



NIAGARA COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



Turning  
Intent  
Into  
Impact      2024  
ANNUAL REPORT

# 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 10th 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.

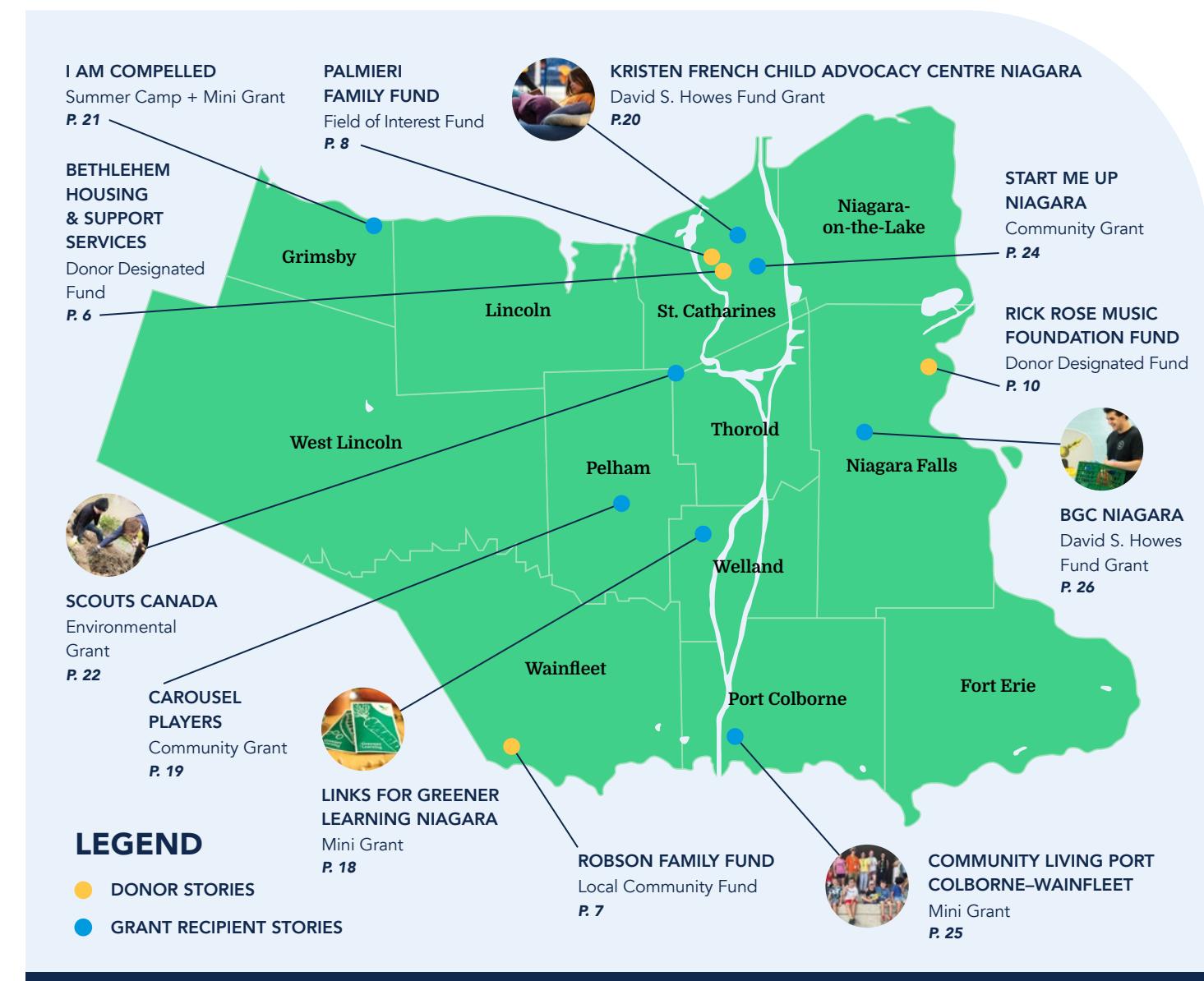
# Table of Contents

Land Acknowledgement	2
Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles	2
Impact Stories Map	3

Executive Message	4
Endowment Funds	5
Donor Stories	6
Endowment Funds List	11
Donor List	15
Grant Stories	18
Discretionary Grants	27
Donor Directed Grants	32
2024 Financial Snapshot	34
2024 Financial & Governance Highlights	36
Thank You to Our Supporters	38

## Intent Into Impact

# Impact Stories Map



## Introduction

# Executive Message

2024 was a year unlike any other for NCF—achieving milestones that we could barely have imagined even a few years ago. Our total assets pole vaulted over the \$92.5 mark allowing us to make our largest annual grant dispersals of over \$3.8 million into the charitable sector.

So much has been accomplished by this organization in just our 24 years. But with celebration comes reflection and the reality that 2024 was a year where our community bared some significant losses. NCF's founding Executive Director Liz Palmieri lost her valiant battle with cancer (we honour Liz on [page 8](#)). We also note the passing of a number of extremely close friends and partners including colleagues, fund holders, committee members and community leaders. We acknowledge and celebrate their enduring contributions to our own organization & will always be grateful that their lives touched our own.

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 through our work with our partners and stakeholders. Here are some of the highlights of our impact in Niagara for 2024:

- Grants of over **\$3.8 million** dollars bringing our historical tally to over **\$32 million** dollars to Niagara's charitable since our inception in 2000;
- Another impactful deployment of significant dollars through our Environmental Grants thanks in large part to **Dorothea Thomas Foundation**. Grants to 11 projects totaling just over \$200,000 in support of environmental projects focusing on protection, preservation & rehabilitation of our environment & natural habitat;
- The seventh annual grant dispersal from the **David S. Howes Fund** with 36 requests totaling \$2.4 million dollars. Eighteen (18) new projects representing \$742,000 were approved. Since the creation of the Fund in 2017, over **\$5 million** dollars has been deployed throughout the region;
- The **Governance Coaching Program (GCP)** continues to empower the charitable sector. The organizations selected in 2024 included: Cave Springs Camp, Child's View, Heartland Forest, Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region, Leadership Niagara & Niagara Parks Foundation;
- NCF continued its partnership with **Armstrong Strategy Group (ASG)** in delivering LOCAL fundraising professional development seminar sessions open to any local charity or non-profit. Over 200 individual attendees attended four sessions throughout 2024;

- NCF was proud to **sponsor a number of initiatives** including, Future Black Female, TOES Niagara, Links for Greener Learning, Niagara Regional Native Centre's Annual Pow Wow and Leadership Niagara;
- Finally, NCF completed the process of launching our new **Strategic Plan** that will guide the actions and impact of our organization for the coming years.

When the Foundation's AGM is held in Spring 2025, Louise Veres (Pelham) will complete her term as a Director. Louise served as Chair of our Grants Committee over the last number of years; leading the extensive work that Committee does in reviewing and making millions' of dollars of Grant recommendations to our Board. Our gratitude to Rashmi Biswas (St. Catharines) who stepped off of our Board just ahead of the conclusion of her term for her time as a Director and as a powerhouse member of our Governance Committee. We also pause to recognize the retirement from the NCF Board of former Board Chair Damian Goulbourne (Welland) who expertly guided the Foundation during the pandemic and subsequent recovery, keeping the Board and Staff in lock-step. Losing such strong leaders and voices around our Board table is only lessened in the knowledge of the wonderful new Directors who will take their seats and bring their own expertise, experience and passion.

The Spring AGM will also usher in new leadership at the Board level as Chair Michael Mann (Pelham) will pass the torch to Mike Lethby (St. Catharines). Michael's steadfast leadership guided us to continued growth and success. His attention to detail and unwavering support of the staff team and his Board colleagues is a testament of his leadership and character.

Like 2024, 2025 brings its fair share of excitement and challenges. Already the first few months have been "interesting" with political waves causing uncertainty...to say the least. But there is much to look forward to as we take some time note and celebrate NCF's 25th Anniversary. A major milestone for our small, but mighty organization. Our Foundation has been built on the foundation of so many who have come before us and some who are no longer with us. We are excited to celebrate all of it in the months to come!



**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

#### NIAGARA FUND & COMMUNITY FUNDS

Minimum of \$10,000 donation

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.

#### FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Minimum of \$25,000 donation

Allows a donor to designate a preference for supporting a certain interest or cause in a general manner, without designating the actual recipient charity.

### DONOR-DIRECTED GRANT STREAM

#### DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Minimum of \$25,000 donation

Donors who establish a donor advised fund can select a charity of their choice to benefit from their fund each year.

#### DONOR-DESIGNATED & CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION FUNDS

Minimum of \$10,000 donation per beneficiary

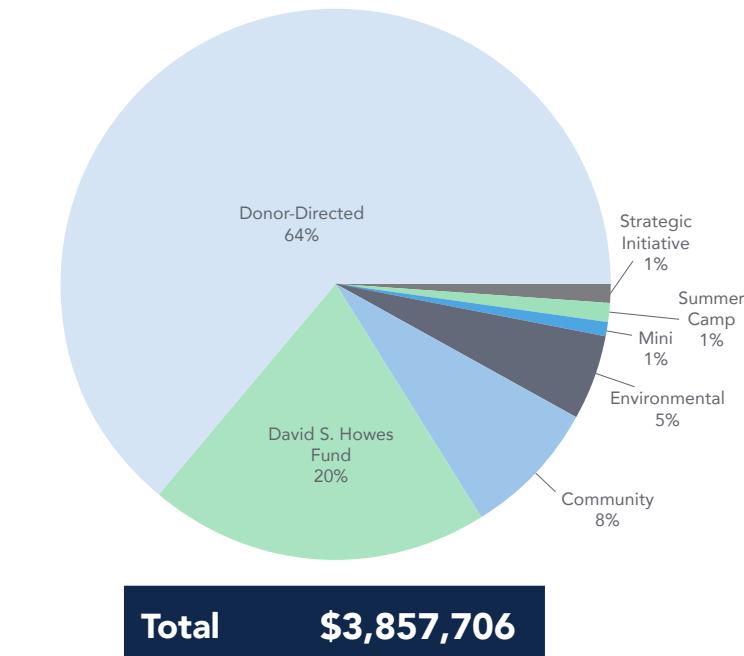
Donors can choose a specific charity to be perpetual beneficiaries of the annual grant from their fund.

The earnings from these funds are re-invested into the community through grants. **In 2024, NCF granted a total of \$3,857,706!** Here are the types of grants that were dispersed into the community:

<b>Donor-Directed</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>David S. Howes Fund</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Environmental</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Mini</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Summer Camp</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Strategic Initiative</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Please see [page 27](#) for a list of all grants dispersed in 2024.

## 2024 GRANTS



## 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.**

## BETHLEHEM HOUSING & SUPPORT SERVICES RENT STABILIZATION FUND

# Banking On Housing

A mother on social assistance, struggling to afford both rent and the care her child with special needs required, faced eviction while waiting for affordable housing.

A young man, orphaned and living with mobility challenges, risked losing the only home he had ever known after losing his parents.

For both, the new **Rotary Club of St. Catharines Bethlehem Housing & Support Services Rent Stabilization Fund** provided stability that kept them housed and offered a sustainable path forward.

The donor-directed fund, established with a \$500,000 endowment from the Rotary Club of St. Catharines to mark its centenary, functions like a rent bank. It removes financial barriers to housing by covering moving expenses, last month's rent deposit or rent arrears for eligible individuals and families.



It's very difficult to work on other issues in your life if you don't have safe and stable housing, so this fund helps one get there.

Margaret Jarrell,  
Rotary Club of St. Catharines

For the mother, who fell behind trying to afford \$1,600 rent on an income that might reach \$2,000 in a good month, the fund paid for half her arrears. That support allowed her to arrange a manageable repayment plan with her landlord for the remainder.

"With the rent bank assistance, it's helped to stabilize her life and save her housing," said Lori Beech, Bethlehem Housing Executive Director.

For the young man who lost his parents, the fund offered him the lifeline of a rent subsidy as he shores up other means to live independently.

The endowment was the largest donation in the Rotary Club's history. Managed by the Niagara Community Foundation (NCF), it will generate an annual income distribution overseen by Bethlehem Housing to help families stay housed.

Supporting affordable housing fit with Rotary's mission when the club began work in 2010 on how best to mark its 100th anniversary in 2021. Establishing a rent bank in 2024 with the NCF's help promised quick and clear impact, explained Margaret Jarrell, chair of the club's centennial committee.

"It's very difficult to work on other issues in your life if you don't have safe and stable housing, so this fund helps one get there," Jarrell said.

"We did this with the Niagara Community Foundation because we knew it would be well-managed and we knew Bethlehem Housing could make the fund work as well as possible," she added. "Every club member is happy to help the community in this way."

## IN MEMORY

# Charity Begins at Home

When Kelly and Patrick Robson established the Robson Family Fund as part of the Niagara Community Foundation's Wainfleet Fund in 2012, they did it out of passion for their community and a way to give back.

Patrick passed away in August of 2024 after a short and valiant battle with cancer. This tremendous loss was shocking to his family, friends, colleagues and students. To honour his memory, many chose to donate to their family fund, which doubled the original size of the endowment that will benefit Wainfleet in perpetuity.

Seeing the way in which Patrick's legacy is being honoured has touched Kelly and her family deeply in the midst of their sorrow and grief. The outpouring of generosity and kindness to the fund "overwhelms us with gratitude, and is a testament to the many lives my husband touched", says Kelly.

Patrick humbly served the community both at the forefront and behind the scenes: as a politician, an educator, an environmentalist, a civil servant, and a volunteer. His roots were deep in Niagara in general and Wainfleet in particular, as it is where he and Kelly settled and built their life on a property that holds much family history.

The **Robson Family Fund** started small and grew slowly, meant to benefit their community and inspire others to do the same, Kelly said. You don't need to be wealthy. Just do what you can to make your community "a better place to live, work and play." "The fund has given us the opportunity to support the charitable organizations we value, not only today but for the future of the community."

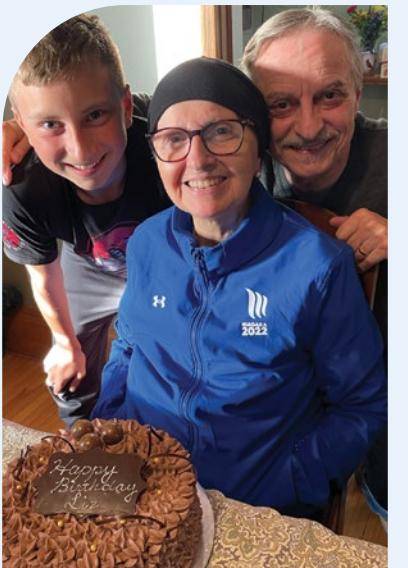


[We are] overwhelmed with gratitude, and it is a testament to my husband as a person.

Kelly Robson

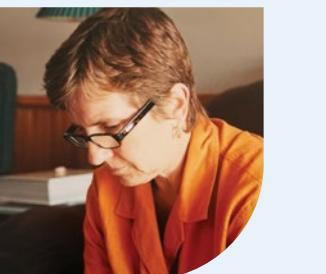
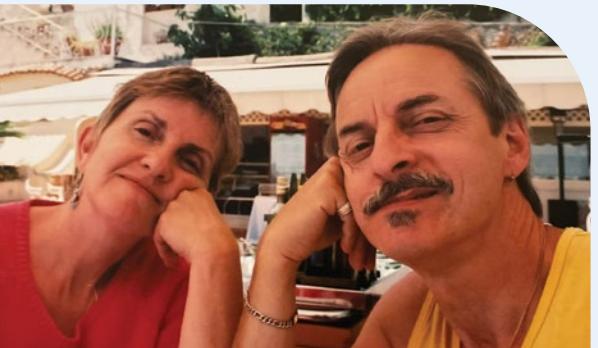


# In Memory Putting the Fun Into Philanthropy



—  
Philanthropy is  
simply generosity  
towards humanity...  
It's sharing of your  
time and resources  
in a way that  
makes sense.

Liz Palmieri



IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF

Elizabeth (Liz) Anne Palmieri

MAY 5, 1951—SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Liz Palmieri was funny and fun-loving. She was detail-oriented and determined. She was brave and unconventional, but she also knew how to be collaborative and diplomatic, and how to work the system. But most importantly, she was caring. Liz made caring for her community her life's work.

When Liz died of leukemia in September 2024, the Niagara community that had benefited from decades of her passion, poured that affection back, with gifts in her honour to the **Palmieri Family Fund** at the Niagara Community Foundation.

The generosity was heartwarming, said Sara Palmieri, one of Liz's three children. Sara said the children weren't aware that their parents, Liz and Adrian, had created the fund, but that its existence is in keeping with their mother's vision and character "and it feels amazing to see how her legacy will continue to live on. It's a testament to who she was at her essence as she is still giving back to our community."

From 2000 to 2016, Liz served as the Niagara Community Foundation's founding executive director. Liz's love for her community was something her family saw in action, and they had a front row seat to how she did it.

"My mom was always quite determined but in a gentle way," Sara said. She had big ideas about what could and should happen, "but she was also very pragmatic and systematic in her approach." Her post-secondary education, which saw her graduate as only one of three women in Mohawk College's brand-new computer science program in the late 1960s, gave Liz powerful systems tools but was also an apt foreshadowing of her lifelong willingness to take chances with bold, yet well-thought-out, steps.

"My mom knew that even if you can't see the end result, there is always going to be a path," Sara said. "And that's what made her so good at what she did. She would consider all aspects of something and then formulate a plan. Would it always work? No. But I always got the sense from her that there wasn't anything that she couldn't do."

Not only did Liz work to bring resources together to benefit charitable causes, she inspired people with her vision of philanthropy. She made it her mission to make sure everyone knew they could be a philanthropist—no matter their means. She had fun doing it and she did it until the very end. Just months before she died, she recorded a radio conversation about her philosophy. "Philanthropy is simply generosity towards humanity," she explained. "It's sharing of your time and resources in a way that makes sense" and anyone can do it. In her work, Liz wasn't asking people for a handout, she was giving them opportunities to participate in something big and good.

"When you talk to a donor about what they are interested in, it becomes fun," she explained in the interview.

Liz's family is grateful that her sense of fun and her caring for her community can live on.

"Philanthropy's true meaning is the effort or inclination to increase the well-being of humanity," Sara said.

"Simply, it's caring for your community. And we need more of that now than ever."

Find Liz's  
TedX Talk  
online.



**IN MEMORY**

# Honoring A Musical Legacy

**Rick Rose (Maiuri) made his mark in Nashville, penning songs for Sony Music about matters of the heart.**

But those closest to the accomplished musician and founder of the Niagara Institute of Music and the Arts (NIOMA) say his own heart was always in Niagara.

Rick remained deeply connected to Niagara's music scene. He championed local musicians, supported festivals, and contributed to musical productions at Saint Paul High School, where his children, Melanie and Jake, studied and where Jake now teaches.

That's why, when Rick passed away in July 2024, his family established the **Rick Rose Music Foundation Fund** with the Niagara Community Foundation.

"He was known as the local music man, a local hero," said Rosa, Rick's wife. "We want to keep that legacy going and the passion he had in it."

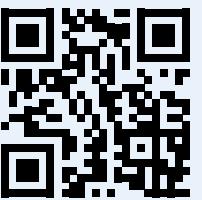
The donor-directed scholarship fund will support local students of all ages who want to pursue music lessons at the school of their choice, covering instruction fees or equipment expenses.

The family will also provide scholarships to graduating high school students, who intend to study music in college or university. The first scholarships will be awarded in Niagara Falls, where the family lives. Plans are to expand in the coming years.

The fund itself will be sustained by donations through the NCF or NIOMA, and tribute concerts and events.

Despite the emotion involved, establishing a fund in Rick's honour was an easy process with NCF, Rosa said.

Find all our donor stories on our website!



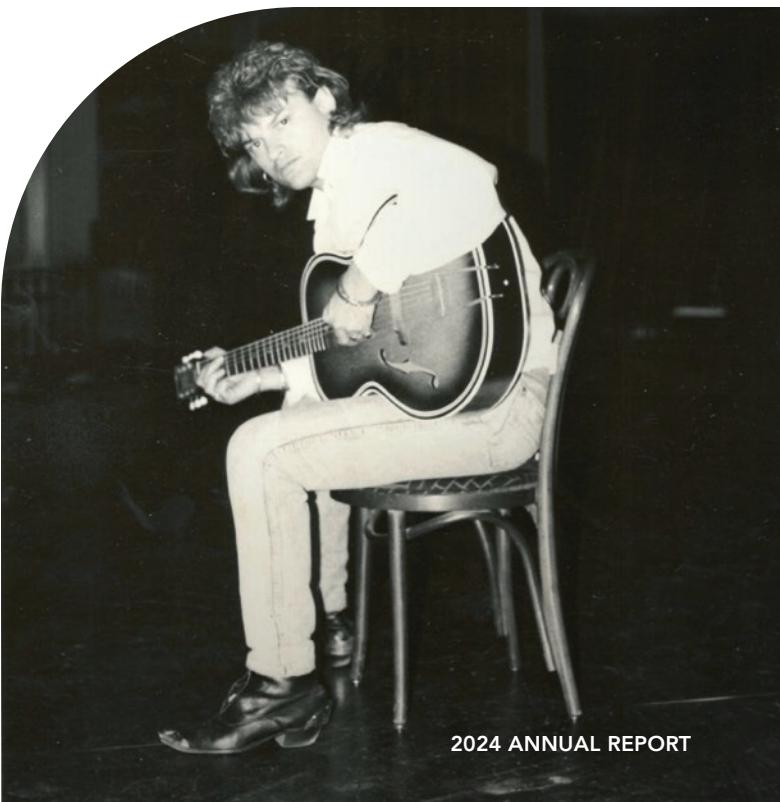
**He was known as the local music man, a local hero. We want to keep that legacy going and the passion he had in it.**

Rosa Maiuri

"Our initial meeting we were grieving this huge loss of a wonderful husband, dad and papa and [Executive Director Bryan Rose] made it so comfortable for us," she said. "He took the time to explain how everything works and what we're going to do together as a team. It's been a smooth process."

The result is a memorial the family is certain would make Rick proud.

"He'd be honoured," Melanie said. "He was very humble, so he might be a bit shocked but he would be honoured about carrying on his legacy."



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**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 community 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
- Fallsview Casino Resort 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
- DiCienzo Family 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

**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

\* Represents funds created in 2024

**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 Berkhoult 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 D'Amato 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 causes 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. FIO Funds can support causes such as Animal Welfare, Education, Health, Environment, and Children & Youth. The minimum donation to open a FOI fund is \$25,000.

- Ann Fast 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 Aware Fund
- Environment Legacy Fund
- Fallsview Casino Resort 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
- 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

## WILL POWER™

Supporters of NCF are thoughtful individuals, who share a concern and commitment to building a better future for Niagara.

Often people think about contributing to the causes they care about with monthly donations or volunteering time, but what if you could turn your intent into impact in a different way? When you look into it, you may be surprised to learn that a donation in your Will of as little as a 1% of your estate can result in a bigger contribution than you

Learn how you can turn the intention of your Will into a powerful tool for impact.



ever thought possible. That's why we continue to partner with Will Power. Will Power is a national movement encouraging Canadians to think differently about giving, and leave a gift to charity in their Wills.

## 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 Downie-Bacon Education Fund
- Ann Speedie Niagara Concerts Memorial Fund
- Anonymous Fund
- Art & Val Fleming Fund
- Aspiring Healthcare Leaders in Niagara Bursary Fund
- Audrey Shimizu Memorial Fund
- \*Billy Graham Evangelical Association of Canada 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
- CFUW Welland & District Charitable Trust Scholarship Fund
- Children of Niagara's Migrant Workers Award Endowment Fund
- Chris Lackenbauer Memorial Fund
- \*Christine & Michael Watt Family Fund
- Chuck and Judy Smith Bursary Fund
- Church of the Transfiguration Education Fund
- \*Colin & Linda Ruddell Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Colleen Kiers Memorial Fund
- Collins-Dingman Fund
- \*Come Over & Help Canada Fund
- Cornelius & Helen Vanden Top Charity Foundation
- Danna McDonough Fund
- Debi Pratt Fund
- Dr. Jaroslav and Mrs. Edith Czerevko Family Fund
- Dr. John Hunter Fund
- Ferrara Kennedy Student Award Fund
- Frederika & Benjamin Van Hoffen Charitable Foundation
- Groch Family Fund
- Headway Homes Fund
- Hildebrand Lehn Family Fund
- Howard V. Staff Memorial Fund
- Hummel Family Fund
- \*Isabel & Wayne Gale Fund
- Joan E Marlow Salvation Army Endowment Fund
- Joan E. Marlow Memorial Fund
- Joan E. Marlow YWCA Endowment Fund
- John and Jan Potts Children at Risk Fund
- John and Lillian Clark Fund
- Jordan Engineering Jane Cunningham Fund
- Joseph Olascki Trust Fund
- Kate Ostryhon-Lumsden Fund
- Kately Marie Campbell Fund
- Kiers Family Fund
- Krista White Memorial Fund
- Lincoln County Fair Endowment Fund
- M&N Walker Foundation
- M&N Walker NSO Fund
- \*Margaret Combe Music Fund
- Marsh Family Fund
- Mary Urlocker Fund
- May Crane Fund
- McNally House Endowment Fund
- Medland and Green Inspiring Artists Bursary
- Molly and David Simpson Fund
- \*Monastery of Mount Carmel Fund
- Morabito Family Fund
- Necklaces of Hope Foundation
- \*Niagara Artillery Fund
- \*Niagara Artillery Museum Fund
- Niagara Children's Centre Fund
- Niagara Children's Chorus Fund
- Niagara Indigenous Advancement Fund
- NOTL Healthcare Foundation Palliative Care Fund
- P. Louis & Philomena A. Giagnorio Fiorentino Scholarship Fund
- Patrick & Nancy McNally Family Fund
- Peter & Ann Koppel Family Fund
- Peter & Gloria M. Giagnorio Savelli Scholarship Fund
- R&K Fund
- Rankin Cancer Run Foundation
- Regan Peacock-Fung Memorial Art Fund
- \*Rick Rose Music Foundation
- Robert A. Lavelle Memorial Fund
- \*Rotary Club of St. Catharines Bethlehem Housing & Support Services Rent Stabilization Fund
- \*Rowen Grace Treleaven Scholarship Fund
- \*Samaritan's Purse Canada Fund
- Semley-McKeown Family Fund
- Smithville and District Lions Club Fund
- Souter Family Fund
- Tom & Annette Urlocker Family Fund—In Memory of our son Patrick
- Tom and Mary Cronin Fund
- Tomlinson Family Fund
- Troup Family Memorial Fund
- Urlocker-Dillon Family Fund
- Valentina McLeod Arts & Heritage Community Development Fund for the 'Old Town' of NOTL
- Vince and Margaret Pillitteri & Family Fund
- Welland Flatwater Fund
- Wellspring HOPE Fund
- William and Mary Lu Ellis Fund
- Wills Family Foundation
- Zonta Club of Niagara Falls Fund

\* Represents funds created in 2024

## 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
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- Welland Hospital Foundation Endowment Fund
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We extend our sincere gratitude to all our Donors—including those not listed and wish to remain anonymous. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of these very important lists. If you discover an omission or error, please accept our apologies and notify the Foundation office. We will ensure that this is rectified for our next report.

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**LINKS FOR GREENER LEARNING NIAGARA**

# Making Food Sovereignty More Accessible

The act of growing plants for food is an age-old practice.

Thanks to the help from an NCF Mini Grant, Links for Greener Learning Niagara is ensuring it remains an activity for all ages by building raised beds at its Welland community garden.

These aren't just any raised beds, however. The garden already had plots built tall enough to reduce bending and make this summertime ritual easier for older adults and those with mobility issues. But after eight years of use—often by the same gardeners year after year—the existing raised beds were due for replacing and with something that matched the evolving needs of the people using them.



They will be able to garden in a nicer way now. They don't have to bend and they can move around the bed more easily.

Yaneth Londono,  
Executive Director

With **\$1,500** from NCF, Links for Greener Living constructed raised beds that stand a little higher than the originals. They have a seating feature built into them, making food sovereignty a social and comfortable event. Gardeners can pause for a coffee klatch, taking a load off and sharing advice about reaping the most fruitful harvests. And when their tomatoes need tending, they can use the benches to keep tools within easy reach.

"The population using that garden, it's more difficult for them to bend," said Yaneth Londono, Links for Greener Living executive director. "They will be able to garden in a nicer way now. They don't have to bend and they can move around the bed more easily."

Links for Greener Learning runs eight community gardens throughout Niagara, providing residents access to fertile land for growing their own food. Over the years, the environmental charity has built 20 gardens, turning them over to schools and other user groups to operate.

Part of Links for Greener Learning's mandate is to offer programming that addresses environmental conservation, social welfare and food insecurity. Many of those initiatives have been supported previously by NCF, including its Eco-Kids Summer Camp and Earth Day celebrations.

Without that support, it would be difficult to meet the demand for the organization's services, including access to those more accessible raised garden beds in Welland.

"We're a small organization and don't have sponsors or get many donations, so the grants allow us to do bigger projects," she said. "We wouldn't be able to do this without these grants."

**CAROUSEL PLAYERS**

# Experiencing the Joy of Life

There's something about the vibrancy and immediacy of live theatre that sparks the imagination and creates connections that everyone should experience.

And Carousel Players, Niagara's flagship professional children's theatre company, thinks children across Niagara should get a chance to experience that joy with their families.

**It opens your mind and it opens your heart and you feel changed. It's magical.**

Annie Slade,  
General Manager

Building on the success of its newly created Niagara Children's Festival, which was launched in 2024, the theatre company is bringing its magic to more children across Niagara, with special events in Pelham and West Lincoln in May 2025. A **\$15,000 Community Grant** from the Niagara Community Foundation will give rural families a chance to experience live theatre close to home, in addition to supporting community events and free programs during the festival's main weekend in May.

Carousel Players has spent 53 years bringing live theatre to schools, but the Children's Festival brings theatre to families.

"We want parents to be part of the kids' experience with theatre," said general manager Annie Slade. "We think it makes the experience stronger."



In addition to half days of programming in Pelham and West Lincoln featuring Carousel Players productions of Pop! Pop! And Hare & Tortoise, craft workshops, live music, face painting and games, the festival will also feature a Bike Parade with decorated bicycles travelling as a parade through downtown streets in St. Catharines and a community market at Silver Spire United Church. These free events round-out a jam packed weekend of festival programming that includes performances from theatre companies travelling to Niagara from BC, Quebec, and the UK!

Slade said support from the Niagara Community Foundation also supports bursaries for local youth to attend Carousel Players Summer Theatre School and other drama classes. She said research shows that children who participate in live theatre have a chance to experience the world from a different perspective, and in-turn, understand more about themselves and the world. "It opens your mind and it opens your heart, and you feel changed. It's magical," she said.

"It's so important to give children the opportunity to broaden their horizons and to experience the joys of life through the arts," Slade said. "We are thankful to the Niagara Community Foundation for uplifting that goal."

**KRISTEN FRENCH CHILD ADVOCACY  
CENTRE OF NIAGARA**

## Room to Heal

For children who have experienced trauma, having a safe, supportive space where they can simply be kids again is life-changing.

Thanks to a generous grant from NCF's **David S. Howes Fund**, the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre of Niagara created just that with its new multi-purpose play and activity space.

What was once a dimly lit room in the centre's basement is now a welcoming hub for therapeutic programming that features a rock-climbing wall and sensory room to help children emotionally regulate through textures, comforting lighting and sound.

There's also an open area for activities, a reading nook, and mini-stage for performances. Full audio-visual capabilities, allowing for movie screenings, music therapy and interactive play, complete the room that was designed using a trauma-informed approach.

The NCF funding, worth **\$27,500**, contributed to outfitting the transformative space with furniture, lighting, artwork, sensory and kinetic play equipment, and some audio-visual gear.

"Before, we made do with what we had," said Brian Bratt, the centre's executive director. "Now, this space allows us to serve more kids in more meaningful ways. It's more than just a room—it's a tool that helps us rebuild trust, self-confidence, and resilience in the children we support."

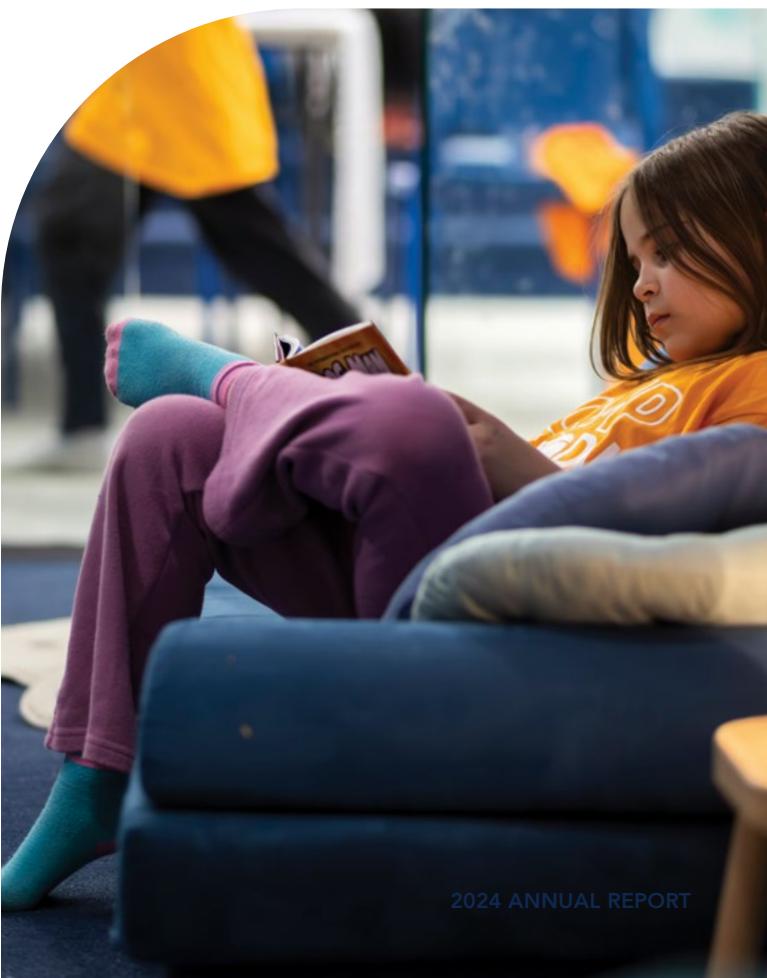
The centre provides critical services for children and youth who have experienced trauma from abuse, neglect or witnessing violence. The new space inspires healing through therapeutic art, drama, music therapy, and play. It's also home to after-school programs, and Camp Acorn, Niagara's first and only trauma-informed day camp, which the NCF supported in 2023 and 2024 with Summer Camp grants.

It's more than just a room—it's a tool that helps us rebuild trust, self-confidence, and resilience in the children we support.

Brian Bratt,  
Executive Director

Each year, the Centre helps about 2,500 children and their families. Thanks to grants from NCF and donors, the organization is better equipped to ensure that every child who needs help receives it—today and for years to come, Bratt said.

"Kids walk in and immediately feel at home. They tell us they love it here. They feel safe. That's exactly what we hoped to create."



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**I AM COMPELLED**

## Storytelling for Truth and Reconciliation

Crystal Lavallee was elated to champion the voices of elders and community leaders from Frog Lake First Nation (Unipouheos 121) in her mini-documentary *Frog Lake: The Untold Stories*.

The film brings to light the oral histories surrounding the 1885 Frog Lake "Massacre," a tragic event that the community refers to as a 'terrible occurrence.'

Another moment of encouragement came when Lavallee screened the film for a hard-to-impress audience of Grade 8 students in Niagara.

"The feedback I got from the students, especially the Grade 8 boys, was, 'I enjoyed how the elders shared their stories and explained what happened to their families. It was very well put together,'" Lavallee said. As the founder of I Am Compelled Collective, a national educational charity, she focuses on sharing the often-overlooked or forgotten oral histories of Canada's First Peoples to advance reconciliation. "Our stories must be shared," she emphasized.

Thanks to a **\$1,500 Mini Grant** from NCF, local residents and students were able to view *Frog Lake: The Untold Stories* in Grimsby last summer. The grant funded community screenings and discussions.

"The Niagara Community Foundation empowered us to remove barriers for learning and played an instrumental role in bridging the gaps in understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities," Lavallee shared. "These shared stories are essential for healing in the Frog Lake community. They also provide knowledge to non-Indigenous people—I watched stereotypes change after they listened to the stories and discussed their learnings!"



**A lot of Indigenous ways, our traditional ways, is not to tell people what to think, rather to share our stories.**

Crystal Lavallee,  
Founder

The creation of *Frog Lake: The Untold Stories* began during the pandemic, when Lavallee shifted her Indigenous storytelling efforts from theatre to film to reach a broader national audience.

While traveling in Alberta, she stopped by Frog Lake and spoke to Elder Larry Quinney, who passed down the knowledge his ancestors had shared with him. She was compelled to help!

This lesser-known chapter in Canadian history has been a source of shame for generations in Frog Lake, as the community has long carried the burden of blame for the "massacre." *Frog Lake: The Untold Stories* features the voices of both elders and youth, sharing the lasting impact of this terrible occurrence and their collective journey toward healing.

Environmental  
Grant

# Scouts Canada A Healthy Future

Find all our  
grant stories on  
our website!



If we want the environment to be in good shape, we have to have practices that are sustainable.

Bryce Honsinger,  
Troop Scouter

When over 500 Scouts, Guides, Cadets and leaders gathered at Camp Westaskiwin on the outskirts of St. Catharines on a cold and wet weekend in April, they stayed warm because they worked hard and because they knew they were helping to make a sensitive watershed healthy for generations to come.

A **\$30,000 Environmental Grant** from Niagara Community Foundation meant Scouts Canada could plant thousands of trees, shrubs, and grasses in a project that will reduce flooding, curtail erosion, and restore native species to a landscape harmed by generations of human activity.

And for Bryce Honsinger, Troop Scouter of the 57th Grantham Optimist Scout Troop and one of the organizers of the event, it's not just the improved environment for the Twelve Mile Creek watershed that was planted that day.

Youth from across Niagara and beyond, ranging in age from 6 to 18, formed friendships, learned important environmental lessons, and invested in making their futures healthier and safer. Providing opportunities for young people to connect with each other and connect with nature is what will make Niagara continue to be a healthy and caring community, Honsinger said. "If we want the environment to be in good shape, we have to have practices that are sustainable." Getting the youth involved is "a systemic way to make a good ecological impact," he said. "Let's get stakeholders out here who use the camp and get them invested in the project. That's a big part of Scouting—we want kids to be safe, but we want them outside and we want them engaged."

Before the planting day even began, ecological assessments were conducted and many hours were spent removing invasive species such as multiflora roses and buckthorn. Hundreds of Christmas trees were gathered to serve as buffers

against bank erosion. Shading the creek and slowing the water down will eventually help restore water quality so aquatic life can thrive once again. NCF Grant funding was instrumental in securing the equipment to anchor Christmas trees and improve habitat on 126 m of creek bank.

"If we come together as a community, anything is possible," Honsinger said.

"We had a fantastic weekend," said Scout Will Bigford. "Friendships were fostered, skills were learned, and memories were made—helping our favourite camp and its variety of ecosystems thrive."

## NATIVE TREE SPECIES PLANTED AT CAMP WETASKIWIN

- Red Maple (*Acer Rubrum*)
- Red Oak (*Quercus Rubra*)
- Bur Oak
- Black Cherry (*Prunus Serotina*)
- Sugar Maple
- Pin Oak (*Quercus Palustris*)
- Shagbark Hickory (*Carya Ovata*)
- Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- Larch
- White Pine
- White Spruce
- Red Pine

## START ME UP NIAGARA

# Offering Dignity

Visiting a food bank or a community closet can be intimidating for people who are already on the margins of their communities, but Start Me Up Niagara's Mobile Closet program is working hard to remove barriers.

A \$14,200 infusion from Niagara Community Foundation's **Community Grant** program enabled the Mobile Closet to embark on an ambitious translation, cultural sensitivity, and first aid mental health project to make customers feel comfortable and secure.

The Mobile Closet, which offers a free, season-appropriate pop-up shopping experience in locations across Niagara, was noticing more newcomers to Canada were taking advantage of the service, but volunteers had to rely on Google translate to communicate with them, said Lynn McIntyre, program coordinator. That got especially

**Being more inclusive, having more equality—it creates a sense of belonging. All these little things add up... to a kinder, gentler Niagara.**

Lynn McIntyre,  
Program Coordinator



tricky when the topic was personal hygiene items, she said, but the grant allowed McIntyre's team to arrange for all signage to be translated into French, Arabic, Turkish and Spanish.

The grant also allowed Mobile Closet volunteers to participate in sensitivity training, to help them better relate to newcomers with different customs, to Indigenous clients and to 2SLGBTQIA+ community members. For example, in some cultures, it's a sign of respect to a woman to address all communication through her male shopping escort, McIntyre said. Volunteers also learned how non-verbal communication, such as head nods or grabbing items from another shopper's hands, can mean different things in different cultures, and they learned how to serve transgender clients with sensitivity, respect, and proper pronouns.

"The cultural sensitivity training was invaluable," McIntyre said. "There were so many things we didn't understand, and we learned so much."

Twenty of Mobile Closet's volunteers also took a first aid mental health course, which gave them important skills to serve customers well.

"We want to treat people as special as we can," McIntyre said. "It's the humanity of it; we offer dignity."

Because when everyone is made to feel like they matter and are part of the community, everyone benefits, she said. "Being more inclusive, having more equality—it creates a sense of belonging. All these little things add up...to a kinder, gentler Niagara."

## COMMUNITY LIVING PORT COLBORNE-WAINFLEET

# Summer Camp For Everyone

Summers can be long and grueling for families of children with developmental disabilities, but when their kids can go to camp, everyone is happier.

A \$2,500 **Summer Camp Grant** to Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet meant 10 children could attend camp last summer, and more than a dozen parents got a much-needed break.

As part of its mandate, Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet makes it possible for children with developmental disabilities to attend a local day camp—by assessing their needs and making a plan for adequate support. But those children often have siblings who would also enjoy a summer camp experience, and that's where financial support from Niagara Community Foundation made all the difference.



This has provided my sons with a sense of belonging.

Camp Parent

Summer camp can be expensive and sending more than one child to camp can overtax a family's budget, said Sara Wencel, Coordinator Children supports at Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet. The grant meant siblings could attend camp together, Wencel said, which is good for everyone.

The children of the family enjoy a positive summer experience together, and sometimes having the sibling attend is a much-needed resource, who can help the child with a developmental disability enjoy the camp more.

This is the second year CLPCW was able to offer the sibling summer camp. The demand was higher than she could fill, and she hears from the campers and their parents how thankful they are. As well as the break it gave to them, which is especially important when children have high needs.

"My family is incredibly grateful," said one mom. "This has provided my sons with a sense of belonging and they both thrived over the summer."

# Essential Upgrades With a Lasting Impact

Spending money to replace an HVAC system or purchase a curtain divider for a gym doesn't sound like a lot of fun.

But the impact of the two grants in as many years from the **David S. Howes Fund** for BGC Niagara (formerly Boys and Girls Club of Niagara) to make such purchases is nothing short of exciting—especially for the people using the BGC Niagara facility in Niagara Falls, which benefitted from the upgrades.

**It's this kind of community support that allows us to continue on and build programs in the region. The lives of people are affected for the better.**

**Joe Macoretta,  
Chief Operating Officer**

In 2023 and 2024, the BGC Niagara received a total of **\$80,000** in grants, used mostly to replace the HVAC system servicing the pool. Without the proper ventilation the new system provides, the section of the 15-year-old building that houses the Junior Olympic-size swimming pool would deteriorate.

The organization, which serves both children and adults in Niagara, also used the funding to purchase a gym curtain, allowing the space to be divided and more programs to run simultaneously for different groups.



## 2024 Grants Awarded

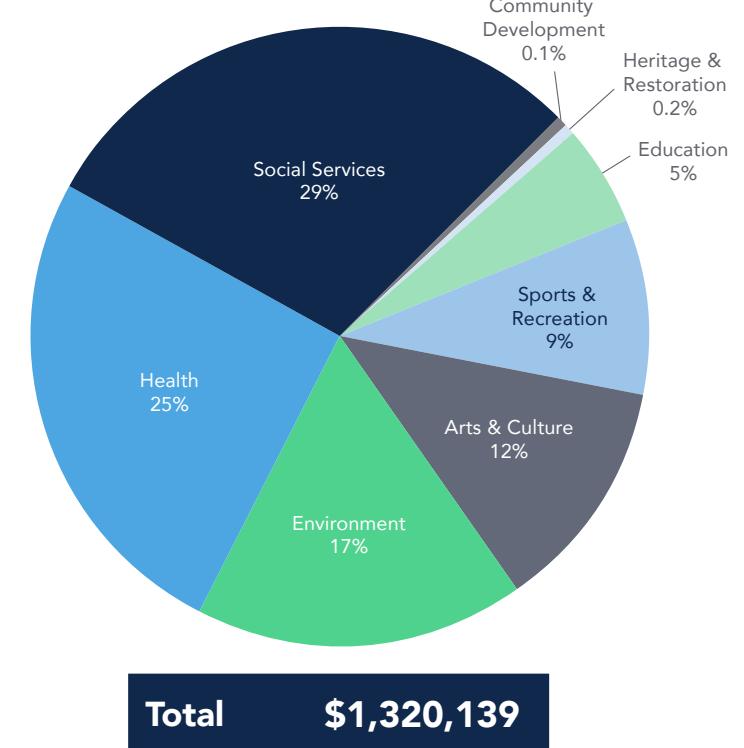
# Discretionary Grants

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 & 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.

## DISCRETIONARY GRANT ALLOCATION 2024



## 2024 DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

<b>Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region</b>	\$41,420	Establishment of a Niagara Family Physician Dementia Community of Practice will invoke system changes to improve diagnosing dementia and post-diagnostic supports in Niagara for both family physicians and persons concerned about cognitive changes.
<b>Attachment and Trauma Treatment Centre for Healing (ATTCH) Niagara</b>	\$50,000	Provide pretreatment assessment and support to vulnerable people with complex mental health needs while they wait for trauma specific therapy and offer neurofeedback sessions for therapists to facilitate wellness and avoid burnout.
<b>Attachment and Trauma Treatment Centre for Healing (ATTCH) Niagara</b>	\$1,500	Provide software programming resources and tactile device to enhance neurofeedback treatment for vulnerable clients.
<b>Bethlehem Housing and Support Services</b>	\$15,000	Support the Unit Preparation Pest (UPP) Program that prepares tenant homes for pest treatments which is an eviction-prevention program that addresses the challenges of trauma, poverty, literacy, and disabilities.
<b>Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara</b>	\$1,500	Increase the capacity of the team by enabling them to identify and understand their own strengths, and the strengths of their colleagues in order to better serve vulnerable children and youth.
<b>Boys and Girls Club of Niagara</b>	\$45,000	Replace HVAC unit, gym divider system and renovate underutilized space for the organization.
<b>Brain Injury Association of Fort Erie</b>	\$980	Development of a comprehensive emergency plan to train all staff in emergency protocols, this will benefit our community, providing them with adaptable guidelines that offer a framework for handling unique situations effectively.
<b>Brock University</b>	\$1,500	Purchase fridge and supplies for frozen meal program to support students on an as needed basis, that are prepared by volunteers and stored at the Faith and Life Centre.
<b>Canadian Chamber Academy (Music Niagara)</b>	\$5,000	Support Arts Unbound, an inclusive talent show with 10 performances by artists with a disability, aimed at engaging new audiences and showcasing exceptional talent, in partnership with Community Living and Niagara College.

<b>Canadian Mental Health Association</b>	\$7,500	Fund a new shared clinical data base to support documentation of a streamlined referral process, standardized screening and assessment and provide data for evaluation and quality improvement ideas.
<b>Caribbean Workers Outreach Project</b>	\$1,500	Hire seasonal Program Coordinator to arrange for buses, recruit leaders and volunteers, book venues and arrange for food and refreshments, for weekly community gatherings and special events.
<b>Carousel Players</b>	\$15,000	Support annual Niagara Children's Festival, an exciting multi-day event offering live theatre, performances, & culture for young audiences from early years to teens, in three Niagara municipalities in May 2025.
<b>Cave Springs Camp Inc.</b>	\$1,500	Purchase 80 Personal Flotation Devices for canoeing and pond studies areas ensuring safety of all participants.
<b>Central Station Education Initiative</b>	\$26,532	Support project to move forward to preserve a uniquely designed heritage Fire Station with over 100 years of firefighting history and deliver programming to enlighten visitors about firefighting history.
<b>City of Niagara Falls</b>	\$4,500	Environmental Action Committee will partner with local school groups to plant native Carolinian trees within Preakness Park to help enhance the urban forest canopy.
<b>City of St. Catharines (Haig Neighbours)</b>	\$3,525	ArborSTC will canvass residences in the Queenston neighbourhood of St. Catharines to offer native species trees and/or tree planting services to property owners and tenants at no cost.
<b>City of Welland</b>	\$12,000	Support tree canopy replacement project along the Kingsway/Canal Lands is a proactive step toward environmental responsibility and community improvement.
<b>Community Living Grimsby Lincoln and West Lincoln</b>	\$1,500	Support website redevelopment in conjunction with rebranding efforts that coincides with 60th anniversary in 2025.
<b>Community Support Services of Niagara</b>	\$7,500	Support the Transportation Services team to expand the number of rides to medical and non medical appointments for older adults across Niagara.
<b>Contact Niagara for Children's and Developmental Services</b>	\$6,588	Support the 1-2-3 Magic workshops that provide program supports at no cost to parents/caregivers of children age 2-12 years.
<b>Femmes du Feu Creations</b>	\$1,500	Purchase supplies for summer camps for youth to explore and learn about circus arts in downtown Welland with expanded aerial performance and juggling elements.
<b>Folk Arts Council of St. Catharines</b>	\$1,500	Support event to address anti-Asian racism, by creating a safe space, using art to encourage dialogue, compassion and understanding with a focus on accessibility; sensory friendly.
<b>Future Black Female</b>	\$7,500	Support strategic planning, personnel development, and digital adaptation, for sustainable growth and expanded program delivery to support diverse youth aged 16-22.
<b>Gateway Residential and Community Support Services of Niagara</b>	\$15,000	Support volunteer-based Furniture Bank, dedicated to furnishing the homes of our clients with generous donations from the community while saving valuable furniture from ending up in landfills.
<b>Gillian's Place</b>	\$14,910	Enhance supports for Child & Youth Department that will provide more compassionate trauma-informed care to children and youth who have experienced abuse.
<b>Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit o/a South Shore Search And Rescue</b>	\$15,000	Acquire secure on-site storage for crucial protective equipment for rescue volunteers, preserving the life of expensive assets while enhancing emergency response time.
<b>Grimsby Museum</b>	\$1,500	Support Heritage Grimsby Mapping Project, that seeks to develop a print and digital map locating the town's built and cultural heritage, including designated heritage buildings, public art, and other cultural landmarks of local significance.
<b>Heart Niagara</b>	\$7,000	Support HeartReignite Initiative that seeks to re-establish and expand the HHSP and CPR/AED training, by building capacity and confidence with trained CPR/AED instructors to enhance emergency preparedness and promote cardiovascular health.
<b>Heart Niagara</b>	\$48,877	Purchase state-of-the-art holter diagnostic devices to support family medicine practices in timely diagnosis and treatment of chronic disease while all net revenues are reinvested in Niagara families.
<b>Heart Niagara</b>	\$1,500	Update organizational bylaws in compliance with ONCA standards and provide trauma-informed service training for staff, prompted by expanded services to 2SLGBTQ+ communities.
<b>Heartland Forest Nature Experience</b>	\$13,570	Support habitat creation projects that promote environmental awareness, often referred to as 'wood working for wildlife' that engages all ages and all abilities, restore ecosystems, protect biodiversity loss and attract backyard wildlife.

<b>Heartland Forest Nature Experience</b>	\$33,000	Restore forest & wetland habitat, providing citizen science opportunities & educating through signage, interactive programming & a new Water Quality educational exhibit within the Discovery Atrium.
<b>Horse Cents for Kids</b>	\$1,500	Purchase new horseback riding saddle for use in horsemanship programs.
<b>Hospice Niagara</b>	\$14,460	Develop secure web portal for staff, volunteers, and board members to support the expansion of three hospice sites, and providing a centralized and easily accessible information hub.
<b>I Am Compelled Collective (I Am Compelled)</b>	\$1,500	Using film to championing Treaty 6 histories and culture by sharing the untold stories of Frog Lake First Nation.
<b>Kids Care Oncology Central West Ontario</b>	\$75,000	Support RMHC Family Room at St. Catharines Hospital that will provide respite areas, laundry, and food services directly inside the hospital to ensure families can rest and recharge while remaining close to their hospitalized children.
<b>Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara</b>	\$27,500	Support new innovative play space and multipurpose room will serve as a hub for therapeutic afterschool programs and Camp Acorn, as well as allow the Centre to support more Niagara kids in more meaningful ways through new programs and services.
<b>Lincoln Pelham Public Library—Fonthill</b>	\$33,000	Support Driving Literacy and Community Connection—a Bookmobile service throughout its communities by retrofitting a vehicle to act as a mobile library branch supporting underserved populations in Lincoln and Pelham.
<b>Lincoln Pelham Public Library—Fonthill</b>	\$1,500	Support Baby's First Book program which includes free book and library information package to create awareness of library programs and services and support early literacy for healthy brain development.
<b>Links for Greener Learning</b>	\$1,500	Renovate community garden with new raised wooden beds that are accessible, ergonomic and designed for seniors, enhancing usability and promoting a sustainable, eco-friendly space.
<b>Literacy Link Niagara</b>	\$15,000	Support WrapAround model, where learners benefit from a team of supporters who encourage successful completion of their program, including friends, family members, educators, employment & social services.
<b>Niagara Artists' Company</b>	\$1,500	Purchase upgrades to fully equip a cinema-grade camera to be used by Niagara filmmakers at affordable rental rates through the Tool Library at the Niagara Artists Centre.
<b>Niagara College</b>	\$13,000	Fill knowledge gaps with the necessary equipment to install a Motus tower at Welland Campus that will allow for complete coverage of Niagara Region, providing valuable data to inform conservation decisions on local & global scales.
<b>Niagara Falls Community Outreach</b>	\$5,970	Replace Baking Kitchen oven.
<b>Niagara Falls Public Library</b>	\$1,500	Help create, support, and advertise the Seed Squad in which people who borrow seeds from the library and return harvested seeds at the end of growing season will become part of the Seed Squad: a special club that champions seed harvesting.
<b>Niagara Falls Public Library</b>	\$1,500	Support The Puzzle Collection, including jigsaw puzzles with a mix of themes including for people with dementia, children, a general adult audience, and a selection of custom printed puzzles featuring images from Local History Collection.
<b>Niagara Foundation for Family &amp; Children's Services</b>	\$11,360	Purchase appliances for 10-bedroom group home in Welland for children between the ages of 9-14 living with complex mental health and behavioral challenges.
<b>Niagara Foundation for Family &amp; Children's Services</b>	\$42,000	Purchase six-person van to support the transportation needs of children between the ages of 9-14 living in a ten-bed residential treatment home in Welland, which is due to begin operations in January 2025.
<b>Niagara Geopark—Ohnia:Kara Global Geopark Inc</b>	\$7,500	Support development of strategic plan to guide sustainable tourism efforts, community engagement, & preservation of geological & cultural heritage, ultimately aiming for UNESCO Global Geopark recognition.
<b>Niagara Health System</b>	\$1,500	Support event that unites community organizations and equity leaders to explore strategies for advancing DEI in healthcare, offering tools through expert presentations on Indigenous health, sociodemographic data, and health equity practices.
<b>Niagara Jazz Festival</b>	\$8,250	Support MUSIC in the PARK, two live music stages featuring jazz and world music performances, food trucks, beverage vendors, artisan marketplace, KIDZ ZONE, and 'Tent Talks' featuring guest speakers, artist meet & greets.
<b>Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority</b>	\$47,000	Restore 6 ha of wetland habitat and enhance 160 m of Lake Erie shoreline within Lakewood Conservation Area, including managing invasive species, planting of native trees/plants, and installing nature-based shoreline solutions.

<b>Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre</b>	\$55,264	Support mentoring program that will increase capacity to serve clients through a structured trauma training curriculum aimed at cultivating skills, refining evidence-based interventions and increasing proficiency in the nuances of trauma work.
<b>Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre</b>	\$1,230	Purchase two new laptop computers for in-office & off-site operations, aiming to increase the overall Counselling Department capacity.
<b>Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library</b>	\$1,500	Support the hosting of three special guests to enhance children's programming, including artist James Paterson and his interactive storytelling machine, a live reptile show by Reptile Kingdom, and a musical experience with Drums et al.
<b>Port Cares</b>	\$27,500	Support the provision of outdoor furnishings and equipment for new housing development providing deeply affordable rental housing for vulnerable low-income independent seniors and female-led single rent families with young children.
<b>Project SHARE</b>	\$1,500	Re-purpose storage room into board room and create additional office space to increase physical building capacity to meet the community need.
<b>RCEC Saint Therese Parish Port Colborne</b>	\$5,700	Improve security by adding cameras and recording devices to keep community and clients safe.
<b>Royal Canadian Legion Ridgeway Branch 230</b>	\$750	Replace projection system that is outdated and can no longer be used with modern digital equipment
<b>Scouts Canada</b>	\$30,000	Restore 12 Mile Creek, vital to Niagara's ecosystem, ensuring the return of brook trout and other species to Camp Wetaskiwin and remove invasives, plant native trees for shade, and curb erosion to revive the cold-water stream.
<b>Shaw Festival Theatre, Canada</b>	\$10,000	Assess current practices and carbon footprint and, using the Theatre Green Book as a guide, we will create a roadmap for us & for the Canadian theatre industry on how to become more environmentally sustainable.
<b>Silver Spire United Church</b>	\$15,000	Support the shower and laundry program that offers hygiene solutions to those who are experiencing homelessness or living in poverty, without access to laundry services or showering capabilities.
<b>St Catharines Collegiate Institute and Vocational School Alumni Fund</b>	\$10,000	Support the "St. Catharines Collegiate Fitness and Wellness Centre" project that provides students with the opportunity to access an updated fitness facility in a safe, supervised and all-inclusive environment.
<b>St Catharines World Rowing</b>	\$29,597	Support the accessibility project that will ensure sure athletes coming to Niagara will have no restrictions based on their abilities to compete and the on-course experience will be safe for all.
<b>St. David's Anglican Church</b>	\$2,558	Purchase fridge/freezer to support weekly food pantry, where visitors receive non perishable items, plus milk, bread, and fresh vegetables.
<b>St. John Ambulance</b>	\$8,935	Replace emergency supplies & equipment to be utilized at community events & to assist the Niagara Region in case of medical emergencies, disasters, evacuations & to provide assistance at shelters as required.
<b>St. John Ambulance, Niagara Region Branch</b>	\$37,500	Support repairs required at St. John House to ensure Community Services Units and volunteers are able to receive high quality training to serve all of Niagara.
<b>Suitcase in Point</b>	\$6,000	Re-build audiences through a partnership-based social media/marketing campaign that will develop local next-generation artists, growing their skills and public awareness of their creative work through video & social media.
<b>Summer Camp Grants</b>	\$38,295	Provide bursaries to 20 organizations to support nearly 300 children in financial need attend summer camp programs.
<b>The Bridge Church</b>	\$42,722	Develop a Food Recovery Program to leverage existing food resources in Niagara Falls through a system that allows for the collection & redistribution of untouched food to food-insecure community members.
<b>The Brown Homestead</b>	\$1,500	Support the attendance of staff members at national and provincial conferences to gain knowledge, skills and experience as well as build connections with industry leaders in our sector.
<b>The Foundation of Resources for Teens</b>	\$15,000	Hire part-time Program Assistant to immediately resolve capacity issues and guarantee strategic program delivery.
<b>The Hope Centre</b>	\$1,500	Develop Case for Support that will showcase the compelling stories of the Centre and will form the basis of annual giving campaign for major donors aimed at supporting ongoing operations.

<b>The Niagara Parks Foundation</b>	\$20,000	Restore and expand 1km of riparian vegetated buffers along the Niagara River shoreline through the removal of invasive species and the planting of over 7,500 native plants.
<b>The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</b>	\$15,000	Hire part-time Administrative Assistant to improve capacity and capabilities that will build structure and systems for sustainable growth.
<b>The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre</b>	\$1,500	Upgrade two printers to improve overall organizational capacity and improve efficiency, productivity and cost savings.
<b>The Norm Foster Theatre Festival</b>	\$9,500	Support theatrical workshopping and professional readings of A Niagara Christmas Carol, a new adaptation of A Christmas Carol, set in Niagara during the second major build of the Welland Canal.
<b>The Regional Municipality of Niagara</b>	\$10,000	Create and deliver hands-on learning opportunities to teach the community about stream science, how water moves across the landscape, why erosion happens, and how conservation practices can be implemented to prevent erosion and water quality impacts.
<b>The Town of Lincoln</b>	\$42,962	In partnership with the Niagara Regional Native Centre and Plenty Canada, support the planning and developing of Sho'arishon Park into a gathering space that recognizes longstanding Indigenous presence in the Niagara Region through arts and culture.
<b>The Town of Lincoln</b>	\$17,000	Support Mini Forests Pilot Project, using the Miyawaki model, that aims to naturalize our urban spaces with a forest habitat, in compact areas, this project combats climate change, boosts urban biodiversity, and forms a green oasis.
<b>The Volunteer Well</b>	\$1,500	Purchase rollup banners to increase accessibility at different places, venues and events to promote mandate, and services for greater community impact.
<b>The Willow Community Support Services (Willow Arts Community)</b>	\$7,500	Support initiative that invites residents to create murals on the boards surrounding the property along Ontario St., Haig St., Pleasant Ave., and Carlton St. that reflect the communities and the people from across the city who worked at GM.
<b>The Willow Community Support Services (Willow Arts Community)</b>	\$1,000	Increase visibility and outreach through marketing materials; helping to reach broader audiences and foster more community engagement, which amplifies impact and promotes meaningful connections within community.
<b>Town of Pelham</b>	\$7,000	Purchase and install a commercial dishwashing unit at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613 to support community events and charitable activities at the facility, which includes a free weekly meal distribution program to veterans and seniors.
<b>Victim Services Niagara</b>	\$87,000	Over two years, support an A-HT coalition that will work in tandem with the A-HT protocol to benefit survivors by improving access to services, assist in system navigation, service mapping, and identify gaps in service delivery and client needs.
<b>Wellspring Niagara Cancer Support Foundation</b>	\$15,000	Renovate an unfinished room to accommodate the increased demand for program, services and office space.
<b>Wellspring Niagara Cancer Support Foundation</b>	\$1,184	Develop and maintain mini gardens for fresh herbs and vegetables for healthy eating programs while fostering volunteer and member connections while nurturing relationships and supporting each other through shared experiences.
<b>West Niagara Agricultural Society</b>	\$7,500	Build shade shelter for the use of the community members that attend all events at West Niagara Fairgrounds.
<b>West Niagara Agricultural Society</b>	\$1,500	Have volunteers build bleachers and a bench for community use.
<b>West Niagara Palliative Care Services o/a Rose Cottage Visiting Volunteers</b>	\$7,500	Through strategic rebranding and website redevelopment, revitalize the organization to enhance fundraising, organizational development, improve stakeholder communication, and increase capacity to serve the community.
<b>Westview Centre 4 Women</b>	\$1,500	Provide nutritious school snacks to pantry options for families, whereby them giving a suggested donation will rollover and continue to purchase needed school snacks for children in our area.
<b>YMCA of Niagara</b>	\$1,500	Provide key day camp staff with enhanced pre-camp training (NVC) to support the needs and well being of individuals who are in distress and may demonstrate inappropriate or risky behaviours while in the camp environment.
<b>YPI Canada</b>	\$10,000	Support Youth & Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) that supported 4 Niagara schools to participate in the program.

# Donor Directed Grants

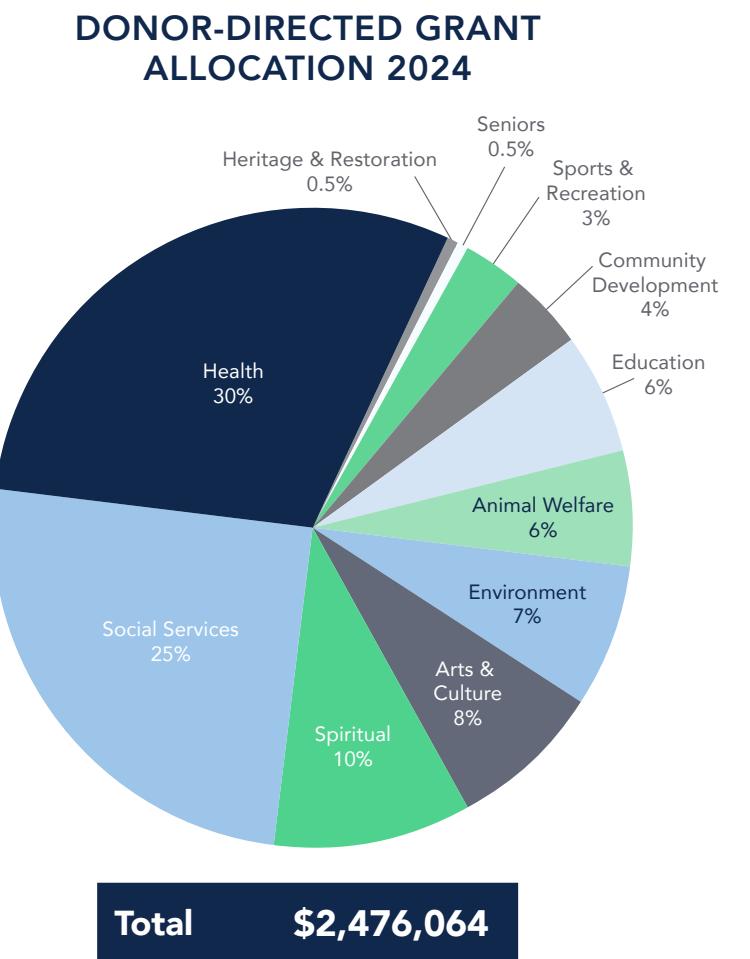
## Donor Directed Grants speak to the philanthropic wishes of our donors.

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 64% 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.

- 2022 Canada Games Sport Legacy Inc.
- 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
- Attachment and Trauma Treatment Centre for Healing (ATTCH) Niagara
- Beamsville Church of Christ
- Benevolent Society of Grimsby and District
- Bert Miller Nature Club of Fort Erie
- Bethlehem Housing and Support Services
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara—Niagara Falls
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara—West Niagara
- Boxrun Charitable Foundation
- Brock University—Office of Development and Alumni Relations
- Brock University—Student Awards & Financial Aid
- Bruce Trail Conservancy
- Burlington Rotary Community Hospice Inc. (Carpenter Hospice)
- 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
- Cave Springs Camp Inc.
- Central United Church of Port Colborne
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Chorus Niagara
- Church of the Transfiguration
- CityKidz Ministry—Hamilton Branch
- City of Niagara Falls
- Civil Air Recue Emergency Service Niagara (CARES NIAGARA)
- CNIB
- Community Addiction Services of Niagara
- 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
- Cornerstone Community Church
- Cystic Fibrosis Canada—Niagara Chapter
- Doctors Without Borders Canada
- Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice
- DSBN—Twenty Valley Public School
- DSBN—West Niagara Secondary School
- Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Education Foundation of Niagara
- Family and Children's Services Niagara
- Feed the Children
- FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre
- Folk Arts Council of St. Catharines—Multicultural Centre
- Fort Erie Conservation Club
- Fort Erie Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Foundation of Resources for Teens (The FORT)
- Friends of Lincoln's History
- Gateway Residential and Community Support Services of Niagara
- Gillian's Place
- Grace Community Church
- Grimsby Auxiliary Marine Rescue Unit (GAMRU South Shore Search and Rescue)
- Grimsby Life Centre Ministries
- Grimsby Museum (Town of Grimsby)
- Grimsby Public Art Gallery (Town of Grimsby)
- Habitat for Humanity Halton-Mississauga
- Habitat for Humanity Niagara
- Hamilton Health Sciences
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Heartland Forest Nature Experience
- Heart Niagara
- Hobbitstee Wildlife Refuge
- Hospice Niagara
- Hotel Dieu Shaver Health & Rehabilitation Foundation
- Humane Society of Greater Niagara
- 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 Montréal
- Lambton College—Financial Aid
- Last Chance Horse and Pony Rescue
- Lincoln Memorial Cultural Centre: Home of the Jordan Historical Museum of the Twenty
- Lincoln Pelham Public Library—Fleming Branch
- Lincoln Pelham Public Library—Fonthill
- 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
- McMaster University
- McNally House Hospice
- Meals on Wheels Port Colborne
- Mission Services of Hamilton Inc.
- Mohawk College
- Momentum Choir
- Monastery of Mount Carmel
- MS Canada
- Muscular Dystrophy Canada
- Museum of Health Care at Kingston
- Nativity of the Holy Mother of God
- NCDSB—Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School
- NCDSB—Holy Name Catholic School
- Newark Neighbours Food & Thrift Shops
- Niagara Action for Animals
- Niagara Artists Company (Niagara Artists Centre)
- Niagara Catholic District School Board
- 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 Foundation for Catholic Education
- Niagara Foundation for Family & Children's Services
- Niagara Health Foundation
- 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-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service
- Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation
- Niagara Regional Science Fair Committee—NRSEF
- Niagara Region—Senior Services
- Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre
- 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
- No Paw Left Behind
- OCAD University
- 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
- Pathstone Foundation
- Pets Alive Niagara
- Pflag Canada—Niagara Chapter
- Plan International Canada
- Port Nelson United Church
- Pumpkin's Acres Rabbit Rescue
- REACH Niagara
- Red Roof Retreat
- Ridley College
- Ronald McDonald House Charities South Central Ontario
- Rotary Club of Lincoln Foundation
- Rotary Club of St. Catharines, Charitable Trust
- Rotary Club of St. Catharines—Lakeshore
- Salvation Army Community and Family Services—Hamilton/Wentworth
- Seneca College
- Shaw Festival Theatre, Canada
- Sheridan College
- SickKids Foundation
- Silver Spire United Church
- Sleeping Children Around the World
- Society of Saint Vincent de Paul St. Catharines Central Council
- Southridge Shelter/Brock University Dept. Rec and Leisure
- Southwestern Ontario Youth for Christ / Youth Unlimited
- Stamford Lane United Church
- Start Me Up Niagara (SMUN)
- St. Clair College—Financial Aid
- St. Clement's School
- St. Giles Presbyterian Church
- St. John the Theologian Ukrainian Catholic Church
- St. Mark's Church
- Strive Niagara (AFSSN)
- Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church
- St. Therese of Lisieux Church
- Terry Fox Foundation
- The Corporation of the City of St. Catharines (Friends of Malcolmson Eco-Park)
- The Hope Centre
- The Niagara Foundation
- The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
- The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation
- The Rotary Foundation—Canada
- The Salvation Army Community & Family Services
- The Salvation Army Niagara Orchard Community Church
- The Salvation Army St. Catharines Community & Family Services
- The School of Restoration Arts at Willowbank
- The Village Church
- The War Amps of Canada
- Toronto Metropolitan University
- Town of Lincoln
- Town of Lincoln—Jordan Historical Museum
- Town of Pelham
- Ukrainian Canadian Congress Niagara Branch Fund
- Ukrainian Canadian Social Services (St. Catharines) Inc.
- United Way Halton & Hamilton
- United Way Niagara
- University of Alberta
- University of British Columbia
- University of Guelph
- University of New Brunswick
- University of Ontario Institute of Technology
- University of Toronto
- University of Waterloo
- University of Western Ontario
- 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
- West Niagara Agricultural Society
- Whispering Hearts Horse Rescue Centre
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- Women's Place of South Niagara Inc. (Birchway Niagara)
- World Vision Canada
- YMCA of Niagara
- Youth Resources Niagara
- YWCA Niagara Region



Growth

# 2024 Financial Snapshot



DONATIONS RECEIVED  
**\$2,790,985**

GRANTS AWARDED  
**\$3,857,707**

GROWTH IN ASSETS  
**12%**

OPERATING EXPENSES  
**1.2%**

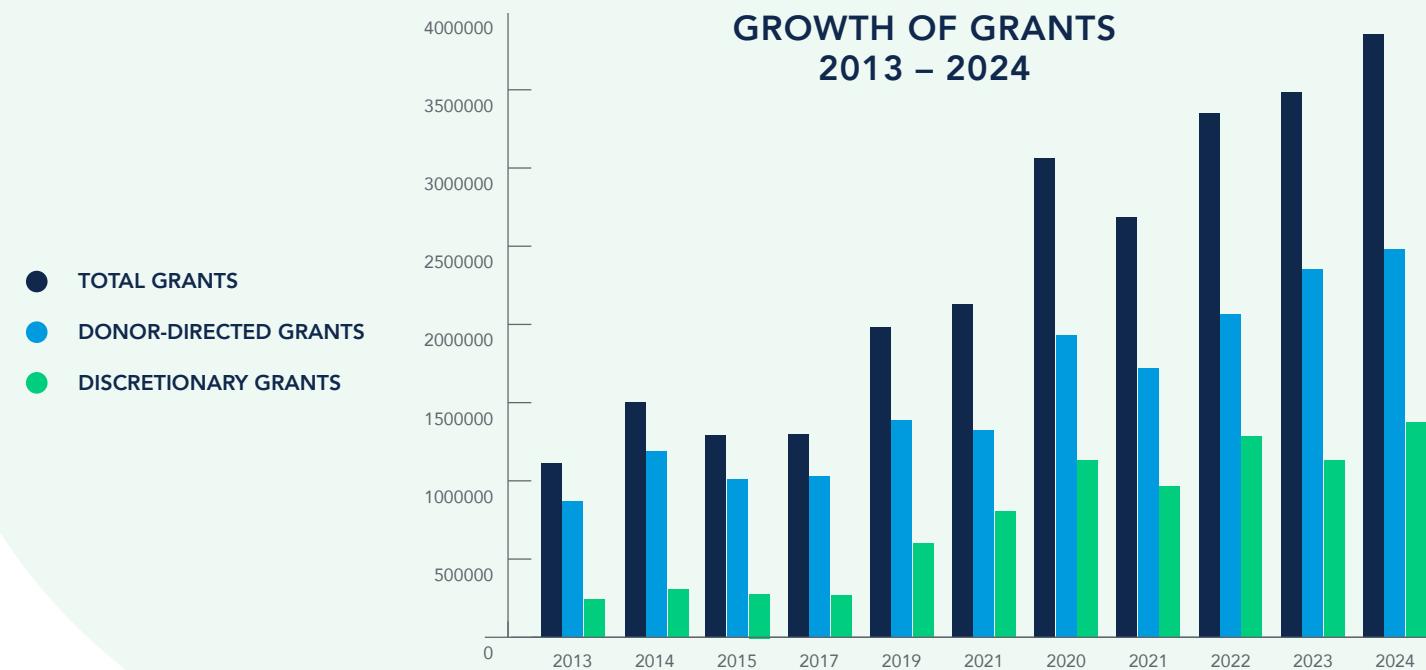
## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	2024	2023	2022	2021
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$92,520,137	\$82,317,851	\$73,221,792	\$76,515,909
<b>Gross Fundraising &amp; Event Revenue</b>	\$58,030	\$57,732	\$51,415	\$107,325
<b>Total Donations</b>	\$2,790,985	\$5,562,938	\$4,955,648	\$9,071,366
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$15,060,945	\$13,406,831	\$1,055,146	\$15,082,237
<b>Total Grants</b>	\$3,857,707	\$3,513,557	\$3,344,438	\$2,687,075
<b>Total Charitable Programs</b>	\$179,766	\$256,143	\$209,047	\$155,867
<b>Total Special Projects</b>	\$0	\$0	\$17,520	\$149,722
<b>Total Fundraising Expenses</b>	\$283,895	\$170,304	\$173,922	\$255,340
<b>Total Administrative &amp; Governance Expenses</b>	\$1,070,188	\$927,820	\$858,309	\$728,901
<b>Total Endowments</b>	\$91,252,715	\$79,641,364	\$71,151,159	\$74,348,178
<b>% of Admin/Governance to Total Endowment</b>	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	0.98%
<b>% of Fundraising Expenses to Total Endowment</b>	0.31%	0.21%	0.24%	0.34%

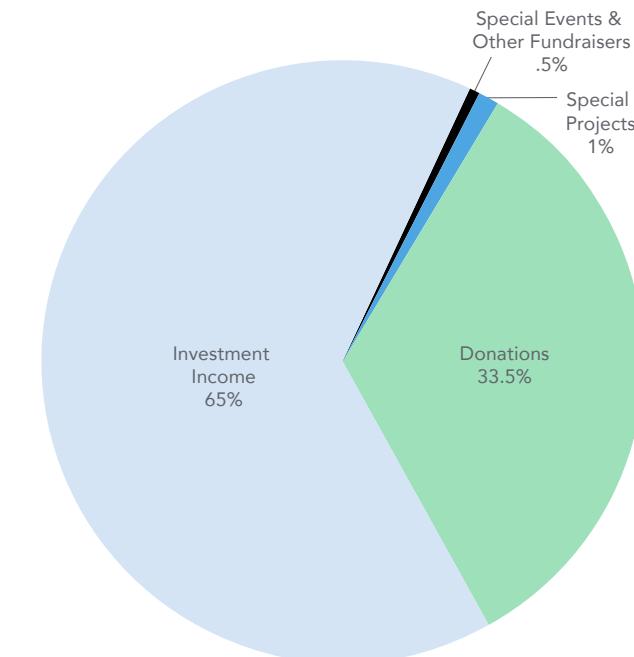
To view the audited financial statements, please visit [niagaracommunityfoundation.org/about-us](http://niagaracommunityfoundation.org/about-us)

Over the past 10 years, the assets of the Niagara Community Foundation have grown from **\$26 million to \$92.5 million!**

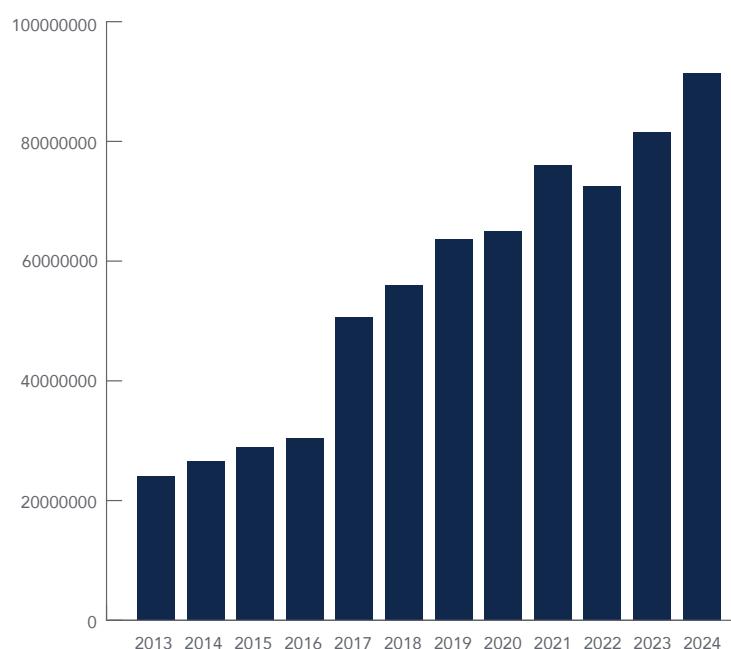
Since inception in 2000, NCF has given **over \$32 million in grants** to the community.



**SOURCE OF REVENUE**  
**\$8,251,211**



**GROWTH OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS 2013 – 2024**



# 2024 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. Operating costs include asset development, charitable activities, special projects, administration and governance. Expenses for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024 totaled **\$1,070,188**. 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 2024, 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

The average investment fee paid for 2024 was 0.85% 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 (2020 to 2024) rate of return is 6.26% and 6.54% 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 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, NCF recognizes that although there may be a lower financial return compared to traditional investments, there is an equally important social and environmental impact alongside of the financial return. In 2012, the NCF Board made a commitment to invest \$500,000 in the Community Forward Fund (CFF), a social finance investment fund. In 2018, NCF entered into a \$100,000 partnership with the Fair Finance Fund (FFF) which 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. 2024 saw a new opportunity with NCF investing \$250,000 with Rally Reader (<https://www.rallyreader.com/>) an online literacy platform dedicated to fostering literacy equity by nurturing a genuine love for reading through choice, support, and motivation. By providing an inclusive platform tailored to the needs of all readers, they ensure that every student, regardless of their background or learning differences, has access to the resources they need to succeed.

## 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 2024 they contributed 1,601 hours, and based on \$16.55/hr hour, this gift works out to **\$26,496.55** in support! Thank you so much for this amazing contribution of time and talent.

## AMBASSADORS:

Sandy Annunziata, John Armstrong, Brian Babcock, Ann-Louise Branscombe, Pat Darte, Dino DiCienzo, Andrea Douglas, Denise Elliott, Mario Ferrara, John Fisher, Jessica Friesen, 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, Carrie Prudhomme, Kelly Robson, David Shaw, Janet St. Amand, Betty-Lou Souter, Wade Stayzer, Sharon Svob, Mary Turner, Rob Welch, Doug Whitty, Chris Wilson, Brian Wilkie & Madeline Woodhead

## COMMUNITY FUND COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS:

Nancy Baily (NOTL), Mike Berlis (NOTL Chair), Patrick Brabant (Grimsby), Ann-Louise Branscombe (NOTL), Claudia Brema (Port Colborne Chair), Wendy Cheropita (NOTL), Pat Darte (NOTL), Mario Ferrara (NOTL), Alan Goddard (Grimsby), Rosanne Marsh (Port Colborne), Sharon McMillan (Wainfleet), Monika Patterson (Grimsby), Debi Pratt (NOTL), Amanda Pyper (Grimsby), Kelly Robson (Wainfleet Chair), David Semley (Port Colborne), Don Stewart (Grimsby Chair), Sharon Svob (Wainfleet), Gary Talosi (Port Colborne), Denise Tulk (Grimsby), Christopher Wilson (Port Colborne).

## 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

Marisa Brown  
Manager, Career Development and Planning – Mohawk College

Natasha DiCienzo  
Wealth Advisor – Scotia Wealth Management

Chris DiLalla  
Owner – DiLalla Systems Ltd.

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

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

## VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS:

### COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Damian Goulbourne, Michael Harris, Mike Lethby (Chair), Rick Merritt, April Mitchell-Boudreau, Jessica Potts, Sarah Pritula, 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, Suzanne Wilson

### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

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

### GRANTS COMMITTEE:

Brandon Agnew, Marisa Brown, Paul Chapman, Janice Coles, Chris DiLalla, Dawit Eshetu, Manfred Fast, Mark Fortuna, Andrew Harwood, Robert Hunt, Ziggy Janzen, Nyarayi Kapisavanh, Peter Kryger, Mitchell Lutz, Chantelle Mamone, Kerry Meikle, Wayne Moorehead, Katja Odegaard, Andy Panko, Andrew Porteus, Melissa Stack, Don Stewart, Carol Stewart-Kirkby, Joanna Stubbs, Pam Swick-Janjac, Emily Veres, Louise Veres (Chair)

### GRANTS SPECIAL PROJECTS:

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

### 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 Goulbourne (Chair), Natasha DiCienzo, Mike Lethby, Mike Mann, Louise Veres



## 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 & Ryan O'Neill (DJB Accounting Services)

## CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS:

### ANNUAL REPORT WRITERS:

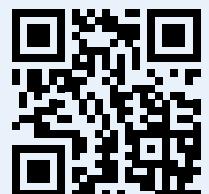
Marlene Bergsma, Tiffany Mayer

### PHOTOS CONTRIBUTIONS:

Tara Walton (Aaron & Tara Photography)

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Visit our online edition and pass it on!



In 2025, Niagara Community Foundation is celebrating 25 years of impact in Niagara.

**25 years** of philanthropy and legacy building.

**25 years** of connecting donors to causes.

**25 years** of empowering charities with resources.

**25 years** of turning intent into impact.

Join us as we celebrate this milestone!

Keep an eye on our social media and newsletters and follow along with **#25yearsofNCF**.



# Celebrating

# 25 YEARS OF **NCF**

NIAGARA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Registration Number:  
867105322RR0001

[niagaracommunityfoundation.org](http://niagaracommunityfoundation.org)

/NiagaraCF

@niagaracommunityfoundation

@niagaracommunityfoundation

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 **Wolfe Jonas**  
Wealth Management

**KPMG**

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