

PRAIRIE CROCUS COMMUNITY FUND



Special Areas 2, 3, and MD of Acadia

2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

The holiday season is here, and we are more excited than ever! 2020 has been a difficult year, and although it continues to be challenging for many of us, this is the time of the year when we can pause and appreciate the good things that we do have in our lives. The Prairie Crocus Community Fund Advisory Committee and staff are thankful despite the number of activities that had to be cancelled this year – special events, group presentations, meetings, trade shows, and markets – we were able to continue building connections and sharing our story across the Special Areas 2, 3, and MD of Acadia.

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Giving matters most when it involves the wellbeing of others, whether a member of your family, a neighbour, or a stranger in your community.

The Prairie Crocus Community Fund serves the charitable needs in the Special Areas 2, 3, and MD of Acadia. Since its establishment in late 2018, Prairie Crocus Community Fund and CFSEA have distributed grants in total of **\$109,969.04** to local organizations across the Prairie Crocus region for projects that addressed our community's greatest needs through various funding streams.

The Community Fund relies on financial contributions to continue supporting the charitable needs in our region. To make a donation, contact Kim Stief at 403-664-9571 or prairiecrocusfund@cfsea. To donate online, visit <https://bit.ly/CFSEA-Donation> and select "Prairie Crocus Community Fund". Donations \$25+ are eligible for a tax receipt.

"I donate to the Prairie Crocus Community Fund because it's a smart thing to do. It's good for the future of our community and it supports local initiatives year after year."

– John Van Otterloo

CFSEA's Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

This year, there was a considerable increase in the charitable needs in our region because of the pandemic. The Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta's (CFSEA) COVID-19 Response grants brought much needed relief to our local organizations supporting our most vulnerable populations. A total of **\$904,727.50** was distributed across SE Alberta, **\$63,300** of which was granted out to charities and non-profit organizations across the Prairie Crocus region.

Spring Re-purposing

The Spring 2020 Smart & Caring granting funds were re-purposed to address the immediate and urgent needs arising throughout our region.

Total distributed in SE Alberta: \$104,030
Prairie Crocus region: \$13,500

Hanna Food Bank

Food security
7,000

Oyen & District Food Bank

Food security
5,000

Empress Friendship Center

Food security - Community Meals Program
1,500

Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF)

In May, the Government of Canada launched \$350 million investment to provide support to charities and non-profit organizations serving vulnerable population. We are proud to have partnered with Community Foundations of Canada and the Government of Canada to deliver the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF) across southeast Alberta.

Total distributed in SE Alberta: \$516,460
Prairie Crocus region: \$10,000

Oyen United Church

COVID-19 Safety Requirements
5,000

Hanna Volunteer Association

COVID-19 Support Services
5,000



Hanna Food Bank: Bonnie Nill, Director and Willard Edwards, President

"The grant money will allow us to keep our shelves full so that we won't run into shortages due to supply issues and help service any special needs that may arise."

- Judy Burgemeister, Treasurer of the Hanna Food Bank Association



Bill Kolkman, Oyen & District Food Bank President and Kim Stief, Prairie Crocus Fund Coordinator

COVID-19 Response Fund for SE Alberta

The COVID-19 Response Fund was established to meet the medium to long term needs of our region during these unprecedented times. This grant would not be possible without the generous contributions made by community supporters, donors, the Government of Alberta and the Stay-at-Home Gala proceeds.

Total distributed in SE Alberta: \$284,237.50
Prairie Crocus region: \$39,800

Royal Canadian Legion Acadia #208 (Oyen)
COVID-19 Safety Requirements
 18,500

Empress Friendship Center
Food security – Community Meals Program
 2,500

Hanna Volunteer Association
COVID-19 Community Support Services
 8,800

Oyen & District Food Bank
Food security
 5,000

Big Country Community Adult Learning Council
COVID-19 Support – Digital Literacy and Online Learning
 5,000



(L-R) Imogene Hauck, Royal Canadian Legion Acadia #208; Deb Kovitch, Town of Oyen Project Manager; Lois Bedwell, Prairie Crocus Fund Committee Member; Doug Jones, Town of Oyen Mayor; Linda Bingeman, Prairie Crocus Fund Committee Chair; Terry Skappak, Royal Canadian Legion Acadia #208 President; Kim Walker, Royal Canadian Legion Acadia #208; Elaine Michaels, Prairie Crocus Fund Committee Member; Kim Stief, Prairie Crocus Fund Coordinator

"Royal Canadian Legion Acadia #208 is extremely excited about this funding for the much needed updates for the Legion Hall. Without the generosity of Prairie Crocus Fund and the Community Foundation, this project will not be attainable. This will be of great importance to the accessibility of the Hall for residents of Oyen and surrounding communities."

- Terry Skappak, President of the Royal Canadian Legion Acadia #208

COVID-19 Response Fund for SE Alberta



Empress Friendship Center Volunteers

"This initiative will help break down barriers of isolation that COVID-19 created for many in our small community."

**- Diane Jarvis,
President of the
Empress Friendship
Center**



Daena Wilson, Big Country Adult Learning Council Vice Chairperson and Linda Bingeman, Prairie Crocus Fund Committee Chair



Kim Stief, Prairie Crocus Fund Coordinator and Doray Veno, Hanna Volunteer Association Executive Director

This has been a year when not much has gone according to plan, but we are grateful that our region has received generous funding to support our local organizations in addressing the needs of those who are most affected by the pandemic. The Prairie Crocus Community Fund is still at its infancy and its capacity to fund projects is a work in progress; CFSEA's total endowment helps support all of southeast Alberta, ensuring that our region is looked after. Our goal is to build our Prairie Crocus Community Fund through donations so that in the near future, it will be a local source of funding exclusive for projects in the Special Areas and MD of Acadia.

Fall 2020 Smart & Caring Community Grants

Smart and Caring Grants support communities across Southeastern Alberta by enhancing belonging of all citizens and strengthening the nonprofit and voluntary sectors. These grants are made possible by donors whose gifts are undesignated, thereby allowing CFSEA the flexibility to address our community's ever-changing needs through the bi-annual granting process.

In the Fall 2020 cycle, CFSEA received requests over five times the amount of funds that were available. Only one-third of those requests were approved, and three local organizations received funding through the Prairie Crocus Community Fund: Assumption Roman Catholic School, Hanna Municipal Library, and Hanna Spray Park Committee.

"Given the limited funding available, we are fortunate that three of our local organizations were successful in their application. The projects align with current funding priorities, which address some of our community's greatest needs. These include mental health supports and serving our vulnerable population."

- Linda Bingeman, Chairperson of Prairie Crocus Community Fund Advisory Committee

Assumption Roman Catholic School was the recipient of **\$2,400** for their Oyen Inclusive Community Playground project. The existing playground is not meeting safety requirements and Assumption School needs to remove the current playground.



Andrea Thornton, Friends of Assumption School Society Board Chair

"The newly formed Friends of Assumption School Society & Assumption School parents have been working hard on grant applications, fundraising to purchase the new playground equipment and partnerships for in-kind donations from local businesses. This playground will be the first all-inclusive sensory playground in Oyen's community. The Friends of Assumption School Society wishes to express genuine thank you for the support."

- Andrea Thornton, Chairperson of Friends of Assumption School Society

Fall 2020 Smart & Caring Community Grants

Hanna Municipal Library received a full funding of **\$1,469.04** to purchase visual displays to increase community engagement. The project is a long term and cost-effective solution in addressing the need of community members to access more information on community resources and services.



Mackenzie Dadson, Hanna Municipal
Library Program Leader

"On behalf of the Hanna Municipal Library, I want to extend my sincere thanks to the Prairie Crocus Fund and the CFSEA Board, for their support of Front & Centre: Visual Displays for Community Engagement project. The funding provided will be instrumental in creating a welcoming and informative community space where families, seniors, job-seekers, and everyone in-between can learn about upcoming community events, free online resources to support life-long learning, and their next read. With the purchase of an events board, brochure display stand, and book easels, the library will encourage Hanna & area residents to combat social isolation in a safe way and engage in the range of community services and resources available to them.

Thank you!"

**- Carley Angelstad, Hanna Municipal
Library Director**

Hanna Spray Park Committee was approved for **\$2,400** funding to help with the Hanna Spray Park Accessibility project. The accessible landscaping is the final phase of the project.

"Funding provided through the Community Foundation of South Eastern Alberta is so valuable in seeing the project opens in the summer of 2021 as an open and accessible spray park to be enjoyed by all ages. During this time, the benefits of being active and engaged outdoors in a family friendly setting is so critical for the physical and mental health of all. Thank you for the support!"

- Jeffery Raab, Volunteer Member of the Hanna Spray Park Committee

Donor Appreciation

The Smart and Caring Grants and the COVID-19 Response Fund would not be possible without the charitable gifts from our donors across Southeastern Alberta. Since the establishment of the Prairie Crocus Community Fund in late 2018, we have been fortunate to receive support from generous and community-minded individuals and organizations in the Special Areas 2, 3, and MD of Acadia.

Our committee and staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our wonderful donors, and express our sincere appreciation for the donations you made to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta and Prairie Crocus Community Fund. Your willingness to support and invest in the current and future charitable and non-profit needs in our region has made a significant difference this year, and it will continue to do so for many years to come! **Thanks to you, and other supporters just like you, we have provided a total of *\$69,569.04* to ten charitable and non-profit groups in the Prairie Crocus region in 2020!**

Local organizations who have made a financial contribution to the Prairie Crocus Community Fund include the *Canalta Hotel Oyen*, *Cereal Board of Trade*, and the *Oyen and District Chamber of Commerce*.



L-R: *Prairie Crocus Fund Committee Members* John Van Otterloo, Elaine Michaels, Chair Linda Bingeman, Lois Bedwell
Center: Betty Deneault, Canalta Oyen Asst. Manager

“Canalta believes in supporting and caring for the local community. Donating to the Community Fund will ensure that we’ll be able to do that for years to come.”

- Betty Deneault, Assistant General Manager of Canalta Hotel Oyen



L-R: *Cereal Board of Trade Members* Joan Pennett, Terry-Dale Olsen, Al Buettner, and Elaine Michaels

Donor Appreciation

"Our business community depends on shoppers from not just Oyen but the same area Prairie Crocus serves...By donating to the Prairie Crocus, the funds continue to build and charitable and non-profit groups will be able to access the interest of this fund indefinitely. The fund will continue to grow each year. So, it made a lot of sense to help grow the Prairie Crocus Community Fund."

**- Diana Walker, Vice-President of
Oyen & District Chamber of
Commerce**



L-R: Oyen & District Chamber of Commerce Kim Walker; Diana Walker, Vice-President; Daniel Schindel, President



Grow. Give. Inspire.

This holiday season, consider giving back to your community. CFSEA and Prairie Crocus Fund distribute investment earnings to a broad range of community initiatives. Your donations stay local and go directly to expanding your community.

Online: cfsea.ca

In Person or Mail: Call Kim Stief at 4036649571

Cheques made payable to:

**Community Foundation of Southeastern
Alberta**

(Memo: *Prairie Crocus Community Fund*)

Charitable Registration # 136030285RR0001

Through the tireless efforts of our local committee, it has been an extraordinary year of distributing grants throughout the region. Thank you so much to Chair Linda Bingeman, Lois Bedwell, Lucille Hertz, Elaine Michaels, Roger Bedwell, Steven Kuhn, and John Van Otterloo for your hard work and dedication to supporting our Prairie Crocus Community Fund and local communities!