



NIAGARA COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

2023 Annual Report

Turning  
Intent  
Into  
Impact

2023



# Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this area is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous peoples.

**Right:** Niagara Regional Native Centre’s 9th Annual Pow Wow. NCF was a proud sponsor of this event.



# Vision

Realizing community dreams through philanthropy.

# Mission

The Niagara Community Foundation improves the quality of life in Niagara through philanthropy.






The Standards Program Trustmark is a mark of Imagine Canada used under licence by Niagara Community Foundation.

# Guiding Principles

## ENABLE, COLLABORATE AND TRANSFORM:

Enable community improvement by providing funding and community knowledge. Bring organizations together to form partnerships based on the respective strengths of each organization to focus on key community priorities.

## DEMONSTRATE PHILANTHROPIC LEADERSHIP:

Demonstrate expertise & best practice in philanthropic leadership.

## PUT NIAGARA FIRST:

Communicate and support the Niagara story. Build community leadership. Seek and develop individuals who will bring leadership to the community.

## BE TRUSTWORTHY AND TRANSPARENT:

Engage in practices that are open, accessible, fair, objective, flexible, timely and built on a foundation of respect, trust, integrity & honesty.

## ENSURE SOUND GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT:

Ensure that the Niagara Community Foundation governance and management is sound, relevant and realizes its full fiduciary responsibility.

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## Intent Into Impact

# Impact Stories Map



Introduction

# Executive Message

Spring is nature’s time for renewal. After the tumultuous year that was 2022, the green sprouts of growth started to emerge from underneath the brush in 2023. But as in nature, recovery takes time and goes at its own pace. 2023 provided its fair share of challenges. People strained to cover the ever-increasing cost of groceries, rent, mortgages and gas. Our charity partners have shared both the anecdotal and data-driven realities of demand for their services & supports doubling year-over-year.

2023 provided signs that there are better days ahead. Fears of recession have subsided, inflation is cooling and central banks signaled their intentions to start decreasing interest rates: light at the end of the tunnel perhaps!? As an organization that proudly serves all 12 municipalities and is one of the largest funders in Niagara, our focus has been and will continue to prioritize our support of the charitable sector and ensure the green sprouts of recovery are well-nourished throughout the region. Here are some of the highlights of our impact in Niagara for 2023:

- Grants of nearly **\$3.5 million** dollars bringing our historical tally to over **\$27.5 million** dollars to Niagara’s charitable since our inception in 2000;
- NCF approved 8 new endowment funds, bringing NCF’s total assets to **\$82.3 million** at the end of 2023;
- Another impactful deployment of significant dollars through the **Dorothea Thomas Foundation**. Grants to nine projects totaling just under \$134,000 in support of environmental projects focusing on protection, preservation & rehabilitation of our environment and natural habitat;
- The sixth annual grant dispersal from the **David S. Howes Fund** with 34 requests totaling \$2.4 million dollars. Sixteen (16) new projects representing \$387,000 were approved. In addition, another \$375,500 was distributed to previously approved multi-year projects for a total of \$724,500. Since the creation of the Fund in 2017, just under \$4.3 million dollars has been deployed into the charitable sector;
- The **Governance Coaching Program** continues to provide consultant support to improve selected priorities areas including: board leadership, oversight, policies & processes, financial accountability & transparency, fundraising strategy & donor relationships and staff & volunteer management. The charities selected in 2023 included: Big Brothers Big Sisters Niagara,

Community Crew, Niagara Regional Sexual Assault Centre, Hope Centre, Red Roof Retreat and Worldwide Quran Thinkers;

- NCF continued its partnership with the **Armstrong Strategy Group** (ASG) in delivering four fundraising professional development seminar sessions open to any local charity or non-profit. Local experts came in to share their knowledge on topics including: Marketing & Communications, Building a Case for Support, Capital Campaigns and Grant Writing;
- NCF was proud to **sponsor a number of initiatives** including, Future Black Female, TOES Niagara, Neighbourhoods 101, Niagara Chapter – Native Women, Niagara Regional Native Centre’s Annual Pow Wow and Leadership Niagara;
- NCF started the process of drafting a new **Strategic Plan** that will help guide the actions and impact of our organization for the coming years;
- Finally, **NCF has moved...** sort of. Our address has stayed the same, but 2023 saw our physical offices shifted down the hallway on the 3rd floor of 8 Church Street to a bright and newly renovated space to call home.

When the NCF AGM is held in Spring 2024, Carrie Prudhomme (Lincoln) and Brian Wilkie (Niagara Falls) will complete their terms as Board Directors. We are truly grateful for the tremendous contributions they have made to our organization. Carrie was instrumental in NCF’s rebranding thanks to her expertise in ALL things marketing & communications and Brian has been a strong voice on both our Finance and Investment Committees; serving as Chair of each during his tenure. Their presence around our Board table will be missed.

Spring is a hopeful time of the year. We acknowledge the ongoing challenges that our community faces. They are not unique to Niagara or Canada and are felt worldwide. NCF remains steadfast in our determination to have a positive impact in our region. We will continue to count on the support from our donors, volunteers, grant beneficiaries, charitable partners and community leaders. It is these groups that motivate us and give us hope that the sprouts of green that pushed through in 2023 will flourish in 2024 and beyond.



Michael A. Mann  
Board Chair



Bryan J. Rose  
Executive Director

Intent Into Impact

# Endowment Funds

NCF is Niagara’s philanthropic partner since 2000, connecting donors to causes, and communities to resources.

We do this by helping donors create permanent, yet flexible, income-earning endowment funds that benefit the people of Niagara and fulfill the philanthropic objectives of individual donors. We help donors give a charitable gift that will not only make an impact on the community today, but will leave a legacy in Niagara for generations to come.

DISCRETIONARY GRANT STREAM	DONOR-DIRECTED GRANT STREAM
<div><b>NIAGARA FUND &amp; COMMUNITY FUNDS</b> <i>Minimum of \$10,000 donation</i>  Provides NCF with the flexibility to decide where the earnings can be used to most effectively meet the needs of Niagara, as they change year by year.</div>	<div><b>DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS</b> <i>Minimum of \$25,000 donation</i>  Donors who establish a donor advised fund can select a charity of their choice to benefit from their fund each year.</div>
<div><b>FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS</b> <i>Minimum of \$25,000 donation</i>  Allows a donor to designate a preference for supporting a certain interest or cause in a general manner, without designating the actual recipient charity.</div>	<div><b>DONOR-DESIGNATED &amp; CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION FUNDS</b> <i>Minimum of \$10,000 donation per beneficiary</i>  Donors can choose a specific charity to be perpetual beneficiaries of the annual grant from their fund.</div>

The earnings from these funds are re-invested into the community through grants. **In 2023, NCF granted a total of \$3,513,557!** Here are the types of grants that were dispersed into the community:

Donor-Directed	67%
David S. Howes Fund	21%
Community	6%
Environmental	4%
Summer Camp	1%
Mini	0.5%
Strategic Initiative	0.5%
Total	100%

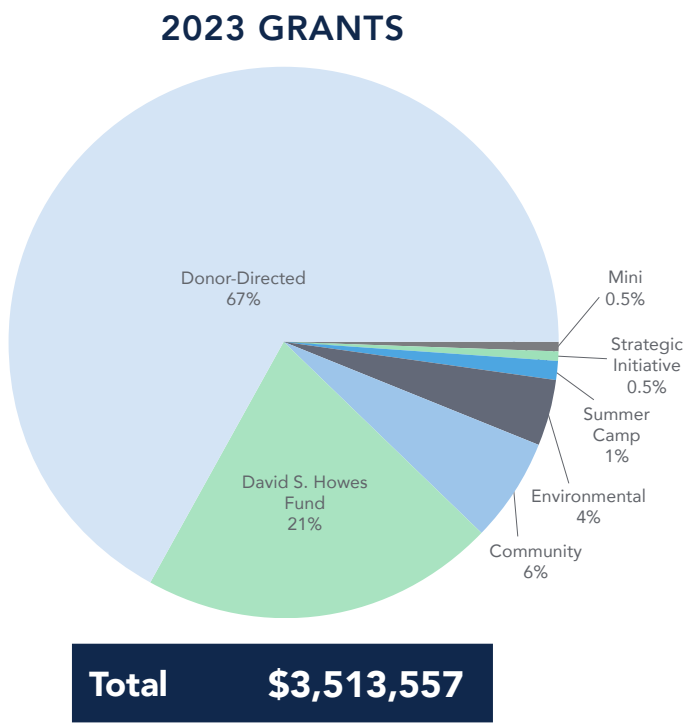
Please see **page 28** for a list of all grants dispersed in 2023.

## TYPES OF FUNDS & GRANT STREAMS

NCF has a variety of funds available for our donors to consider, tailor made to meet their financial goals and philanthropic wishes. Many of them are open funds where gifts can be made by any interested contributor, at any time, allowing every gift to make a difference.

There are many triggers that prompt a donor to establish a fund – in memory of a loved one, leaving a gift in their Will, as an alternative to opening up a family foundation, and many more. No matter the scenario, we know that each and every donor comes to us with great intention, and it is our privilege to help turn that intent into impact.

**Below is a summary of the various types of funds available and how they contribute to NCF’s grant making capacity.**





POTH-SABO-MCMILLAN FUND

# Continuing the Legacy of Community Service

After a career of service in the healthcare field and a lifetime of dedication to her local community, Sharon McMillan is grateful to know that the Niagara Community Foundation is making it possible for her to continue that service and dedication – for generations to come.

McMillan and her husband, Jim McMillan, created the **Poth-Sabo-McMillan Fund** in 2023, an effort to honour and continue the example of commitment to community “that I grew up in and that we tried to instill in our children.”

Named after both her parents, longtime Wainfleet residents and farmers Eleanor Poth and John Sabo, in addition to their family name, McMillan, the Poth-Sabo-McMillan Fund will support initiatives that benefit children, and in particular, children’s mental health.

Both of McMillan’s parents grew up in families that experienced the hardships of immigration and the Depression, and their lives were shaped by frugality, hard work, and community. McMillan said she and her husband always felt fortunate in their education and work opportunities, so after her parents’ deaths and the sale of the Wainfleet farm where she had grown up, “I was in a position to do something that will be lasting and will help the people of Wainfleet and Niagara. There is so much need out there.”

McMillan said giving back to one’s community is something everyone can do, whether it’s through giving large or small gifts, or volunteering one’s time. She has been aware of the Foundation since its inception in 2000, and is a member of its Wainfleet committee, so the idea of being able to create a family fund brought her great joy.

I was in a position to do something that will be lasting and will help the people of Wainfleet and Niagara.

Sharon McMillan

Her husband and children “were wholeheartedly behind it,” and although her father did not know this would be his legacy, she is quite sure he would be delighted.

“I think he’d be happy to know that the name is going to be here, and that all he and mum worked for is going to help others in the community,” McMillan said. “He would give you the shirt off his back, he was that kind of person.”



MCMASTER

# Charity Begins at Home

Charity begins at home for Donald and Andrée McMaster.

One need only to see the list of causes to which the Grimsby couple regularly donate to know that’s true. So it was an easy decision to set up a fund with the Niagara Community Foundation to maximize the impact of their charitable giving close to home.

“I’m quite adamant I want my money spent in my region,” Donald says. “I want it spent close to home, within my community. I’m concerned about the people around me.”

The couple could have continued with their usual pattern of giving in a piecemeal way. But the **Donald and Andrée McMaster Fund**, administered by NCF, means they can continue giving to the causes dear to them – the Grimsby Benevolent Fund, FORT and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara, for example – while also addressing critical needs elsewhere that they may not know.

“I have my favourites in the community but the community needs more than where I’m giving,” Donald explains. “The community foundation distributes funds to where I want, but at the end of the day, there’s going to be excess funds and I don’t know every cause that needs money.”

NCF has a long and established history of directing donor funds in a transparent and responsible way, he adds. That means trust was inherent in the relationship between the organization and couple.

The Foundation’s expertise in helping to create new avenues of giving was also a selling point. Down the road, Donald is keen to create scholarships for Specialist High Skills Major students at both of Grimsby’s high schools to encourage young people to pursue careers in skilled trades. NCF has the know-how to establish a variety of different kinds of funds, all in keeping with the couple’s core value of helping in their community first.

“Life has been good to me and I have to share,” Donald says. “I can’t fix the world, but I can start close to home, one thing at a time.”



I can’t fix the world, but I can start close to home, one thing at a time.

Donald McMaster





Donor Advised Fund

FEED Niagara

# Working Smarter, Not Harder

We are really looking at it as ‘how do we help more people by working together?’

Pam Sharp,  
Executive Director,  
Project SHARE

An innovative new fund with the Niagara Community Foundation will help Niagara food banks put more sustenance on supper tables and food in fridges across the Region – now and in the future.

The **FEED Niagara Community Fund**, created in 2023 by 10 Niagara foodbanks working collaboratively, will allow the agencies to accept donations and grants to support their work – and they and their donors will know the money will be safe and well-managed.

The 10 Niagara agencies, which cover all 12 of Niagara’s municipalities, had already joined forces in 2022 to share expertise and resources, said Pam Sharp, executive director of Project SHARE in Niagara Falls, one of the 10 member agencies. But the impetus for creating a fund into which donations can be funneled came when CAA Niagara promised a million-dollar gift of \$100,000 per year for 10 years. Previously, the collaborating agencies had taken turns applying for and managing grant money, but CAA’s gift called for a more structured approach.

“The FEED Niagara Community Fund was a really perfect fit for that because we know the need for food banks is not going away anytime soon,” Sharp said. “We are all seeing astronomical increases in our need, year over year.”

An endowment with the NCF gives the member food banks the ability to think about the future, in addition to dealing with the daily hunger crises they face. Regular donations are still needed so we can make sure we can feed people today,” Sharp said, “but the need is just continuing to grow, so we are starting to look at how are we going to meet that need in the future?”

This joint venture allows the food bank to accept bigger and more varied food donations, sending one truck to pick food up instead of 10, or purchasing in bulk and stretching their donation dollars.

The even bigger benefit of the FEED Niagara Community Fund is now the food banks can seek and accept corporate donations, with corporate donors knowing the gifts have the power to be transformational.

“It really is exciting because we are 10 individual agencies who are very much stretched beyond our capacity right now with the volume that we’re serving,” Sharp said. “So we are really looking at it as ‘how do we help more people by working together?’ It’s working smarter, not harder.”

## FEED NIAGARA MEMBERS

- Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold
- Community Care of West Niagara (Lincoln)
- GBF Community Services (Grimsby)
- Newark Neighbours (Niagara-on-the-Lake)
- Pelham Cares (Pelham)
- Port Cares (Port Colborne and Wainfleet)
- Project SHARE (Niagara Falls)
- The Hope Centre (Welland)
- The Salvation Army (Fort Erie)
- West Lincoln Community Care (West Lincoln)



# A Winning Legacy

The phenomenal success of Niagara’s 2022 Canada Summer Games will live on forever with a new organization called Sport Niagara and a more than \$3 million endowment with the Niagara Community Foundation.

One of the components of Niagara’s original bid to host the Canada Games included the promise of a legacy of high-quality sport infrastructure and of community programs and spirit. The infrastructure – including the Walker Sports and Abilities Centre adjacent to Brock University and the Neil Campbell Rowing Centre on Henley Island – are already being well-used, and now the new **2022 Canada Games Legacy Fund** will be a permanent source of financial support for future sport tourism and participation.

The Legacy Fund was started with the surplus from the Games, said Doug Hamilton the Chair of the Niagara 2022 Canada Games, and will be invested and managed by the Niagara Community Foundation. Each year, the earnings will be distributed to Sport Niagara for its use in advancing sport tourism and boosting sport participation in Niagara. The Legacy Fund can also accept future donations.

Find all our donor stories here.



Sport Niagara will be able to use the funds to help support Niagara athletes, providing high-performance training opportunities for elite and developing athletes and their coaches, Hamilton said. And it will also be able to provide equipment and coaching for Niagara youth who need financial assistance to participate in sport.

And the fund has the potential to boost Niagara’s economy. Sport tourism has been identified by Niagara Region as one of the key emerging drivers of economic growth in the next decade, and Niagara’s facilities, hosting success, and the ability to recruit thousands of volunteers means Niagara is now poised to be able to host more sporting events well into the future.

This is not the first time the Niagara Community Foundation has supported the Niagara Games and their legacy. In 2021, the Foundation made its single biggest grant to date, with a \$665,000 contribution to the David S. Howes Performance Centre at the Walker Sports and Abilities Centre.

The 2022 Canada Games Legacy Fund means Niagara wins three ways. It’s good for Niagara athletes, it’s good for Niagara’s economy, and it’s good for the overall well-being of Niagara residents – medal-worthy results!

It’s good for Niagara athletes, it’s good for Niagara’s economy, and it’s good for the overall well-being of Niagara residents – medal-worthy results!



# Niagara’s Philanthropic Partner

As you read this report, you will be encouraged by the stories of our donors and inspired by the impact of our charities.

But there is another group that plays a vital role in helping us turn intent into impact: our allied professionals.

Allied professionals are the lawyers, wealth advisors, investment brokers, and financial advisors who help clients meet their financial goals while keeping in mind their philanthropic wishes. Balancing these two priorities is not simple, however, in partnership with a community foundation, the job is made easier.

NCF is Niagara’s philanthropic partner. We are a bridge between allied professionals and the needs of Niagara, connecting donors with causes and communities with resources. In partnership with allied professionals, we help individuals meet their financial goals while keeping their philanthropic intentions top of mind.

This partnership has many benefits. “I have connected many of my clients with the Niagara Community Foundation over the years,” says Gary Talosi, retired wealth advisor in Port Colborne. “I often have clients who want to leave a gift to charity but they don’t know the best way to go about it. Sometimes it’s a large gift that will have a significant impact on their finances and, for others, they want to start planning for a legacy gift down the road. Whatever the scenario, I can make a simple call to the NCF office and know that the staff will help the client meet their philanthropic goals. My client is taken care of, my business builds a reputation of community partnership, and the residents of Niagara are positively impacted. It’s a win-win-win.”

“Working in partnership with NCF is seamless and transparent,” says Michael Mann, Partner with Lancaster, Chown & Welch LLP and NCF Board Chair. “Each client has a unique story. Some have a very specific idea of how they want to leave a legacy within their will, while others know they want to leave a gift to charity, but don’t know the best options to do that. I never hesitate to suggest connecting with NCF because I know that they can tailor-make a fund agreement that will meet the individual needs of my client. Their process is clear-cut and straightforward, and the added bonus is that it takes the heavy lifting off my shoulders while still providing the best service for my clients.”

Learn more about Allied Professional Partnerships here.



NCF has partnerships with allied professionals across Niagara. If you are an allied professional, or you are working with someone personally, consider reaching out to our Executive Director, Bryan Rose to learn how NCF can support you in helping to turn your intent into impact.



# Endowment Fund List

## LOCAL COMMUNITY FUNDS

Local Community Funds provide an opportunity for donors to ensure their gift stays local. Gifts to these funds are endowed and the earnings on these funds enable NCF to respond to current needs at the local level through the provision of grants. Below is a list of funds established under one of the local community funds. Please note, this list does not include all fundholders who reside in the specific municipality. Donors can establish a named fund under a local communtiy funder with a \$5,000 gift.

### NIAGARA COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Niagara Fund
- Alice Downie-Bacon Com. Fund
- Andrea Douglas Fund
- Branscombe Families Fund
- Canada GOATS Endowment Fund
- Charron Family Fund
- Crawford Smith & Swallow Fund
- D. and M. Slade Family Fund
- Dr. T. W. & Muriel O’Mulvenny Fund
- Elvi Vicary Fund
- George & Doris Shepherd Family Fund
- Jack and Nora Walker Fund
- Janet St. Amand & Doug Herod Fund
- Jo & Norm Opperman Fund
- John & Jan Potts Fund
- JP Fund
- Judith Barker Fund
- June Munro Fund
- Marchand Kruczynski Family Fund
- Marv Kriluck Fund
- Meridian Credit Union Fund
- Regional Chair’s Smart and Caring Community Fund
- Rose Family Fund
- Waters & Meredith Fund
- Woodhead Family Fund

### FORT ERIE COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Fort Erie Fund
- Facca-Mindorff Family Fund
- Little-Green Family Fund

### GRIMSBY COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Grimsby Community Fund
- Grimsby Benevolent Fund
- Happening at the Forty Fund
- Howard & Alice Clausen Fund
- Jim Howden & Ruth Moffatt Fund
- Pettigrew Family Fund
- Todd Family Fund

### LINCOLN COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Lincoln Community Fund
- Holmes Barrett Family Fund
- Hopkins Hill Family Fund
- Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Fund
- Mark & Jean Brohman Family Fund
- Paul & Leslie MacPherson Family Fund
- Prudhomme-Beatty Family Fund

### NIAGARA FALLS COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Niagara Falls Community Fund
- Americana-DiBellonia Family Fund
- Courtyard Marriott Hotel Fund
- DiCienzo Family Fund
- Ed & Jessica Friesen Fund
- Embassy Suites Hotel Niagara Falls Fallsvie Fund
- Hay Family Fund
- Hilton Niagara Falls Fallsvie Fund
- Ripley’s Great Wolf Lodge Fund

### NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Fund
- Joan & Larry Bourk Fund
- Michael Berlis & Ellen Cheslock Fund
- Vanessa & Evan Brazeau Fund
- Tansey-Fitzsimmons Fund

### NIAGARA WEST COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Niagara West Community Fund
- Ericway Tire Community Fund
- Ken and Jennifer Southward Family Fund
- M. K. Rittenhouse Family Fund

### PELHAM COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Pelham Community Fund
- Adamson Family Fund
- Augustyn Berkhout Family Fund

### PORT COLBORNE COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Port Colborne Community Fund
- Brend Butler Family Fund
- Dr. Jane Parr and Craig Spriegel Family Fund
- Dr. Scotty & Kay Wilson Legacy Fund
- Gary Talosi Thanks Port Colborne Fund
- Hartley & Florentine Wallace Fund
- James & Landy O’Donnell Fund
- John and Darlene Tuck Family Fund
- Kerry and Todd Shoalts Family Fund
- Mary and John Koval Fund
- Port Colborne Downtown Cruisers Association Fund
- Verna and Maurice Walker Fund

### ST. CATHARINES COMMUNITY FUNDS

- St. Catharines Community Fund
- Burgoyne Doolittle Fund
- Durward Jones Barkwell
- Investing in St. Catharines Youth Fund
- Jean Whitty Family Fund
- Nitsopolous Families’ Fund
- Whyte Family Endowment Fund

### THOROLD COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Thorold Community Fund
- Mario and Rachel De Divitiis Fund

### WAINFLEET COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Wainfleet Community Fund
- Robson Family Fund
- Svob-Aldrey Family Fund

### WELLAND COMMUNITY FUNDS

- Welland Community Fund
- Angie & Gary Talosi Family Fund
- Groom Jensen Family Fund
- Neill Terry Family Fund
- Peter & Andrew Papp Family Fund
- Raymond & June Harper Fund
- Welland Mayor’s Children & Youth Fund

## FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Donors are passionate about casues that matter most to them. A Field of Interest (FOI) Fund allows a donor to define their area of interest while empowering NCF’s Grantmaking Committee to select worthwhile projects to support. FOI Funds can support causes such as Animal Welfare, Education, Health, Enviornment, and Children & Youth. The minimum donation to open a FOI fund is \$25,000.

- Ann Fast Children and Youth Fund
- Anna Angelone Endowment Fund
- Anonymous Fund
- Arthur Dalfen Fund
- Arts & Heritage Community Development Fund – Old Town NOTL
- Barbara Gale Seniors & Youth Fund
- Bowman Family Fund
- Bruce and Bonnie Wallace Family Trust
- Children & Youth Fund for Niagara
- Christopher John Slater Fund
- Cooper Family Fund
- Credit Counselling of Regional Niagara Fund
- Cultural Endowment Fund for Niagara
- David and Susanne DiLalla Howes Family Fund
- David S. Howes Fund
- Dorothea Thomas Foundation
- Dritsacos Family Fund
- Earl & Ida Clarke Animal Welfare Fund
- Ed and Rosalie Vasso Fund

- Education & Leadership Fund for Niagara
- Enbridge Awaire Fund
- Environment Legacy Fund
- Fengate Realty Group Env. Fund
- Gark Family Fund
- Gordon Hurst Fund
- Hammond Family Fund
- Harry Deline Fund
- Investing in St. Catharines Youth Fund
- Jessica Potts Fund
- Jessie and Oscar Thompson Memorial Fund
- Joan Tovenati Fund
- Kathleen Summers and John Picken Fund
- Lisa J. Badger-Gram Memorial Fund
- Luigi & Amelia Setacci Health Niagara Fund
- Lycett Family Fund
- Mayflowers Fund
- Michael & Paula Mann Family Fund
- Nelson Aggregate Environmental Fund
- Newman Rigby Family Fund

- Niagara CAER Group Fund
- Niagara Casinos Fund
- Norman and Lisa Wills Fund
- NOTL Healthcare Foundation Community Fund
- Ontario Endowment for Children & Youth in Recreation
- Palmieri Family Fund
- Regional Chair’s Environmental Legacy Fund for Niagara
- Roll Surface Technologies Inc Fund
- R.V. Anderson Associates Fund
- RWDI Air Inc. Fund
- Samuel L. Rudolph Memorial Fund
- Secord-Reid Family Fund
- Smylski-Attenborough Fund
- Stayzer Family Fund
- Summer Camp Fund
- Sunday in the Parks Fund
- Suzanne Curtin Fund
- Touch a Truck Niagara Early Childhood Literacy Fund
- Urban & Environmental Management Fund
- Verna and Maurice Walker Fund
- W. S. Tyler Canada Environmental Fund
- Walker Industries Earth 1st Fund
- Walter & Sons Excavating Environmental Fund
- Welland Mayor’s Children & Youth Fund

## CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION FUNDS

Charitable Organization funds are created and administered by NCF to benefit a registered charity. This allows the organization freedom from investment responsibility and gives donors the confidence of knowing that a permanent foundation is in place to professionally administer the charity’s endowment. Once established, the charity can encourage their donors to contribute to their endowment fund. The minimum donation to open this type of fund is \$10,000.

- \*2022 Canada Games Legacy Fund
- Adrie’s House of Hope Fund
- Adult Literacy Council of Greater Fort Erie Fund
- Bert Miller Nature Club Endowment Fund
- Bethlehem Housing and Support Services Endowment Fund
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Endowment Fund
- Billes Family Future Housing Fund
- Brock Leaders Citizenship Society Fund
- CFUW St. Catharines 100th Anniversary Scholarship Fund
- \*CFUW St. Catharines Brock University Awards Fund
- CFUW St. Catharines Endowment Fund
- Community Care – St Catharines Thorold Fund
- Community Care of West Niagara Endowment Fund
- Community Living St. Catharines Endowment Fund
- Conservation Niagara Fund
- Education Foundation of Niagara Bursary Fund for DSBN Academy Students

- Education Foundation of Niagara Bursary Fund for DSBN Students
- Education Foundation of Niagara Fund
- Education Foundation of Niagara Medical Needs Fund in Honour of Cindy Paskey
- Education Foundation of Niagara Poverty & Emergency Relief Fund
- Fort Erie Conservation Club Fund
- Freda Mae LeGallais Music Niagara Fund
- Friends of Fort Erie’s Creeks Fund
- Geoff Mayo Awards Fund
- George and Jackie Thomas Bursary
- Grimsby Museum Endowment Fund
- Grimsby Public Art Gallery Collection Endowment Fund
- Hospice Niagara Fund
- Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara
- Land Care Niagara Fund
- Margaret Robinson Fund
- Mayholme Foundation Fund
- Momentum Choir Endowment Fund

- Monika and Darren Pries-Klassen Fund
- Music Niagara Endowment
- Niagara Falls Big Brothers Big Sisters Scholarship Fund
- Niagara Falls Humane Society Shelter Enhancement Fund
- Niagara Foundation for Family and Children’s Services Endowment Fund
- Niagara Land Trust Endowment Fund
- Niagara on the Lake Public Library Endowment Fund
- Niagara Pumphouse Arts Scholarship
- Niagara Survivor Services Fund
- Niagara Symphony Association Endowment Fund
- Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum Fund
- Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library – Michael Dietsch Family Fund
- NOTL Palliative Care Service Fund
- Pathstone Foundation Fund
- Pelham Public Library Endowment Fund
- Red Roof Retreat Endowment Fund
- Robert Cooper Choral Scholars Fund
- Rotary Club of St. Catharines Fund
- St. Giles Presbyterian Church CEVO Fund
- The RAFT Endowment Fund
- The Table Fund - Downtown Thorold
- Upper Canada Lodge Auxiliary – Constable Family Fund
- Welland Hospital Foundation Endowment Fund
- Women’s Place of South Niagara Endowment Fund

\* Represents funds created in 2023

\* Represents funds created in 2023



DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS

Donors have the opportunity to specify, at the time the fund is established, which particular charities to support in perpetuity. If an organization ceases to exist unexpectedly, we can redirect the fund to support a similar cause. The minimum donation to open a designated fund is \$10,000 per beneficiary.

- Agape Fund for Big Brothers Big Sisters North & West Niagara
- Agape Fund for Red Roof Retreat
- \*Agape Fund Supporting McNally House Hospice, Grimsby
- \*Agape Fund Supporting Youth Unlimited St. Catharines
- Alice Crawley Endowment for Women Artists Fund
- Alice Helen Downie-Bacon Education Fund
- Ann Speedie Niagara Concerts Memorial Fund
- Anonymous Fund(s)
- Art & Val Fleming Fund
- Aspiring Healthcare Leaders in Niagara Bursary Fund
- Audrey Shimizu Memorial Fund
- Bob Gale Recreation Fund
- Brend Butler Family Fund 2
- Brend Butler Family Fund 3
- Brend Butler Family Fund 4
- Caplan Family Anniversary Legacy Fund
- CARMI for Kids
- Carol Leppert Music Fund for Steele Street School
- Carol Leppert Music Fund for Winger Public School
- Caughill Family Fund
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Intent Into Impact

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**GATEWAY RESIDENTIAL AND  
COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

# Feeding Body and Soul

Knowing how to cook nutritious meals on a budget doesn't necessarily come naturally, and that's especially true for people who have experienced homelessness.

But about 40 residents of two apartment buildings in Port Colborne will have hands-on opportunities to learn this year, thanks to a **\$15,000 Community Grant** from NCF.

Gateway Residential and Community Support Services of Niagara, which operates the 23-unit Repei Place and the eight-unit Robinson Place, will be hosting regular kitchen parties throughout the year, inviting tenants to plan, budget, shop, prepare and preserve nutritious foods at affordable prices.

"For example, soup or crock-pot chili," said Shelly Mousseau, program director of Gateway.



Working with a Gateway staff member, residents can decide together what they want to make, decide on their budget, peruse grocery store flyers for good deals, head out to shop together, and then come home and cook together. They'll learn basic cooking skills, enjoy a delicious and nutritious meal, and then learn how to package and safely preserve the leftovers to be enjoyed another day.

The Gateway program staff can help residents make sure they have refrigerated or frozen the leftovers properly, and explain how to reheat. "Sometimes it's things we can take for granted, such as how many days can that soup sit in the fridge and I can still eat it? If you didn't have the opportunity to learn that, our case managers are there to teach those skills – to live independently long-term." The program is good for people's physical health and mental health, Mousseau said, because, in addition to feeding people's bellies, it will also feed their souls as it builds community among neighbours. Because the tenants are almost all on fixed incomes with very little money for discretionary spending, the program is also expected to reduce the number of visits to local soup kitchens.

"It's a great program," Mousseau said, "and it's definitely needed. We are already seeing people attend, so we know it is appreciated."

**The program is good for people's physical health and mental health because, in addition to feeding people's bellies, it will also feed their souls as it builds community among neighbours.**

Shelly Mousseau,  
Program Director

**CAVE SPRINGS CAMP**

# Summer Vacation, Long Overdue

If the pandemic taught parents anything, it was the profound importance of children being around others their age and spending time in nature.

Fewer activities bring young people and the outdoors together like summer camp, so it wasn't much of a surprise to Lance Wright that parents would be eager to register their children to attend Cave Springs Camp in Beamsville in 2023, at least for the day program.

But Wright, Cave Springs' Program Director, wasn't expecting more campers keen to bunk overnight. When the final headcount was done, 150 new overnight spots were filled at Cave Springs during the first post-COVID summer. And more than 800 campers spent part of their school break there. About half of them were new to Cave Springs, and many had never been away from home or outside of a city.

"We were really, really pleased with the uptake in registration, but we were even surpassing COVID numbers in Day camps," Wright says. "Parents want to see their kids outside of the house, away from technology and creating good memories in the outdoors, and we're proud that we can make all of this possible."

Cave Springs was able to be part of so many summer plans because of a **Summer Camp Grant** from NCF worth **\$1,750** that supported families needing assistance with registration fee coverage. Funding from a NCF Mini Grant also enabled the camp to purchase two new barbecues to fulfill another rite of summer.

Combined with other sources of funding the camp received, Wright and crew were able to meet every Camp Bursary request for spots at Cave Springs in 2023.

"We receive a high volume of requests for Bursary assistance and the amount continues to rise. The support from the Niagara Community Foundation was a key reason why we were able to keep up with the rising need. Attending camp is a highlight of a child's summer, and the gift of camp through Bursary support makes a huge difference to many children and families in our region."

Parents want to see their kids outside of the house, away from technology and creating good memories in the outdoors, and we're proud that we can make all of this possible.

Lance Wright,  
Program Director







Community  
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REACH Niagara

# Better Healthcare for Marginalized Neighbours

When you're dealing with equity-deserving populations, trust is a huge factor, and we offer trauma-informed care. For us, the biggest thing is, how do we provide as much care as we can?

Carolyn Dyer,  
Executive Director

For Niagara's unhoused or marginalized residents, taking care of one's health may not be a priority, and one for which there are many barriers.

Making appointments, keeping appointments, having a valid health card, trusting the medical establishment – these can all be difficult to accomplish. The result is often poor health or escalating problems that lead to visits to an emergency department.

But a **\$15,000 Community Grant** from NCF is giving REACH Niagara's Mobile Health Clinic a new diagnostic tool to eliminate one more of those barriers.

REACH Niagara's Sprinter van, with two on-board medical suites, visits 10 different Niagara locations a week on a consistent schedule. Now it is also one of the first in Canada to have a portable ultrasound machine, which allows for even better diagnostic work with people who would normally find it hard to keep an ultrasound appointment or have an inability to pay for the appointment by not having a valid health card.

"We're so excited to be able to offer this for folks," said Carolyn Dyer, executive director of REACH Niagara. "We discovered that many of the folks we were serving are very unwell, and that's often because they've neglected their health for a very long time, and they need more diagnostics."

In the early stages of the machine's deployment, "we'll be focusing on gallbladders, renal, and cardiac systems. Phase one is to focus on those major systems

because we're seeing that as a big need," she said. Phase two will add "early detection of pregnancy, with the ability to support people more effectively in knowing their options. It's very exciting that we can do that."

The grant covers training for the ultrasound machine and supplies for the mobile clinic, for things such as wound care. People who spend a lot of time on their feet or who utilize substances can often develop wounds that fail to heal, which then cause more serious problems.

Last year, the mobile clinic offered 2,500 treatments during 1,800 visits – removing barriers and offering hope and better health in ways that work for people who may not trust the system, Dyer said. There is always a doctor or nurse practitioner on board, and Dyer said how the care is provided is as important as what that care is.

"When you're dealing with equity-deserving populations, trust is a huge factor, and we offer trauma-informed care. For us, the biggest thing is, how do we provide as much care as we can?"

"We're really grateful to the Niagara Community Foundation for assisting us with this because it truly does make a significant difference in these folks' lives."

Read this story online  
and share!





# Connection Purr-fection

It was George Eliot who said “Animals are such agreeable friends. They ask no questions; they pass no criticisms.”

Staff at the Niagara SPCA and Humane Society know as well as the English author no truer words have been spoken, especially about animals who spend their time with older adults in local long-term care as part of the shelter’s Everybody’s Animals program.

“Their faces light up when they see the animals,” says Tammy Gaboury, animal care manager for the organization. “They’re so happy and excited. Everyone wants to tell you their stories, and tell you about their pets and how long they had them (before moving into long-term care).”

So after Everybody’s Animals, a program that brings shelter animals to long-term care homes and seniors centres to visit with older adults, was paused during the pandemic, the Niagara SPCA and Humane Society made it a priority to re-start the initiative as soon as possible.



The shelter needed help to do that, however, and it came as a **\$22,500 grant** from NCF’s **David S. Howes Fund**. The money enabled the SPCA to purchase gear for volunteers to make them easily identifiable to care home residents, and pet carriers and other equipment to safely transport dogs, cats and even rabbits to their visits. Money from the grant will also help the organization grow the program.

“The Niagara Community Foundation and all the support we’ve had from them over the years has been amazing for us,” Gaboury says. “Without these grants, a lot of our programs wouldn’t be available to our community. It really is a community effort and a community initiative.”

And one that’s invaluable, Gaboury notes. The impact of the connections made has been remarkable for both human and animal. Gaboury has no shortage of stories about older adults who are non-communicative with others but who open up in the presence of an animal. Animals have the chance to get better socialized and ready for adoption. Gaboury has also experienced countless benefits.

“It’s amazing to sit with the people and hear them tell stories of their pets,” she says. “We’re seeing the program grow in so many beautiful ways.”

Everyone wants to tell you their stories, and tell you about their pets and how long they had them (before moving into long-term care).

Tammy Gaboury,  
Animal Care Manager

# Connecting the Dots on Truth and Reconciliation

The beauty of art is in its ability to help us connect the dots.

That’s what happened one night last November at the Lincoln Pelham Public Library branch in Fonthill, thanks to a **\$750 Mini Grant** from the Niagara Community Foundation.

Métis visual artist Brian Kon led a workshop in dot painting, a medium inspired by traditional beadwork, where each “bead” on the canvas is applied as a single dot of paint. As Kon, Indigenous Relations Advisor for Niagara Region, led the session, he spoke about Métis art, food and oral history. He also touched on heavier topics, including Truth and Reconciliation and the significance of Orange Shirt Day, a colloquialism for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Participants, including parents and children, older adults and members of local Indigenous communities, got to take home their canvas at the end of the night, which they created using large pushpins dipped in paint. But Kelly Spence, the library’s marketing and outreach co-ordinator, says they took away so much more from the evening.

“It was really encouraging to hear the conversations that were happening, not just between Brian and the participants but between the participants, who were sharing information and finding common ground,” Spence says. “The whole point was to create dialogue and get the conversation going.”

In addition to funding the session, the grant also enabled the library to host other activities focused on teaching about Indigenous peoples, including a virtual discussion about the award-winning book Valley of the Birdtail: An Indian Reserve, a White Town, and the Road to Reconciliation, led by the authors Andrew Stobo-Sniderman and Douglas Sanderson (Amo Binashii).

The library was also able to purchase four Moccasin Identifier kits, created by members of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The kits, which are used to teach about treaties, can be circulated to schools, Girl Guide units and other groups.

The library is a place for stories in all forms. We are holders of stories and people turn to the library for education.

Kelly Spence,  
Marketing & Outreach Co-ordinator

“It’s really wonderful the Niagara Community Foundation grant allowed us to do this, all of it with a teaching focus,” Spence says. “The library is a place for stories in all forms. We are holders of stories and people turn to the library for education. We want to make sure these materials are available without barrier to celebrate these cultures and bring attention to the beauty and importance of them.”





# Digging Deeper

Cultivating community is the very lifeblood of The Brown Homestead.

That’s why Andrew Humeniuk, a fifth-generation descendant of original homestead owner John Brown, decided to transform this former private family residence into a cultural centre by 2026, including community in every step of the process. The hope is that, together, they can restore the original character of the homestead, settled in 1785, and create a future for the oldest house in St. Catharines where visitors can explore their personal history, discover a sense of belonging and find their place in our collective past.

But first, Humeniuk and his team at The Brown Homestead need to dig a little deeper.

Thanks to a **\$22,000 David S. Howes Fund grant** through NCF, The Brown Homestead embarked last summer on an archeological dig on the seven and a half-acre property. Under the advisement of Dr. John Triggs, the lead archeologist of Triggs Heritage Consulting, volunteers from the community were invited to participate in the dig, which covered a little over two acres and included 235 test pits to unearth artifacts and historically significant markers that tell the story of the land.

“Everybody can do it,” says Triggs, who provided tutorials on how to dig. “Almost every pit has artifacts associated with it. We’ve had great success.”

The group is interested in more than just the Browns’ time on the land, however.

The Brown Homestead is located on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabek and Haudenosaunee peoples, and near the Mohawk trail, a traditional travelling route for Indigenous people. Under the observation of Indigenous monitor Jodie Lovegrove, a field liaison representative of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the dig will also ensure the history of the swath’s original caretakers is honoured, too.

So far, the dig has unearthed ceramics, glass, nails, animal bones, and brick. The plan is to build an open-door centre and sculpture garden to showcase dig findings and other pieces of history

Community is the next family of the homestead.

Mary Maida,  
Director of Development

significant to Niagara. The gardens will also include the Three Sisters – corn, squash and beans – which are important facets of Indigenous foodways and culture.

All in, the efforts are creating a strong sense of identity for the area and a stronger community in the process. This research has already helped The Brown Homestead’s staff develop a greater understanding of the history of the site and how it relates to the community they serve.

“Community is the next family of the homestead,” says Mary Maida, Director of Development for the Brown Homestead.



# The Rides of Their Lives

Brenda Langendoen doesn’t horse around when she talks about the benefits of equine-human connections.

“It’s indescribable,” says Langendoen, executive director of Horse Sense for Kids. “Horses don’t care what someone is wearing or what they look like. They only care how you treat them. It’s a very honest relationship, which is very refreshing.”

It’s creating an environment where kids feel safe, horses feel safe and that connection can happen at a deep level.

Brenda Langendoen,  
Executive Director

She has lots of anecdotal evidence to back that up. Horse Sense for Kids is an after-school horsemanship program in Fenwick for children and teens who may be experiencing challenges in their lives. It teaches riding skills with an emphasis on creating connection and a relationship between rider and horse. The program’s pillars are adventure, growth and a deep appreciation for the massive creatures who help carry the load of the rider, both literally and figuratively.

“The whole atmosphere gives them some time away to take a deep breath and have some time away from their worlds,” Langendoen explains. “When this huge horse nuzzles a child, it is so calming and soothing. And when kids open their hearts to horses, they just sense that.”



Key to that magic happening, however, is ensuring a safe environment. Thanks to a **Mini Grant** worth **\$750** from NCF, Horse Sense for Kids was able to purchase several new riding helmets for program participants to use.

Riding helmets can cost as much as \$100 each, which could be a barrier to participation if riders had to purchase the safety gear themselves.

“It’s a huge help for us,” Langendoen says. “Helmets are a huge safety piece in our program. They need to be replaced frequently, especially if dropped.”

Having that equipment – and the NCF grant, in particular – contributes to the overall success of the program, she notes.

“To have that positive experience, you need the right environment. It’s creating an environment where kids feel safe, horses feel safe and that connection can happen at a deep level. There’s a lot of time and effort to make that happen.”





Environmental  
Grant

Town of Pelham

# Rooted in Sustainability

Expanding the town's canopy fits with Pelham's mission statement as a caring, active and sustainable community.

Leah Letford,  
Communications Specialist

## The Town of Pelham put down more roots in North Pelham Park during Earth Week 2023.

The municipality planted 30 large trees in the popular greenspace with the support of a **\$15,000 Environmental Grant** from NCF. The project was designed to enhance the natural tree canopy with native species while bringing awareness to the importance of the local tree canopy.

Adding more trees to the park had been a priority based on the community's requests, says Leah Letford, Town of Pelham communications specialist. Expanding the canopy also fits with Pelham's mission statement as a caring, active, and sustainable community.

"For the tree plant, larger trees were selected so there would be an immediate impact for the community members using the park," Letford says.

Local groups, including a school eco-club and members of Pelham Advocates for Trees and Habitat (PATH), joined residents and Town staff to plant the trees, which included black walnut, bur oak, sycamore maple, and legacy sugar maple, as a tribute to the nearby Comfort Maple, believed to be the oldest sugar maple in Canada. Town forestry specialists prepared the location and primed helpers on soil preparation, proper tree planting and care to ensure successful growth. Trees were planted to create vibrant colour blocks in the fall.

The grant also funded four eco-workshops hosted by PATH for residents, covering tree care and canopy health.

The Earth Week event combined with the PATH workshops brought residents

together to learn more about their impacts and the importance of native species and planted seeds for a greener community for generations to come.

"It was inspiring to see the expansion of North Pelham Park's tree canopy during Earth Week," says Vickie vanRavenswaay, the Town of Pelham's Director of Recreation, Culture, and Wellness. "Planting the native species was a great way for residents to get involved in activities that can positively impact the environment."

Educational signage created with a portion of the NCF grant will be posted in the park this year to highlight the tree species and characteristics of the Carolinian Zone, the most diverse and threatened eco-region, stretching from the southern United States into a small section of southern Ontario, including Pelham.

"It was a lovely thing to see community members come together and make a day of planting in the park," Letford says. "Grant opportunities, like those offered by NCF, have a way of bringing like-minded people together to do something impactful that can benefit the community for years to come."

In 2022, NCF was privileged to welcome the **Dorothea Thomas Foundation** under the umbrella of NCF's Environmental Funds. Pooled with other generous funds, the **Dorothea Thomas Foundation** significantly boosts the Environmental Grants Program, allowing NCF to fund more projects across Niagara.

Find this story and  
more on our website.





# Discretionary Grants

NCF's granting programs are the wheels that turn our intention into impact.

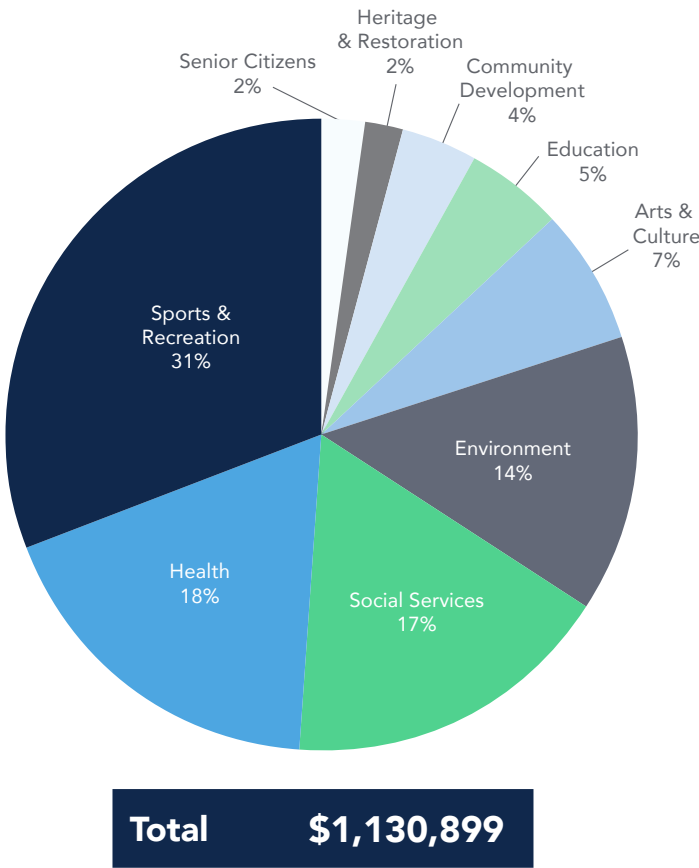
NCF has six Discretionary Grant Programs: **Community, David S. Howes Fund, Mini, Environmental, Summer Camp** and **Strategic Initiatives**. Each application for our Discretionary Grant programs is evaluated by our volunteer Grant Review Committee, ensuring our grants are, meeting the greatest needs in Niagara, are making a visible and sustained impact and are being dispersed in an equitable way.

These Grants are funded by the earnings of our undesignated, discretionary endowment funds – **Niagara Fund, Community Funds** and **Field of Interest Funds**. Undesignated funds provide NCF with ultimate flexibility to meet the pressing needs of Niagara.

## 2023 DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region	\$10,000	Support team building and skill development post COVID and invest in cohesion and growth of the team and strengthen staff capacity and resiliency.
Attachment and Trauma Treatment Centre for Healing (ATTCH) Niagara	\$40,000	Expand trauma specific therapy and programs to Beamsville and Niagara Falls for people with complex mental health concerns who are otherwise unable to access such assistance.
Avanti Chamber Singers	\$750	Purchase audio/visual equipment to create high quality informational and promotional videos which will be used to market the concert series and events to the public.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara	\$20,000	Support strategic improvements to Nearly New Thrift Store to increase profitability of social enterprise, increasing the ability to provide life-changing mentoring programs to young people facing adversity.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara	\$10,000	Support Power Up and Play, an inclusive school-based group mentoring programs for children in grades 4 and 5 that enables participants to realize their power and potential thanks to support from caring adult mentors.
Boys and Girls Club of Niagara	\$35,000	Support replacement of 5 of 8 compressors associated with the HVAC unit servicing the Niagara Falls pool as these repairs are critical to the continued delivery of aquatic program services.
Bravo Niagara! Festival of the Arts	\$15,000	Support the audio recording and filming of Kimiko's Pearl, that will enhance both the reach and impact of the production, that also includes a special taiko performance for the world premiere presentations in St. Catharines.
Brock University	\$25,000	Develop an Indigenous Vision for Housing in Niagara that outlines how to build safe, affordable and culturally appropriate homes in Niagara from the position of Indigenous sovereignty.

### DISCRETIONARY GRANT ALLOCATION 2023



Caribbean Workers Outreach Project	\$750	Support transportation costs for migrant workers from Lincoln and NOTL to attend annual Cricket Match event.
Carousel Players	\$10,000	Support new – The Niagara Children’s Festival – an exciting multi-day event offering live theatre, performance, and culture for young audiences, from early years to teens, in three Niagara municipalities in May 2024.
Cave Springs Camp Inc.	\$750	Support the purchase of 2 barbecues to be used for meals that will benefit children, families and adults who use the facilities.
City of Niagara Falls	\$4,500	Support Mother Earth Day, an environmentally friendly based event that includes a community clean-up, tree planting/give-a-way events and several vendors and demonstrators to create awareness of environmental initiatives.
City of St. Catharines (Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park)	\$2,000	Plant native trees and shrubs to deter people from water edge and mitigate shore erosion.
City of St. Catharines (Friends of Walker's Creek)	\$6,325	Support Cherie Road Park Invasive Species Removal Project with the removal of garlic mustard, and a planting to control the regrowth of the garlic mustard to reduce the potential for spread and the risk of environmental impacts.
City of St. Catharines (Haig Neighbours)	\$15,000	Support transformation of the York Street Parkette and Haig Community Garden into a vibrant community hub where neighbours and visitors can gather, spend time, and build the social fabric.
Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold	\$28,000	Installation of a video surveillance system to support the safety and wellbeing of clients, volunteers and frontline staff at the 2 North Street building.
Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold (Niagara Nutrition Partners)	\$750	Support creation of promotional video that will explain services and to be used as an introduction at speaking events.
Community Crew	\$20,000	To address the current Food Cost Crisis, support providing a fully balanced, complete lunch at school to the food insecure children in the Niagara.
Community Crew	\$7,000	Meet the needs of an increasing ethnically diverse population in the Niagara to include Halal and other culturally diverse lunches.
Community Living Fort Erie	\$10,000	Implementation of digital eMAR system that will provide medication management for individuals with developmental disabilities in multiple residential locations in Niagara.
Faith Tabernacle Pentecostal Assembly (Faith Welland Outreach)	\$750	Support purchase of new folding tables to be used at Community houses.
Faith Tabernacle Pentecostal Assembly (Faith Welland Outreach)	\$750	Support purchase of new folding chairs to be used at Community houses.
Fenwick United Church	\$750	Purchase an AED for congregation, those associated within church and community members that gather for worship, socialization, education, leisure & work, as the location can't be reached by EMS within 5 min.
Garden City Productions	\$499	Purchase printer to streamline the process of producing necessary material for cast and crew to effectively complete their rehearsals in a stress free environment.
Gateway Residential and Community Support Services of Niagara	\$15,000	Support Food for Life, Healthy Eating Program in Port Colborne that provides opportunities to individuals to access healthy, affordable meals onsite at home.
Habitat for Humanity Niagara	\$9,900	Purchase and implementation of a new accounting system and specialized CRA Canada – Not-for-Profit Certificate training for our Finance Manager.
Heartland Forest Nature Experience	\$29,425	Restore wet meadow habitat, providing nature exploration opportunities and educating through programming and exhibits including: new plantings, habitat boxes, and new nature area created for school groups and general public.
Heartland Forest Nature Experience	\$20,000	Support accessibility upgrades include a new ramp, adjustable tables, storage solutions and designated parking spots to support the classroom portable, a critical space for inclusive programming.



<b>Heartland Forest Nature Experience</b>	\$8,500	Expand Volunteer Work Experience Program for adults of all abilities, thus reducing barriers to participation and strengthening Niagara as an equitable, diverse and inclusive community for all people.
<b>Horse Sense for Kids</b>	\$10,000	Provide new fencing to improve the safety of horsemanship programs.
<b>Horse Sense for Kids</b>	\$750	Purchase new horseback riding helmets for riding programs.
<b>Hotel Dieu Shaver Health &amp; Rehabilitation Foundation</b>	\$50,000	Support purchase of much-needed patient beds and specialty mattresses to meet the safety needs of patients, vital in preventing patient falls and pressure injuries for all inpatients.
<b>I Can Therapeutic Equestrian Riding Association of Niagara Inc. – I CAN-T.E.R.</b>	\$20,000	Support Beaver Creek Restoration Project that will focus on environmental protection, enhancement and restoration by removing creek blockages, restoring creek embankments, controlling invasive species, and regenerate wildlife habitats.
<b>Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara</b>	\$15,000	Support redesign and renovation of welcome area, incorporating trauma-informed design concepts, to create a calm and supportive setting for our young clients when they visit the Centre.
<b>Lincoln Pelham Public Library</b>	\$750	Host Muckpaloo Ipeelie, Inuk Cultural Consultant and CEO of Urban Inuit Identity Project, during Truth and Reconciliation month to provide the community with a greater awareness of Inuit Culture and history.
<b>Lincoln Pelham Public Library</b>	\$5,525	Purchase Memory Care Kits to be added to library collection and for use in Long Term Care and Retirement Homes for care partners and individuals living with cognitive changes to access locally and at no cost.
<b>Lincoln Pelham Public Library</b>	\$750	Enhance the Visiting Library Service with sturdy, dark and zippered bags to deliver books in a confidential manner to our homebound clients that cannot access the library in person or virtually.
<b>Links for Greener Learning</b>	\$5,000	Support students to attend 8th Annual Earth Week Event where they will have the opportunity to connect directly with organizations that are working to decrease human impact in environmentally sensitive areas.
<b>Links for Greener Learning</b>	\$7,000	Support 'Growing Diversity Project' with primary objective to construct a new garden in Niagara Falls at MacBain Community Centre that is accessible to seniors and other community members.
<b>Nelles Manor Heritage House</b>	\$5,700	Support Concert Series highlight local artists and meld the Historical aspects of our History with the celebration of music.
<b>Niagara Foundation for Family &amp; Children's Services</b>	\$15,000	Support building of a new, accessible play area at the St. Catharine's site which will be used during visits between children in care and their respective family members.
<b>Niagara Jazz Festival</b>	\$7,500	Expand community outreach and programming to Thorold, JAZZ in the STREET, by providing be free & family friendly: live music, vendors, food & beverage.
<b>Niagara Railway Museum Inc</b>	\$750	Support replacement of guard rail along the pit area to improve the safety of the deck and surroundings for visitors and volunteers.
<b>Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre</b>	\$750	Revise and print 'You Are Not Alone' booklet to be distributed to medical care facilities such as hospitals in the region, doctors offices and other social service organizations.
<b>Niagara Resource Service for Youth (RAFT)</b>	\$750	Support launch of educational community campaign, Attachment Is The Answer, to showcase promise to end youth homelessness by forging stronger bonds with family, friends, school, and community.
<b>Niagara SPCA &amp; Humane Society – Welland Site</b>	\$22,500	Support program to visit long term care centers and senior residents can interact with animals and an participate in education session on animals.
<b>Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library</b>	\$750	Support Summer Kick-Off Community Event which is the launch of summer children's programming to attract families to the library and foster excitement within the community.
<b>Ontario Nature</b>	\$10,000	Support Harold Mitchell Nature Reserve mature hemlock forest on the shores of Lake Erie and reduce infestation rate of invasive hemlock woolly adelgid, thereby maintaining the mature hemlock forest habitat that is vital for wildlife survival.
<b>Pelham Cares Inc.</b>	\$15,000	Support purchase a 360 cubic foot walk-in freezer, to provide additional frozen storage capacity to offset the increasing cost of food by receiving bulk items.
<b>Red Roof Retreat</b>	\$500	Purchase games that will allow clients to play together as well as provide a fun, meaningful activities onsite and in the community.

<b>Regional Essential Access to Connected Healthcare Niagara</b>	\$15,000	Purchase portable ultrasound machine to treat issues in real time and to equip staff to care for wounds to prevent infection and hospitalizations of patients.
<b>Rodman Art Institute of Niagara</b>	\$10,000	Support installation of an accessible washroom on the main floor of our new public gallery to ensure all members of the community can enjoy space.
<b>Scouts Canada – 10th Welland Scouts</b>	\$720	Provide volunteers with a training opportunity to receive their Food Safe Handler Certification, increasing the safety of youth in the program.
<b>Silver Spire United Church</b>	\$25,000	Support replacement of boiler that services facility with an efficient system, replace thermostats, remove asbestos, and update the facility's fire barrier to modernize the heating systems for the facility's many users.
<b>St. Catharines Public Library</b>	\$750	Provide sensory kits with noise-cancelling headphones and tactile items for individuals with autism and neurodivergent challenges to reduce stress and anxiety when visiting the Library and attending programs.
<b>St. George's Church – Niagara Community Benefits Network</b>	\$10,000	Support capacity building for the Niagara Community Benefits Network in which all residents have equitable opportunities to contribute to healthy communities and a prospering economy.
<b>Start Me Up Niagara</b>	\$14,025	Support "Come Together" tour that aims to implement four key actions that will enhance inclusivity and equity: enhanced training, multi-lingual communication, increased bi-lingual volunteer base, and expanded partnerships.
<b>Start2Finish Canada</b>	\$10,000	Support after-school Running & Reading Club+ program, a partnership with the District School Board of Niagara, providing 50 equity-deserving children (grades 1-6) with physical activity, SEL and literacy supports.
<b>Summer Camp Grants</b>	\$21,780	Provide bursaries to 16 organizations to support more than 230 children in financial need attend summer camp programs.
<b>The Brown Homestead</b>	\$22,000	Conduct ground-penetrating radar scans, followed by an archaeological survey with appropriate Indigenous monitoring to support research and new educational programming efforts and ongoing site development.
<b>The Brown Homestead</b>	\$750	Support purchase of tables for use onsite as programming expands and for events.
<b>The Brown Homestead</b>	\$750	Support purchase of branded flags and tablecloths to be used on site and at community events.
<b>The Willow Community Support Services</b> (Willow Arts Community)	\$11,000	Increase access to programming by delivering an exciting and accessible music and performance program for folks living with mental illness/substance use in Niagara.
<b>The Willow Community Support Services</b> (Willow Arts Community)	\$750	Purchase new laptop that will provide instructors with necessary digital resources to enhance arts education programs and participants greatly benefit from accessing digital tools for creative exploration.
<b>Town of Pelham</b>	\$15,000	Enhance natural tree canopy in North Pelham Park and bring awareness and education on conservation and the importance of a tree canopy.
<b>Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC), Niagara Chapter</b>	\$41,500	Goal to stem the spread of invasive species throughout the Upper Twelve Mile Watershed and to prevent the release of Goldfish or Koi into the watershed.
<b>YPI Canada</b>	\$10,000	Support Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) that supported 4 Niagara schools to patricipate in the program.
<b>YWCA Niagara Region</b>	\$35,000	Purchase truck and plow to divert expense for snow plowing of organization facilities to a maintenance worker that will ensure properties are maintained and plowing is done properly and efficiently.
<b>Yellow Door Theatre Project</b>	\$7,660	Provide training, mentorship and work opportunities for youth exploring careers as Theatre Technicians to increase capacity of our performing arts programs.
<b>YPI Canada</b>	\$5,000	Support Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) that supported 2 Niagara schools to participate in the program.
<b>YWCA Niagara Region</b>	\$37,000	Repair the porch of emergency shelter for homeless women and children in St. Catharines as per heritage building guidelines.
<b>YWCA Niagara Region</b>	\$750	Purchase and implement the use of walkie talkies in all shelters to help departments connect with each other in an efficient manner for daily use and in case of emergency.



# Donor Directed Grants

Donor Directed Grants speak to the philanthropic wishes of our donors.

Both Donor Advised and Donor Designated funds provide fundholders with an opportunity to select the beneficiary from their fund. These are considered “Donor Directed Grants” and make up 67% of NCF’s annual grants.

These grants are based on the terms of the fund agreements between the donor and the Foundation with respect to beneficiary organization.

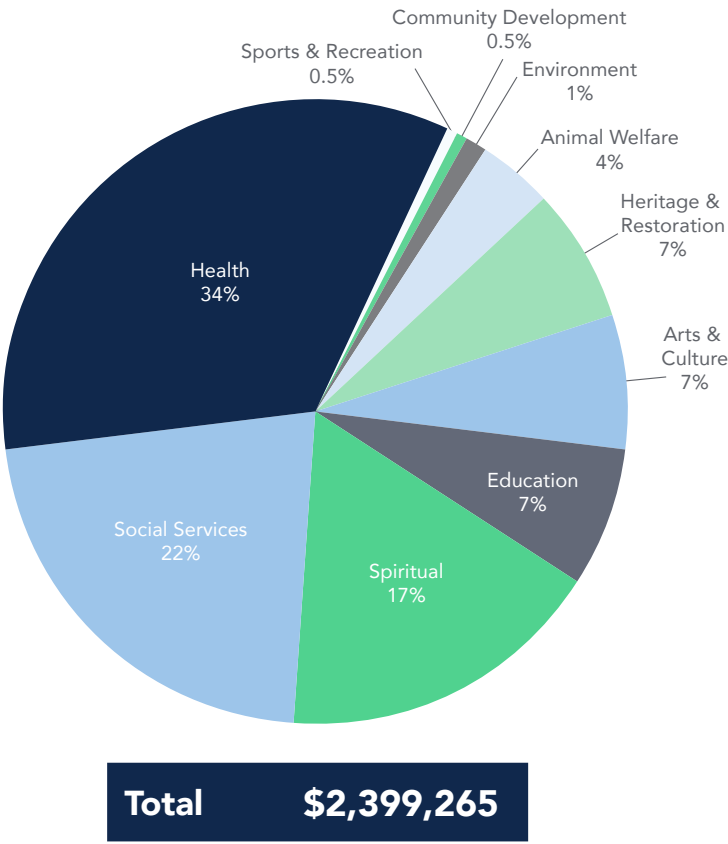
Below is a list of the organizations supported by Donor Directed Grants.

- Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region
- Angels Rest Dog Rescue
- Animal Assistance Society of the Niagara Region
- Arthritis Society Ontario Division – Niagara Peninsula Office
- Ass Menagerie Sanctuary
- Beamsville Church of Christ
- Benevolent Society of Grimsby and District
- Bert Miller Nature Club of Fort Erie
- Bethlehem Housing and Support Services
- BHNCD SB – Holy Trinity Catholic High School
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara
- Boxrun Charitable Foundation
- Brock University
- Brock University – Office of Development and Alumni Relations
- Brock University – Student Awards and Financial Aid
- Bruce Trail Conservancy
- Burlington Rotary Community Hospice Inc. (Carpenter Hospice)
- Cambrian College – Financial Aid
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Chamber Academy (Music Niagara)
- Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) St. Catharines
- Canadian Red Cross
- Canadian Red Cross, Niagara Area Branch
- Carleton University – Awards and Financial Aid
- Cave Springs Camp Inc.

- Central United Church of Port Colborne
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Children’s Mental Health Ontario (CMHO)
- Chinmaya Mission
- Chorus Niagara
- Church of the Transfiguration
- City of Niagara Falls
- City of Port Colborne
- CityKidz Ministry – Hamilton Branch
- CNIB
- Community Animal Allies of Niagara
- Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold (Niagara Nutrition Partners)
- Community Care of West Niagara
- Community Care St. Catharines and Thorold
- Community Crew
- Community Living – Grimsby Lincoln & West Lincoln
- Community Living St. Catharines
- Conestoga College – Financial Aid
- Confederation College
- Cystic Fibrosis Canada – Niagara Chapter

- Dalhousie University
- Doctors Without Borders Canada
- Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice
- DSBN – Twenty Valley Public School
- Durham College – Financial Aid and Awards Office
- Education Foundation of Niagara
- Family and Children’s Services Niagara
- Fanshawe College – Financial Aid
- FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre
- Food4Kids Niagara
- Fort Erie Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Foundation of Resources for Teens (FORT)
- Friends of Lincoln’s History
- Georgian College
- Gillian’s Place
- Grace Community Church
- Grimsby Life Centre Ministries
- Grimsby Museum (Town of Grimsby)
- Grimsby Public Art Gallery (Town of Grimsby)
- Habitat for Humanity Halton-Mississauga

DONOR-DIRECTED GRANT ALLOCATION 2023



- Habitat for Humanity Niagara
- Hamilton Health Sciences
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Heart Niagara Inc.
- Hobbitstee Wildlife Refuge
- Hospice Niagara
- Hotel Dieu Shaver Health & Rehabilitation Foundation
- Humane Society of Greater Niagara
- Humber College – Financial Aid – Scholarships and Awards
- I CAN Therapeutic Equestrian Riding Association of Niagara Inc.
- Jack.org
- Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation
- Kidney Foundation of Canada
- Kids Up Front Foundation – Toronto Chapter
- Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara
- La corporation de l’école polytechnique de Montreal
- Last Chance Horse and Pony Rescue
- Lincoln Memorial Cultural Centre: Home of the Jordan Historical Museum of the Twenty
- Lincoln Pelham Public Library – Fonthill
- Lincoln Pelham Public Library – Rittenhouse Branch
- Lincoln Pelham Public Library – Beamsville
- Links for Greener Learning
- Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides
- Literacy Council of Niagara West
- Little RES Q
- Lung Health Foundation
- March of Dimes Canada
- May Court Club of St. Catharines
- Mayholme Foundation
- McGill University
- McMaster Children’s Hospital Foundation
- McMaster University
- McNally House Hospice
- Meals on Wheels Port Colborne
- Mission Services of Hamilton Inc.
- Momentum Choir
- MS Canada
- Muscular Dystrophy Canada
- Nativity of the Holy Mother of God
- NCDSB – Holy Name Catholic School
- Newark Neighbours Food & Thrift Shops
- Niagara Action for Animals
- Niagara Artists Company (Niagara Artists Centre)
- Niagara Chapter – Native Women Inc.
- Niagara Children’s Centre
- Niagara College – Athletics
- Niagara College – Financial Aid
- Niagara College Foundation & Alumni Relations
- Niagara Dog Rescue
- Niagara Falls Community Outreach
- Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education

- Niagara Foundation for Family and Children’s Services
- Niagara Health Foundation – Port Colborne Site
- Niagara Health Foundation – South Niagara Site
- Niagara Health Foundation – St. Catharines Site
- Niagara Health Foundation – Welland Site
- Niagara Historical Society / NOTL Museum
- Niagara Land Trust
- Niagara Life Welland Centre o/a Elisha House Pregnancy & Family Support Centre
- Niagara North Family Health Team (NNFHT)
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation
- Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre
- Niagara Regional Science Fair Committee – NRSEF
- Niagara Resource Service for Youth (RAFT)
- Niagara SPCA & Humane Society – Niagara Falls Site
- Niagara SPCA & Humane Society – Welland Site
- Niagara Symphony Association
- Niagara University – Student Awards and Financial Aid
- Niagara Youth Orchestra
- Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service
- Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library
- No Paw Left Behind
- Ontario Brain Injury Association
- Ontario Rett Syndrome Association
- Ontario Veterinary College Pet Trust – University of Guelph
- Ontario Wildlife Rescue Centre
- Open Arms Mission of Welland Inc.
- Osteoporosis Canada
- Owl Foundation
- Parkinson Society Central & Northern Ontario
- Pathstone Foundation
- Pets Alive Niagara
- Port Cares
- Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue
- Port Nelson United Church
- Pumpkin’s Acres Rabbit Rescue
- Queen’s University
- Red Roof Retreat
- Regional Niagara Upper Canada Lodge (Regional Municipality of Niagara)
- Ridley College
- Rotary Club of St. Catharines, Charitable Trust
- Salvation Army Community and Family Services – Hamilton/Wentworth
- Shaw Festival Theatre, Canada
- SickKids Foundation
- Silver Spire United Church
- Sleeping Children Around the World
- Southridge Shelter / Brock University Dept. Rec and Leisure
- Southwestern Ontario Youth for Christ / Youth Unlimited

- St. Clement’s School
- St. Giles Presbyterian Church
- St. John the Theologian Ukrainian Catholic Church
- St. Lawrence College
- St. Mark’s Church
- St. Therese of Lisieux Church
- Stamford Lane United Church
- Start Me Up Niagara (SMUN)
- Strive Niagara (AFSSN)
- Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church
- Syrian Kids Foundation
- Terry Fox Foundation
- The Adult Literacy Council of Greater Fort Erie
- The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines (Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park)
- The Niagara Foundation
- The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation
- The Rotary Foundation – Canada
- The Salvation Army Community & Family Services
- The Salvation Army Niagara Orchard Community Church
- The School of Restoration Arts at Willowbank
- The Valhalla Project Niagara
- The Village Church
- The War Amps of Canada
- Toronto Metropolitan University
- Town of Lincoln
- Town of Lincoln – Jordan Historical Museum
- Town of Pelham
- Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC), Niagara Chapter
- Ukrainian Canadian Congress Niagara Branch Fund
- Ukrainian Canadian Social Services (St. Catharines) Inc.
- United Way Halton & Hamilton
- United Way Niagara
- University of Guelph
- University of Ottawa
- University of Toronto
- University of Waterloo
- University of Western Ontario
- University of Windsor
- Urban Wildlife Care
- Village of Hope
- VON Canada – Ontario Branch – Niagara Site
- Wellspring Niagara Cancer Support Foundation
- West Lincoln Community Care
- West Lincoln Memorial Hospital Foundation
- Whispering Hearts Horse Rescue Centre
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- Women’s Place of South Niagara Inc. (Birchway Niagara)
- YMCA of Niagara
- YWCA Niagara Region



Growth

# 2023 Financial Snapshot



DONATIONS RECEIVED  
**\$5,562,938**

GRANTS AWARDED  
**\$3,513,557**

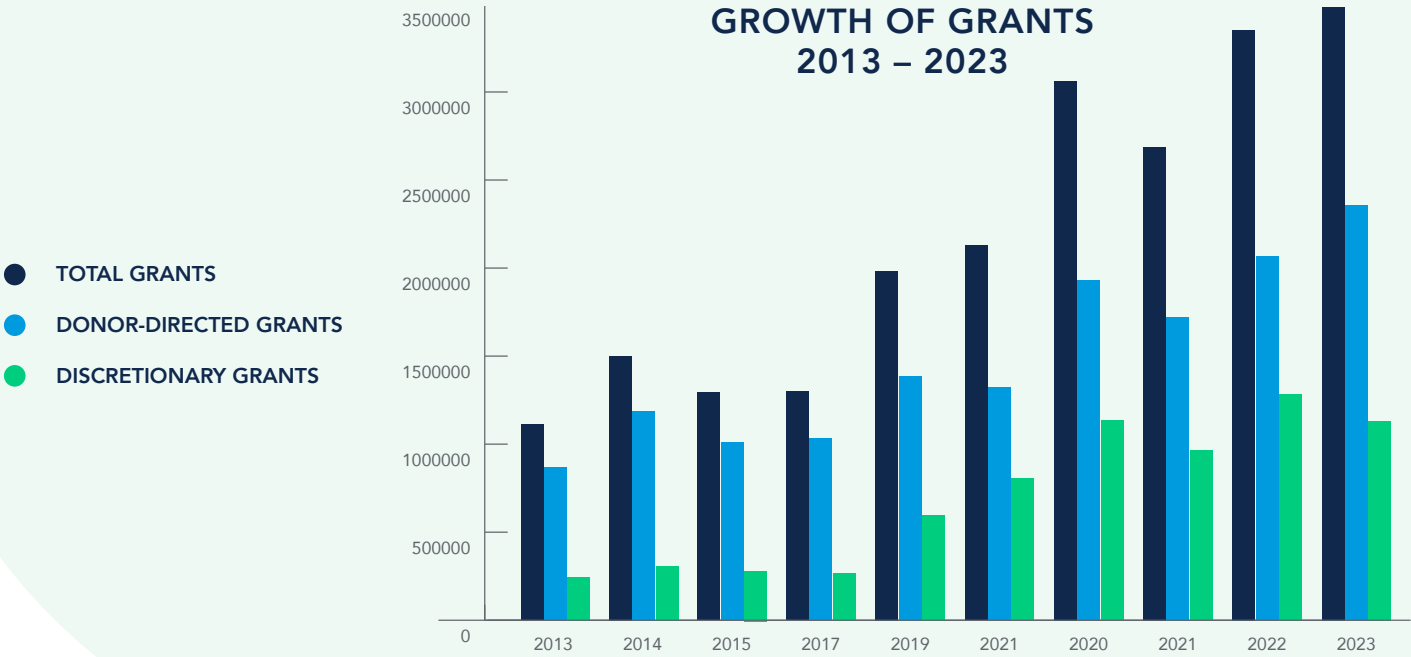
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Assets	\$82,317,851	\$73,221,792	\$76,515,909	\$65,379,234
Gross Fundraising & Event Revenue	\$57,732	\$51,415	\$107,325	\$119,279
Total Donations	\$5,562,938	\$4,955,648	\$9,071,366	\$3,116,077
Total Revenue	\$13,406,831	\$1,055,146	\$15,082,237	\$7,417,934
Total Grants	\$3,513,557	\$3,344,438	\$2,687,075	\$3,063,447
Total Charitable Programs	\$256,143	\$209,047	\$155,867	\$154,642
Total Special Projects	\$0	\$17,520	\$149,722	\$65,340
Total Fundraising Expenses	\$170,304	\$173,922	\$255,340	\$240,553
Total Administrative & Governance Expenses	\$927,820	\$858,309	\$728,901	\$613,592
Total Endowments	\$79,641,364	\$71,151,159	\$74,348,178	\$64,265,146
% of Admin/Governance to Total Endowment	1.2%	1.2%	0.98%	0.95%
% of Fundraising Expenses to Total Endowment	0.21%	0.24%	0.34%	0.37%

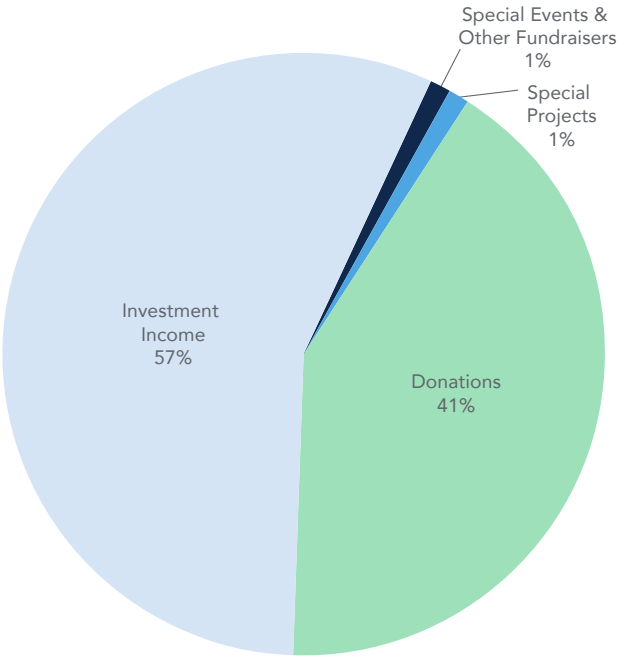
To view the audited financial statements, please visit [niagaracommunityfoundation.org/about-us](https://niagaracommunityfoundation.org/about-us)

Over the past 10 years, the assets of the Niagara Community Foundation have grown from \$24 million to \$82.3 million!

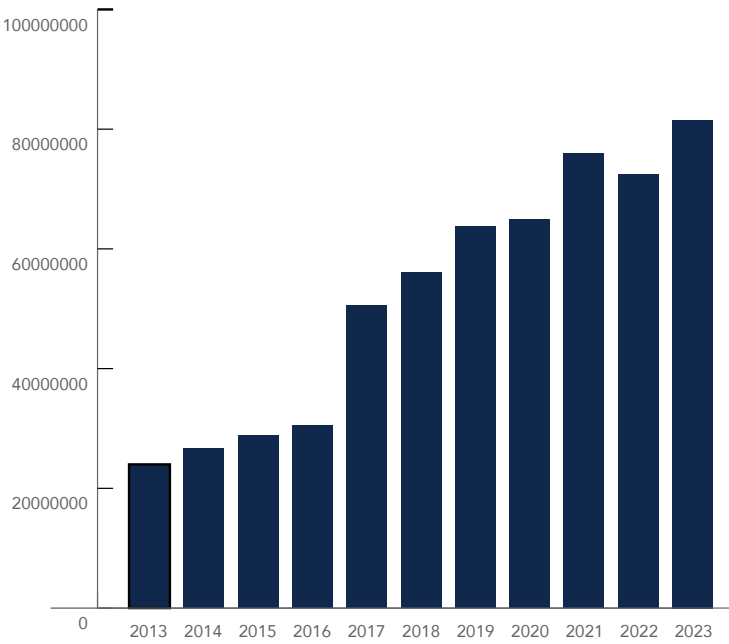
Since inception in 2000, NCF has given **over \$27.5 million in grants** to the community.



**SOURCE OF REVENUE**  
**\$13,406,831**



**GROWTH OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS 2013 – 2023**





# 2023 Financial and Governance Highlights

## GOVERNANCE

The Board’s role is to set policy and to question, scrutinize and monitor the management of the Foundation’s activities. It is a role of governance as opposed to operational management and ensures that the affairs of the Foundation are being conducted in a manner that achieves its goals consistent with NCF’s mission. The Role of Board and Executive and the Scope of Authority policies are in place to delineate responsibility between board and staff. The Board has also adopted a Code of Ethics and Confidentiality policy for all staff and volunteers.


## OPERATIONS

The Foundation’s staff is led by the Executive Director, who reports to an independent Board of Directors. Administrative and governance expenses for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 totaled **\$927,820**. Consistent with the community foundation sector, operating costs are evaluated by a ratio of total core operating expenses (excluding special projects) to total assets. For 2023, that percentage was **1.2%**, which continues to be below the range of community foundations of similar size and stage of development.

## INVESTMENT FEES AND RETURNS

NCF’s investments are pooled with a number of other public foundations and charities in an investment pool with the Toronto Foundation (TF). This relationship has been in place since 2001 and is re-evaluated on a regular basis by the Investment Committee. The endowments are invested in accordance with the investment policy established by TF’s Board and are part of the NCF’s Investment Management Agreement with TF.

Visit our website for these policies and more.



## LONG TERM STRATEGIC ASSET ALLOCATION

Asset Class	Permissible Range
Cash and cash equivalents	0% to 50%
Fixed Income Instruments	0% to 50%
Total Fixed Income	5% to 50%
Global Equities*	0% to 65%
Other Strategies**	25% to 50%
Total Equities & Other Strategies	50% to 95%

*\* Global Equities may include Canadian, US, International and Emerging Markets equities. They may be diversified by size (large cap, small and mid-cap), style (value & growth) and other factors such as high dividend stocks.*

*\*\* Other Strategies may include benchmark-free and absolute return strategies.*

The average investment fee paid for 2023 was 0.83% for funds in the Toronto Foundation investment pool. The investment fee is charged monthly to each fund on a pro-rated basis. NCF’s annualized five-year (2019 to 2023) rate of return is 4.77% and 5.79% since inception in 2001 (both net of fees). For more information on Asset Allocation, visit our website to find our Investment Policy.

## EXTERNAL INVESTMENT MANAGERS PROGRAM

In 2012 the Foundation created the External Investment Managers Program which allows assets gifted to a newly created Fund to be invested outside of Foundation’s Consolidated Investment Fund in a portfolio managed by the donor’s recommended investment firm. This program is available for advisors who have been licensed as a portfolio manager actively involved in discretionary investment management of segregated portfolios for a minimum of three years. The minimum donation required for a fund manager to participate in this program is \$1,000,000. There are currently six funds under the management in this program.

## SOCIAL IMPACT INVESTING

As with all Social Impact Investment opportunities, the Foundation recognizes that although there might be a lower financial return compared to that of traditional investments, that there is an equally important social and environmental impact alongside of the financial return. In November 2012, the Board of the Foundation made a commitment to invest \$500,000 in the Community Forward Fund (CFF), a social finance investment fund. For 2023 the investment returns for CFF were 3%. In 2018 NCF entered into a \$100,000 partnership with the Fair Finance Fund (FFF). The Fund lends to social enterprises that provide demonstrable social, environmental, and economic benefits from across the food & farm sector. This innovative fund supports the future of local food in Ontario from seed to supper. For 2023 the investment returns for FFF were 4%.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board has a comprehensive Risk Management Policy covering legislative and legal, fiscal performance, financial reporting, management of volunteers, effective management & governance, economic risk and donor & volunteer stewardship. The Finance Committee reviews NCF’s exposure to risk and mitigants to address perceived or actual risks annually. NCF is exposed to the effects of market fluctuations due to changes in market prices caused by factors specific to the individual security or its issuer or factors affecting all securities traded in the market. While market risk cannot be eliminated, the Foundation’s Investment Policy addresses this risk with parameters for both asset quality and diversification.

## OPERATING RESERVE FUND

In 2018 an Operating Reserve Fund was established with the accrued surplus revenue from our Operating Fund year-over-year. Operating Reserves are liquid, unrestricted assets the Foundation can use to support our operations in the event of an unanticipated loss of revenue or increase in expenses. The reality of market fluctuations have an impact on NCF’s source of income and an Operating Reserve Fund provides comfort to stakeholders that NCF has the ability to respond to a rapidly evolving financial landscape. The Foundation’s goal for our Operating Reserve Fund is six months of our annual Operating Budget to cover major expenses.

## ACCREDITATION

In 2012 NCF received accreditation through Imagine Canada’s Standards Program. NCF was one of the first Community Foundations accredited in Canada. The program offers a Canada-wide set of shared standards for charities and nonprofits wishing to enhance their effectiveness in the fundamentals of governance, paid-staff management, financial accountability, fundraising and volunteer management.

## EVALUATION

The Board has adopted a comprehensive annual process to evaluate its performance. The results of the evaluation are reviewed and actions to improve board performance are implemented. This process is done on a biennial basis with Foundation committees. NCF staff team participate in annual performance appraisals, which includes check-ins throughout the year. The Executive Director’s review is presented to the Board by the Board Chair.

## COMPENSATION

The Board has established salary ranges for each of the Foundation employees. The ranges are determined based on reviewing similar positions within the community foundation sector across Canada as well as similar positions within Niagara. Ranges are adjusted regularly to reflect cost of living changes.

## BOARD RECRUITMENT, ORIENTATION AND TRAINING

The Bylaws of the Foundation set out the Board recruitment process. Nominees from across Niagara are identified based on current board attributes and future strategic needs. The Board is comprised of 17 members who are elected for a three-year term, which can be renewed once. The term can be extended if a Director is serving as the Vice-Chair, Chair or Past-Chair. New Directors take part in a formal orientation program. Board training takes place at each meeting and additional opportunities are provided throughout the year for members to participate in professional development provided by Community Foundations of Canada.





Gratitude

Thank You to Our Supporters!

The contribution of time and talents of our volunteers, donors and staff is the ‘intangible wealth’ of the Foundation. Starting in 2012 we began tracking the number of hours our volunteers contributed. In 2023 they contributed 1703 hours, and based on \$16.55/hr hour, this gift works out to **\$28,184.65** in support! Thank you so much for this amazing contribution of time and talent.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

OFFICERS

- Michael Mann (Chair)  
*Partner – Lancaster, Chown & Welch LLP*
- Michael Lethby (Vice-Chair)  
*Executive Director – The RAFT*
- Damian Goulbourne (Past-Chair)  
*Dean, School of Hospitality, Tourism & Culinary Arts – Centennial College*
- Bill Crumm (Treasurer)  
*Director, Financial Services – Niagara College*

DIRECTORS

- Natalie Apparicio-Farrell  
*Consultant, Investors Group Securities Inc. – IG Wealth Management*
- Rashmi Biswas  
*Executive Vice President – Lake and Associates Canada Inc.*
- Linda Boich  
*Executive Vice President, Quality, Mental Health, Addictions – Niagara Health System*
- Natasha DiCienzo  
*Wealth Advisor – Scotia Wealth Management*
- Jennifer Feren  
*School Board Lawyer – District School Board of Niagara*
- Ann Godfrey  
*Director, Development & Public Relations – FACS Niagara (Retired)*
- April Mitchell-Boudreau  
*CEO – Loftan Jewelry*
- Kithio Mwanzia  
*Network Manager – SOMANI, Niagara College*
- Carrie Prudhomme  
*Director, Strategic Communications – Town of Milton*
- Don Stewart  
*Senior Associate, Philanthropy – Armstrong Strategy Group*
- Joanna Stubbs  
*Manager – PlaySmart Centres, Responsible Gambling Council*
- Louise Veres  
*Owner & Founder – The Centre for Leading and Living*
- Brian Wilkie  
*President & CEO – Niagara Peninsula Energy*

STAFF TEAM:

Bryan J. Rose (Executive Director), Orla Fitzpatrick Newhouse (Manager, Philanthropic Services), JoAnne Krick (Director, Grants & Community Initiatives), Suzanne Veenstra (Coordinator, Marketing & Communications), Amanda Galley (DJB Accounting Services), Asia Gray (DJB Accounting Services)

VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS:

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Rich Gark, Damian Goulbourne, Mike Lethby (Chair), Rick Merritt, April Mitchell-Boudreau, Jessica Potts, Carrie Prudhomme, Madeline Woodhead

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Nancy Ammari, Bill Crumm (Chair), Amanda Galley (DJB Accountant), Scott Maskell, Tracy Murray, Carrie Sportel, Ruth Todd, Brian Wilkie

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

Linda Boich, Rashmi Biswas, Damian Goulbourne, Mike Lethby, Mike Mann (Chair), Kithio Mwanzia

GRANTS COMMITTEE:

Brandon Agnew, Kristen Beekhuis, Marisa Brown, Paul Chapman, Lesley Clarke, Janice Coles, Chris DiLalla, David DiPietro, Dawit Eshetu, Gary Evans, Manfred Fast, Robert Hunt, Ziggy Janzen, Nyarayi Kapisavanhu, Peter Kryger, Wayne Moorehead, Holly Mundula, Katja Odegaard, Andy Panko, Andrew Porteus, Melissa Stack, Don Stewart, Joanna Stubbs, Pam Swick-Janjac, Emily Veres, Louise Veres (Chair)

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:

Terry Lynn Adamson, Jim Blake, Natasha DiCienzo (Chair), Mario Ferrara, Alan Goddard, Stephen Jenkins, Peter Nixon, Aurora Tancock, Brian Wilkie, Suzanne Wilson, Madeline Woodhead

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Bill Crumm, Damain Goulborne (Chair), Natasha DiCienzo, Mike Lethby, Mike Mann, Louise Veres

GRANTS SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Nicki Inch, Pauline Carroll, Advait Maybhate, Jan Potts, Sharon Svob, David Veres

AMBASSADORS:

Sandy Annunziata, John Armstrong, Brian Babcock, Ann-Louise Branscombe, Pat Darte, Dino DiCienzo, Andrea Douglas, Denise Elliott, Mario Ferrara, John Fisher, Jessica Friesen, Rich Gark, Eric Gilbert, Alan Goddard, Mel Groom, Jim Howden, Brad Hutchings, Paul Jones, Paul Leon, Jodi Lycett, Rena McDonald, Rosanne Marsh, Shirley Martin, Scott Maskell, Maria Menechella, Victor Muratori, Rob Neill, Eugene Oatley, John Palumbo, John Potts, Kelly Robson, David Shaw, Janet St. Amand, Betty-Lou Souter, Wade Stayzer, Sharon Svob, Mary Turner, Rob Welch, Doug Whitty, Chris Wilson & Madeline Woodhead

GRIMSBY FUND COMMITTEE:

Patrick Brabant, Alan Goddard, Monika Patterson, Amanda Pyper, Don Stewart (Chair), Denise Tulk, Kurt Whitnell

LINCOLN FUND COMMITTEE:

Rob Foster, Rich Gark, Sara Holmes, Adrian Pennachetti, Carrie Prudhomme (Chair) Stuart Reimer, David Wood

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE FUND COMMITTEE:

Ann-Louise Branscombe, Nancy Baily, Mike Berlis (Chair), Wendy Cheropita, Pat Darte, Mario Ferrara, Brianne Hawley, Debi Pratt, Shawn Spiewak

NIAGARA WEST FUND COMMITTEE:

Margaret Andrewes, Eric Gilbert, Don Knechtel, Wendy Rittenhouse

PELHAM FUND COMMITTEE:

Dave Augustyn, Mel Groom, Carolyn Mullin

PORT COLBORNE FUND COMMITTEE:

Claudia Brema (Chair), Rosanne Marsh, David Semley, Gary Talosi, Christopher Wilson

ST. CATHARINES FUND COMMITTEE:

Sharon Borgmann, Mark Brohman, Peter Partridge Jr. (Chair)

WAINFLEET FUND COMMITTEE:

Daniel Bouchard, Sharon McMillan, Kelly Robson (Chair), Sharon Svob

WELLAND FUND COMMITTEE:

Michael Grocholsky, Jeff Neill (Chair), Aulf Robitaille

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# Niagara's Philanthropic Partner

As you read this report, you will be encouraged by the stories of our donors and inspired by the impact of our charities. But there is another group that plays a vital role in helping us turn intent into impact: our allied professionals.

Allied professionals are the lawyers, wealth advisors, investment brokers, and financial advisors who help clients meet their financial goals while keeping in mind their philanthropic wishes. Balancing these two priorities is not simple, however, in partnership with a community foundation, the job is made easier.

**Read more about our Allied Professionals Program on page 11.**



*Turning Intent Into Impact*

**niagaracommunityfoundation.org**

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