

ANNUAL REPORT 18/19

**Vibrant, healthy, caring communities ~
Today, Tomorrow, Forever!**

GROW. GIVE. INSPIRE.



WE GROW

CFSEA engages donors with causes they are passionate about to build permanent endowments

PG 3

WE GIVE

CFSEA distributes investment earnings to a broad range of community initiatives

PG 8

WE INSPIRE

CFSEA connects issues, convenes partners and develops community-based solutions

PG 12

WELCOME

CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The generosity of this community continues to inspire us. We are proud to profile our many community builders, charities we've granted to and projects we have undertaken this past year.

This report celebrates all of those whose contributions have made our hard work possible. Every donation, from the smallest to the largest, makes a difference and allows us to continue to ensure the future for Southeastern Alberta is bright!



Michael Ancil - Chair, CFSEA

Board of Directors

Chris Christie - Executive Director

CFSEA welcomes David Andrews and Cody Ibbotson to the Board of Directors!

David became familiar with the Community Foundation through the granting application process for his work with E.I.D. Historical Park. He also chairs the Brooks & District Community Fund Advisory Committee. Cody is newer to Medicine Hat, having moved recently from Red Deer with his family. He is a Partner at EBT Chartered Professional Accountants.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to our two retiring board members, Sean Blewett and Larry Johnson, for their combined nine years of dedication to the CFSEA Board of Directors. We wish you both the best of luck in all your future adventures.

STAFF 2019 - 2020:

Chris Christie, Executive Director

Barbara Kenworthy, Finance Administrator

Sue Edwards, Assistant Director

Michelle MacLean, Community Fund Coordinator, Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile

Kim Stief, Community Fund Coordinator, Prairie Crocus Community Fund

Nicole Nichols, Community Fund Coordinator, Brooks & District Community Fund

The Board of Directors wish to thank Marlene Watson, Regional Development Manager, for her accomplishments during the past contract year in helping establish the three rural community funds.

On July 31, 2019, CFSEA Board and Staff gathered to wish our Grants and Administration Coordinator, Niki Gray, all the best on her move to Calgary.

As Chris transitions towards retirement, Sue Edwards was hired in July 2019 as Assistant Director. Sue has spent most of her life living in the Medicine Hat area. She brings 20+ years experience in the non-profit sector and an abundance of professional connections. Sue looks forward to meeting more of our donors and partners!

We also honour Austin Curtin – an incredible community philanthropist and supporter of CFSEA who recently passed away. Many charities, students and families have been positively impacted by the life of this kind and generous man.

CFSEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

Executive Committee

Michael Ancil – Board Chair

Ajit Atwal – Vice Chair

Cheryl Pocsik - Secretary

Robert Belau – Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

Frances Barnes

Dr. Suzanne Curtin

Matthew Lofgren

Pamela Lehr

Neil Maser

Myrna Stark

Gregory J. Niwa

Tracy Stroud

Jim van der Sloot

Cody Ibbotson

David Andrews



CFSEA engages donors with causes they are passionate about to build permanent endowments.

HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS

Heritage Club Members are donors who have included our Community Foundation in their future plans with a gift through their estate.

Heritage Club Members commit to leaving a bequest/future give of cash, a percentage of their estate, life insurance or retirement funds or other appraisable assets. Their foresight and generosity create positive impact across SE Alberta communities for generations to come.

Anctil, Michael	Garden, Tanis	Niwa, Gregory J.	Shabatura, Cheryl
Anctil, Wanda	Grona, Eleanor	O'Reilly, Todd	Siegle, Rod
Anctil, Yvonne	Hawthorne, Glenda	O'Reilly, Darlene	Siegle, Shirley
Anonymous 11	Heine, Doug	Panabaker, David	Sihvon, Murray
Atwal, Ajit	Heine, Shirley	Panabaker, Debbie	Sihvon Margaret
Barnes, Drew	Hern, Ben	Pearson, Les	Snedden, Shann
Barnes, Frances	Hern, Kathy	Piper, Walt	Stimson, Gary
Bernhardt, Otto	Hogg, Nelson	Piper, Debbie	Stimson, Anita
Bernhardt, Ann	Hogg, Sharon	Porter, Mark	Summerbell, John
Best, Debra	Houlston, Robin	Renner, Rob	Summerbell, Freddie
Bradford, Keri	Kammerer, Dan	Roberts, Bill	Taylor, William
Christie, Andy	Knight, Kimberley	Roberts, Lavina	Taylor, Marg
Christie, Anne	Lloyd, Bill	Rodych, Ted	Thompson, Barbara
Christie, Chris	Lloyd, Fay	Rodych, Donna	Torrance, Ken
Christie, Michael	Mackay, Sandy	Rothwell, Brian	Valli, Gilda
Cunningham, Karen	Mackay, Jane	Rothwell, Gwen	Valli, Victor (Ted)
Curtin, Suzanne	Mueller, Elizabeth	Saunderson, Donald	Way, Nora
Dynes, Bruce	Neubauer, Barry	Saunderson, Marjorie	Welling, Miriam
Dynes, Jan	Neubauer, Janet	Semrau, Kevin	
Garden, Al	Nittel, Jim	Semrau, Marlene	

** list is current to date of printing*

\$ AT A GLANCE

RETURN ON INVESTMENTS:

3.4%

DONATIONS:

\$459,695

ENDOWMENT FUND: (2018: \$12,249,766)

\$12,549,556

TOTAL ASSETS: (2018: \$13,004,823)

\$13,108,678

- includes Managed Funds



Executive Director Chris Christie and Endowment Development Committee Heritage Club member Barry Neubauer present pins to new Heritage Club members Frances Barnes, Glenda Hawthorne, Janice Dynes and Bruce Dynes at our 2018 Chair's Reception. Missing: Drew Barnes

If you would like to know more about how you can leave a lasting legacy for your community, please contact our office.



HERITAGE MEMBER PROFILE

Elizabeth Biemans, or “Liz” as her family and friends called her, was born on December 24, 1927, in Etten Leure, Holland. She came to Canada in 1954 after her new husband Peter convinced her of all the opportunities this country offered.

When they first arrived, they had no money and worked as farm labourers, saving up to buy some land. In 1960, they managed to do just that in Seven Persons, where they settled down and welcomed four sons. Their oldest, Ken, still farms and lives on that land and remembers his mom as a woman who taught her sons that “accepting your position in life is a sign of strength.” He continues, “She and Dad always had faith that things would someday fall into place.”

They worked hard, with Liz raising the boys and helping out on the farm with the cows, pigs, chickens and chores. When the children had grown and they finally retired to Medicine Hat, they still helped farm the land but were able to spend more time with their grandchildren. They loved traveling to Arizona where they’d relax and play golf. Liz was an active member of Holy Family Church. When her husband, Peter, passed away in 1999, she spent more time in her community, volunteering at the church and connecting with friends. Ten years later, Liz lost one of her sons to ALS, yet she remained positive. “Mom never dwelled on the negative. She had an incredibly captivating smile and even at the end of a challenging day would say there’s always tomorrow to try again,” Ken says.



Liz’s sense of community and the friends she surrounded herself with inspired her. Ken recalls, “In the last five years of her life, she started thinking how nice it was that her friends were giving back to the community and she said, “I wish I would have done more of that. I don’t know if I’ve done enough.””

At this point, she was 85 years old and very happy with her life.

Ken continues, “I said to her, “Now is the time to think about if you want to give something back to this great country that treated you well, welcomed you and allowed you to do these magical things.””

He says, “She knew she was really fortunate to come to Canada, to live in Seven Persons and then Medicine Hat. She was very thankful for the way her life turned out. She’d say to me, “I’ve had SUCH a good life. How can it get any better than this?” Coming from nothing, with no expectations, she was eternally grateful.”

Elizabeth set aside a portion of her estate for charity, selecting seven recipients: the CFSEA, Medicine Hat & District Health Foundation, ALS Society of Canada, Alzheimer’s Society of Canada, Medicine Hat’s Holy Family Church, Canadian Cancer Society, and the Salvation Army. The broad spectrum of agencies the CFSEA supports appealed to Elizabeth, as did the permanence of her gift. When Ken talked to her about her future gifts, Liz said, “If it can help somebody a little bit, I’m happy.”

Elizabeth’s contribution to the CFSEA will support many organizations and assist countless individuals in the community she loved for years to come.

AGENCY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

\$44,305 was distributed to agencies through their endowment funds with CFSEA



Established in January 2014, the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Agency Fund has been growing steadily, offering a consistent annual source of funding for this agency.

Last year, they received approximately \$15,000 from the investment income. Executive Director Natasha Carvalho speaks to how important this funding is for their organization: "In these uncertain times, that guaranteed source of income makes a difference."

She notes that it was an adjustment to initially invest the money, especially as a not-for-profit, but the consistent revenue has made the decision one she wishes they would have made earlier. "Seeing how much it has already grown and delivered is impressive - better late than never."

Last year, the Shelter served approximately 1400 people through all their programs. Carvalho says, "That's a lot for a community this size and a good chunk of that number are children. So the preventative work we are doing is key and the discussions with those children are so important so we can break the cycle of violence."

Carvalho hopes that donors will help them celebrate their 40th year by making a donation, all of which will be deposited into their Agency Fund with the CFSEA. "These gifts will help us continue providing safe haven and services to families as they heal in an atmosphere of love and support."

To create your own Agency Endowment Fund, or to make a donation, please contact us or visit www.cfsea.ca/we-grow/agency-endowments

DID YOU KNOW?

You can make a donation directly into an endowment fund for the charity of your choice!

Follow the link to see which charities are planning for their future with an endowment fund at CFSEA.

cfsea.ca/we-grow/agency-endowments/

THESE AGENCIES HAVE ENDOWMENT FUNDS AT CFSEA THAT GENERATE VALUABLE ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUE TO SUPPORT THEIR GREAT WORK. LEAVE A LEGACY FOR YOUR FAVOURITE CHARITY!

- REDI Enterprises Society
- Brooks Public Library
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Medicine Hat News Santa Claus Fund Society
- Rotary Club of Medicine Hat Music Festival Society
- CORE Association
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- City of Medicine Hat (Arts & Heritage)
- Canadian Mental Health Association, SE Region
- Medicine Hat Family Services
- Medicine Hat & District Food Bank
- Medicine Hat Public Library
- Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society
- Friends of Medalta Society
- United Way of Southeastern Alberta
- YMCA of Medicine Hat
- The Mustard Seed
- HALO
- SPCA/Save Old Souls


NEW RURAL COMMUNITY FUNDS

BACKGROUND

In the summer of 2018, Marlene Watson led a number of focus groups and a feasibility study across SE Alberta to determine the interest in creating rural community funds. The response was extremely positive! As a result, CFSEA has established three new rural endowment funds, each with their own local Advisory Committees. Donations to the community funds stay in the area and granting recommendations are decided by local citizens. We are so very grateful to the Anonymous Donor for the generous grant to fund a part time Rural Development Coordinator in each area!

Rural community funds allow donors to give where they live and will benefit the community they call home – forever!

**BROOKS & DISTRICT
COMMUNITY FUND**



Nicole Nichols
403.376.8884
brooksdistrictfund@cfsea.ca

COUNTY OF NEWELL


**RURAL COMMUNITY
FUND OF FORTY MILE**



Michelle MacLean
403.866.8901
40milefund@cfsea.ca

COUNTY OF FORTY MILE

**PRAIRIE CROCUS
COMMUNITY FUND**



Kim Stief
403.664.9571
prairiecrocusfund@cfsea.ca

SPECIAL AREAS 2, 3 AND MD OF ACADIA

BROOKS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY FUND (COUNTY OF NEWELL):

The Brooks & District Community Fund launched in May 2019 (photo below) with a great turnout! What made it even more special was the location: the new Prairie Pioneers Centre (formally the old library). The Prairie Pioneers had previously received a \$2750 grant for renovations that better suited their needs. We could see and celebrate the transformation that was made possible by CFSEA. This, along with the compelling message, "Give Where You Live", resonated with those in attendance and has our community excited to grow this fund!



The Brooks & District Senior's Outreach received a \$6,000 CFSEA grant to host a Wellness Tea in March 2019. The Wellness Tea program is an amazing initiative to help bring together the seniors in our communities for luncheons that include socializing, nutrition, activities and, most important, a sense of belonging. Over 100 seniors participated in this volunteer-driven event.





Officially establishing the Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile: L to R: staff member; Michelle MacLean; Chair; Clint Thacker; first donor representative Foremost Community Transporters Association Michelle Matthews; Tyson Ormann (committee member and Deputy Mayor of Foremost)

RURAL COMMUNITY FUND OF FORTY MILE

When the Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile was established, it was created with a committee of members that had a strong belief in growing our own regional endowment fund. It would allow people to give where they live, while also providing a source of funds for the non-profit needs in the region, forever.

At the launch event, the committee introduced our Founders Circle. It is a program that allows everyone within the county to help kick start our local fund. Three committee members even made donations the night of the event to give the fund a head start. It is a true testament of the dedication and hard work of the committee, and the incredible support we are receiving from our County of Forty Mile region.

The first grant recipient for the Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile was the Senator Gershaw School Track Enhancement Program for \$10,000. The track had fallen into disrepair and was suffering from a gopher infestation issue that made the track unsafe for use. A group of concerned and dedicated parents formed a committee and immediately began raising funds.

With this one application the committee, as well as those residing in the county, recognized how beneficial it was to have our own fund and how it meant that they could assist in making the decisions from a local perspective.

This funding has brought a new level of vitality and health into the community, and everyone is looking forward to seeing track and field days for all schools in the region held there, along with a bid being made for the summer games for the County of Forty Mile in the near future.



\$10,000 cheque presentation for Senator Gershaw School Track Enhancement Program

PRAIRIE CROCUS COMMUNITY FUND (SPECIAL AREAS NO. 2, 3 AND MD OF ACADIA):

The Prairie Crocus Community Fund serves a total land area of around 17,000 km². It is very rewarding to see that despite the size of the region, awareness about the Fund has considerably increased and reached areas far apart in just a short period of time. The Advisory Committee and staff have been working hard to share what the Fund is all about and to inspire support from local residents. Building awareness and strong connections is key.

Our launch event in June was extremely well-received and attended by community members. The staff and volunteers are eager to share news of this Fund, guiding citizens across the region to recognize the value of building sustainable funding that will benefit our local communities forever.



Members of the Prairie Crocus Community Fund Advisory Committee



Sibbald Community Club accepts CFSEA grant cheque of \$12,400

The Sibbald Community Club received a \$12,400 grant this spring for their Wheelchair Ramp Development Project. The ramp will be built onto the Sibbald Community Hall to ease accessibility and meet building codes. Given the growing number of aging community members, the availability of the wheel chair ramp will be a tremendous help to the local residents and will allow for more activities to be hosted at the Sibbald Community Hall. Moreover, the building of the ramp will provide jobs locally, as the Club plans to source workers and materials within the rural areas. It's truly an excellent example of how impactful a local community project could be!



WE GIVE

\$ AT A GLANCE

TOTAL FUNDS DISBURSED:

\$417,013

TOTAL CHARITIES FUNDED:

76

DESIGNATED GRANTS:



CHARITIES \$65,078

FIELD OF INTEREST:



CHARITIES \$30,427

OUR FIELD OF INTEREST FUND HOLDERS INCLUDE:

AB 2008 Summer Games, Rural Youth & Recreation, Claude Bishop, Methanex, Growing Active Kids, Megan Wahl Memorial, Roy & Elaine Wiedeman, Margaret Houlston, Environmental Legacy, Danny Koch, TransCanada, Savanna Drilling, Mayor's Community

DONOR ADVISED:



CHARITIES \$23,835

OUR DONOR ADVISED FUND HOLDERS INCLUDE:

Niwa Family Fund, Freedman Family, Lewall Family, Sunrise Rotary Club (Les Erickson Memorial), Rose & Henry Dola, Chacko Zeller Fund, Terry & Darrel Dola, Ian & Phyllis McLaughlin, Frost Family

SCHOLARSHIPS

\$44,945

PROVIDED BY THESE DONORS/FUNDS: Valli Family, Loretta and Joe Laycock, Jardine Family, Rawleigh Family, Zirka Ukrainian Dance, Lyle Aleman, Sara Machaud/Lions Club of Irvine, Dr. FW & Harriet Gershaw, Drowning Ford Grazing Association, Friends of French Immersion, James and John McConnell, Mulugeta Memorial, Friends of Medicine Hat Youth Baseball, Saamis Teepee Association, Chief Gord Earl Leadership Legacy

JMH&CO.
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS



CFSEA gratefully acknowledges the corporate sponsorship of their Fall and Spring Grant Events: JMH Professional Accountants Ltd. and Pritchard and Company Law Offices. We so appreciate your support!

SMART & CARING COMMUNITY FUND GRANTS

\$191,418

These grants are made possible by donors whose gifts are undesignated. CFSEA then has the flexibility to address our community's ever-changing needs through the bi-annual granting process.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF MEDICINE HAT AND DISTRICT

\$10,000 Teen Mentoring

GRASSLANDS REGIONAL SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 6 (EASTBROOK SCHOOL PARENT ADVISORY ASSOCIATION)

\$2,500 Playground Equipment

BROOKS AND DISTRICT SENIOR OUTREACH

\$6,000 Wellness Teas

EASTER SEALS ALBERTA SOCIETY - MEDICINE HAT REGION

\$15,000 Equipment and Support

KIDSPORT SOCIETY MEDICINE HAT AND REDCLIFF

\$12,500 Core Funding

NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

\$2,130 Power Grazer

MEDICINE HAT JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY

\$8,000 Indigenous Healing Circles

BROOKS MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

\$1,500 Music Festival

TWENTY MILE POST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

\$6,000 Repainting of Historical Buildings

SOUTH EASTERN ALBERTA SAFETY ALLIANCE (SAFETY CITY)

\$6,000 Summer Safe Program

HALO RESCUE

\$25,000 Night Vision Goggles

MEDICINE HAT WOMEN'S SHELTER SOCIETY

\$10,000 Security System

CHAMPION CENTRE

\$15,000 Furnace

REDCLIFF YOUTH ACTION SOCIETY

\$1,000 Youth Garden

CITY OF MEDICINE HAT - MEDICINE HAT TRACK & FIELD SOCIETY

\$20,000 Track Resurfacing

CITY OF MEDICINE HAT - MEDICINE HAT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION 2019

\$10,000 World Under 17 Hockey Challenge Volunteer Appreciation

TOWN OF REDCLIFF - ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH # 6

\$12,500 Heating/Cooling System

NURTURE PREGNANCY CENTER

\$5,000 Sewing Program

TOWN OF REDCLIFF LIBRARY BOARD

\$4,000 Bike Lending Program

PRAIRIE ROSE SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 08 - SENATOR GERSHAW PARENT COUNCIL SOCIETY

\$10,000 Bow Island Running Track Modernization

E.I.D. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

\$2,000 Campground Upgrade

SIBBALD COMMUNITY CLUB

\$12,400 Wheel Chair Ramp

IMPACT STORIES

THE CHAMPION CENTRE

With six rooms, a large dining room area, a shower and lockers that anyone can come in off the street to use, the Champion Centre has been serving the community's hungry, homeless and lonely since 2006.

With a grant of \$15,000 from the Spring 2019 Smart & Caring Grant cycle, a new furnace was installed in the building in September, just in time for the winter. The installation of the furnace offers not only lowered utility bills, (which allows more funding to go towards upkeep and their daily hot breakfast program/other food programs) but also comfort in a place that becomes like home for many of the people who stay there.

Barry Knodel, managing director for The Mustard Seed that now runs The Champion's Centre, spoke of the opportunities the Champion Centre offers to those it serves.

"We had a guy, fresh out of jail who was getting clean and trying to turn his life around. He came to the Centre and the first weekend we welcomed him in, he had a bad day. While visiting another agency, he left his backpack with all of his belongings, his phone, his wallet, everything behind and by the time he remembered, the agency was closed for the weekend. He became so stressed out and had a meltdown."

Knodel's wife, who was a volunteer with the Centre at the time, sat down with the man and helped calm him down. "She said, 'Look, you're among friends. You've got a roof over your head and food for your belly. There's nothing you need beyond that for this weekend. You're okay; we're here for you.' The guy calmed down and I thought, 'If he'd been sitting in a motel room by himself, the odds of him turning back to drugs were high.' Instead, he made it through the weekend and he is still going forward, working through some of his stuff with our volunteer advocate."

Knodel shared another story about a young lady who came to see our Kitchen Lead, Corliss. Corliss is so connected to these people and makes them feel special. The young girl told me, "Corliss always encouraged me, and said 'You'll be able to get off of this; you're better than this; you're more than this; you can do this.'" With the help of the Champion Centre, she'd been clean and in her own place for six months. She'd proudly returned to thank them for all their support and for providing her a safe space to envision a brighter future.

That safe space, now heated without the use of space heaters thanks to the Community Foundation, offers a place for people to get back on their feet and out on their own.

UPDATE

The Champion Centre is now affiliated with the Mustard Seed from Calgary. Since this new partnership, the breakfast and meal program has expanded and will continue to grow as they create a wellness & job centre and commercial kitchen on Allowance Avenue. This expansion in services and offerings excites Knodel, who knows that the need is there. "We're excited to continue to serve this great community and the people in it who need a place to feel accepted among friends and to find supports to help them move forward. We're so grateful to the Community Foundation for their funding, which will continue to help us with this mission, long into the future."



Photo Credit:

Gillian Slade, Medicine Hat News

Standing in front of the Champion Centre's new furnace are Barry Knodel, Managing Director for The Mustard Seed; Sue Edwards, Assistant Director CFSEA; Colette Eirich, Funds Developer for The Mustard Seed; and Murray Kumm, who has been operating Hope Street, which is now also under The Mustard Seed.



WE GIVE



THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) works to protect our country's most precious natural places, empowering people to safeguard the lands and waters that sustain life.

Receiving a \$2130 Environmental Legacy Grant in the Fall of 2018, the NCC purchased a Power Grazer so they could better protect the grasslands in southeastern Alberta.



The Razer Grazer purchased with this grant allows the NCC an easy way to temporarily create fenced off areas, thus protecting them from animals over-grazing and destroying these important grasslands.

Grazing is a historic, natural disturbance on the landscape, essential for turning the soils and stimulating growth of many grass species. However, in most areas, a rotational grazing approach is beneficial allowing for periods of rest and recovery.

Traditional fencing is time intensive, expensive and permanent. Historically, pastures were typically established in block formations, but most natural systems are not so clear cut and linear. A mobile fencing unit, like the razer grazer, allows for adaptive management and responds to the needs of the native grasslands. The single strand electric fence line of the Razer Grazer can easily shift boundaries, confining cattle to spots where grazing will enhance them and excluding those in need of rest.

EASTER SEALS ALBERTA

Easter Seals Alberta provides services that foster inclusion, independence and recreation for individuals with disabilities and medical conditions.

A \$15,000 fall 2018 grant was issued to support eight individuals living in and around Medicine Hat with adaptive equipment.



Nicole, lives in Medicine Hat with her mom and dad and was born with a disability affecting nearly every aspect of her life. Nicole is completely dependent on her parents and needs their assistance with all personal care, feeding, and moving around the house. Nicole's parents are unable to lift their daughter up and down the stairs safely and were devastated when Nicole had to make her bedroom in their common living room. Because of the support from the CFSEA, Easter Seals Alberta was able to help this family and provide them a stairlift. While the lift is for Nicole, it has a profound impact on the whole family. "What a happy girl when she used the lift for the first time and knew she was going to sleep in her own bed that evening!" said Nicole's dad.

NURTURE PREGNANCY CENTRE

Nurture Pregnancy Centre provides a welcome place for those experiencing an unexpected pregnancy or challenges in all stages of pregnancy and the first two years of a child's life.

With a \$5,000 Smart & Caring Grant in the Spring of 2019, the Centre implemented a Sewing Program. This program is now one of ten they offer to educate, help build confidence, and foster connection.



One participant speaks of the sense of community the class and Centre cultivates: "Everyone at the Nurture Centre welcomes you, listens to you. It is a place with no judgement, where you and your children are accepted. They have taught me new skills, increasing my self-esteem, and it is a great place to meet Mom Friends".

REDCLIFF LIBRARY

With a focus on providing quality library services to their community, Redcliff Library will now have one more offering for their members.

Thanks to a \$4,000 Smart & Caring Grant received in the Spring of 2019, the Library Board purchased five adult and two youth bicycles, along with a bike rack, helmets and locks for a Bike Lending Program.

The bikes are available to loan during the operating hours of the library to those who have a valid library card from anywhere in Alberta. "It doesn't have to be a Redcliff Library card. It can be Medicine Hat, it could be a Bassano Library card. As long as you are in good standing at your home library, you're good to go," said Tracy Weinrauch, Library Manager.



Tracy speaks to the importance of this program and how it is already making an impact: "We recently had a parent check out one of the youth bikes for her son. The child's school had organized a bike ride through the trails of Redcliff. The family found themselves without a bike for him and borrowed one of ours so he could participate in the event with his friends. They were extremely grateful that we have this program so he was not left out of the activity."

A portion of the funding for this CFSEA grant came from the Danny Koch Memorial Fund. Danny was a born and raised Medicine Hatter who passed away from a heart attack in March 2015. Through the wishes of this Field of Interest Family Fund, yearly grants are given to support youth in need. His wife Heather says, "Danny always had a soft spot for young kids and said they shouldn't have to wait for anything."



It is also fitting that Danny was a big fan of motorcycles and saw pedal bikes as a great stepping stone for future bikers.

His daughter Jen remembers: "Dad and his motorcycle friends took an annual bike trip every June and one year stopped at a diner for lunch. When they came out, a family with several kids had pulled up on pedal bikes and were admiring the motorcycles all lined up. Dad and his buddies happily sat the kids on their bikes and took a picture to capture their excitement."

This is just one example of how a memorial fund (whether it is Field of Interest, Designated or Scholarship) can honour and celebrate the wishes and the interests of the person it is in memory of.

To create your Family Fund, or to make a donation to an existing fund, contact our office at 403.527.9038.

THIS YEAR - THE IMPACT OF FAMILY FUNDS

The Lavern & Mary Kurpjuweit Fund

DISTRIBUTED

\$8,320

to four agencies: Whispering Pines Camp, Medicine Hat & District Health Foundation, Holy Family Parish and Hillcrest Church.

The Marilyn Curtin Fund

DISTRIBUTED

\$6,950

to five agencies: HALO, SPCA, Medicine Hat & District Food Bank, Medicine Hat Women's Shelter and the Alzheimer's Society.

The Alex & Jean McDougald Fund

DISTRIBUTED

\$3,770

to two agencies: Medicine Hat & District Food Bank and the Salvation Army.



WE GIVE



\$25,000 COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

The Community Leadership Committee recently revised the former Vital Impact Grant application and process to distribute one large grant that could truly make an impact

The result was the Community Impact Award, a \$25,000 grant designated for charities with new and innovative project ideas that show creativity and leadership in supporting a vibrant, healthy and caring community.

Using information from our 2017 Vital Signs Report, agencies were invited to submit Letters of Intent. Three organizations were then chosen to present their projects to our committee.

CFSEA presented our very first \$25,000 Community Impact Award at the 2019 Founder's Day Picnic to the South East Alberta Search and Rescue Association for their Collaborative Emergency Response Project with HALO.

SEASAR (Southeast Alberta Search and Rescue) is an association dedicated to finding lost persons in Medicine Hat Alberta and the surrounding regions. HALO offers the only dedicated medevac helicopter for southern Alberta and southwest Saskatchewan.

Paul Carolan, President of the SEASAR Board of Directors, spoke to the impact this funding will have on the 100% volunteer-run SEASAR organization: "We average 15-18 operations a year, all with unpaid professionals. The amount of time these people give to not just the searches, but the proper training and certifications so they are ready when calls come in, is extensive."

Volunteers train annually, learning about safe landing zones and how to properly enter and exit the helicopter. They also have a team trained to exit the helicopter when it is hovering. This is useful for rescues above bodies of water, or in hard to reach places where the helicopter cannot land.

HALO has always been a major supporter of SEASAR, offering up helicopter time for the proper training of SEASAR's volunteers and being ready at a moment's notice to fly crews out when time is of the essence and to air-evacuate anyone in need of assistance. SEASAR's volunteers are ready to be left behind - and have been - even in freezing cold conditions. "Those being rescued are top priority," Carolan says.

This grant will allow SEASAR to purchase proper protective gear such as personal helmets with integrated communication, image stabilizing binoculars, eye protection and specific radios for aviation. Due to the speed the helicopter can travel and the remoteness of our region, SEASAR will also purchase an InReach Satellite Communicator ensuring teams deployed by helicopter have a reliable way of contacting their team. The remaining funds will be provided to HALO.

Carolan explains, "In the past, HALO has covered the cost of the use of their helicopter to train SEASAR's volunteers. With this grant, we hope to secure 3 years of our comprehensive training with them and to help off-set the costs related to it. It is a great partnership, and one that we are thankful the CFSEA has recognized."

This fall, SEASAR got a call out to Lake Newell at 1am. By 5am, the crew had assembled, ready to begin at daylight. "Our number of man hours on that search was over 2000, just for our team," Carolan says. "We partner with local RCMP, Parks & Conservation, Fire Departments and more." Ultimately, not every search is success but as Carolan says, "Our hope is that most searches end in a rescue."



SEASAR Members with HALO during a training exercise.

The CFSEA congratulates SEASAR and HALO, our first Community Impact Award recipients!



CFSEA connects issues, convenes partners and develops community-based solutions.

2018 VITAL CONVERSATIONS

Exploring issues, opportunities and solutions

In October 2018, 200 residents of Medicine Hat gathered for a facilitated discussion to learn more about the social and economic trends impacting local quality of life. The conversations were used as a starting point to identify local priorities and mobilize a community into action.

Participants were led through facilitated discussions that focused on perceptions, gaps and answers related to these nine pillars:

- Gap Between Rich and Poor
- Health
- Learning
- Getting Started/Belonging
- Housing
- Creative and Active Living
- Business, Employment and Economy
- Safety
- Community Builders



The information and data gathered has helped guide the strategic planning and service delivery of many of our community's service providers and charities and is a key resource to our Community Foundation for future granting priorities.

The 2019 Report Back to the Community contains easy suggestions that anyone, young or old, can do to improve their community. Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can!

Thank you to our partners: Primary Care Network, Medicine Hat Public Library, Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce and THRIVE.

To access the Vital Conversations Report Back to the Community, visit

www.cfsea.ca/we-inspire/vital-signs/

YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY (YiP)

The YiP Program provides an opportunity for students to learn about philanthropy and to experience the granting and giving process. Students choose charitable areas of focus, research the work of various agencies and make their granting recommendations.

\$12,000 was distributed to the following charities:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Saamis Immigration Services | Brooks & District Victims Assistance |
| Medicine Hat & District Health Foundation | Newell Community Action Group |
| Persian Dreams & Canine Themes | Prairie Pioneers Club |
| Canadian Red Cross | Prairie Rose Palliative |
| REDI Enterprises | Brooks & District Seniors Outreach |



RAK DAY



Once again, the first Friday of November was filled with Random Acts of Kindness! People all across Southeastern Alberta performed acts of kindness big and small, from opening doors for other people, buying coffee for the next person in the drive thru lane, handing out gift cards and flowers to those in the hospital and much more.

Countless students were involved, with the next generation proudly demonstrating that kindness can be simple and practiced year-round!



BOARD LEADERSHIP EVENT

CFSEA WAS ONCE AGAIN A PROUD SPONSOR OF BOARD LEADERSHIP SOUTHEAST ALBERTA.

This year's one-day training event for board members (and potential board members) provided another opportunity for participants to network, engage and gain knowledge/skills on various topics related to board governance. This annual event strengthens our valuable voluntary and not-for-profit sector.

"Creative Fund Development Strategies" was held in May. Participants were able to share best practices, real life examples and practical fundraising tips for their organization.

For more details and upcoming dates, visit www.boardleadershipsouth.com.



Paula MacLean delivers the 2019 keynote address "Managing Leadership Transitions for Board and Staff"

RBC FUTURE LAUNCH COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

TODAY'S PROBLEMS NEED MORE THAN YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS.

We need bold new thinking to help meet the challenges of the future. In partnership with Community Foundations Canada, the RBC Future Launch Community Challenge is a call to action for youth and an opportunity to bring young leaders to the decision-making table as we build strong and vibrant communities for the future.

CFSEA in Medicine Hat and our three rural community funds were selected as Future Launch sites. *Each were provided with \$15,000 to fund youth-led projects that will respond to one central question:*

What is your boldest idea to respond to an urgent local need?

Applications were accepted over the summer with grants being awarded in late fall at the Chair's Reception.

An additional \$12,000 has been generously provided by RBC Foundation to host Youth Vital Conversations in each site in February 2020.

Stay tuned for more information!





ECAP (ENHANCED CAPACITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM)

2018/19 was the last of the multi-year funding initiative, ECAP – provided by the Government of Alberta.



This funding has helped support CFSEA in:

- **Building the capacity of other nonprofit organizations and broader voluntary sector** (through *Vital Signs, Vital Conversations, Board Leadership Southeastern Alberta, Great Grant Writing Workshops, Executive Director Network, Food Systems Mapping Project, Vital Charities*)
- **Revising and enhancing our ongoing operations** (new strategic plan, bylaw and policy review, preparation for *Imagine Canada Accreditation, Committee Terms of Reference, Board recruitment and orientation, updated marketing materials and plan, evaluation of Grant Making and Community Leadership activities, staff training, establishment of three rural community endowment funds*)
- **Obtaining alternate revenue sources** (an anonymous donor to help staff the three rural community funds for three years, enhancing donor engagement/giving and corporate sponsorships)

Thank you to the Government of Alberta Culture and Tourism department for making a short term investment in the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta so that we can make a long term investment in our region!

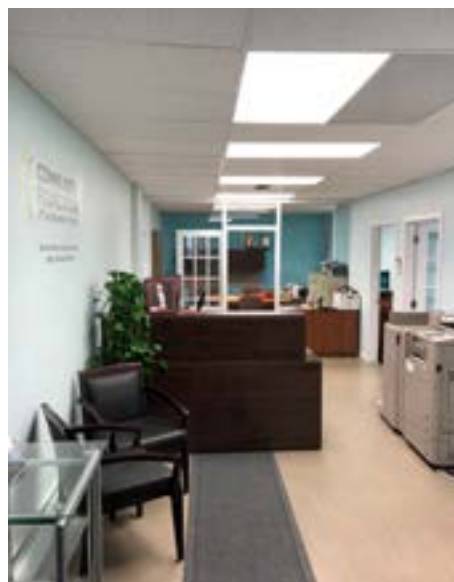
OFFICE RENOVATIONS

If you haven't been by the office in a while, you may not recognize it when you walk in!

A complete office renovation occurred in just over three weeks, (80% of the project cost was donated), all thanks to our amazing volunteers: Glenn Poscik, Kelly Sullivan, Michael Anctil, Mike Bannow, Damien Severin, Evan Carmody, Niki Gray, Mike Duddy and Andy Christie.

We would also like to thank Kevin Brooks from Design Flooring for his generous contribution of new flooring.

Our office has never looked better - stop by and check it out!



HOW DO YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE THAT LASTS?

Thank you Stir Stick Inc. for capturing the impact our donors make across Southeastern Alberta with our new promotional video.

To view the video, visit www.cfsea.ca

CAUSE – COMPASSION – COMMUNITY

YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!

ONLINE:

www.cfsea.ca

IN PERSON OR MAIL:

#104, 430 – 6th Avenue SE, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 2S8

Please detach and complete information to be provided with your donation.
Charitable tax receipts are issued for any donations \$25 and over.



Enclosed is my donation of: \$ _____

Donor name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Email: _____

Postal Code: _____ Signature: _____

I HEREBY DIRECT MY GIFT TO

☐ My current fund _____ % ☐ CFSEA Operating Fund _____ % ☐ Smart & Caring Fund (greatest future needs) _____ %

RURAL COMMUNITY FUNDS

☐ Prairie Crocus Fund (Special Areas 3 and MD of Acadia) ☐ Brooks & District Community Fund ☐ Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile

Cheques made payable to: Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta
Charitable Registration # 136030285RR0001

Thank you for your generosity!

DID YOU KNOW?

The CFSEA has four community-led advisory committees:

Finance, Endowment Development, Community Leadership, and Grants.

These committees are filled with dedicated volunteers who, along with our Board and staff, help our organization continue to grow, give and inspire our region.

If you would like to volunteer at CFSEA, please contact us!

OUR MISSION

We create meaningful connections between donors and local charities for the permanent benefit of Southeastern Alberta.

OUR VISION

Vibrant, healthy, caring communities ~

Today, Tomorrow, Forever!

OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY

We are trustworthy, transparent and accountable

INNOVATION

We respond quickly and creatively to local needs and issues

INCLUSION

We embrace diverse perspectives and experiences

LEADERSHIP

We support community conversations and collaboration as a catalyst for change

JOHN IGNATIUS FOUNDER

Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta



**Vibrant, healthy, caring communities ~
Today, Tomorrow, Forever!**

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