

Board Members



Michelle Hood - Message From The Chair

I am proud to be a part of an organization that has made such a remarkable impact on our community. The generosity of people in Brandon and the surrounding area never cease to amaze us. Working with a group of people who have donated their time, talent, and other resources to help Brandon Area Community Foundation become stronger, has been an absolute honour.

2022 was another significant year that took

our granting totals to new heights. \$1.2 million was granted throughout Brandon and the Westman area to programs and projects in the areas of arts and cultural, community, education, environment, health and wellness, and recreation.

Congratulations to all successful grant recipients! Your vision and concern for the overall wellbeing of your community is what enables us collectively to make a positive

difference in the lives of others. BACF has consistently been a pillar of our community over the years. We place a strong emphasis on enhancing the quality of life both now and in the future when supporting the communities in southwestern Manitoba.

I'm excited to share, in this year's annual report, some of the inspiring ways BACF is making a difference.



Marc Alain

For 37 years Marc Alain has lived and worked in Brandon, he has raised his family here, and is passionate about staying connected with his community. Marc believes that it is important to give back to the community and knows that without the Brandon Area Community Foundation many events and projects throughout our community would not be possible. 2022 was Marc's first year with the BACF. He is always excited to see projects that involve the community and is inspired by the work done at the TAPs program at Seniors for Seniors! In Marc's free time he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and getting out on his kayak.



Gail Cullen

Born and raised in Brandon, Gail Cullen has been a board member of Brandon Area Community Foundation since 2019. Gail finds it very rewarding to be a part of a Board that helps organizations realize their goals. As a member of the BACF granting committee, she can see first-hand all the amazing projects that are emerging in the Westman area. The diversity of projects and people reached is important to Gail, as she acts as a community advocate for those in need. Gail is proud to assist in delivering funding to a variety of different projects within each of the BACF granting sectors.



Andrea Epp

In 2022, Andrea Epp started her second term with the Brandon Area Community Foundation. She loves that the Foundation supports and encourages donors to allocate funds in accordance with their personal passions and provides recipient organizations with access to funds they might not otherwise receive. She is appreciative of BACF's efforts to have a lasting and significant impact in the Westman region. In her spare time Andrea loves to spend time with her friends and her pets, or by whipping up a batch of cupcakes!



Greg Gatien

Greg Gatien is currently serving as Dean of Music at Brandon University, where he has been a long-time member of the jazz faculty. This is Greg's first term as a board member with Brandon Area Community Foundation. He is pleased to be working with an organization that is building a movement to connect community, people and partnerships. Working with BACF makes sense if you care about your community. It's a way to allow future generations to share and benefit from the opportunities BACF has supported or created.



Dale McKay

The Brandon Area Community Foundation appointed Dale McKay as a director in 2022. He is a committed member of his community, who has offered his time on numerous boards. Dale has a strong interest for initiatives and programs that include recruiting and motivating young people to donate their time. In his spare time, Dale enjoys golfing, curling, travelling, and spending time with his grandchildren.



Jaime Pugh

Jaime Pugh has been a director of the Brandon Area Community Foundation since 2017. Committed to her community, Jaime has held various volunteer positions which include the Advisory Committee and board member for Westman Dreams for Kids. Jaime also served as campaign chair for the United Way Brandon & District. She is passionate about supporting organizations that not only improve lives today, but ensures our community becomes a stronger, healthier and safer community for many years to come.



Dan Robertson

Dan Robertson has been a Director of the Brandon Area Community Foundation board for 8 years. The strength of the people around the board room table motivated him to get involved. He continues to be inspired every granting season as the foundation is able to provide funding to very worthy projects and programs that have a huge impact on our community. He loves to see grants to organizations that support the underprivileged, that serve a sector of the community that most of us never see. Dan also loves the partnership with Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign and the way this campaign has allowed the BACF to leverage other sectors of our business community.



Hope Switzer

Hope Switzer's passion for community development enticed her to be a Director of Brandon Area Community Foundation. In her roll at the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and as a BACF board member, she is able to help make a difference in improving the communities within Brandon and southwestern Manitoba. Hope is most excited by the variety of projects and concepts that are submitted to BACF through the grant process, particularly projects that encourage social connection or that support environmental causes. In her free time, Hope enjoys spending time with family, playing games, going new places, and experiencing new things.



Jon Zilkey

As one of the newest members to the Brandon Area Community Foundation's Board of Directors, Jon Zilkey is excited to be working with an organization that is supporting programs and initiatives emerging in our communities. Brandon's Food for Thought Program is one of his favourite initiatives that receive support from the BACF. His position in the school division has made him aware of the need for assistance in this area. Jon likes to spend his free time watching his children's activities and travelling when he is able.

Total Grants \$1,297,142

43%
Arts & Culture
\$553,277

17%
Community
\$221,665

7%
Education
\$95,718

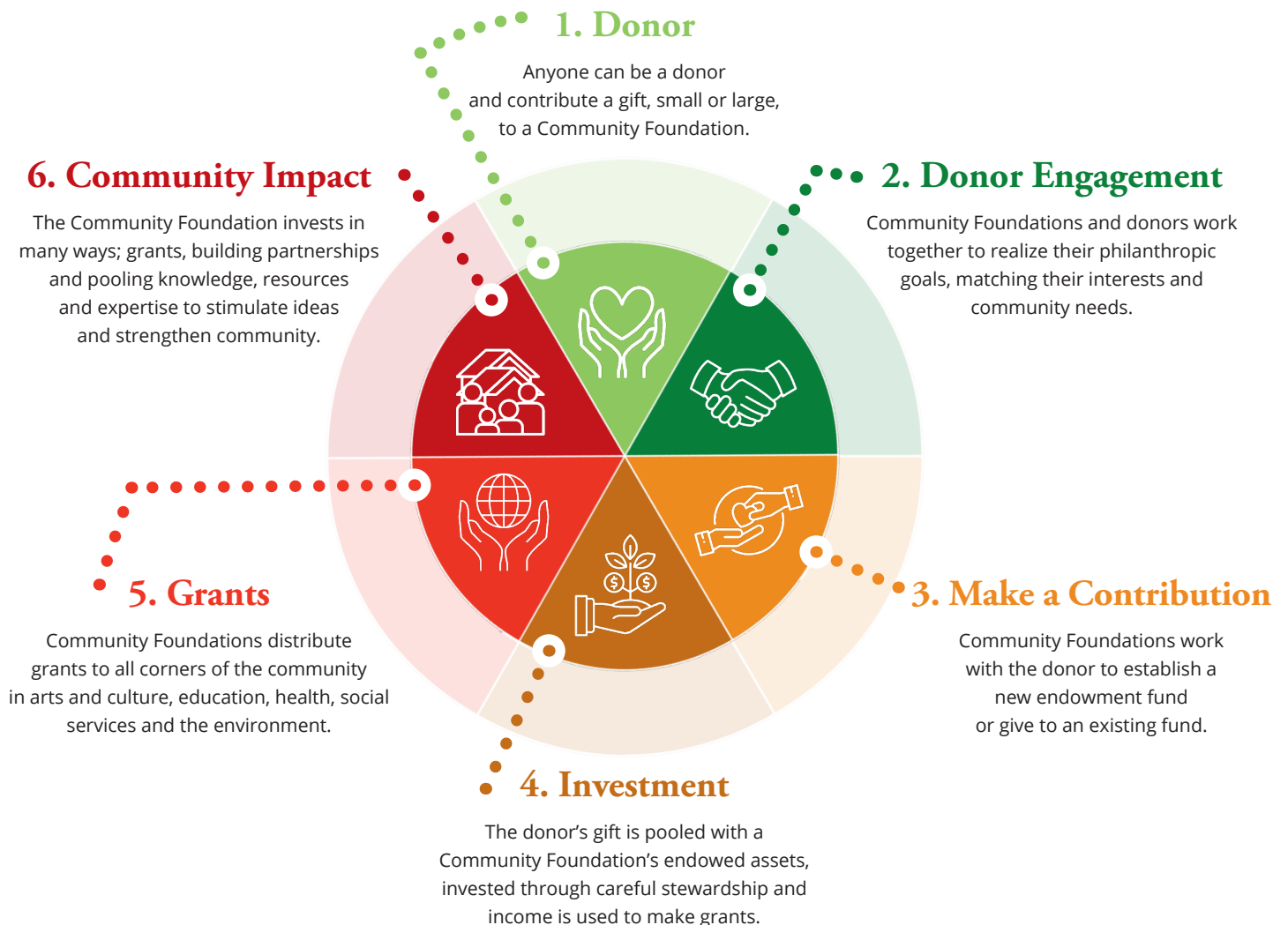
2%
Environment
\$22,500

19%
Health & Wellness
\$244,006

12%
Recreation
\$159,976

Giving To Your Community Foundation

Your local Community Foundation is a charitable non-profit organization that contributes time, leadership and financial support to initiatives that benefit your community most.



Youth in Philanthropy Scholarships



United Way
Brandon & District



The YIP Scholarship Endowment Fund was established in 2020 by the following contributors:

- United Way Brandon & District
- Diane and Gord Peters
- Tri-High Alumni Fund
- Anonymous donors

This scholarship provides assistance to graduating Grade 12 students with an acceptable academic standing, who demonstrate positive character traits, are active in school and community activities, and have been accepted into a recognized post-secondary educational institution.

The four participating high schools are:

- Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School, Brandon, MB
- École secondaire Neelin High School, Brandon, MB
- Elton Collegiate, Forrest, MB
- Vincent Massey High School, Brandon, MB

Through their hard work and determination, these four deserving recipients have proven to be students that the Brandon Area Community Foundation and the United Way Brandon & District want to recognize and encourage to continue their educational and philanthropy efforts.

2022 Youth in Philanthropy Scholarship Recipients



Emma Hrymak



Emily Chambers



Faith Kasprick



Gemma Barcellona



Youth in Philanthropy

Youth In Philanthropy (YIP) is designed to motivate and introduce young people to philanthropy and local community development. This program will give the students hands-on experience working as a team and a chance to become involved with local charitable organizations. This is a one-of-a-kind experience!



Crocus Plains

The Youth in Philanthropy program at Crocus Plains has grown immensely this year! In the past, the program had between 6-8 students but now there are 20 active members. This group focuses its efforts on learning about organizations in Brandon. They chose to allocate the funds they receive from BACF and the United Way Brandon & District to non-profits or charities that they found the most inspiring.

Each school year the members of Crocus' YIP program divide into groups and interview a variety of organizations. Each group reports back with information and details, and then all the students vote on which organization they think is the most deserving.

This year they have chosen to support Brandon Regional Health Centre Foundation, Family Visions, Grey Owl Post Psychiatric Centre, and Westman Dreams for Kids.

The students at Crocus were inspired to get involved with the YIP program by talking to friends in the program and encouragement from their teachers. The program continues to teach them about programs happening in Brandon and gives them a chance to meet people making positive changes in our community.

Elton

With two student members, the Elton Youth in Philanthropy group is small but mighty! These two passionate individuals love the YIP program. This program has given them the opportunity to learn more about what local organizations do in the community and who they support.

This year, they chose to allocate their funding to the Assiniboine Food Forest, Brandon & Area Youth for Christ, Rapid City Library, Waves of Hope, and Women's Resource Centre.

The students love working with the Brandon Area Community Foundation because it teaches them the meaning of philanthropy!

Each year the four local high schools; Crocus Plains, Elton Collegiate, École secondaire Neelin High School, and Vincent Massey, each receive \$2,500 in funds provided by the BACF and United Way of Brandon & District to grant to non-profits of their choice.



Neelin

At École secondaire Neelin High School, the YIP group meets every two weeks to discuss upcoming projects and volunteer hours. This program has allowed teens to learn more about non-profit organizations in westman.

Although granting to organizations is their main goal, the YIP program at Neelin also volunteers throughout the community. Currently, over 20 students are actively volunteering in the community on a variety of projects. Just one example of this volunteer work is in 2022 a group of students volunteered at the Big Brother and Sisters Westman Haunted House. These students really got involved by helping to set up, take down, and act as characters in the haunted house!

Each school has a unique process on how they choose to allocate the funds. To ensure that they fund a wide variety of projects, Neelin YIP students have created five categories that they fund each year. These categories include kids, food insecurity and poverty, pets and animals, health, and other. This year they chose to fund Big Brothers & Sisters of Brandon, Brandon Friendship Centre, Funds for Furry Friends, Manitoba Possible, and Samaritan House Resource Centre.



Vincent Massey

At Vincent Massey High School the YIP has 15 students in their group. The students enjoy being involved in this program because it has taught them about time management, leadership skills, and how to communicate with adults in a professional way.

Each year, the students at Vincent Massey decide to allocate their funds by first starting with a complete list of all non-profit organizations in Westman. Using this list, students then break out into smaller groups to research and interview organizations of interest and then return to the group with their findings. Each group has a chance to present to the others on what the organization does and why they should get funding. This year they have chosen Brandon Humane Society, Brandon Riverbank, Child & Family Services, Funds for Furry Friends, Samaritan House Resource Centre, and Women's Resource Centre as funding recipients.

Vincent Massey is one of the high schools that works in partnership with the Technology Access Program for Seniors. The students love working with seniors and enjoy getting to hear the seniors' stories about their lives and families. This year they also helped to collect gently used items for the Betty Gibson and Earl Oxford Holiday Shops!

Dr. Frank & Gwyneth Purdie Family Funds



Dr. Frank Purdie and his wife Gwyneth Purdie were enthusiastic and engaged members of the Brandon community. Both understood the value and opportunity that education provides. Gwyneth and Frank dedicated their lives to caring for others. They met during the Second World War at Camp Borden, ON. Gwyneth was working as an army nurse and Frank was a medical officer. The pair loved seeing the world and visited every continent including Antarctica.

In 2006, Gwyneth passed away at 82 years of age. To honour her life, Frank worked with the Brandon Area Community Foundation to create two funds. The first was the YMCA Youth Endowment Fund. This fund was created to support youth in our community. The program focuses on assisting children and teens that come from challenging neighbourhoods or difficult backgrounds. Members of the YMCA School program receive mentorship and learn the values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and caring. Since its creation over 15 years ago, this fund has given over 1,000 youth the opportunity to participate in this program.

It was Gwyneth's passion for education that inspired Frank to develop a second fund. The Gwyneth Purdie Memorial Literacy Fund supports King George Elementary School's early years literacy program. Each year this program promotes literacy skills, a love for reading, and books for a home reading program for students in kindergarten to grade two.

"King George Elementary School is thrilled to be selected as part of a long-term literacy grant in honor of Gwyneth Purdie. Mrs. Purdie's passion for children and reading has been a blessing to our school. This literacy grant has supported our school's library and literacy program every year, so students can have access to the best books. Reading builds oral language, creates imagination, improves your memory and allows you to learn new things to help one succeed. We are grateful and thankful for this wonderful gift from the Brandon Area Community Foundation."

- King George Literacy Team

In 2008, a third fund was created to support adult learners in the Brandon Community. The Gwyneth & Dr. Frank Purdie Adult Literacy Fund supports the Samaritan House in their mission to assist adult learners. The program is free of charge to those looking to use the service. Adults can work on improving their skills in reading, writing, document use, and oral communication. They work with an instructor to create a personal learning plan and a class schedule designed for the learner.

Although Frank passed away in 2013, our community, 10 years later, is still benefiting from the legacy he and Gwyneth left behind. Just as the Purdie's lived their own lives, the funds have continued to support education and create opportunities for so many people in our community. The Brandon Area Community Foundation is incredibly grateful for their kindness and ongoing generosity.



Egilsson Family Fund

Created by Boyd Egilsson, the Egilsson Family Fund was established in honour of his grandfather, Egil Egilsson. As Icelandic immigrants, the Egilsson family made their home in Brandon around 1909. Egil was considered a business pioneer in Brandon, establishing a coal and wood business known as Egilsson & Sons.

Boyd became involved with Brandon Area Community Foundation for three main reasons: to honour the past, to make a difference in the present, and to give with perpetuity to allow for a long-term impact.

This Donor Advised Fund provides Boyd a very “hands-on” and personal approach in directing the foundation on which charitable organization(s) will benefit.

The Egilsson Family currently supports the Cancer Patient Support Fund, which helps with basic needs for those facing cancer. As a family that has been touched by cancer, Boyd, and his wife, Maria, know firsthand the immediacy of needs and how overwhelming and all-encompassing this disease can be.

“Giving to the Brandon Area Community Foundation is a gift that keeps on giving,” stated Maria & Boyd Egilsson. The principal of the gift remains intact so year after year there will always be disbursements going to those that are in need.



smile cookie

Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign

\$73,000



Making a difference one smile at a time is the simple, yet very powerful goal of the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign. Since the program started in 1996 over \$77 million dollars have been raised for charities across Canada.

In 2022 over \$73,000 was raised for our community. Now that's a lot of cookies! This year, Tim Hortons partnered with some amazing sponsors in our community to help raise money for the Brandon Area Community Foundation's Community Fund.



Notes From Our Smile Cookie Sponsors

"At Fusion, our vision is to change lives and build stronger communities. This partnership with the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign and Brandon Area Community Foundation was a no brainer for us. In participating, we are able to nurture relationships with both local business in our community, as well as BACF who have similar values to our organization in strengthening and improving our communities. The amount of money raised is a testament to the Brandon community and it's desire to give back. We are proud to serve Brandon and Southwest Manitoba communities!"

- Fusion Credit Union

"Compass Credit Union's mission is to provide meaningful support to our members and their communities, so being able to partner with one of Canada's biggest franchises like Tim Hortons to help our local communities through Brandon Area Community Foundation was something we were proud to be a part of." "It was amazing to see the kind of support the Smile Cookie Week Campaign got from individuals and local businesses."

- Compass Credit Union

"Sponsoring the Smile Cookie campaign with the Brandon Area Community Foundation and Tim Hortons was a truly rewarding experience. We are proud to support local initiatives that make a positive impact in our community. It's a reminder that small actions can make a big difference in the lives of those around us."

- Guild Insurance Group

"The Brandon Area Community Foundation is an organization that the Murray Auto Centre Brandon feels it is important to support. They do a lot of good in our community. When Rhonda Pardy suggested we support the Smile Cookie promotion at Tim Hortons with funds raised going to BACF it was something we were in favor of supporting."

- Murray Chev Buick GMC Brandon

"Being part of the annual Smile Cookie campaign and the \$73,000 raised in 2022, is an honour for Westoba." Said Jim Rediger, President, and CEO at Westoba Credit Union. "Our team had a great time participating in decorating cookies and we are grateful for the partners that make this important fundraiser a success for our community."

- Westoba Credit Union

"MNP is thrilled to have been able to support the 2022 Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign. Giving back to the communities where we live and work has been part of our core values and culture for over 60 years, and is something we take great pride in. We are excited to see how these funds will assist with numerous enhancements to our local community."

- MNP's Southern Manitoba Region.

"This matching opportunity was something the Cardinal Foundation couldn't pass by. It's like compounding dividends on your investment!"

- Cardinal Capital Management

"They are called Smile cookies for reasons other than just their good looks. The campaign brings people and businesses together to raise funds for charitable causes. They also bring a smile to people's faces when you deliver a box to someone or an organization by surprise. We are honored to have the privilege of making many people smile by being a part of the campaign to raise funds for the Brandon Area Community Foundation."

- Premier Financial

"One of our core values at Myphone is to support the communities we live and work in through involvement and giving back. This partnership with Brandon Area Community Foundation and Tim Hortons Smile Cookies allowed us to do just that and have fun in the process. We are proud to have been a part of raising over \$73,000 that will stay in our community and help organizations in need."

- MyPhone

"Community is the cornerstone of our business at Sunrise Credit Union. Working with Brandon Area Community Foundation and Tim Hortons to raise money is always an amazing experience. We are proud to be involved with a campaign that brings awareness and funding to so many incredible community projects."

- Sunrise Credit Union



2022 Giving Challenge

\$1,680,000

Each November, Manitobans have a unique chance to make their donations go further.

For every \$5 gift made during the Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge, the Manitoba government added \$1 (to a maximum of \$2,000 per foundation per year), and The Winnipeg Foundation contributed \$1 (to a max. of \$2,000 per foundation per year). This annual initiative raises money for Manitoba community foundations' undesignated funds. This type of fund provides community foundations with the greatest flexibility in responding to their communities' changing needs and emerging priorities.

BACF is appreciative of everyone who supports this initiative. Many deserving community projects and programs would be underfunded or not funded at all if not for the Giving Challenge.

Thanks to the generosity of Manitobans, community foundations across our province received gifts totaling more than \$1.68 million during this year's Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge. This is the most raised during the nine-year history of the Giving Challenge! Since these gifts are endowed, Manitoba's community foundations can provide even more support for local charitable activities, now and forever.





Burrowing Owls

\$10,000

The Manitoba Burrowing Owls Recovery Program (MBORP) has been helping to protect and maintain the burrowing owl population in Manitoba for over 12 years. Alex, the founder and director of MBORP, found her passion for endangered species while working with Manitoba Conservation. She pursued her Master's in burrowing owls and wanted to determine if reintroduction into the wild was possible. Her Master's was spent studying nest success, life spans, breeding pairs, and ultimately if they could secure their own food. The three major focuses of the MBORP are the reintroduction of owls into the wild, research, and community education.

Burrowing owls live primarily in grasslands and pastured areas, making cattle farmers the ideal partner for the MBORP and owl reintroduction. The organization focuses its efforts on building relationships with farmers and ensuring there are habitats available for the owls. Each year they host a "digging day" where volunteers install artificial nest burrows. The main goal is to have a healthy, self-sustaining population of burrowing owls. The MBORP also works to collect data and support research on both wild and captive-released owls. This data is used to better understand the limitations of the owls in a variety of settings.

Awareness of the burrowing owl encourages individuals to care about the animals and grasslands in general. That is why MBORP focuses on an education component that partners with local schools and community projects. They offer presentations to teach all ages about species at risk, ecosystems in Manitoba, and the importance of protecting wildlife and their habitats. They also bring along the cutest guest, Koko the burrowing owl! This

program runs during the owls breeding season from April to September. The MBORP is a privately and publicly funded organization that relies on donations to keep it going. Brandon Area Community Foundation helps to support this program by funding the education initiative and funding the artificial nest burrow project. The MBORP enjoys working with the Brandon Area Community Foundation because they help build awareness.

If you are wanting to get closer to these adorable creatures, you have the chance every June. Each year the MBORP puts on an interactive fundraising event. If you donate to their organization during the month of June, you are entered to win an experience of banding the baby owls. If this sounds like a "hoot" to you, please check the MB Burrowing Owls Recovery Program online at mborp.ca for more information!





Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum


\$25,000

On November 4th the Commonwealth Air Training Museum (CATM) received notice that due to structural concerns they would need to close the hanger and their museum to the public. An issue was identified in the building's trusses, most notably the hanger door truss that allows the museum to move planes in and out of the space.

This unique piece of history located in our beautiful city has spent decades in its pursuit to collect, preserve, restore, display artifacts, and commemorate the 18,039 who gave their lives during WWII. The hanger was originally constructed in 1940 to serve as a training space for pilots in WWII. The museum's main priority is to protect the building that has been an important part of Canadian National History.

May 2023 so people can enjoy the museum this summer. The museum plans to continue to develop popular events to bring people back, including their Armed Forces Day in June and their annual beer tasting in August.

This fall, the CATM will be starting a capital funding campaign to raise upwards of 8 million dollars for the truss renewal project. This project will roll out in phases with public safety being top priority. The museum knows that it could take a couple of years before they are able to get started on the renewal project and are hopeful that they continue to receive support from government, private donors, volunteers, and the community of Brandon. The CATM is no stranger to capital fundraising and over the years they have raised money to make major upgrades to the museum, including fixing its foundation, updating lighting, updating the H Hut, rental space, and the canteen. Several of these projects have been completed with the help of the Brandon Area Community Foundation's support through granting.



The museum was able to secure the roof with emergency shoring, thanks to funding from the City of Brandon, and is just waiting on the green light to be open again to the public! They are hoping to be reopen by

For more information about the Commonwealth Air Training Museum's upcoming events and reopening, or to get involved as a volunteer check them out online at airmuseum.ca

TAPS Program

\$32,000

The Technology Access Program for Seniors (TAPS) is a program that started in 2021 as way to teach digital literacy to seniors. Over the past year the program has continued to grow and has provided digital assistance to many seniors around the city of Brandon.

With support from Brandon Area Community Foundation, United Way Brandon & District, and the Youth in Philanthropy program, the TAPS program has expanded to be available in seven different senior centred locations throughout Brandon. Over time, the program has transformed to allow participants the option to “bring their own device” to help them navigate through their own questions and challenges.

Over 700 appointments have been completed through the TAPS program and the one-on-one learning continues each day. This intergenerational program relies on

volunteers from Brandon high schools to help facilitate the teaching of technology. The program is a win-win for both generations, where teens learn to guide and teach, while the seniors develop new digital skills.

Brandon Seniors for Seniors and the Brandon Area Community Foundation have worked closely together to grow this program. Both groups have helped build the vision of what the TAPS program could be and helped to execute it along the way. TAPS is generously funded by BACF, Brockie Donovan Senior’s Care Legacy Fund, Green Acres Lodge Fund and Dr. Stuart & Mickey Hampton Fund.

TAPS is working hard to continue to offer this incredible service to as many seniors as possible in Brandon. Future goals include offering appointments in more centres and building their volunteer base.





Brandon's Food for Thought

\$15,000

With 25 years of keeping stomachs full and minds sharp, Brandon's Food for Thought has a long history of being an integral program in our local schools. The program that started in just one school in 1998 has grown to be offered in 19 schools across the Brandon School Division, with four breakfast schools and fifteen snack schools. This program ensures that students have access to a nutritious breakfast, snack, and/or lunch every day, and helps to prepare students to play and learn at school all day long.

A quick walk through a grocery store will help anyone understand why more children are accessing this program each year. Brandon's Food for Thought recognizes that kids come to school hungry for many reasons. Some of the reasons may include rushed mornings, taking care of siblings, no access to food at home, grocery day is tomorrow, sleeping in, long bus rides or early drop offs. No matter the reason, this program welcomes everyone to grab a nutritious snack. In the 2021-2022 school year Brandon's Food for Thought fed over 132,000 students from grades K to 12. That is over 750 students a day!

Angie Strachan, the Program Coordinator at Brandon's Food for Thought, spoke of the need they see every day in schools. She notes that this program is not designed to replace meals brought from home but is instead aimed at complimenting and providing nutrition to ensure each child's success. Eventually, they would love to see the

program grow to reach more children in neighbouring school divisions. However, to support this growth, they need to secure reliable funding.

The Food for Thought program runs based on the generosity of donations from charities, Brandon Area Community Foundation, corporate donors, individuals, and businesses in both food and monetary donations. The program focuses on supporting a community that supports them by shopping locally for food and supplies.

Brandon Area Community Foundation supports Brandon's Food for Thought by granting the program funding for food from fall to early spring when the program needs it the most. Brandon's Food for Thought has also reaped the benefits of being chosen by the Youth in Philanthropy program as a charity they support. The Youth in Philanthropy program is funded by Brandon Area Community Foundation and United Way Brandon & District.

To learn more about Brandon's Food for Thought Program visit their website at brandonsfoodforthought.com



Minnedosa Rec Centre

\$40,000

After years of planning and fundraising, the Minnedosa Recreation Centre is finally on its way to becoming a reality! The idea for a new arena and sports complex started in 2009 by a group of community volunteers who have been working hard to get funding ever since.

Backed by full municipal support, the committee was finally granted both federal and provincial support for this project in 2020. The space will be named the Sunrise Community Centre after the main corporate sponsor. This project has also received financial support from the Minnedosa Foundation, Brandon Area Community Foundation, as well as generous private donors.

The arena is the final step to complete the town's sports complex. Along with an ice rink, the complex includes outdoor ball diamonds, soccer fields, and rugby pitches. The space was designed to support recreation of all ages in the community, in both the summer and winter months. One unique feature of the arena is an indoor walking track that will run along the back of the viewing area. This exciting new addition will allow members of the community a chance to stay active during our cold and icy Manitoba winters. The community of Minnedosa has seen amazing growth in all their sports clubs over the last year with more youth in soccer, rugby, and baseball. The town is hoping to see the same growth in hockey and figure skating with the addition of the new arena. The arena will also be used in the off-season for socials, volleyball tournaments, and other community events.

The Town of Minnedosa recognizes the importance of recreation in its community and will continue to support the arena through ongoing maintenance and programming.

Keystone Doors

\$50,000

With 540,000 square feet of indoor multi-use space, the Keystone Centre is an important landmark in the city of Brandon. The Keystone Centre has stood proud for over 50 years providing Westman with hockey games, fairs, conferences, concerts, as well as sporting, agricultural, and cultural events. It is now time for the building to get some upgrades that are long overdue. This year's priority is to upgrade the entrance doors of the building.

Thanks to a grant from the Brandon Area Community Foundation, both the east and west entrance doors will be getting this necessary upgrade. The manual doors are original to the building and no longer offer the security the building requires. The Keystone Centre wants to remain a top choice for its user groups and continual upgrades allow them to stay current. With nearly 2,800 event days a year, this beloved building is well used by the residents of Westman!

Nearly 90% of the Keystones' revenue is self-generated but grants from the province, federal government, and BACF allow this massive facility to keep on top of the upgrades it needs. The Keystone Centre values its partnership with BACF because they support all types of community projects including projects that are of high need but often get overlooked by other community grants. BACF is happy to support community projects that help to create sustainability in local non-profits that otherwise receive little to no recognition. BACF has supported the Keystone Centre in past projects including upgrades to the video surveillance system and an overhaul of their media suite.

YMCA

\$175,000



Building community together is what the partnership between the YMCA Brandon and the Brandon Area Community Foundation is all about. The YMCA's \$8.5 million expansion project is the perfect example of community partnerships in Brandon. This project is funded by federal and provincial governments, Brandon Area Community Foundation, and private donors.

The focus of this project is to increase childcare for families in the Brandon area. With over 400 families in Brandon on a childcare waitlist, childcare is in high demand, and the YMCA is working hard to keep up with that demand. As the main source of both pre-school and afterschool programs in our community the YMCA understands the importance of having a trusted name when it comes to keeping your kids safe.

The expanded facility will double the size of their current pre-school program, offering much-needed spaces for

infants and pre-school aged children. Included in the plan is a rooftop green space that will give kids access to the outdoors and keep them off the street. The expansion is set to open incrementally this summer, with plans to open the childcare area first. Not only will this space provide a safe space for families to bring their children, it will also increase the capacity for fitness space and bring more fitness classes to the community! As always, the YMCA continues to subsidize members to ensure that everyone has access to quality wellness.

As with the rest of the building, the new expansion will be built to encourage connectivity. The use of large windows throughout the space will connect the outdoor rooftop space to the childcare centre. The expansion project is working to revitalize the downtown area and create a fun, safe, and secure place for all people to celebrate health and wellness. Clearly, the YMCA is here to stay in Brandon!



Forrest Special Projects Group

\$20,000

The growing community of Forrest has come together to build a community-centred space aimed at improving the health and well-being of its residents. The Forrest Special Projects Group (FSPG), spearheaded by local volunteers, began to dream of a community park in August 2021. Their goal was to create a community green space that could serve over 1,300 residents, where people of all ages could gather outside to play and build a strong sense of community together.

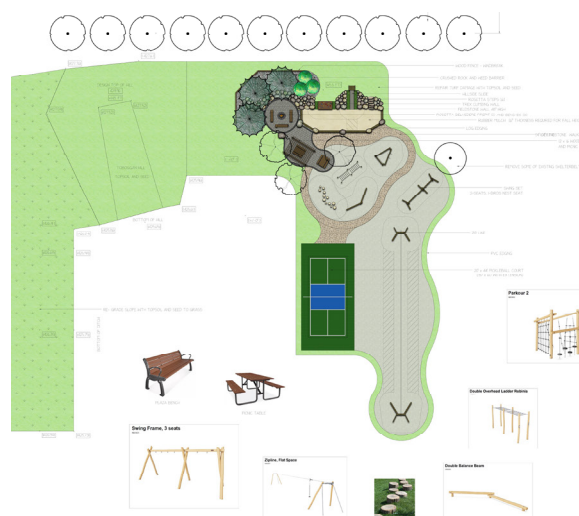
Phase One of this project was completed in the fall of 2022, starting with a new toboggan hill. The hill saw its official grand opening on February 20th, at Forrest Frost Fest, where families came together to enjoy hot chocolate, skating at the rink, and tobogganing down the beautiful new snow hill!

The next few phases of the project include planting trees as a wind shelter, building a bonfire pit with bench seating, a pergola for sheltered space, and the building of a natural playground. Down the road they are also hoping to open an outdoor multi-sport court where community members can play pickleball or basketball.

The FSPG have always been focused on finding fun ways for the community to come together as they raise

money for their goal. So far, they have hosted events in the community such as a Halloween Social, a Santa Clause Parade, and Forrest Frost Fest. Fortunately, a grant from the Brandon Area Community Foundation allowed this project to become a reality sooner than expected! The grant the FSPG received will be used for purchasing playground equipment this coming spring. Overall, this project has been made possible through community donations, private donors, the RM of Elton, the Brandon Area Community Foundation, and the hard work and vision of many amazing volunteers.

If you are interested in learning more about the Forrest Special Projects Group, check them out on Facebook!



Brandon Area Community Foundation acknowledges with respect and gratitude that our offices are located on Treaty 2 Lands which are the traditional homelands of the Dakota, Cree, Oji-Cree, Anishanabek, Dene and Metis peoples.

For more information visit **bacf.ca** or call 204-571-0529

