with Arcis Seismic Solutions at Calgary's Radisson Park School



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ARCIS SEISMIC SOLUTIONS IS NO STRANGER TO THE REWARDS – AND RHYTHMS – OF GIVING BACK

BY ALBERT THOMPSON

**C**RAIG MELTON IS NO DRUMMING VIRTUOSO. As a high school student, he got his kicks in the gym, not the concert band. “I was more of an athlete,” he says. An aversion to music didn’t stop the mapping specialist with Arcis Seismic Solutions from picking up a djembe drum at Calgary’s Radisson Park School this past January, however. As part of a unique company-wide policy that ensures employees take two days each year away from the office to volunteer, Melton and colleagues joined elementary-aged kids at the inner-city school for an afternoon of music lessons. “We were students for the day,” Melton says. “A lot of companies are just chasing the buck. At Arcis, we’re also having fun.”

The musical outing was just one example among many of ways the 70-employee Calgary firm chooses to give back to the community.

Members of the “Arcis family,” as marketing co-ordinator Sandi Jarrett puts it, participate in the lives of local kids in a variety of ways.

Sports days are popular, but simple gestures like reading to kids who may lack male role models go a long way too. “They love it,” Jarrett exclaims. The kids are “just like glue on you when you go in there. They’re just so excited to see a new face.”

The seismic specialists pride themselves on donating time rather than money. A charity hike and bike ride for Alberta’s Easter Seals last year raised roughly \$2,200, while the Arcis men dressed in drag for the ‘Walk a Mile in Her Shoes’ fundraiser that netted \$15,000 for the YWCA.

Getting out in the community “is really important to us,” Jarrett says. “We don’t want to just hand over a cheque.” **P**