

# 10 Years of 100 Women Who Care South Okanagan

haywire



100 | WOMEN  
Who Care

Community Foundation of the  
South Okanagan | Similkameen  
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Ten years ago, thanks to an idea from the Community Foundation, a group of four women decided to see if we could launch a 100 Women Who Care program for the South Okanagan.

The first event was less than 50 people and in our first year we gave just over \$7,500. It's hard to believe that we now get hundreds of women out to the events and have given over \$160,000 to many deserving local charities!

It has been quite the journey and thanks to the support of the Community Foundation over the decade, 100 Women (and more) is continuing to give back to us the original organizers, to the participants who make new friends and to the community where we live, work and play.

Founding committee  
members



The very first 100 Women Who Care South Okanagan event at  
Painted Rock Winery in 2014



**\$165,000+**  
donated to charities

*Thank  
you!*

**350**  
members in its history

**59**  
Local charities supported

# Your donations at work.

## Messages from local charities

### Penticton Exceptional Learning Centre

We are so grateful to have received support from the 100 Women Who Care! Your donation allowed us to purchase lockers for our Centre. **Lockers may seem like a small thing to some, but to our students and educators, they were huge.**

While some students choose not to use the lockers because they trigger past school-based trauma, the lockers provide other students with the structure that comes with traditional brick-and-mortar schools and contribute to their education experience. We have students at Excel who look forward to decorating their lockers every year.

One student spends their summer planning how the layout of their locker will look, how to decorate it, and often a theme. They feel as though they get the same experience as their sibling in traditional school, and though their locker isn't as organized at the end of the year, it is something they are happy about and look forward to nonetheless.

Having these lockers also allows our Centre to become and remain more organized throughout the year, with each student owning their private space. Unbeknownst to them, it teaches them some responsibility and accountability with their possessions and respect for the cleanliness of our classrooms and public spaces.

We thank you on behalf of the students who have taken to locker interior design and the others who keep their belongings in a safe and contained space. We also thank you on behalf of the administration, as we could not have provided these without your kind support!

### Penticton and District Hospice Society

The Penticton and District Hospice Society is guided by this mission to be the faithful stewards of Moog and Friends Hospice House.

Moog & Friends Hospice offers patients and their families a unique and comforting **"home-like experience at end-of-life"**.

The Society works in close partnership with the Interior Health Authority which provides day-to-day staffing and operations. The Hospice Society provides funds for patient comforts like Smart TV's and DVD players for each of the 12 rooms. Hidabeds were installed last year for family to stay overnight with their loved ones. A new kitchen area was added for client and family use. Basically, **anything they can come up with to enhance patient comforts**. Funding also goes towards maintaining the volunteer program which provides one on one patient comforts in house and in the community. The very successful and important volunteer program has approximately 60 volunteers that aid Hospice as in becoming a warm and inviting home. All of this has been implemented through donations from our wonderful community.

The project we are working on this year is to enhance the entrance and donor recognition wall.

## Agur Lake Camp Society

Agur Lake Camp Society could not operate without the generosity of granting organizations and donors such as yourselves. Agur Lake Camp is a very special place, being BC's only wilderness campground with three beautiful cabins and trails which are all fully accessible. The purpose of the camp is to provide people with diverse abilities, of all ages, a place to come with their families and caregivers to enjoy some respite from daily life, enjoy nature together, and enjoy the programs offered at the camp.

Last year, guests paid \$125 per night to stay in a cabin with their friends and family of up to 6 people. The true cost of that stay was approximately \$750 per night given our operating costs which include fuel for electricity, staff and camp caretakers to look after visitor needs, insurance, etc.

**Your donation helped make a family's stay at the camp possible.** We encourage you to go on our website, [agurlakecamp.ca](http://agurlakecamp.ca), to look at the gallery of photos of some of our campers and see the smiling faces and know that you helped make that happen.

We often hear from the campers after their stay and we'd like to share a couple of those comments which capture the essence of the camp and the true impact of the donations which made it possible for them to come to the camp:

*"Elliesia has Spina bifida, she's 8 years old and very precocious. Everything is too high or has stairs or other obstacles for her to face every day of her life. And then we had a chance to stay at Agur Lake Camp this summer!! There were no barriers to hold her back, and she cried. We all did! Our family is so thankful we found this spot of accessible paradise for Elliesia and our family to enjoy." (Juanita Parkins, 100 Mile House, BC, mother of Elliesia)*

*"People with disabilities have many barriers which can be isolating. Being able to participate in camping, fishing, boating, campfires and completely barrier free walkways is an experience that would not be available if it was not for Agur Lake Camp Society. Full inclusion means meeting others and socializing and feeling part of the community. This is what Agur Lake Camp offers." (Jeanette Poulsen, Summerland, BC, mother of Casey Gallagher – guest)*

*"I can still remember the night I got the call about my brother's accident and how on that evening, not only his life but all of our lives changed forever. He broke his neck in a car accident and the prognosis wasn't good. He had just turned 24 years old. This fall we celebrated his 50th birthday at Agur Lake, a day none of us thought we would experience. There are times, I look into my brother's eyes and I see sadness. He's an intelligent man and he knows how much work is needed to look after him. To be able to spend a week away from home (for the first time since his accident) knowing we had everything we needed was amazing. I cannot thank you enough for what you were able to provide for me and my family." (Anonymous Family, Kelowna, BC)*

Thank you from the Board of Directors and the staff at Agur Lake Camp Society



## Dragonfly Pond Family Society

Dragonfly Pond Family Society is a non-profit charity operating in the South Okanagan for nearly 25 years. We support families with children aged 0-18 who have unique abilities and complex care needs. We run a variety of programs throughout the year ranging from monthly family get togethers to week long programs during spring and summer break to a super fun Christmas party where every child gets a present and visit from Santa.

We were the extremely grateful recipient of 100 Women Who Cares' generosity in 2018 and used the funds to support one of our most special and well loved events – the Uniquely Fashionable Fashion Show.

The Uniquely Fashionable Fashion Show's main purpose is to **promote community awareness about disability, diversity and the power of inclusion**. Dragonfly Pond children model accessorized outfits they get to keep in recognition of their efforts hosting and participating. The biennial event is possible because of the generous support of our sponsors, donors, participants, audience and volunteers! Our next Fashion Show will be in Spring 2025.

## NeighbourLink

NeighbourLink Summerland is a registered charity that has been investing in the health of Summerland and area for just over 20 years! Though our mandate is to serve the residents of Summerland, our largest demographic of clients is seniors, many of them are low-income on a very tight budget. A core NeighbourLink service is driving seniors to their medical, dental, and specialist appointments. These rides to appointments are so much more than kilometers driven on a road: it is a personalized pick-up and drop-off service customized to what the client needs:

1. It is **physical and emotional support** while they navigate health challenges;
2. It is social interaction during the drive which helps to **reduce loneliness, isolation, stress, anxiety and depression** and often these interactions over the course of repeated drives leads to special bonds of friendship and;
3. Many of our volunteers are retired health-care workers and can encourage our clients to follow-up or pursue certain types of care to maintain their wellbeing. This often results in our clients being able to **retain their independence** and stay in their homes longer. The ripple effects from a ride can be far-reaching!

Our other programs include a monthly luncheon at the Community Centre, our PRIME Program (Personal Records In Medical Emergency), a visitation program for the lonely and isolated, and our Christmas Senior Gift Bag Program, which fills gift bags for seniors with practical items and yummy holiday treats that get delivered by our team of cheery 'elves'. All of NeighbourLink's programs and services are free and always will be. Through community generosity of grants and donations, such as the one we received from 100 Women Who Care, we are able to remove all financial barriers for those who need help.

## Okanagan Gleaners

Congratulations on your tenth anniversary of your giving circle. You are all very generous. Thank you so much for your \$500 donation to the Okanagan Gleaners in September 2022. Your donation helped to continue the great work of the Gleaners to **transform produce that might otherwise be wasted into nourishment for millions of the worlds hungry.**

In 2023, hundreds of volunteers, local and from BC, Alberta and further, worked to produce 8.3 million servings of soup mix which went to Haiti, Ukraine, El Salvadore, Burundi, Syria, Guatemala and Honduras. We were also thrilled with completion and payment of our new storage facility, built with generous donations. You are all welcome to visit our facility in Oliver, and help if you like. See our website [www.okanagangleaners.com](http://www.okanagangleaners.com) for more information. Thank you again.

## Penticton & Area Access Centre

We had a Ukrainian refugee come to us for a first-time income tax filing. She saw our sign in the mall, asked the receptionist about the cost and was sure that she had misunderstood when she was told the service was free. She came back with every legal paper that she possessed, just in case it really was free. She was overwhelmed and close to tears as we began the interview. It all went very smoothly though and she could not say thank you enough. **It was most gratifying to see her fears disappear.** Volunteering was a novel concept for her and she hoped that one day she could volunteer to give back for all the kindnesses she had received since arriving in Canada.

## Highway to Healing Society

Last fall Highway to Healing Support Society was absolutely thrilled to receive a whopping \$4,700 gift from this group. To our very small society, these funds represent a huge boost to our budget.

What we do is fund travel costs for families who have to travel out of the area to get to medical care. While we are all aware that most medical care is covered by our BC medical plan, the cost of getting to that care, say to BC Children's hospital for example, is not funded at all. That means that families who are already often in crisis caring for a sick or injured child have to pay for things like fuel, food and parking out of their own pocket.

Highway to Healing is able to support these families by providing cash directly to the family within 24 hours of a request. The funds received by the 100 Women who Care were able to provide **five families with funds** enough to pay for gas, food both on the way to the appointments and during their stay in Vancouver as well as parking costs. One family in particular recently wrote and said this

*"thank you for the etransfer. We were feeling very desperate as our little guy's appointment was coming close and we had no money for gas. I cried when we received the money and that same day we heard we had a room at Ronald McDonald House. Thank you for all you do for us. "*

So in turn we at Highway to Healing must turn to everyone who donates to us and say **THANK YOU for allowing us the opportunity to support these courageous and amazing families.** 100 Women who Care you do make an impact!



## Feedway Foundation and the Penticton Breakfast Club

We are so grateful to 100 Women Who Care for your generous donations over the years. We've been lucky enough to receive funding for the program more than once (via the Speedway Foundation (now called the Feedway Foundation) and the Penticton Breakfast Club).

The funds we receive stay in our community. Our board is operated by volunteers...we don't take any administration fees so you can be confident knowing that your donated money goes 100% to food costs.

The Penticton Breakfast Club provides reliable access to a nutritious breakfast in a safe, supportive school environment with the goal of positively impacting student health, social development, and learning.

The Penticton Breakfast Program coordinates and runs programs at Queens Park, Westbench, Carmi, Columbia and ConnectEd schools. This means our volunteers shop weekly for groceries, prep & serve the children, then clean-up and repeat! We also provide some funding to all other schools in the district to help with their programs.

**With your donations, we are able to serve a nutritious breakfast, prepared by volunteers, five days a week, free of charge, to any student at these schools who wish to participate. We are currently feeding over 1000 meals a week!**

By making the program open, we help break any stigmas attached to the program.

Through the program, students are prepared for learning on a daily basis, based on the principle that a hungry student is not equipped to learn and that a nutritious breakfast positively impacts student focus, concentration and behavior. Longer term, the Penticton Breakfast Club positively impacts students' overall health, school attendance and ultimately academic success. Peers and school staff also receive positive benefits in their classrooms when all students are well fed and ready to learn.

Thank you again for supporting our programs and our local children!

## SOS Medical Foundation

The SOS Medical Foundation is appreciative of the generosity of our community. Your donation **helped us reach our goal of \$20-million** for the PRH Tower Campaign. Construction of the David E. Kampe Tower was completed in early 2019 and officially opened to patients on April 29, 2019. It is a state of the art, world-class facility. The SOS Medical Foundation used donations from the campaign to purchase medical equipment that directly impacts the delivery of care in our region. From OR lighting/equipment booms (\$2M cost) to Six (6) Defibrillators (\$145,779 cost), the funds purchased **much needed medical equipment**. Thank you for selecting the SOS Medical Foundation as a recipient. Your donation helps us keep our commitment to the achievement of excellence in supporting the delivery of health services to our region. We are thankful for your support and the amazing work 100 Women Who Care is doing in our community. Bravo!

## OSNS

The OSNS greatly values the generosity of time, ideas and financial contributions from 100 Women Who Care. The donation received contributes to our goal of **helping others rise to reach their unique and individual developmental goals**. It is a celebration when we work together to support each other. Thank you for fostering our mission of optimizing the health and wellbeing of every child, youth and family we serve.

## OneSky - Beginnings

Thanks to the very generous donation received from 100 Women Who Care, we have been able to plan and implement some exciting changes to the OneSky Beginnings Pregnancy Support Program. The first is that we have been able to permanently employ Christine, who was covering Stephanie's (program facilitator) maternity leave. Christine is now available to meet with families in need to provide diapers, wipes, formula, and much more. This in turn, means Stephanie can provide more group programming, including prenatal education, and Baby Massage.

**Pregnant and postpartum people in our community are now going to be able to easily access education and support that they may otherwise have not had access to** due to the cost. Attending the 100 Women Who Care event in April has also meant we have made some wonderful connections with women in the community, and look forward collaborating with them on fundraisers and community awareness campaigns.

## Critteraid

We have been fortunate to be a recipient of funds from this amazing organization. It is not lost on us that someone had to get up and go to work to earn this money and we try to wring everything we can out every dollar donated. This is what we did with your donation.

Combined with other donations, we were able to remove 60 cats from a dump site in Cawston. Every cat from that rescue needed to be spayed/neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, and fed many extra meals.

One of the cats was a young female who was at most 7 months old and pregnant. From her behaviour it was apparent she had lived in a home at one point but now she was thin, scared and very mistrustful. We named her Yogi. She had her kittens shortly after her arrival and they were named Ant and Picnic. The third one unfortunately didn't survive. She needed medication and a lot of love from our volunteers to recover and start trusting people again but she is now living with her forever family who not only adopted her but her two daughters.

You did this. You saved those babies, you saved that mama cat from having more kittens. This is why it's hard to find the right words. But I'll start with thank you to everyone in this room. My guess is that every person in this organization has, at some point, impacted a stranger's life, with no fanfare, but simply it was the right thing to do. Together, we are making a difference.



## Charities who have received support from 100 Women Who Care South Okanagan

- Agur Lake Camp Society
- AlleyCats Alliance Society
- Alzheimer Society of BC
- Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team Society (ALERT)
- Ask Wellness Society
- BC SPCA South Okanagan Similkameen Branch
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Food for Children – Okanagan Division
- Canadian Mental Health Association – South Okanagan Similkameen Branch
- Central Okanagan Foundation
- City of Penticton
- Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen
- Critteraid
- Dragonfly Pond Family Society
- Feedway Foundation
- Habitat for Humanity Okanagan
- Highway to Healing Support Society
- KidSport Penticton c/o Community Centre
- NeighbourLink Summerland
- Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs
- Okanagan Gleaners
- Okanagan School of the Arts
- Okanagan Symphony Society
- OneSky Community Resources
- Ooknakane Friendship Centre
- OSNS Child and Youth Development Centre

- Pathways Addictions Resource Society
- Penticton Academy of Music & Dramatic Arts
- Penticton and Area Access Centre
- Penticton Art Gallery
- Penticton & District Community Arts Council
- Penticton & District Hospice Society
- Penticton Meals on Wheels
- Penticton Museum & Archives Society
- Penticton Public Library
- Penticton Recovery Resource Society
- Penticton Soupateria Society
- Ryga Festival Society
- Salvation Army Penticton Family Services & Food Bank
- School District No. 53
- School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)
- Scouts Canada
- Shuswap Foundation
- South Okanagan Children's Charity
- South Okanagan Immigrant & Community Services
- South Okanagan Loss Society
- South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls
- South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society
- South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation
- South Okanagan Similkameen Mental Wellness Society

- South Okanagan Similkameen Volunteer Centre
- South Okanagan Victim Assistance Society
- South Okanagan Women in Need Society
- Special Olympics British Columbia
- St. John Ambulance
- Summerland Food Bank & Resource Centre
- Survivorship Dragon Boat Team Society
- The Penticton Centre for Exceptional Learning Society
- YMCA of Southern Interior BC



Was there a charity that stood out to you or you'd like to learn more about?

We encourage you to reach out to them and keep the connection going!

# Thank you to our sponsors, partners and local charities!

Our events would simply not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and venue partners.

Thank you to all of our current and past sponsors!:

City of Penticton  
Engel & Volkers  
Grant Thornton LLP  
Lori Gordon  
Natalie Ferebee of Ferebee Wealth Management

Thank you as well to Castanet for continually highlighting the work of 100 Women Who Care!



Team members of Haywire Winery at the 10th anniversary event



100 Women committee with the Engel & Volkers team at 2023 event at Little Engine

We have had the pleasure of partnering with various venues for our quarterly events - from wineries, breweries, the Penticton Art Gallery, and our signature Annual Little Black event at the Penticton Lakeside Resort. Thank you to these amazing businesses in our community for hosting us.

And a BIG thank you to the many local charities working hard to make our communities safe, healthy, inclusive and vibrant.





## What are members saying are their favorite parts about 100 Women Who Care?

*"The whole experience. The different venues, the wine, the food, meeting new people, the sense of community, knowing we're doing something good together."*

*"That together we get a bigger bang for our buck than individually."*

*It is a wonderful opportunity to support our community, even when on a tight budget. It is open to everyone, it is fun, I meet interesting and wonderful women and I love how it has continued to evolve."*





# A heartfelt **thank you** to our members, for your generous support.

This giving circle is only as strong as its members. A true collective effort, it is because of each and every contribution made that we've been able to give back \$168,000 to our community. Now that is what we call a BIG impact.

Thank you for being a part of 100 Women Who Care.

Sincerely,  
100 Women Who Care committee  
Colleen, Lori, Sarah and Yuki

The Community Foundation of the South Okanagan administers numerous programs, including 100 Women Who Care and 100 Men Who Care, as well as grant programs and impact investments. We connect resources with impactful projects and opportunities in the community. If you would like to explore your giving choices and opportunities to fund change, we invite you to reach out to us!

**Community Foundation of the South Okanagan | Similkameen**

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