



## Good Fences

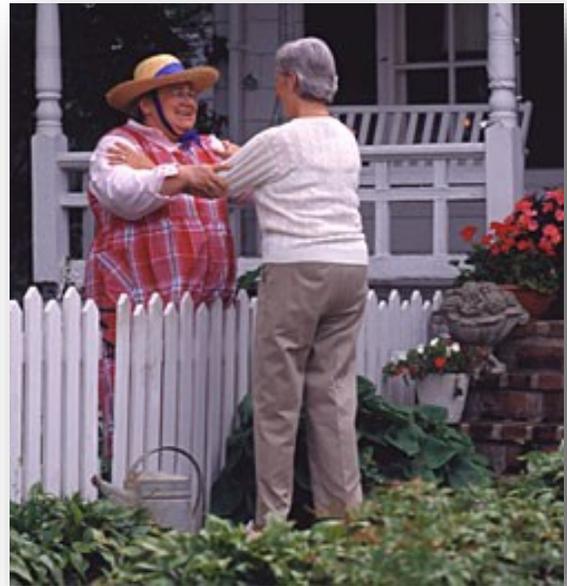
There's an old saying; "Good fences make good neighbours". This just means that it's easier to get along when we all know where our boundaries are. When you understand where the lines are, you don't accidentally cross them.

A physical fence is pretty hard to ignore, but what about those invisible boundaries? When fuelled by good intentions, the temptation can be strong to step across boundaries to 'help' someone out. But is it really helping? Asking these questions and being honest in your responses can help you to know when to cross the boundaries, and when to step back.

**First, does the person really WANT to be helped.** Our good intentions can sometimes blind us to the thought that anyone would chose to be unhappy, or live at risk. But if a person is mentally capable of making decisions, then they have the right to make those decisions, even if we may not agree with them.

**Second, would your input actually help?** Again, good intentions can make us believe "someone has to do something!" But should that someone be you? Better at Home has a procedure in place called the 'concern report' where a volunteer can explain what they've observed and what their concern is. This report will then be forwarded to someone who has the experience, ability, and authority to assist the senior.

Even if you have the ability and experience (our volunteers are very capable people), when you are acting as a volunteer with Better at Home you don't have the authority to intervene.



**Third, does it feel uncomfortable?** This is your brain telling you that your toes are straying over that line! Being a Better at Home volunteer should be a positive experience. If it ever starts feeling negative, call us, we'll talk it over and find a way back to positive.

When is it appropriate to step over the boundaries? Only if the person is in immediate danger. Then you would call for emergency assistance like the RCMP, or an ambulance. Other than life threatening situations, there is always a better way to deal with situations than getting involved in personal issues, drama, or other incidents that are outside of your authority as a volunteer.

In all cases, if you are uncomfortable with a situation or a request, **your first course of action is to contact Better at Home.** Call Linda or Arleene. We can provide the support and information you need to navigate these situations in a reasonable way that works for everyone (without having to climb over any fences).



## Spotlight on SPCRS

South Peace Community Resources Society is a host agency of Dawson Creek Better at Home. SPCRS is a non-governmental organization that has been active in the community for over 35 years. SPCRS is proud to offer a variety of services to families and individuals in the South Peace region of British Columbia.

From 'Child Care Resource & Referral' to 'Better at Home', SPCRS operates programs relevant to community members of all ages. Some programs run in other Peace Region communities, like Chetwynd, Fort St John, and Tumbler Ridge.

### Programs Include:

- Children Who Witness Abuse
- Community Based Victim Services
- Legal Advocate Outreach Program
- Mizpah Transition House
- Outreach Program
- Police Based Victim Services
- Safe Home Programs
- Second Stage Housing
- Stopping the Violence Counselling
- Homeless Intervention Program
- Adult Residential Community Living
- Better At Home
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Family Support Counselling
- Family Support & Supervised Visitation
- Professional Resources Program
- Reconnect Youth
- Supported Child Development

For a complete list of programs with more information on what they do and offer, go to the website at [www.spcrs.ca](http://www.spcrs.ca) and click on 'Programs'

SPCRS is located at 10110 13th Street  
250-782-9174 or toll free 1-866-712-9174

## Home, Garden, & Leisure Show 2017

If you, or someone you know, would like to sell their art or crafts at our booth, please contact me 782-2341. We only charge 10% commission for seniors (20% for under 65s). All proceeds go towards services to seniors.

Would you like to help man the Better at Home booth at the Home, Garden, & Leisure Show? Stop in or give us a call 782-2341.

Shifts are never more than 2 hours and you'll always have someone with you at the booth.

## Senior Crafters and Artists!



We can sell your items at the 'Better at Home' booth at the 'Home, Garden, & Leisure Show' (April 28, 29, & 30).

Limited Space!

Contact Us Today!



250-782-2341 or  
stop in the office in the  
Co-op Mall.



Better at Home is funded by the Government of British Columbia.  
Funded by the Government of BC, Managed by the United Way of the Lower Mainland, and Hosted in Dawson Creek by SPCRS and SPSASS



**United Way**

Better at Home is funded by the Government of British Columbia.



United Way helping seniors remain independent.



South Peace Community Resources Society