



Cypress County Community Fund



Gerald Sept

A Message from the **Chair**

The Cypress County Advisory Committee has been active over the past year, fostering relationships and broadening our impact within the County. Each time we convene to evaluate and discuss the applications we receive, it is always a thrilling moment. The improved quality of these applications and the innovative strategies to meet the current needs and demographics of the County present the committee with difficult and challenging decisions. As much as we might wish to support all of them, we simply cannot fund every proposal.

On June 4th, we enjoyed a delightful day celebrating our Spring 2025 grant recipients and their guests. This occasion was filled with uplifting stories shared by fund contributors, past recipients, and attendees. This Spring, the Cypress County Community Fund was proud to distribute \$11,500.

I encourage all organizations within Cypress County to consider applying for funding through the Community Foundation of Southeast Alberta Cypress County Fund.

Important Dates

- August 6:** Grant Writing Workshop at 12 pm
- August 6:** Fall 2025 Community Grants Application Opens
- September 1:** Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline
- September 15:** Fall 2025 Community Grants Application Deadline
- October 6:** Heritage Club Reception



Summer Office Hours:
July 2 to August 29,
9 am to 4 pm

20 GRANTS

\$86,453

AWARDED IN CYPRESS COUNTY

SINCE 2021

4 YEARS OF SERVICE

10 LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

20 GRANTS AWARDED

2025 Spring Community Grants

Cypress County Community Fund's Grant Celebration Event



Dunmore Equestrian Society: Heritage Gather 2025 - \$2,500



In photo L - R: Colton Weisgerber, Joyce Stuber

The 2025 Heritage Gather is a three-day celebration of Indigenous culture and Western heritage, held July 4–6 at the Dunmore Equestrian Centre. Featuring rodeo, cultural demonstrations, and community activities, it fosters tradition, connection, and cross-cultural learning. Funding will support volunteerism and cultural events for all ages to enjoy.

Prairie Gleaners Society: Air Exchange Unit - \$5,000

As Prairie Gleaners expands with additional dehydrators, they have been advised to install an Air Exchange Unit. The size of the unit will depend on the number of dehydrators and equipment operating daily. This unit is essential to: improve indoor air quality for volunteers, ensure proper ventilation, maintain safe oxygen levels, and prevent carbon monoxide buildup in the building.



In photo L - R: Colton Weisgerber, Jack Reddekopp

Dunmore Community Association: Cross Generational Learning Workshop - \$4,000



In photo L - R: Colton Weisgerber, Nichole Johnson

Partnering with Eagle Butte High School, this program connects seniors and youth to share skills from cooking and storytelling to using technology. Following a successful pilot, it's expanding to include more participants.

A Message from the **Executive Director**

As we begin a new fiscal year, I'm proud to reflect on the impact we've made together in Cypress County supporting initiatives in education, agriculture, the environment, community, and cultural enrichment.

We also completed an 18-month exploration into the unique challenges facing rural communities in our region. The Rural Futures Report, featured in this newsletter, shares key findings that will help shape our future work. It offers valuable insights into the realities our communities face and outlines practical, community-driven opportunities for action. We are committed to turning these findings into meaningful steps that strengthen and support a vibrant, healthy, and caring region for all.

Beyond grant making, we've hosted several engagement events that brought community members together to identify opportunities and build shared solutions. These conversations continue to inspire collaboration and innovation.

As we look ahead, we invite you to stay engaged, whether by volunteering, attending events, or sharing our work with others.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to making our community a better place for all.



Niki Gray

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gerald Sept – Chair
Audrey Skoog
Barry Neubauer
Cathy Schnell
Colton Weisgerber
Dan Hamilton
Della Burkitt
Don McLennan
Gerald Maser
Richard Oster

Supported by CFSEA Staff:
Helene Nicholson
Regional Development
Coordinator

Niki Gray
Executive Director

ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are currently seeking volunteers who reside or work within Cypress County willing to commit approximately 2 hours per month as a representatives on the Cypress County Advisory Committee.

Volunteering has a number of benefits:



A great way to share your knowledge or insights.



Excellent opportunity to acquire practical experience in effective Board functioning and the decision-making process.



An advisory board is an excellent vehicle for networking and establishing valuable professional connections.



Adds value and depth to your experience.



Board Leadership Training

Board Leadership Southeast Alberta is facilitated by the local Development Officer with Alberta Culture and Tourism, with support from a wide range of community partners. Its goal is to build the capacity of the volunteer sector!

The Community Foundation is proud to be a partner of Board Leadership Southeast Alberta. This training event provides participants the opportunity to network and engage with other volunteers, as well as gain knowledge and skills on various board governance topics.

Rural Futures Report Now Available

We're proud to share ***Rural Futures: Regional Development and Conversations in Southeastern Alberta***, our latest report exploring the priorities, challenges, and opportunities identified by rural communities across the region.

Building on CFSEA's **Vital Signs** research and the **Vital Conversations** held over the past year, the report reflects what we heard directly from residents, community organizations, and local leaders. It highlights critical issues such as health care access, affordable housing shortages, workforce retention, and community well-being. The report offers actionable recommendations to guide collaboration and investment.



**Rural
Futures
Report**



Explore the findings and download the report at
[cfsea.ca/news/cfseas-rural-futures-report-calls-for-action-in-southeastern-alberta](https://www.cfsea.ca/news/cfseas-rural-futures-report-calls-for-action-in-southeastern-alberta)