

December 2020

VitalNews

DONOR PROFILE

Jack & Carol Snedden

RESPONSE TO COVID-19**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT****VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

Message From the Chair

Where do you start in a year like no other? Covid certainly has dominated our lives in 2020 and has had a big impact on how we conduct the business of the Foundation. Some negative but some positive as well. Not being able to meet in person whether for board or committee meetings and our social gatherings have been the biggest drawback for me. This has also been very challenging for staff. Thank you to our staff for doing as much as they have under difficult circumstances. Covid may have changed how we go about operating the Foundation, but everyone has adapted very well, and the foundation continues to provide the services we offer.

On a positive side, the Foundation image has been recognized throughout our region as a leader for providing **\$902,727** in emergency funding to multiple groups to assist in providing services for our most vulnerable populations. Whether the funding for grants came from Federal, Provincial or Municipal Governments the Foundation was perfectly suited through our grant program to assist these organizations quickly and efficiently. A huge thank you to our grant committee, rural advisory committee members, staff, and grant committee Chair, Cheryl for all the additional hours of volunteer time that was required.

We said goodbye to some board members and welcomed some new directors. Thank you to Robert Belau, Greg Niwa, Tracy Stroud, Suzanne Curtin, and Pam Lehr. Welcome to Tyler Pocsik, Julie Friesen, Stan Sakamoto, Jason Openo and Glenda Hawthorne.

Thank you to our staff, directors, and committee members for all that each of you do. Thank you and stay well, Michael Ancil.

DONOR STORY: JACK & CAROL SNEDDEN

Jack and Carol Snedden have been supporting the Community Foundation since they established the Jack and Carol Family Fund in 2005 to benefit the community's greatest needs.

Jack was born in Rosetown, Saskatchewan and Carol was born in Lethbridge, Alberta. Both Carol and Jack graduated from the University of Alberta in May 1956. They then moved to Medicine Hat and were married on September 1st, 1956. Carol graduated in Home Economics and was employed in a different occupation at the Suffield Research Station. Jack had a long lasting career of Dentistry in Medicine Hat from 1956 to 1999.

"I have been very fortunate to live and practice Dentistry in Medicine Hat, which is why we have an attachment to the Community Foundation." - Dr. Snedden

Jack and Carol were blessed with four girls and six grandchildren, all very successful in their own fields. Jack has always been an active member in the community by volunteering on many Boards, such as Medicine Hat Dental Society, Alberta Dental Society, Alberta Educational Communications Corporation, Medicine Hat Musical Theatre, Medicine Hat College, Medicine Hat Curling Club, and many others. Carol and Jack were both active on the Board of the Fifth Avenue United Church and Jack is presently active in the Rotary Club of Medicine Hat.

Jack and Carol continue to support the Community Foundation where their donations stay in Medicine Hat to support many local organizations year after year.

"Whether to make his annual contribution to their fund, or to make a donation in memory of a dear friend, it is always such a pleasure to visit with Dr. Snedden. Carol and Dr. Snedden are valued donors of CFSEA and we are grateful for their ongoing support." – Niki Gray, Community Engagement Coordinator.



FAMILY FUND HIGHLIGHT

NIWA FAMILY FUND

The Niwa family has been monumental supporters of the Community Foundation for four generations. It all began in 2001 when Marie Niwa donated a truck in memory of her husband, Dennis. The family then established the Niwa Family Fund, a donor advised fund to support a charity of their choice year after year. Gregory J Niwa was the recent Chair of the CFSEA Endowment Development committee and sat on the Board of Directors. Greg's daughter Lindsay also volunteers with the Community Foundation as a Grant committee member.

Tragically, Greg's son, Brandon, passed away suddenly in May 2020. If you know the Niwa family, you would not be surprised to hear how they are turning tragedy into action for mental health in Medicine Hat and surrounding communities. In November, the family gifted \$100,000 to the Medicine Hat College for the **Beej Project**, in support of mental health education and research. The project will implement foundational work with youth to help manage their mental health before crisis emerges. The funds will be available to a working group of education administrators including officials from the Medicine Hat College, the Medicine Hat Police Service and three local school divisions - Prairie Rose, Medicine Hat Catholic and the Public School Division.

"Why is it that our mental health, which affects every aspect of our physical health, our ability to learn, and our relationships isn't made a priority every single day? Doesn't that make the most sense?" - Lindsay Niwa

The annual distributions from the Niwa Family Fund at the Community Foundation will be designated to the Medicine Hat College in support of the Beej Project.



Brandon (Beej) Niwa

We need to stop
just pulling people
out of the river.

We need to go
upstream and *find*
out why they're
falling in.

- Anonymous

RESPONSE TO COVID-19 UPDATE



In March, CFSEA established the **COVID-19 Response Fund for SE Alberta**. The community supported this initiative by contributing to the fund, which was then enhanced by the Government of Canada through their Charitable Giving Matching Donation program. The fund is now being distributed to local charities providing food and other essential services to our most vulnerable populations. These funds are providing much needed resources to help organizations with their response efforts in the face of the pandemic and will continue to be distributed over the coming months.

199,887.50

Brooks & District Community Fund \$25,600

Brooks & County Victim Service Unit
Brooks & District Seniors Outreach
Newell Further Education Council
Crossroads Clinic Association
SPEC Association for Children & Families

Medicine Hat & Area \$108,126

Redcliff Seniors Citizens Centre
Medicine Hat Pregnancy Support Centre
Medicine Hat News Santa Claus Fund
Medicine Hat & District Health Foundation
Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society
Medicine Hat Salvation Army
Prairie Gleaners Society
Canadian Mental Health Association - SE Alberta Region
The Good Samaritan Society
Medicine Hat Adaptive Sport & Recreation

Prairie Crocus Community Fund \$34,800

Oyen Legion
Hanna Volunteer Association
Big Country Adult Learning
Empress Friendship Centre

Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile \$31,361.50

Etzikom Museum Historic Windmill Centre
Bow Island Golden Age Club
40 Mile Christian Education Society
Bow Island FCSS Meals on Wheels

These grants would not be made possible without the generous contributions made by community supporters, donors, the City of Medicine Hat, the Government of Alberta and the Stay-at-Home Gala proceeds.

CONNECT.
GIVE.
IMPACT.

 **COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
of Southeastern Alberta

REGIONAL COMMUNITY FUND UPDATES

PRAIRIE CROCUS COMMUNITY FUND

The Advisory Committee completed their review of grant applications for the Fall Smart & Caring Grants in October. The committee did an incredible job evaluating the projects and determining our community's greatest needs.

November marks the start of the holiday season, and we are fortunate to have Christmas Markets in our region. We joined the Acadia Valley Christmas Market on November 4 and had great conversations with some wonderful people. We are excited to connect with everyone and share our stories! - **Kim Stief**

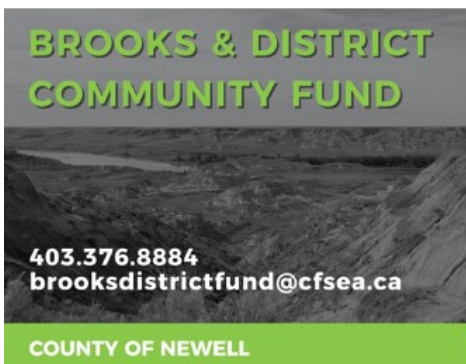
BROOKS AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY FUND

With the end of the year drawing close, 2020 has been a year to remember for everyone. During the height of the Pandemic, the number of active cases within Brook & The County of Newell soared past 1000 and with that came a big increase in the need for services that many of our local charities & non-profits provide. So far this year, around \$111,000 has been distributed by the CFSEA to charities and not for profits within the Brooks & District region.

A special thank you to the outstanding volunteer Advisory Committee for the Brooks & District Community Fund. Through every round of funding, the committee members offered knowledge and support. The success of the Brooks & District Community Fund would not be possible without all their dedication and hard work. - **Nicole, Nichols**

RURAL COMMUNITY FUND OF FORTY MILE

The 2020 year was filled with numerous meetings with community leaders to ensure all charitable needs were met. The Forty Mile Regional FCSS received a Spring Repurposed Grant, the first grant of the year. Several grant reviews occurred over summer, fall and winter for COVID19 Response. Grants were awarded to Etzikom Museum, Bow Island Golden Ages Club, 40 Mile Christian Education Society, Forty Mile FCSS Meals on Wheels, Village of Foremost, Bow Island Fire Department, and Susan Andersen Library. Etzikom Museum and Village of Foremost also received Fall Smart & Caring Grants. Thanks to the support of our local committee our region was well supported throughout 2020. - **Michelle MacLean**



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Volunteer Program for vulnerable populations

Develop connections.
Coordinate services.
Fight isolation.



The Volunteer Program was made possible by FCSS Funding. CFSEA launched 3 projects during the 5 month contract:

1. Keep In Touch Program
2. Penpal Project
3. Door Hanger Volunteer and Basic Need Resource

The Keep In Touch program connects trained volunteers with members of our community who are feeling lonely or disconnected. The program has been a huge success with 27 matches over the past 5 months. We are excited to announce that Canadian Mental Health Association will be continuing the program.

"When we first started talking, my participant was feeling overwhelmed. This last week when I called, I noticed a change in her mindset. This program WORKS!"

- Keep In Touch Volunteer Caller

67

Number of
Penpals

The Penpal Project connects local youth with seniors. This program encourages written communication, intergenerational friendships, and volunteerism.



"Being a Penpal is a great way to connect with young people, learn from them, and offer your experience. But best of all, it's a chance to make a friend."

- Senior with Penpal Project

July - October 2020

96

Number of
contacts with
KIT Participants

97

Number of
Organizations
Engaged

49

Number of
Volunteers
Engaged

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Community Foundation is fortunate to have an incredible team of community builders who oversee the operations and impact that CFSEA has across our region. Ask them how your gift to the Community Foundation is never spent but will support worthwhile causes for generations to come!

We look forward to what the new year has to bring for the Community Foundation and where our forward thinking Board of Directors will lead us.

Jason Openo grew up in Michigan, and his relationship with Community Foundations began in high school. As part of the Bay Area Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council, he began raising and granting money for youth-related issues. His first career was social work with at-risk youth in Michigan and homeless families in Seattle before becoming a public librarian in Oregon, where he helped libraries with the digital transformation for two decades.

In 2007, Jason met the love of his life and moved to Edmonton. He moved to Medicine Hat in 2014, and loves living in Medicine Hat with his daughter (Keziah), son (Emmet), and his wife Leisha. He has worked with several non-profits – most recently Municipal Bylaw Enforcement and the Canadian Mental Health Association of Southeast Alberta – to build strategic plans tackling complex and uncertain futures. Jason has participated on the Community Foundation's Community Leadership committee for the past year, and he sees joining the board for CFSEA a great honour.

"From youth wellness to the Mustard Seed, from the environment to search and rescue – the Community Foundation of Southeast Alberta is an invisible partner that would be sorely missed if people didn't give so generously. I'm excited to be part of this network of caring and committed people."



Jason Openo



Julie Friesen

Julie Friesen is a Community Development Officer with the Community Development Unit of Alberta Culture and Tourism. She offers a wealth of experience across many sectors, having demonstrated leadership in the non-profit, voluntary and public sectors - locally, regionally, and provincially. Julie brings strong background in governance, board, organizational and volunteer development, strategic planning and collaboration building.

A former Board Development Instructor and longstanding community volunteer, Julie served on countless Boards of Directors and has a strong background in community safety and municipal governance. She is a senior member of Medicine Hat City Council, currently serving her seventh term.

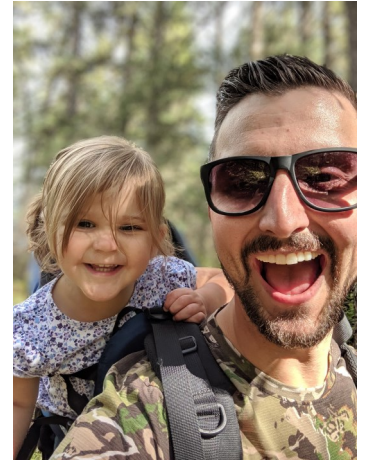
Julie and her husband love Medicine Hat and are very dedicated in contributing to their community. Together, they feel strongly about the importance of family life. They have three wonderful children!

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Tyler Pocsik was born and raised in Medicine Hat, where he now resides with his wife and two children. After completing his Bachelor of Commerce in 2010 at the U of C, Tyler began working at JMH&Co and pursued his CA designation. As a partner with JMH, Tyler enjoys interacting and advising clients with their personal, business, and cross border planning and tax needs.

Tyler enjoys his free time with his family, as well as mountain biking and powerlifting. He currently serves on the board of the YMCA as finance chair, and is excited to further his community involvement with the Community Foundation.



Tyler Pocsik

Stan and Susan Sakamoto together raised seven children in their blended family and are now proud grandparents to ten grandchildren. They are grateful in these strange times for the technology that allows them to continue to watch them grow and cheer them on!

Giving back to the community has always been important to Stan. He has been a member of the Medicine Hat Rotary Club for 35 years and is a past director. Stan is a former board trustee of the Medicine Hat Museum & Art Gallery and was a board member of REDI Enterprises for nine years. Over the years, Stan has donated food to many organizations and individuals and continues to donate to the Mustard Seed and Canadian Humanitarian Organization for International Relief.

Stan loves music and the arts, especially live entertainment. He enjoys a round of golf and has fun playing old timer's hockey. He is proud of his wife Susan's artistry, and of their children and their accomplishments. Medicine Hat has always been home, and Stan looks forward to assisting in any way he can with the growth of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta.



Stanley Sakamoto

Glenda is a registered Nurse at the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital who grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan. She moved to Medicine Hat to attend the nursing program at the College. Over the years, Glenda had the opportunity to work in a diverse number of roles as a nurse. In addition to a nursing degree, she also holds a Master's Degree in Education.

After Glenda's husband, Stephen passed away, she was looking for a way to honour him. As she researched her options, Glenda decided to establish a Memorial Fund in his name at the Community Foundation, which is very fitting as he grew up in Medicine Hat, lived here his entire life and loved this community.

"I've very pleased and honoured to be on the CFSA board. I very much support and believe in the work of this foundation. I look forward to my term on the board."



Glenda Hawthorne

STAFF & OFFICE UPDATES



Welcome to Sydney Ratzlaff!

Sydney was on contract as our Volunteer Coordinator over the past five months and we are grateful to welcome her to CFSEA as a permanent part time team member as the Office & Project Coordinator. Sydney will be running Vital projects, Youth in Philanthropy, the Penpal project and day to day office tasks.



We said farewell to our summer student, Hannah this Fall. Thank you for your hard work as the Philanthropic Database Coordinator!



403.527.9038 admin@cfsea.ca

UPDATED OFFICE GUIDELINES

- the CFSEA office remains **OPEN** by appointment only
- visitors are required to call the office ahead of time
- masks are now mandatory within the CFSEA office
- a maximum of two staff members in the office
- physical distancing measures are in place



IN THE COMMUNITY



Fall 2020 Chair's Reception - UPDATE

Due to the recent COVID restrictions announced by the Government of Alberta, we have decided to cancel the annual Chair's Reception. Our staff and volunteers will miss gathering everyone together to celebrate our donors and some of the amazing work organizations do in our community. However, given the current global situation we feel it is best to minimize social contact.



Jean McDougald



Dr. Al Garden

Our Board of Directors and staff would like to express our deepest condolences to the families of Dr. Al Garden and Jean McDougald. The Community Foundation has experienced years of their generosity and support, their philanthropy will continue to impact our region forever.



When **GIVING**
MATTERS Most



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
of Southeastern Alberta

On behalf of the Board and staff at the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta we would like to wish our communities a safe and happy holiday season. If you are contemplating a charitable contribution this season, consider connecting with the one of our team members who can help guide your philanthropic wishes to benefit the charity of your choice. Please call **403.527.9038** or visit **www.cfsea.ca** to learn more about how your donation will make an impact on southeast Alberta, today, tomorrow, forever!

Holiday Hours

December 24:	9:00am - 12:00pm
December 25:	CLOSED
December 28:	CLOSED
December 29:	9:00am - 4:00pm
December 30:	9:00am - 4:00pm
December 31:	9:00am - 12:00pm
January 1:	CLOSED