

Summer 2022

# VitalNews

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## Message from the Chair, Frances Barnes

As I type this it's yet another rainy day. I know we need the moisture, but it really is hurting my golf game! A year has almost passed since I began my journey as the Chair of the Board of the Community Foundation of South East Alberta and I have learned many things. I never truly realized how much money we disperse until I had to sign all the cheques! We are most definitely making a difference in our communities. You should be very proud of all the people whose lives have been made better by your donations. Thank you.

Our board is undergoing quite a change this coming year with five new members. We are saying goodbye to Ajit Atwal, Vice Chair, Myrna Stark, Chair of the Community Leadership Committee, Jim Van der Sloot, Chair of the Endowment Committee, Jason Openo, Chair of the Hiring Committee and Brenda Mercer, board member. These people have made a difference within our organization and will be missed.

The summer is a slower time for us and so, a time of reflection for me. I have let my name stand as Board Chair for two years, so I can continue to contribute to the success and impact of the Foundation. I hope you are all able to spend time with the people you love this summer in whatever manner that works for you. I look forward to next year and all of the amazing things this Foundation helps others do.



## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

***“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.” — Audrey Hepburn***

This June, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta says farewell and thank you to five individuals leaving our Board of Directors: Vice-Chair, Ajit Atwal, Myrna Stark, Jim van der Sloot, Jason Openo, and Brenda Mercer. Thank you for your service!!



**Myrna Stark** — 4 Years of Service  
Chair of Community Leadership  
Committee



**Jim van der Sloot** — 4 Years of Service  
Chair of Endowment Development  
Committee



**Jason Openo** — 2 Years of Service  
Community Leadership & Endowment  
Development Committee Member



**Brenda Mercer** — 1 Year of Service



**Ajit Atwal** — 6 Years of Service  
Executive, Grants, and HR  
Committee Member










## COMMUNITY GRANTS

### Spring 2022 Community Grants support communities across Southeastern Alberta.

Donors can choose this fund as a way to allocate their contributions to support the community's greatest needs. A comprehensive procedure to determine the most crucial community needs are gathered through annual Vital Events. Grants are then awarded based on potential impact and fund availability. These grants are awarded twice a year, in the spring and fall.

Congratulations to the **23** organizations who received a total of **\$192,115** this Spring!

<p>\$10,000</p> <p>Texting Support Services</p> 	<p>\$10,000</p> <p>Southridge Community Gardens</p> 
 <p>\$12,000</p> <p>Babies' Essentials</p>	 <p>\$1,500</p> <p>Emergency Boarding</p>
<p>\$2,560</p> <p>Senior Exercise Program</p>	<p><b>Redcliff Senior Citizens Society</b></p> <p>\$6,500</p> <p>Building Resiliency in Youth</p> 
 <p>\$15,000</p> <p>Subsidized Suicide Prevention Training</p>	 <p>\$8,280</p> <p>Recycle Bins and Community Dog Waste Bags</p>
<p>\$2,400</p> <p>Playground</p> 	<p>\$10,000</p> <p>Equipment / Palliative Beds</p> 
<p>\$10,000</p> <p>Hi-Flex Hybrid Learning</p> 	 <p>\$2,500</p> <p>New Mountain Bikes</p>
 <p>\$17,240</p> <p>Financial literacy &amp; Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>\$10,000</p> <p>Heritage Festival</p> 
<p>\$3,200</p> <p>Sustainable Transportation</p> 	 <p>\$10,000</p> <p>Habitat Enhancement Project</p>
 <p>\$15,000</p> <p>Food First Community Kitchen</p>	<p>\$10,000</p> <p>Kinbrook Connection Pathway</p> 
<p>\$6,000</p> <p>Youth Life Skills Program</p> 	<p>Hanna Learning Centre</p>  <p>\$15,000</p> <p>Food Security - Social Connection</p>
 <p>\$8,735</p> <p>Supporting Ukrainian Evacuees</p>	<p>\$1,500</p> <p>Start-up Minor Baseball</p> 
<p>\$4,700</p> <p>Baseball for ages 4-15</p> <p><b>Foremost Minor Baseball</b></p>	<p><i>The Fall 2022 Community Grant Cycle will open in early August. Follow our social media for the date!</i></p>

## RURAL COMMUNITY FUNDS: GRANT RECIPIENTS



### BROOKS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY FUND

**Brooks Region** (pictured here) was one of two groups receiving funds from the Brooks & District area. They received **\$10,000** for their Kinbrook Connection Pathway Partnership. **Brooks & District Fish and Game** will utilize their **\$10,000** grant for a Habitat Enhancement Project at the Brooks Aqueduct Property.

P: 403.376.8884 | E: brooksdistrictfund@cfsea.ca

### RURAL COMMUNITY FUND OF FORTY MILE

**Bow Island Minor Baseball** (pictured here) received a **\$1,500** grant to help start up minor baseball for their community. Additionally, **Foremost Minor Baseball** received **\$4,700** to enhance their minor league baseball program. **The 40 Mile Park Foundation** was the third recipient in the Forty Mile Region, receiving **\$2,400** towards their **Playground** upgrades for the park.

P: 403.866.8901 | E: 40milefund@cfsea.ca



### CYPRESS COUNTY COMMUNITY FUND

**Whispering Pines Camp** (pictured here) was one of three grant recipients from the Cypress County Community Fund. **Whispering Pines Camp** received a **\$2,500** grant to purchase new mountain bikes. **Dunmore Equestrian Society** Received **\$10,000** for their South Eastern Heritage Festival, and **Avalon Equine** will utilize **\$6,500** towards their Equine Interaction Program specifically to Build Resiliency in youth.

P: 403.527.9038 | E: cypresscountyfund@cfsea.ca

### PRAIRIE CROCUS COMMUNITY FUND

**Hanna Volunteer Association**, in collaboration with **Hanna Learning Centre** accepted a **\$15,000** grant for their pilot program— Come for Lunch, Stay for the Conversation. This program will support not only food security in their community, but also address social needs and create a sense of belonging.

P: 403.664.9571 | E: prairiecrocusfund@cfsea.ca





## COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD



*Myrna Stark, CLC Chair, Marijana Agicic and Sonia Toor, Sammis Immigration*

**The Community Impact Award** is one \$30,000 grant, designed for agencies with innovative project ideas that show creativity and leadership in supporting a vibrant, healthy, and caring community.

**Saamis Immigration Services Association** received this award for their innovative project, "Circles of Care." This pilot project will formally mobilize and coordinate volunteers, services, neighborhoods and businesses who want to wrap their arms around vulnerable populations in specific areas. The project will initially focus on the settlement of displaced Ukrainians. Those results will be used to secure future funding for other vulnerable populations.

## VITAL SIGNS

**Vital Conversations** took place on June 21<sup>st</sup>. 80 community members attended the event to discuss nine topics about the social and economic trends impacting local quality of life. The conversations will be combined with survey data and compiled in a report later this year. This report back to the community will identify local priorities and determine CFSEA's granting priorities for the coming year.



**The Vital People Award** offers two, \$500 awards, to assist with the professional development of a permanent staff or volunteer with a registered charity. Congratulations to this year's recipients: **Maria Sprenkles** with Bow Island Health Foundation and **Jessica St. Pierre** with South Eastern Alberta Safety Alliance Society!

## 30 STORIES FOR 30 YEARS

This year we are highlighting donors, supporters, and grant recipients through “30 Stories for 30 Years”. Follow along and read all the stories on our [website blog](#).



### Remembering Stephen Hawthorne...

*“I love the idea that the Foundation provides an ongoing legacy, in the gift that keeps on giving. Stephen would be honoured to have a legacy in honour of him that supports the community he grew up in, lived his life in, and loved.” – Glenda Hawthorne*

### Empowering Youth...

In 1997, the Medicine Hat Youth Centre received a \$35,000 grant from the Community Foundation to officially open their doors. The Youth Centre was established by a committee of youth who desired to see a place ‘for youth, by youth, where they don’t have to spend money.’...



### A Gift to Remember— Lavern and Mary Kurpjuweit...

Over the years, the CFSEA has gained the support from many individuals who desire to leave a gift that lasts forever. Some choose to donate throughout their life, while others include the Community Foundation in their future plans – the Kurpjuweit’s did both.



## FUND HIGHLIGHT: PRAXIS SCIENCE OUTREACH

### ***PRAXIS SCIENCE OUTREACH SOCIETY LEGACY FUND – Happy 30th Anniversary***



The Praxis Science Outreach Society's vision is to foster a dynamic community inspired and empowered by knowledge and appreciation of science.

Donors who are interested in supporting Praxis Science are encouraged to consider contributing a gift to the Praxis Science Outreach Society Legacy Endowment Fund to help build steady and predictable funds for ongoing sustainability of the organization.

Praxis Science has been a staple in our community for 30 years! Help them ensure they can continue to develop a love and understanding of science across the region for another 30!

You can donate directly to support the Praxis Science Outreach Society at [https://bit.ly/Donate\\_Agency](https://bit.ly/Donate_Agency)

***Praxis Science chose to start a legacy fund so we can ensure we have a presence in the lives of youth for 30 more years! Our programs have touched so many in the last 30 years — many of our students are now volunteers in the STEM field — we see how important it is to continue a presence in Southeastern Alberta and an Endowment Legacy Fund will help ensure this.***

- Patty Rooks, Science Outreach Coordinator

### ***AGENCY ENDOWMENT FUNDS***

Establishing an Agency Endowment fund with CFSEA is a simple and efficient way for organizations to ensure long-term sustainability. Funds distributed to the organization annually are unrestricted and will continue to support their greatest needs, forever!

Agency funds are a safe and simple way for non-profits to establish their own endowment. Donors can be sure that their contributions are never spent and can grow over time, providing a source of lasting support. Donors can leave a bequest to the endowment fund to create a personal legacy to benefit the organization long after they are gone.

The CFSEA team can facilitate even the most complex planned gifts such as gifts of appreciated stock and real estate. We handle investment management and the administrative responsibilities related to the endowment, so the organization's staff and volunteer hours are concentrated on fulfilling their mission and mandate.

*Please connect with us to learn more about Agency Endowment Funds. Contact: [Niki@cfsea.ca](mailto:Niki@cfsea.ca)*

## STAFF UPDATES

**Farewell to Sydney** — Sydney joined the CFSEA team in 2020 as a Volunteer Coordinator where she established and launched the Keep In Touch Program and supported volunteers and community members during the pandemic. She embraced many changes in her role from Volunteer Coordinator to Office and Project Coordinator, and finally Community Engagement Coordinator. Her passion for CFSEA shines through the Youth in Philanthropy program and supporting grant applicants. Sydney will be going on parental leave in July. We are excited for this new chapter for Sydney and her family, and we will miss her quick-wit, unbelievable organization skills, and creative visionary outlook.



**Farewell to Sara** — Sara has been a crucial part of the ongoing success of the Rural Community Fund of Forty Mile! In the brief time we were privileged to have Sara on the team, she has attended and hosted many community events including the fund's third anniversary, worked with local schools through the YiP program, and supported County of Forty Mile grant applicants. Sara has a huge heart and is passionate for community. We are sad to see her go, but trust that her enthusiasm and dedication in supporting needs in the County will continue on.

**Farewell to Kim** — Kim oversaw the Prairie Crocus Community Fund for two years prior to her parental leave in 2021. Her career and new adventure of parenthood has led her to pursue full time employment in Oyen. We are thrilled for Kim and this opportunity. Kim has worked closely with the Advisory Committee over the years ensuring the continuation of support and awareness of the community fund across Special Areas 2, 3, and the MD of Acadia. Our team will miss Kim and her positive, upbeat enthusiasm for her region, career, and life!



## YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY (YiP)

Each year, students in school leadership classes participate in this program which engages youth in the world of philanthropy by learning about local community issues and the charities that meet those needs.

This year the participating schools were: St. Mary's Junior High, Crescent Heights High, Medicine Hat High, South Central High (Oyen), Brooks—St. Luke's Outreach, Cherry Coulee Christian Academy, St. Michael's (Bow Island), and Senator Gershaw. These groups helped distribute **\$16,000** to local charities.





## 30th ANNIVERSARY FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC

On June 8th we celebrated our **30th Anniversary Founder's Day Picnic** at the Medicine Hat Stampede Grounds! Thank you to all who came out and celebrated with us! We had the pleasure of listening to fantastic live music from the JBC Jazz Trio and the Medicine Hat Rotary Music Festival String Trio. We enjoyed listening to impact speakers, reading stories about CFSEA history, eating cake, and catching up with so many supporters!

Congratulations to all the local charities that received grants at the event. Thank you to our donors for your support; because of you we have been able to distribute over \$490,000 in this Spring Grant Cycle!!

Thank you to our event sponsor Pritchard & Co. Law Firm LLP, to our event photographer RJF Productions, and to Shooting Star Catering!

### *Celebrating 30 Years*



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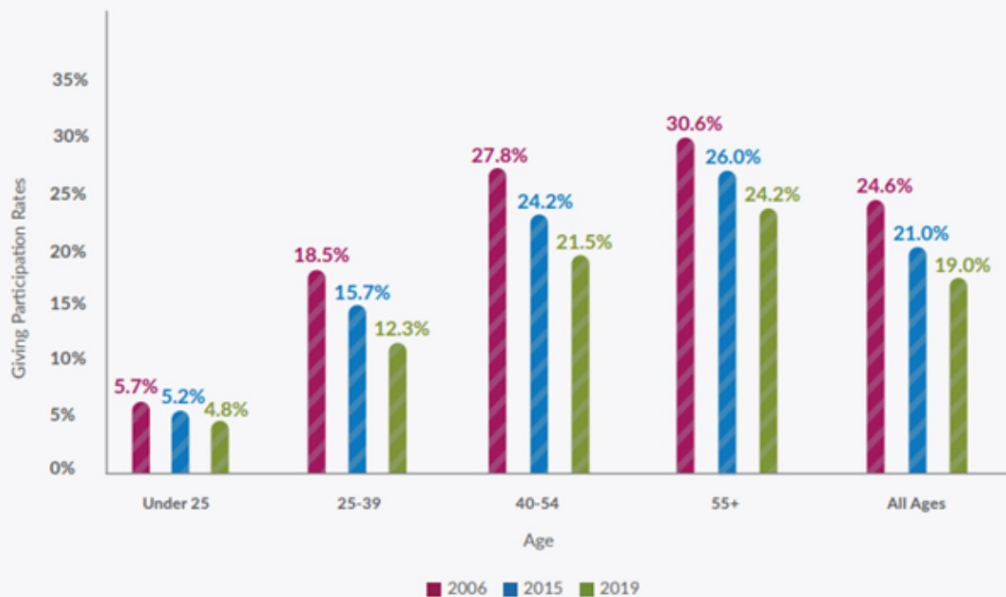
## PHILANTHROPY: THE GIVING GAP



*According to **The Giving Report**, published by **Canada Helps**, “giving participation rates continue to steadily decline across all age groups.”*

The chart below demonstrates that overall giving rates have declined 6% between 2006 and 2019. It is common that the younger generation, with new careers and steep housing prices, gives less. However, the noteworthy data point here is among Generation X and above, as the most marked decline in giving participation rates.

**FIGURE 1**  
**Giving Participation Rates in 2006, 2015, and 2019**  
Based on Personal Income Tax Filings



“I think young people can be perceived as entitled, but that’s so far from the truth. They are super passionate about causes that matter to them, particularly when it comes to social justice, inequality, and environmental issues. They are showing up at protests, speaking out through social media, and signing petitions. But let’s face it, they also have significant student loan debt, soaring costs of living and many are working in the gig economy going paycheck to paycheck.”

Jennifer Luedey, Director of Fund Development  
Oxfam Canada

