



CFSOS Newsletter

Dear Heather,

Happy Holidays from the Board & Staff of the Community Foundation!



The Board and Staff of the Community Foundation are excited to wish you Happy Holidays! We recently gathered for our first in person Christmas party since COVID and it was so nice to bring everyone together. I hope you get the chance to gather with your friends, relatives, and colleagues this holiday season! I can honestly say that I underestimated the impact of COVID isolation, but it becomes abundantly clear when we finally gather again.

Below you will find lots of updates on giving, granting and connecting as we move towards the conclusion of 2022. See you next year!

- Aaron McRann, Executive Director

Holiday Giving Ideas



Give Our Youth a Lift!

Read our [Youth Centre Progress Report](#) to learn about the amazing work happening every single day!

Our work isn't done yet, and we need your support! To improve accessibility, we're kicking off our fundraising campaign to install a much-needed elevator.

"An elevator is 100% a necessity. If it's not accessible for everyone in the community, there is still a lot of work that still needs to be done."

- Honor Hollman, YES Project Youth Ambassador

Donate now to Give our Youth a Lift!

This holiday, give where you live!

Did you know that many communities in our area have Community Funds? These funds are a pool of donated dollars that are used to support a wide variety of community-specific activities.

Giving to a Community Fund is your connection to local charity, providing support for your community today while creating new choices for projects in the future. Give where you live: [Kaleden](#), [Lower Similkameen](#), [OK Falls](#), [Oliver](#), [Osoyoos](#), [Princeton & District](#), and [Summerland](#).

New pandemic recovery funding available!

Are you looking to adapt your charity or non-profit to recover from the pandemic? If yes, consider applying to the Community Services Recovery Fund, which will be open Jan. 6th through to Feb. 21 2023. This funding is a new \$400 million investment by the Government of Canada to support charities and non-profits across the country. [Click to learn more.](#)

In Remembrance



New bursary honours former Keremeos editor, Tara Bowie

Tara's mother, Nancy Birtch created a bursary fund with the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen, to honour her daughter's love of Keremeos and its people, and to give students at SESS a leg up as they pursue their own dreams. [Read the full story here.](#)

A family's legacy supports Scout's camp

Donna Schellenberg, a long-time supporter of the Foundation, recently set up Vance's Camp Boyle Legacy in memory of her son, Vance. This fund supports The Boy Scout's Camp Boyle in Summerland, a place very dear to Donna's family, and especially her sons, Vance, Gordon and Glen. We are so sincerely grateful to the Schellenberg family for entrusting us to take part in carrying out their family's legacy.

To find out more about honouring a legacy through an endowment fund, which can provide funds to a cause you care about year after year, click [here](#).



Remembering community builder, Charles Armstrong

Described by many as a force of nature, Charles Armstrong, who passed away on Nov.8th at the age of 95, leveraged his intellect and drive to make enormous and lasting impacts in the community, whether he was working in private business, or in service to the charities and causes he cared about. Always interested in giving back, he set up the Charles & Irene Bursary fund, and sat on several boards, including as President of the Community Foundation. [Read more about Charles Armstrong's legacy here](#)

Neighbourhood Connections

Up and down the valley, more than 60 people received Neighbourhood Small Grants of up to \$500 to host events that connected neighbours at block parties, art sessions and so much more!



Neighbours learn nsyilxcn while painting

In July, Yutelx Franchesca Raven Bell invited neighbours to learn nsyilxcn during a group painting session. Held outdoors in the beautiful architectural space in front of the Osoyoos Indian Band's band office, as people painted, Bell introduced new nsyilxcn words. "So the language was really incorporated into the whole process!" The workshop was a huge success, with Bell now planning a paint and language workshop series. [Read the full story here.](#)



Neighbourhood Fiesta in Redlands a Smashing Success!

The Redlands neighbourhood, along with 24 other households in Penticton, grew an idea and received a Neighbourhood Small Grant in 2022. [Read more stories here.](#)

Community Highlights



Princeton Community Conversation about Alcohol Use Disorder

More than 50 people met up at Princeton's Riverside Centre on Nov. 16th to start a community conversation about supporting care for alcohol use disorder. It was a fantastic workshop – with loads of information sharing, plenty of new ideas, and commitments to ongoing action! [Learn more here.](#)

100 Men and 100 Women continue to give back to the community

Community Foundation Giving Events 100 Men and 100 Women continue to give back at their quarterly socials. In November, 100 Women got together at their Little Black Dress event and gave \$500 each to the Okanagan Boys and Girls Club and the South Okanagan Loss Society. The Access Centre received the most votes, taking home \$4,760.

100 Men met up at Cannery Brewing and gave \$4800 to the SOS Mental Wellness Centre and \$1,000 each to the Boys and Girls Club and YMCA. Join the fun! At these one hour socials, you're invited to have a drink, meet up with old and new friends and give to charity. [Check out our calendar for upcoming events in 2023!](#)



Safe house provides a haven of security and support

The Cindy Taylor Safe Home provides short-term shelter and support to women and children fleeing abusive situations. In 2022, South Okanagan Integrated Services received a Foundation grant to support the safe home's operations and programming. . [Read the full story here](#)



Charity keeps on cooking with new kitchen

Moving to a new location without a kitchen posed a significant challenge for the Canadian Mental Health Association. How were they going to continue their Healthy Meals Program, an important service for clients? Thanks to a Foundation Grant and plenty of volunteer work, the program has kept cooking. [Read the full story here](#)



Grant helps South Okanagan newcomers move ahead

Thanks to a Kia Communities in Motion grant, the local non-profit [SOICS](#) has been helping newcomers find and use reliable transportation. This includes providing bikes for seasonal workers, teaching people to ride and all about road safety. Through their Moving Ahead program, they also assist people who want to learn to drive and obtain their license. [Read full story here](#) (Photo credit: Justin Wu)

2023 Foundation grant recipients announced

We're excited to announce that **\$227,602** has been granted to 33 organizations in the South Okanagan Similkameen through our 2023 Foundation grant cycle. You can find the list of grantees [on our website](#). Watch our Facebook page and website in the coming months for stories about some of these funded projects.

Welcome to our Board of Directors!



We would like to extend a warm welcome to [Derek Badger](#) who is joining the Community Foundation's board of directors. Derek, an MBA and government affairs manager, brings not only a wealth of experience to the board, but also deep connection to the community.

"I'm looking forward to getting involved in the Foundation's great work, supporting local organizations and individuals doing amazing things to strengthen the social fabric of our region."

Mark your Calendars!



30th Anniversary Celebration!

We are thrilled to announce that in 2023, we're celebrating the Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen's 30+ years working with you, giving choices and funding change in the community! Celebration kick-off in April, 2023. Stay tuned!

Charity Check-In, Jan 19th

As part of our planning for 2023 and beyond, we're exploring new and innovative ways the Foundation can support all charities in the South Okanagan Similkameen. To kick off this process, we'll be hosting a facilitated session to hear from local charity leaders. This will be your chance to help guide our planning to best address your organization's needs.

We're still working out the details of this session and will have more to share in the coming weeks. For now, please save January 19th on your calendar. We want to hear your voice!

Okanagan Falls Grant Writing Workshop, Feb 14th

Our Grants Administrator, Kevin Ronaghan, is planning a road trip! On Feb. 14, he will be in Okanagan Falls, offering what he hopes will be the first in a Spring series of [grant writing workshops](#) across the South Okanagan Similkameen. "I'm really looking forward to getting out from behind my desk, visiting with organizations in their communities and learning more about their work."

The OK Falls and surrounding area workshop is being organized by the Okanagan Falls Economic Development office of the RDOS. Contact [Deb Morrow](#) for more information. If

your community is interested in hosting a workshop, contact [Kevin](#) -- he looks forward to hearing from you.

Contact us

As your charity experts, we offer a wide variety of ways for people to donate and give back to their community and the region. We also help individuals and organizations fund projects, programs and events that they care deeply about. Find out how we can help you make your community a better place to live. Check out our [website](#) | [Email](#) Aaron McRann

If this newsletter was forwarded to you by a very special friend please [click here to subscribe](#) so you can stay up to date on the amazing work of so many local donors and citizens!!

[Calendar of Events](#) | [GIVE NOW](#) | [Vital Signs](#) | [Subscribe](#)

We acknowledge that we live, work, and learn within the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territory of the Syilx Nation.

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