



What does \$1 Million dollars in Granting look like during a Pandemic?

When COVID-19 hit our region, the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen knew it wanted to respond and support the community in every way possible.

The Foundation initiated its **Community Response Fund** and allocated **\$80,000** in funding to charities in the region that were working on the front-line response and those affected by loss of revenue due to COVID. We used these funds to partner with the United Way of the Southern Interior of BC and First West Credit Union to add an additional \$25,000 to the granting from the Community Response Fund, while generous citizens contributed more than \$11,000 to the total.

In addition to the funding needs, the Foundation recognized the importance of initiating and leading conversations about how the pandemic was affecting charities, businesses, and individual citizens. The Foundation held weekly virtual townhalls to listen, learn and share what our communities

were experiencing. Through this process it learned that food security was one of the major issues facing families. We learned that seniors were feeling isolated because of limited opportunities for visitors and a lack of comfort with the technology that could help them connect with family and friends.

The Foundation learned how businesses were affected, either being forced to close or to adapt to new restrictions. We also learned how the government was responding through updates from local MPs and MLAs. The feedback gathered from those who were most affected helped inform our granting from the Community Response Fund.

In May 2020, the Foundation partnered with **Community Foundations of Canada** and the **Government of Canada** for the **Emergency Community Response Fund** to distribute more than **\$200,000** to organizations that were addressing immediate COVID response for the most vulnerable populations.

Funding went to many organizations facing a multitude of COVID-related challenges. For example, we funded the Meals on Wheels program for seniors in Oliver as well Canadian Mental Health Association to offer online mental health counselling. Funding also went to Erris Creek Volunteer Fire Department to equip first responders with gear so they could safely respond to COVID cases in the remote areas they serve.

In June 2020, an anonymous donor stepped forward and matched the Community Response Fund with an \$80,000 contribution to further support charities in the area. This was a big step in continuing support for the organizations who were supporting our communities during the crisis. One of the recipients included the **Lower Similkameen Indian Band School** which received **\$40,000** to provide extra janitorial services needed to ensure their school could open safely during the pandemic and adhere to

provincial health and safety protocols. Funding also went to renovating the school so the parents were able to drop the students off safely and maintain physical distancing requirements.

In the fall, the Foundation held its **annual discretionary grant cycle** with close to **\$100,000** distributed to local charities in the region. A major issue facing charities was the loss of revenue from not being able to provide their services and being unable to fundraise due to COVID. With this in mind, the Community Foundation focused on providing where it was needed most – and financial assistance was given to help with operational needs, continued program support and lost fundraising revenue.

During the pandemic the Foundation changed its Neighbourhood Small Grants program, which was originally designed to support neighbourhood gatherings, and instead granted money for projects that followed COVID safety protocols. **Nearly \$20,000** was given to support projects in **35** neighbourhoods throughout the South Okanagan Similkameen region.

There were also two new granting programs: The Pilot Fund for Gender Equality and the Investment Readiness Program which distributed more than \$300,000 to charities in our region and throughout the Okanagan valley.

This is just a snap shot of the grant programs that took place in 2020. Read more about some amazing grant stories throughout this report.

Quick Facts on Granting in 2020:

- 10 Grant programs
- 300 applications reviewed
- 100+ charities supported
- Over \$1 Million in granting

Congratulations to the Community Foundation South Okanagan Similkameen

on their 2020 Annual Report. Local people have supported their Community Foundation for 29 years creating funds for bursaries, charities, community events and so much more.

Richard Cannings
Member of Parliament
South Okanagan-West Kootenay
Contact: 250-770-4480
Richard.cannings.c1@parl.gc.ca
202-301 Main Street
Penticton, BC V2A 5B7



2020 Board Members



Nolan Adam



John Archer



Marielle Brule



Maimie De Silva



Heather Glynes



Graham Lyle



Kim Lyster



Colleen Pennington



Robin Robertson



Colette Stoof



Bruce Tawse



Alex Welsman

Letter from the President:

"As we all know, 2020 was an unprecedented year for our communities, and the world. As with most organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic changed how we ran the Community Foundation. Our staff quickly adapted to working from home, using technology to stay connected with each other and with community partners. Our Board of Directors also made the unprecedented decision to activate additional funding for emergency granting to support local charities struggling with the impacts of the pandemic.

We initially allocated \$80,000 to the COVID Emergency Response Fund which was quickly matched by an anonymous donor. With support from many generous citizens and the Vancouver Foundation, we were able to bring the total of our COVID relief fund to more than \$200,000. In addition, the Community Foundation was honoured to help adjudicate and disburse \$232,000 in funding from the Canadian Emergency Community Support Fund to charities in our

region. The three Okanagan Valley community foundations also came together to roll out \$220,000 in non-repayable investments from the federal government's Investment Readiness Program. All of this occurred against the backdrop of our regular granting program (\$185K), Bursaries (\$44K), Gender Equality grants (\$50K), Social Recovery Grants (\$50K), and Neighbourhood Small Grants (\$20K). Needless to say, 2020 was a busy year!!

As a Board, the Community Foundation is deeply committed to finding new ways to build healthy, vibrant and equitable communities. Yes, we build endowment funds, but really, with the support of our donors and partners, we build better communities. Thanks for sharing this journey with us!"



Tom Kampman
President



Kim English
Regional Development
Officer



Kelly Helfrich
Administrator



Aaron McRann
Executive Director



Sarah Trudeau
Manager of Grants &
Community Initiatives



100 Men Who Care

100 Men Who Care Penticton continued to operate in 2020, meeting via ZOOM and granting out thousands of dollars to local projects, including supporting the Community Foundations COVID Emergency Response Fund.

Many thanks to founding committee members, Bruce Tawse, John Robertson and Justin White for their years of service to the group as they make way for new

committee members to step up and help move the group forward.

100 Men met three times in 2020, raising \$19,500 and bringing total grants from 100 Men Who Care to more than \$119,000 in our history. The group meets quarterly (under normal circumstances), with each member donating \$100 per meeting. Charities are randomly selected to present their causes to the group with

proceeds being split 60/20/20 between participants.

100 Men Penticton is always looking for new members, new venues, and new sponsors so if you're interested in supporting charities throughout the South Okanagan Similkameen in a fun, fast, and friendly way please contact Aaron McRann at aaronmcrann@cfso.net.



100 Women Who Care

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a much different year for 100 Women Who Care.

What began as a promising year with amazing venues and events planned was quickly deflated by the cancellation of the first event in April 2020. Initially there was hope that the three remaining 2020 events would still go live, but of course that didn't turn out to be possible.

As time went on and the pandemic continued to surge, the group decided to cancel the in-person event for June and make it a virtual event. The Penticton Lakeside Resort provided space for the committee to "host" the virtual event while the members

attended via Zoom video calls.

In keeping with the normal format, three charities made presentations during the event: Penticton & District Community Arts Council, South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society and The Penticton Centre for Exceptional Learning. The three provided excellent presentations and shared stories about their history and the great work they do in the community. Following the presentation, a question and answer session gave members an opportunity to dig a little deeper about each organization. Many of the women appreciated the dedicated time for the question and answer period before

casting their vote online.

The Penticton Centre for Exceptional Learning was the recipient of \$2,050 and Penticton & District Community Arts Council and South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society each received \$500.

The 100 Women Committee is cautiously optimistic about hosting an event for later in 2021, provided it is safe to do so. Here's hoping we see you either in-person or virtually in 2021.

Check out the update from the Penticton Centre for Exceptional Learning after receiving the donation from the 100 Women Who Care June Virtual event:



COVID Brings New Challenges for Learning Centre

The Penticton Centre for Exceptional Learning is a learning centre designed and staffed specifically for students with high-functioning autism. The sensory-sensitive centre is a place where students can augment their Ministry of Education curriculum with life and social skills.

We have certainly had an interesting go of things since we reopened in September. We were fairly well-suited to make the necessary changes to keep our staff and students safe, but in keeping everyone safe the "feel" of our centre has changed quite a bit. To create a sense of calm and warmth our centre had been punctuated with accent pillows, therapeutic stuffies, blankets, our famous ball pit and fabric deep-pressure tools... all of which became too impractical to keep out during a pandemic.

The donation from the "100 Women Who Care" allowed us to purchase and install lockers so that our students could put their items away, which also allowed for more thorough cleaning. The lockers took some time to get used to, as they are such a departure from what we envisioned when we opened. Now that we are used to them we can't fathom why we didn't put them in six years ago!

The pandemic has increased demand for our services, but sadly we are full to the brim. It is lovely to know that we have a strong reputation for helping others, but heartbreaking when I have to turn families away who are desperate for help. I am not giving up hope, and will continue to press for an expansion.

Our efforts to create and sustain a relaxing centre have been challenged

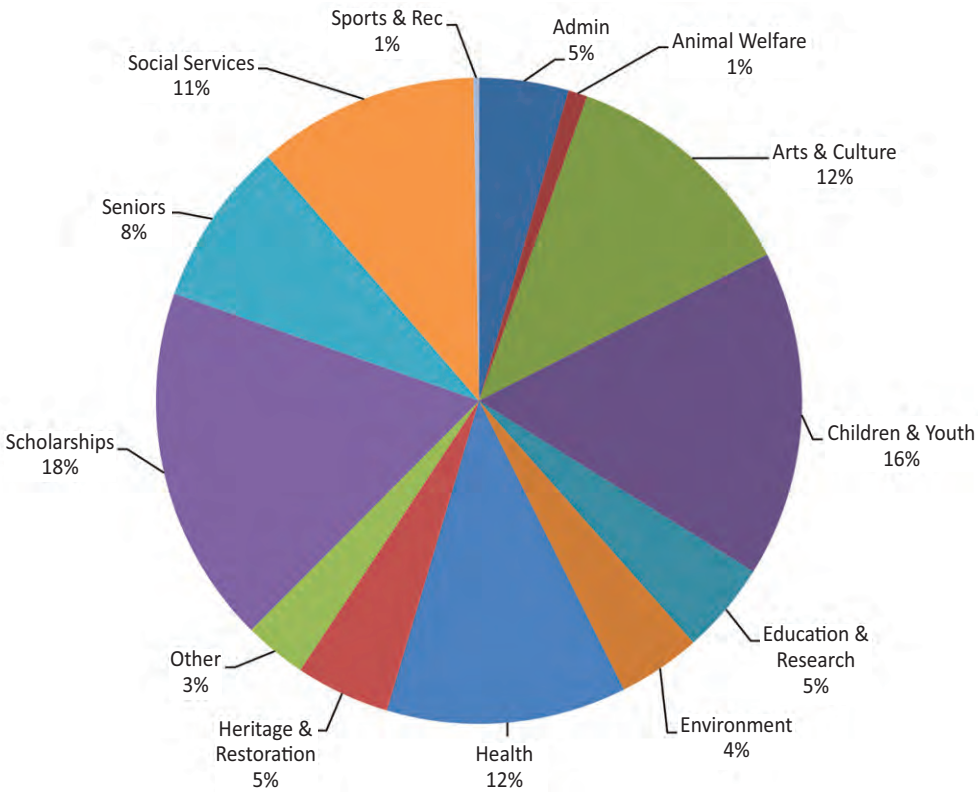
by the addition of an Interior Health Covid-19 Testing and Vaccination Centre in our building. Upon arriving in the parking lot our students are met with orange barriers, hazmat suits and bright directional signage. We have had to lock our main front doors to limit access to the building (to keep lost, possibly infected patients out of our centre), and add safety signage to encourage the drive-thru visitors to keep their speed down. We understand that the facility is necessary, but its presence sure detracts from our calming environment. We are using the opportunity to teach the students about flexible thinking, the greater good and how to be good neighbours.

- Carrie Ferguson, Executive Director, The Penticton Centre for Exceptional Learning

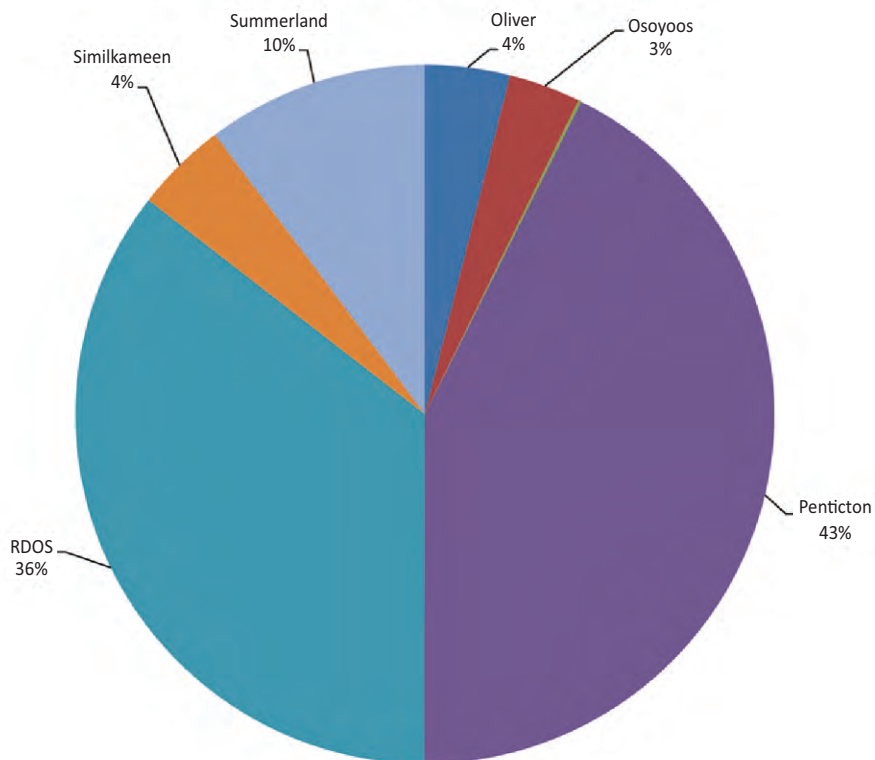


Foundation Highlights

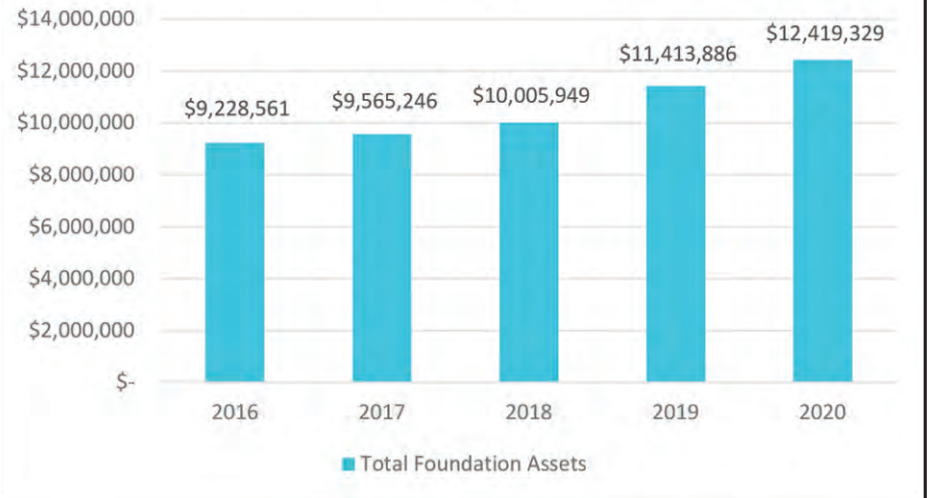
2020 Grants by Field of Interest



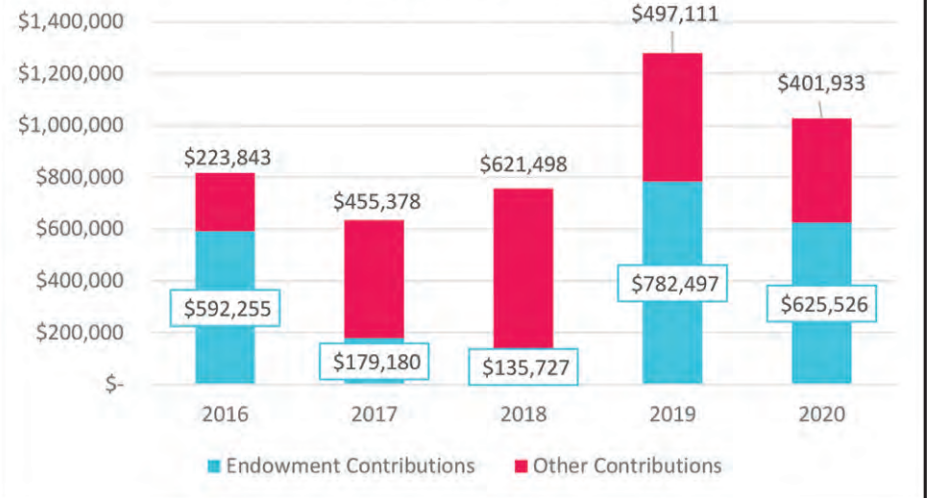
2020 Grants by Charity Region



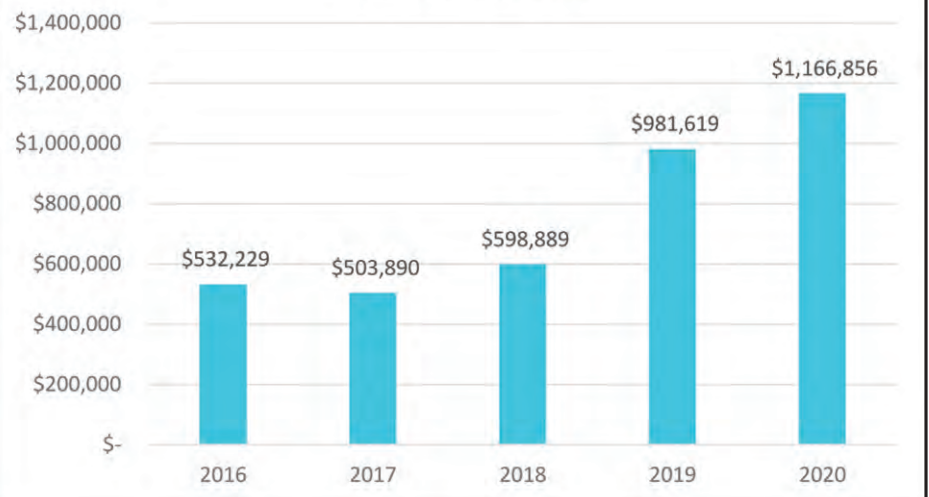
Total Assets Under Management



Total Contributions



Total Grants Paid



More than \$6 million in granting to the community since 1991!

Agency Grants

BC Schizophrenia Society - Penticton
NK'MIP Desert Cultural Centre Legacy
Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs
Okanagan College Endowment
Okanagan Symphony Society-Penticton Branch
Oliver & District Heritage Society
OneSky Community Resources
Penticton & District Community Arts Council
Penticton Art Gallery Legacy
Penticton Public Library
SO Secondary School Enrichment
South Okanagan Women in Need Society
Summerland Ornamental Gardens
The Land Conservancy-Okanagan Region
United Way Southern Interior BC

Designated Grants

AlleyCats Alliance Society
BC SPCA South Okanagan Similkameen Branch
Canadian Freestyle Ski Association
Criteraid
Friends of the Summerland Research Station Gardens
Island Mountain Arts Society
Knights of Pythias Annual Appeal
Multiple Sclerosis Society - BC & Yukon Division
Okanagan College Foundation
Okanagan Nation Family Intervention and Services Society
Okanagan School of the Arts
Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society
Okanagan Symphony Society - Kelowna
Penticton Academy of Music
Penticton Community Soupateria Society
Penticton Kiwanis Music Festival
Penticton Public Library
Penticton Secondary Schools Bursary Committee
Penticton Secondary Schools Bursary Committee "Penticton Community Concerts Scholarship"
Salvation Army Food Bank
South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation
Town of Osoyoos - Pioneer Walkway
UBC Okanagan for the "Frances Harris Fine Arts Scholarship"

Donor Advised Grants

Agur Lake Camp
Alzheimer Society of BC

Canadian Council of the Blind - South Okanagan Chapter
Dragonfly Pond Family Society
Highway to Healing Support Society
KidSport Summerland
Nature Conservancy of Canada - BC Regional Head Office
Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs
OneSky Community Resources
OSNS Child & Youth Development Centre
Penticton Art Gallery
Penticton Speedway Foundation
Regional District of the Okanagan Similkameen
Salvation Army Penticton Corps
School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)
School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)
School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)
South Okanagan Secondary School
South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation
South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation
Summerland Community Arts Council
The Civilian Sponsoring Committee for 232 Bighorn Squadron R.C.A.C.
Town of Oliver
Vermilion Forks Elementary School
YMCA of Okanagan

Discretionary Grants

AlleyCats Alliance Society
Canadian Mental Health Association - SOS
Cawston Primary School PAC
Desert Valley Hospice Society
Dragonfly Pond Family Society
Hedley Heritage Museum Society
Neil Squire Society
Okanagan Falls Heritage and Museum Society
Okanagan Falls Music in the Park
Okanagan School of the Arts
Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society
Okanagan Tree Fruit Project Society
Oliver & District Heritage Society
Pathways Addictions Resource Society
Penticton & District Community Arts Council
Penticton and Area Access Centre
Penticton Art Gallery
Penticton Recovery Resource Society - Discovery House
Princeton Family Services Society
Ryga Festival Society
School District No. 53

School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)
South Okanagan Integrated Community Services Society (Desert Sun Counselling & Resource Centre)
South Okanagan RECOPE Society
South Okanagan Seniors Wellness Society
South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society
Summerland Community Arts Council
Summerland Food Bank & Resource Centre
Summerland Museum and Archives Society
The Canadian Red Cross Society, South Okanagan HELP Service
The Okanagan Indian Educational Resources Society
United Way Southern Interior BC
Vermilion Forks Elementary School

Bursaries

Nikki Adams
Lyndzie Caron
Jeanne Maxine Clements
Natalie Farmer
Tianna Ferlizza
Halle Foster
Connor Girone
Jonas Henderson
Josephine Kay
Kale Lawrence
Nyah Meller
Kudrat Mundi
Reid Robinson
Trystin Simon
Ashley Stocker
Reiley Terbasket
Jessica ter Wolbeek
Emma Thomson
Sheila Wilson
Jennifer Zepeda



A lunch prepared for CMHA clients during COVID- 19. Clients were unable to access the clubhouse so had to take their lunches to go.

Under \$10,000 Value

1 Penticton Community Fund
Alanna Matthew Memorial Fund
B2B Fund
Debbie Nelson Fund
Drapeau Wealth Management Legacy Fund
Friends of the Gardens Fund
Henderson Family SOPAC Building Fund
Kaleden Community Fund
King Kirkpatrick Endowment Fund
Leonard Futter Fund
Magdus & Roy Ornamental Gardens Legacy Fund
Margaret Neuhaus Fund
Marjery Punnett Bursary Fund
Marjorie Maclean Fund
Merle Waite Endowment Fund
Milton Orris Legacy Fund
Music Under the K Fund
Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs Fund
Okanagan Nation Women's Emergency Fund
Okanagan Regional Library Fund
Penticton Public Art Fund
Ron Bell & Family Fund
Ryga Festival Society Fund
SOS Brain Injury Fund
SS Sicamous Marine Heritage Fund
Stoof/Straatsma Family Fund
Summerland Arts Council Fund
Toni & Bernie Cattani Legacy Fund for the Arts
Winkelaar Family Fund
Wood Family Fund

\$10,000 - \$20,000

100 Men Penticton Legacy Fund
1996 BC Festival of the Arts Fund
BC Schizophrenia Society - Penticton Fund
Canadian Federation of University Women Fund
Children's Trust Fund
Edith Forster Legacy Fund
Frances Harris Fund
Francis & Marion Kanuit Fund
George & Eva Kassa Legacy Fund
Irvine & Doreen Adams Memorial Fund
Kampman Family Fund
Knights of Pythias Lodge #49 - Fund 1
Lan & Pearl Fruno Legacy Fund
Meiklejohn Family Fund
Oliver & District Heritage Society Fund
Pat Clarke Memorial Bursary Fund
Penticton & District Community Arts Council Fund
Penticton Women In Business Fund

Philip Locke Penticton & District Building Fund
Princeton & District Legacy Fund
Rita Fawcett Memorial Fund
Scott & Helen Perry Bursary Fund
SO Boundary Labour Council Fund
South Okanagan Research & Capacity Building Endowment Fund
South Okanagan Women in Need Agency Fund
Summerland Ornamental Gardens Sustaining Fund
Thea Haubrich Legacy Fund
Vancouver Foundation CR Fund

\$20,000 - \$50,000

100 Women Who Care Fund
2004 BC Seniors Games Legacy Fund
Barbara Macdonald Family Fund
Bjerkan Family Fund
Brule Windeler Legacy Fund
Chris Grauer Endowment Fund
Colin & Lois Pritchard Foundation Fund
Culver Family Bursary Fund
Greenwood Forest Products Legacy Fund
Harman Community Development Fund
HSBC Fund for Youth
Hugh & Eva Cleland Fund
Irene & Charles Armstrong Bursary Fund
John Pankiw Family Fund
Kaleden Bursary Fund
Kristi's "Supporting the Dream" Fund
Lower Similkameen Community Fund
Lynn & Brian Jackson Endowment for Fine Arts
MS Anonymous Fund
Okanagan Similkameen Concert Society Fund
Oliver Community Fund
Osoyoos Community Fund
Patricia & Murray Craig Memorial Endowment Fund
Penticton Oldtimers Hockey Club Legacy Fund
Richard & Rose Cooper Fund
Rotary Club of Penticton Legacy Fund
Schellenberg Family SOPAC Fund
Sharon Amos Legacy Fund for the Arts
SO Secondary School Enrichment Fund
SOSCP Legacy Fund
Summerland Community Fund
The Land Conservancy-Okanagan Region Fund
Trehearne Family Fund
Weyerhaeuser Legacy Fund

\$50,000 - \$100,000

COP Centennial Legacy Fund
Criteraid Legacy Fund
Harold & Donna Schellenberg Legacy Fund
Harold & Flora Hoey Fund

Knights of Pythias Lodge #49 - Fund 2
L&R Supplementary Bursary Fund
Neil and Shirley Murray Family Fund
PDCRS Fund
Penticton Auto Dealers Fund
Ramada Inn Viticulture Fund
School Breakfast Program Fund
South Okanagan Aboriginal Education Fund
Summerland Credit Union Legacy Fund
Tony & Judy Lloyd Family Fund

\$100,000 - \$500,000

1995 Summer Games Legacy
Barbara Pearce Summerland Community Fund
Bob & Frances Garland Fund
Business Gives Back Fund
Environmental Legacy Fund
Eva & Herbert Rosinger General Fund
Eva & Herbert Rosinger Scholarship Fund
Harold & Irene Myers Family Fund
House Endowment Fund
Impact Fund
John & Doreen Wisenden Fund
Katie Lynn Apgar-Knezacek Fund
NK'MIP Desert Cultural Centre Legacy Fund
Okanagan College Endowment Fund
Okanagan Fest-Of-Ale Legacy Fund
Okanagan Symphony Society-Penticton Branch Fund
Oliver Rotary Endowment Fund
Penticton & District Fund
Penticton Art Gallery Legacy Fund
Penticton Public Library Fund
Summerland Credit Union Fund
Susan & Thomas Kelly Fund
United Way Tomorrow Fund

Over \$500,000 Value

City of Penticton Trust Fund
Dr. John and Kathy Scarfo Fund
Lancey Family Fund
Penny Lane Community Legacy Fund

132 Endowment Funds

Administrative Funds 2
Agency Funds 19
Community Funds 9
Designated Funds 46
Donor Advised 20
Field of Interest (Discretionary) 34
Term Endowment 2

Building Smart and Caring Communities with Neighbourhood Small Grants

In the wake of COVID-19, neighbours sprang into action to support their most vulnerable community members through the Foundation's grassroots Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) program. Thirty-seven people received grants ranging from \$250 to \$500 to support their project that aim to strengthen connections in their community, help reduce isolation, or to help their neighbours most in need.

The NSG eligibility and guidelines were adapted to meet the Provincial Health Orders. Applications with ideas that were responsive towards helping their most vulnerable neighbours were prioritized at the beginning of the pandemic. One awarded project was the *Personalized Youth Care Package* Project in Penticton. NSG project leader Honor H., with expert knowledge from the Foundry Youth Advisory Committee, gave out 50 personal-care hampers to young adults. "I was so blown away by the support of the community. We were able to give youth so many items in their package. I look forward to doing another similar project to help those in this very difficult time we are in, shared Honor. "It really did make a difference for 50 young people struggling in our community."

In Okanagan Falls, Elaine C. engaged with the Legion, her local church, and neighbours to help identify folks who would benefit from a hamper. The hampers contained a hand sanitizer bottle, facemasks, fresh fruit and produce from local growers, and even toys for those with kids. Elaine also provided information about the community with business cards and information sheets about local services such as the Seniors Centre, Better At Home, and the hot meal program. Elaine shared that one of her lessons learned was that some folks needed

more than a meal; they also sought conversation, or simply help moving an item. Today, Elaine continues to support her neighbours as they navigate the challenges compounded by the pandemic.

2020 also challenged us in how we gathered, shared stories, and created together. Rather than neighbours gathering for a *block-party-with-a-purpose*, for many it was an opportunity to offer their ideas and knowledge through online platforms such as FaceTime and Zoom. Food security was top of mind for neighbours on Anarchist Mountain with their *Freeze-drying food* workshop, while neighbours in Osoyoos linked in to *Wake and Bake*, an online morning bread-baking series.

Elaine shared that one of her lessons learned was that some folks needed more than a meal; they also sought conversation, or simply help moving an item. Today, Elaine continues to support her neighbours as they navigate the challenges compounded by the pandemic.

Have Tea with Me offered neighbours a virtual way to enjoy a fragrant cup of hot tea while they took turns sharing about their culture and tea traditions. Alice W. shared, "the best highlight of this tea project was that I got to experience hosting it with Judy. She has not only given me knowledge and enlightenment about Chinese culture, but she has also provided hospitality and friendship that I am forever grateful for. Also, it proved every claim about how Chinese

cha makes one feel at home and deepens the sense of kinship between people."

The theme of celebrating cultural diversity continued with Penticton's Elmira G. Elmira hosted three Zoom "circles" with 13 newcomers and shared that, "the best memory of the event was being able to experience unity through cultural experiences even without physical interaction. Through this event, sharing diverse cultures and bonding through story and learning was a joyous moment for the whole crowd."

Young people also received grants to grow their ideas. In Keremeos, two different groups of youth unleashed their creativity with brushes and rollers. Children and adults tackled the Skate Park with wild and fun imagery, while another group sought scaffolding to paint a mural on Main Street. "Capikw, an Okanagan story about how bear gave its life for the people to be and to have food, is what inspired the design," explained artist Madeline Terbasket. "And, the sunflowers represent the youth who grew up in Keremeos and went to Cawston Primary School." According to Madeline, seeing their culture celebrated in the Village of Keremeos is significant. "It makes me so proud. I didn't grow up with murals in town that were about the Similkameen people," Madeline said. **"It just makes me so proud that our people have a whole wall now about who we are, and we get to see ourselves."**

So many great ideas bringing amazing people together for the human connection and sharing. That's what Neighbourhood Small Grants is all about and its part of the mission of the Community Foundation.

Remembering a Community Builder



Many sad things happened in 2020, but one we wish to highlight is the passing of Shirley Murray. Mrs. Murray was a passionate community builder in Oliver and a champion of the work of community foundations, both in the South Okanagan and in Kelowna.

Shirley's father, Roy Pollard was a founding board member of the Central Okanagan Foundation in Kelowna 40 years ago. After her parents' passing, Shirley became the fund advisor for the family fund, making important grant decisions for the fund for many years.

In 2000, Shirley continued the family tradition by creating the Neil and Shirley Murray Family Fund with the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen. The fund is a Donor Advised fund, allowing the family to select charitable causes they care about each year, but to date it has been used exclusively to offer an annual bursary to students of South Okanagan Secondary

School, with awards totalling more than \$10,000.

Shirley was also a founding member of the Oliver Community Fund Committee, a group of committed Oliver residents working to build an endowment fund exclusively for the benefit of projects in Oliver. The Oliver Community Fund, currently with a balance of almost \$30,000, will be a lasting legacy for Oliver residents and will support many amazing projects for the community.

One thing we haven't lost with Shirley's passing is her legacy. She was committed to making a difference in her community of Oliver, as were her parents in their community of Kelowna. Thanks to the legacy endowment funds set up in both towns, the love and kindness that Shirley gave to her community will be felt for generations to come. Speaking of generations, Shirley has passed the torch for community impact to her children, with each acting as advisors for the family's two endowment funds. What a gift!

50+ Impactful People of Princeton

We learned in 2020 how charities rely on volunteers, donations, and fundraisers to support the valuable work they provide in the community. Priorities shifted at local agencies to focus on providing service amidst a global pandemic, while many volunteers pivoted to provide extra attention to family and other pressing obligations.

In June, Princeton town councillor Barb Gould had growing concerns and reached out to Kim English, CFSOS regional development coordinator, with an offer of her time to help organize a fundraiser for a few charities that were struggling in the absence of their events.

The pair adopted the structure of 100 Women and 100 Men fundraisers where three charities are invited to make a short 'pitch' to the audience, with hopes to take home the first-place share of the money raised through ticket sales. To follow the provincial health orders, in-person tickets to the outdoor event were limited to fifty, with an open number of tickets to sell for those participating online.

To ensure everyone's safety, attendees received a swag bag with a facemask and a mini bottle of hand sanitizer, plus their own Give Where You Live wine glass, and other goodies.

Under a Vermillion sky in September, generous donors and sponsors came together and raised over \$36,000 for four charities, including the Princeton & District Community Fund. With plenty of space to socially distance, folks gathered outside the Princeton airport to hear from the charities and to cast their vote on the most compelling story of need.

Kim Vokey from the Princeton Crisis Assistance Centre told the audience that COVID had hit operations hard, especially since they closed their thrift store earlier in the year, and without that income stream, the Christmas Hamper program was in jeopardy.

Carolynne Munk of the Princeton Seniors Centre talked about the need for a new airflow system to ensure the health and safety of their members when they resume gathering for bingo, community dinners, and drop-ins.

The Princeton & District Community Services Society (PDCSS) invited Jess McIvor, a long-time client of the New Beginnings program to make their pitch. Jess spoke enthusiastically about the society's latest endeavour: a new location that is in need of renovations, furniture, and supplies. "Our New Beginnings is amazing," she said, "I'm begging you. We need a lot of money to renovate...Please, please vote for us." And they did!

PDCSS was originally awarded \$2,200 as the winner, with the seniors and crisis centre taking \$600 each. At the close of the evening, there were audible gasps and a few tears from the audience when the mystery sponsor, Weyerhaeuser, was revealed. The forestry company topped up the winnings with \$5,000 to each charity ensuring that everyone could fulfil their goals.

To end the evening, one of the Foundation's anonymous donors matched what was

raised, and designated their donation to the Princeton & District Legacy Fund, an act that doubled the endowment fund which is for the sole benefit of projects in the Princeton area.

After months of planning and preparation, Barb Gould closed the evening by saying, "I am always so amazed how this community comes together to help others."

The success of the fundraiser was made possible with the support of the Town of Princeton, Weyerhaeuser, Fortis BC, SaveOn Foods, Ace Hardware, Princeton Paint and Decorating, the Museum, and through the kindness of many small business owners. Little Creek Grill and Andrew Peller Limited generously provided the food and beverages.

The Princeton & District Legacy Fund is for people who love Princeton and want to give back to the community where they have worked, played, and raised their families. A gift to the Princeton & District Legacy Fund is a gift for the future. By combining donations, we can provide lasting support for local community needs and priorities that are important to the residents of Princeton and area.

Give Where You Live



Princeton & District Community Services Society Jess McIvor and Becky Veremette receive \$7,000 for the New Beginnings Program.