

Fall 2021

VitalNews

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Message from the Board Chair

In Simon Sinek's TedTalk he said that we need "to start with why" and so I thought that I would also start with why I joined the CFSEA Board. My family have been donors for many years and we believe in the idea of making our community a better place to live both today and in the future. The idea that long after we are gone, we will continue to do this really spoke to me. I love the fact that the money I donate today will have an impact forever.

I also love the fact that the Community Foundation helps such a wide range of organizations and people across southeastern Alberta. From music scholarships to food banks to youth sports, if you have a passion they will help you make it happen. This brings me to the staff and the Board. The people that I have met throughout my three years have been fun, intelligent, and passionate. I feel that I grow every time I interact with one of them. What's not to love about great people and a great cause?

I am still surprised though at the number of people within our communities that do not know what the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta actually does. I am going to make it my mission to explain how we are different and make an impact to at least one person every month. I hope you will join me in spreading the good news!

2022 marks thirty years since John Ignatious made his first donation to start our journey. I'd love to find out his "why", but unfortunately that is not possible. However, because of his vision and passion I am a part of something great. Thank you John. I am looking forward to learning lots over my year as Chair and meeting more of you to find out your "why". If you see me out in the community please stop me for a chat to fill me in. I'd love to hear your story!

Sincerely,

Frances Barnes

FUND HIGHLIGHT : RALPH BROWNE SCHOLARSHIP



"From the time he was young, music was Ralph's passion. He enjoyed working with others in musical pursuits. Our family continues to miss his presence."

- Val Browne, Wife

Ralph Browne had a deep love for music and singing. He often said, *"singing should be a pleasure, not a pressure."* Ralph and his wife, Val, loved to travel. They would visit churches to sing and 'test out the acoustics.' Ralph was known for his musical abilities, but also his generosity and community-mindedness. When the Rotary Music Festival opened registration each year, he would go in with his wallet, to support anyway he could. He did not want cost to be a barrier when it came to music. During his life, Ralph founded the Selah Singers, a community choir. Helping people discover vocal music was his passion.

When Ralph got sick, his two boys, Andrew and Adam, took time off work. The four of them spent time together as a family before he passed away.

"Ralph Browne was an integral part of our music community and inspired literally thousands of people, both kids and adults, to find joy in making music. His legacy lives on through his former students and their commitment to the arts. Ralph is greatly missed by so many, and it is a testament to his lasting influence that we have been able to set up this Scholarship Fund in his memory."

-Delynne Lorentzen, Rotary Music Festival Executive Director

The Ralph Browne Scholarship Fund was established by the Rotary Club of Medicine Hat Music Festival Society and the Selah Singers. Originally, the Rotary Music Festival planned to establish an award in Ralph's memory, since he was such an influence on the festival and a proponent of musical education. Word got out, and multiple people expressed their interest in helping fund an award in Ralph's memory. When the Rotary Music Festival officially announced they were accepting donations for awards in Ralph's memory, the response was overwhelming. Many individuals as well as a large gift from the Selah Singers poured in which made it possible to start a Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta. The Ralph Browne Scholarship will continue to give back to individuals for years to come, in areas that mattered most to Ralph.



DONOR STORY: METHANEX CORPORATION

Methanex Corporation is a commercial scale methanol producer and is a major employer in Medicine Hat, AB, providing 120 highly skilled permanent positions. Methanex is extremely active in the community and invests in initiatives that support health and safety, environment, and community sustainability. The company is committed to social responsibility and outreach within Medicine Hat. Through a Community Advisory Panel (CAP), Methanex is able to better understand the needs and



Volunteerism is an important component of Methanex's culture. A team of Methanex employees helped prepare food bundles at the Medicine Hat & District Food Bank in 2020 before the start of the pandemic.

"A decade after our restart, Methanex pledged \$25,000 over five years to our endowment fund at CFSEA. This reflects our long-term commitment to the community and the programs and people that contribute to a healthy, safe place for all of us."

**- Jody Magill, Manager,
Stakeholder Relations**

"Methanex Corporation invests in programs and initiatives that contribute to a bright future in our community. The Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta (CFSEA) is a valuable partner in helping us achieve this," said Jody Magill, Manager, Stakeholder Relations. "We restarted in 2011 after a 10-year shutdown. Our endowment fund with CFSEA was established in 1998 and, because of this, we were able to continue investing in valuable programming in our community throughout the shutdown."



The Methanex Social Investment Fund with CFSEA is a **Donor Advised Fund**. This allows Methanex to choose the charitable organization(s) that will benefit from the investment income from their fund. They have become regular donors & supporters of the Community Foundation and through their fund have distributed close to \$11,000, since inception.

Photos used with permission

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Welcome Frances and Jim!

The CFSEA Board of Directors are excited to announce the election of Frances Barnes to Chair and welcome Jim MacArthur as Director. Frances has been on the CFSEA Board of Directors since 2018.

Frances Barnes —Board Chair

"I was born in Cardston, AB. The only westerner in my family. I grew up in Marwayne, AB and still call it home even though I haven't lived there in many years! My favorite color is green. I switched to green after driving through Logan's Pass, and seeing all the different shades. My favorite meal is steak, caesar salad, and baked potato. This makes me hungry just typing it! I prefer salty to sweets so I'd rather have an appetizer than a dessert. I was a teacher who turned to executive coaching and am lucky enough to love both of my careers. I am a married, mother of boys, lover of dogs, who values friendship over anything else."



Jim MacArthur —Board Director

"I recently retired after a total of 22 years as a manager in the non-profit sector. Working in this sector, I saw the impact volunteers make and am looking forward to the opportunity to do the same at CFSEA. My education includes an MSc. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Alberta. I was raised on a ranch east of Medicine Hat, so SE Alberta has been home to me for most of my life. Ranching has also been a large part of my life as I spent many years at our family ranching operation in SK before moving back here. My wife and I consider Medicine Hat to be our community of choice with its unique blend of urban and rural values."



"Act as if what you do makes a difference...it does." – William James

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vital Events are community checkups conducted by community foundations across Canada. These events provide a snapshot of community stories & data that should spark conversation, engage donors, inform grant making, and provide opportunities for the community to go deeper and have a greater impact in supporting vibrant, healthy, and caring communities.

This year our **Vital Focus Report** provides a comprehensive overview of three prominent impact areas which have been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic in Southeastern Alberta. These areas include mental health, work & economy, and vulnerable populations (specifically food security, housing stability, and domestic violence). The report provides local data and stories, “a Brightside”, and a “Now-What” component to help drive the conversation into action. This report came together with the collaborative efforts of CFSEA staff, dedicated committee members, and various local agencies to ensure the report was representative of our community’s experiences.

“I was excited for the opportunity to volunteer on the Vital Signs Committee, as I read this publication faithfully each time it’s released. Vital Signs is the culmination of thorough consultation and research with key community stakeholders. It provides valuable insights into our community, which allows individuals, non-profits, and businesses to understand where our support is needed to make the greatest impact. I thoroughly enjoyed being part of this team.”

- Danielle Semrau-McLean, Vital Signs Committee Member

Vital Focus Sponsors:



Royal Bank

[Registration is open on Eventbrite](#)

Proudly presented by Pritchard & Co. Law Firm, LLP, CFSEA is hosting the **2021 Vital Focus Virtual Launch on October 7 from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM.**

This virtual event will feature impact speakers to offer their expertise for topics highlighted in the report, provide networking opportunities for attendees, and provide the groundwork for the 2022 Vital Conversations.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/VitalSignsTickets>.
Event registration is open until October 7th.
Tickets are limited.



UPCOMING EVENTS CONT.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30th, 2021

CFSEA will be taking this first Truth and Reconciliation Day as an opportunity to trial an initiative which we hope will inspire community engagement and understanding of the importance of Truth and Reconciliation within our community. Sep. 30, 2021 will be optional for CFSEA staff to work a regular, in office day or to take a statutory holiday where staff each do at least one thing which will help grow their knowledge and compassion for the true reason behind it.

#MHTruthandReconciliation

Our organization is acknowledging **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** on September 30th by choosing to engage in activities which will help us expand our knowledge, understanding, and compassion.



Suggestions include:

- participate, volunteer, or attend a local Truth and Reconciliation activity or event
- attend a cultural event
- read a novel from an Indigenous Reading List; examples found [here](#)
- or choose an activity from [this CBC article](#)

Considering this topic is of high importance across our country, we believe by providing this option to staff, it will enhance our awareness, compassion, and understanding for **Truth and Reconciliation** locally.



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of Southeastern Alberta



WE GIVE

**SAVE THE
DATE**

November 30, 2021
CHAIR'S RECEPTION
5:00 - 6:00 pm

CFSEA is proud to announce Fall 2021 Smart and Caring Grant Recipients

Our annual **Chair's Reception*** is an evening to highlight our many donors and to celebrate our Fall Grant recipients.

All donors of CFSEA and all charities receiving grants are invited to attend.

**Pending government and CFSEA COVID-19 Restrictions*

RURAL COMMUNITY FUNDS

PRARIE CROCUS COMMUNITY FUND

The **Oyen Childcare Society** opened on March 1, 2021 meeting a major need for Oyen and area as a daycare service. They received **\$3,650** from the **Spring 2021 Smart and Caring Community Grant**. They have already started to make the most of these funds by purchasing a permanent fence for their outdoor space. Executive Director, Regina Dewald, says *"the fence has made the space much larger, easier for children to see out of, and more manageable for the staff."* The remainder of their grant money will be used to purchase fine motor activities to increase development skills for the children.



RURAL COMMUNITY FUND OF FORTY MILE

The **Forty Mile Park Foundation** received **\$2,400** from the **Spring 2021 Smart & Caring Community Grant** for the development of a **new park area**. These funds have already been used in full and they were able to build the park quickly for the 2021 season!

"Forty Mile Park Foundation was so happy to receive funding from CFSEA to add to the funds from the Forty Mile Park Board," commented Suzanne Nelson, Foundation Secretary. *"These joint funds enabled the building of a new playground, and we are elated that it has been so well utilized over the summer."* This new park is a benefit for parents and children alike as it created more recreation outdoor spaces for families from the Forty Mile region, and across southeastern Alberta to enjoy. This project is part of a ongoing enhancement initiative through Forty Mile Park to provide more reasons for families to come out and enjoy time in Forty Mile.



BROOKS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY FUND

The **Brooks Animal Protection Society (BAPS)** is a charitable organization that has been serving the Brooks & District Region since 1995. BAPS received a **Spring 2021 Smart & Caring Community Grant** of **\$10,000** to assist with the purchase a **new industrial washer and dryer**. With a capacity to hold 70 cats and 15 dogs, the group must stay on top of cleaning blankets, towels, beds & toys to provide the animals with a sanitary environment. They are currently processing up to 20 loads of laundry a day which has created wear and tear on their old equipment and their location has been seeing an unfortunate increase in animal surrenders which in turn, leads to more laundry. BAPS is currently hosting fundraisers to help reach their goal of \$19,000 to cover the cost of purchase and installation. Thank you to the Brooks Animal Protection Society for taking care of the animals looking for homes!



STAFF UPDATES

Niki Gray has been with CFSEA for four years, previously as the Community Engagement Coordinator. The Board is happy to announce the appointment of long time employee, Niki Gray as **Acting Executive Director**.

“Working alongside the dedicated CFSEA volunteers and staff, I am excited to continue building on the great legacy that has been constructed in support of Southeastern Alberta! Thank you to our donors, community partners, and supporters from across the region for your continued engagement with the Community Foundation.”



Sydney Ratzlaff has been with CFSEA for just over a year. She started in a five-month contract position and transitioned to a part-time Office and Project Coordinator.

We are happy to announce Sydney as our new **Community Engagement Coordinator**.

“I am grateful to work for such an amazing, community-minded organization with fantastic co-workers! I am looking forward to this new role, specifically supporting the charities that make Southeastern Alberta a great place to live!”

Hannah Minor started with the Community Foundation in May as the **Vital Signs Community Coordinator** through the Canada Summer Jobs Grant. We are excited to announce that Hannah’s contract has been **extended**.

“My time here at CFSEA has been incredibly rewarding and having my contract extended is an incredible opportunity. This will allow me to continue to grow and assist in the inspirational work that CFSEA does. I couldn’t be happier and am excited to continue with CFSEA!”



Establishing a Fund

1 Donor

Individual
or Family



Company
or Business



Charity or Community
Organization



2 Gift Options

Cash
Donation



Life
Insurance



Bequest



Public
Securities



Retirement
Funds



Advisor
Managed
Funds



3 Choose Your Fund Type

See reverse
page for
details

Smart & Caring Fund

Designated Fund

Field of Interest Fund

Donor Advised

Scholarship Fund

CFSEA Operations Fund

Agency Fund

Rural Community Fund

Due Diligence

CFSEA utilizes Vital Events to determine current community needs. Grant applications are submitted by local charities which are reviewed by a committee to determine successful grant requests.

Direct Donor Advice

CFSEA connects with fund holders annually as to which charitable organization(s) they would like to support.

Rural Community Fund Options

Community Funds allow donors to "give where they live" to support the charitable needs in their specific geographical region.

4 Donor Recognition

CFSEA works with donors to help guide them through their philanthropic journey. Donors are welcome to share their story to be featured digitally and through various publications. They are invited to annual grant presentations, Vital Events, and other celebrations.

Note: CFSEA handles all the administrative details and issues grants to charities in the name of your established fund.

Learn more about how you can contribute to a vibrant, healthy, caring community at cfsea.ca or by calling 403-527-9038



Types of Endowment Funds

There are a number of options for your donation to be allocated within CFSEA's Endowment Fund:

Smart and Caring Fund:**Minimum gift of \$1,000**

Smart and Caring Funds respond to the ever-changing needs of our region now and for generations to come. Investment income is distributed through a granting process.

Designated Fund:**Minimum gift of \$5,000**

Choose your favourite registered charitable organization(s) and each year the investment income will be dispersed to that organization(s).

Field of Interest Fund:**Minimum gift of \$10,000**

Support your charitable areas of interest, while still responding to our region's greatest needs. Examples of Field of Interest include: arts, youth, seniors, health, environment, etc. CFSEA directs investment income to specific charities that deliver services in the donor's chosen field(s).

Donor Advised Fund:**Minimum gift of \$15,000**

Donors advise CFSEA each year as to which charitable organization(s) are to benefit from the investment income from their fund. Donor Advised Funds allows the donor to change their philanthropic focus each year.

Scholarship Fund:**Minimum gift of \$15,000**

Donors can establish specific Scholarship Funds to support Southeastern Alberta students in their educational pursuits. Donors determine the scholarship criteria and specific school district(s). CFSEA issues the scholarship amount annually to that school district(s). The school district in turn selects the recipients based on the donor's criteria.

CFSEA Operations Endowment Fund:

CFSEA has ensured its ongoing administrative operations with the establishment of a specific Endowment Fund. Secure funding is crucial to our continued growth, leadership, and impact. We invite every donor to consider allocating a portion of their gifts to the sustainability of the Foundation in the range of 10-15%.

Agency Fund:**Minimum gift of \$5,000**

Investment income from their permanently endowed funds are issued back to the agency.

Advisor Managed Endowment Fund:**Minimum gift of \$250,000**

Donors can work with their investment advisor to establish an endowment with CFSEA to benefit the charity(s) of their choice. This partnership provides donors the opportunity to choose their own advisor.

Rural Community Funds: "Give where you live"

- **Brooks & District Community Fund:** Encompassing Brooks and the County of Newell
- **Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile:** Encompassing the County of Forty Mile No. 8
- **Prairie Crocus Community Fund:** Encompassing Special Areas 2, 3, and the MD of Acadia