



2018 Annual Report

OCF IMPACT



Helping people and organizations leave
personalized, lasting legacy in Oxford,
to make it a better place.

INSIDE

- 2 Board of Directors
- 2 Leadership Message
- 3 Community Impact Grants at work in Oxford County
- 11 Creating your Legacy
- 12 Financial Report
- 13 Founders' & Builders' Circle Recognition
- 14 2018 Golf Tournament
- 15 Donor & Sponsor Recognition



Oxford Community Foundation Board of Directors and Staff

Front row: Mary Holmes (Director), Karen Sample (Director), Liz Lessif (Board Chair), Rosemary George (Director). *Back Row:* Louise Wardrop (staff), Rosaline Bruyns (staff), Neil Dolson (Director), Bill Mackesy (Board Vice-Chair), Keith Stevens (Director)

Absent: Richard Fanning (Board Treasurer), Don Ross (Director), David Truscott (Director)

BROUGHT TO
YOU BY THE

191

COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

Visionary and Lasting Gifts

We are proud and honoured to present Oxford Community Foundation's (OCF) annual report. **In 2018, we added three new funds, granted \$78,841 with impact, moved our office, and improved our operations.**

New donors turned to OCF to achieve their unique philanthropic goals. The Mackesys set up their fund because of their desire to give back and make a difference by supporting the priorities of today and the future. WDDS moved their Rosemary George Scholarship Fund to OCF because of our well-established and successful management of numerous scholarship funds, and the Arts Family established the Tyler Arts Legacy Fund so that their son Tyler's spirit and the way he lived his life, full of love and kindness will be remembered always.

Every page in this report tells a story. We spotlight the grants from your OCF funds and how they're making a difference. Oxford County is a better place because of the \$78,841 disbursed in 2018 across a diverse cross section of worthwhile community projects. While last year was disappointing from an investment perspective, through prudent planning and reserves put in place, our community can expect stability in granting for 2019.

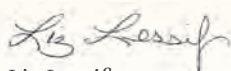
We continue to be thankful for the support we receive from the Mayors in our County. The funds from the Warden's Golf Tournament contribute greatly towards our operating costs.

In June, we moved locations. Our new home, shared with the United Way, Social Planning Council Oxford and the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce, delivers greater visibility and valuable partnering opportunities.

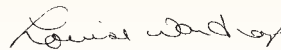
My 12 years on the board as a director and the last two years as Board Chair has now come to a close. It has been my pleasure to work with a dedicated Board and has been rewarding as we together moved the Foundation forward.

We thank our retiring Board members Don Ross and David Truscott for their dedication and sage advice.

The diverse talents of our board and staff have enabled us to build and grow OCF. We are reminded that the Foundation's success is possible because of the visionary and lasting gifts of our donors. We're inspired every day both by what's happened and more by what's ahead. We hope you will be too.



Liz Lessif
Board Chair



Louise Wardrop
Executive Director

Making a difference funding the causes you care about! In 2018, OCF distributed over **\$78,841** to 19 organizations and 11 scholarship and bursary recipients. In the following pages, we share pictures and stories made possible by you. Enjoy reading how these investments are making Oxford County a better place for all of us by protecting, feeding, educating, inspiring and celebrating.



Community Impact Grants at Work *in Oxford County*

ARTS & CULTURE



1 Thistle Theatre

Supporting little theatres with big hearts

A grant from the **Ross & Fran McElroy Fund** allows Thistle Theatre to continually take on new artistic challenges presenting their productions in the intimate family like setting of the historical Embro Town Hall.



2 Woodstock Art Gallery

Showcasing an emerging artist

A grant from the **B&R George Fund** is supporting the launch of a local emerging artist with an exclusive solo exhibition in the **Woodstock Art Gallery's** Community Gallery. The artist's work will be exposed to the over 2,000 people who attend celebratory receptions and visit the Gallery each month.

Leaving a Legacy: One seed at a time

EDUCATION



3 Big Brothers Big Sisters

of Ingersoll, Tillsonburg & Area

*Helping kids reach
their full potential*

A grant from
the **Alabastine-
Wilkinson Fund**
supported
literacy
mentoring
programs held
in Ingersoll

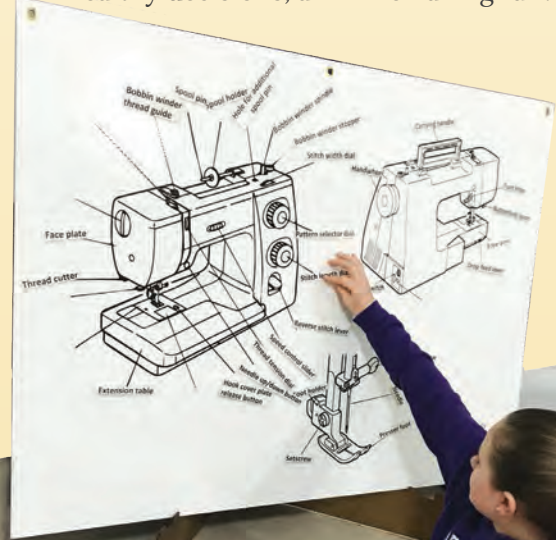


and Tillsonburg libraries. Children referred by local schools are matched with caring adults who help with social and academic skill development. These one-on-one relationships help model healthy relationships, promote the importance of education, instill and teach trust, independent thinking and self-confidence in order to make healthy decisions, all while having fun.

4 Oxford County 4-H Association

Learning to do by doing

A grant from the **Oxford Environmental Fund** supported the production of oversized interactive and educational posters. In a fun and engaging way, **4-H** youth learn about different parts and functions of their environment, animals and machines.



5 Scholarships & Bursaries

Future Community Leaders: Spotlight on scholarship recipients

Education is a gift that lasts a lifetime and these OCF awards recognize more than just grades. They were set up thanks to generous donors to value and recognize skills like leadership or support specific areas of study such as skilled trades and agriculture. These are their stories.

Hawkins Family Legacy



In December ten years ago, the Hawkins family, Richard, Laurie, and their children Cassandra and Jordan, died tragically from carbon monoxide poisoning. According

to friends, "they were the type of family that were always ready, willing, and able to help those in need and they could often be found volunteering with big, welcoming grins on their faces." In honour of their memory and to recognize the characteristics and nature of the family members, a legacy fund was set up to award bursaries to students from the schools where the family attended. **Kayla Han** from IDCI received the **OCF Laurie Hawkins Memorial Bursary**. She's attending Wilfrid Laurier University pursuing a degree in Political Science. **Nathaniel Klien** from St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School received the **OCF Cassandra Hawkins Memorial Bursary** and is attending Wilfrid Laurier University for Computer Science. **Brooke Whittaker** was described by her teachers at St. Michael's Catholic Elementary School as friendly, outgoing, and positive and she received the **OCF Jordan Hawkins Memorial Award**.



Kayla Han



Nathaniel Klien



Brooke Whittaker



Tamara Visser with Liz & John Lessif

Tamara Visser was the recipient of the **OCF Lessif Family Fund Scholarship** awarded to an outstanding student demonstrating maturity and leadership, enrolled in Fanshawe College's Business Entrepreneurial

program. Tamara loves to travel, has excelled at student leadership roles at Fanshawe, volunteers in her community, works part time and, to put it in her own words, has "survived life with two daughters."

Amber Payne and **Zachary Beacock**, both from CASS and **Grant McQuiggin** from Glendale High School received the **OCF Oxford Manufacturers for Skills Development Scholarship** for their aptitude in mechanical applied skills and leadership. Amber is pursuing a career in welding as an apprentice and Zachary is attending Conestoga College for Manufacturing Engineering Technology – Welding and Robotics.



Amber Payne, Zachary Beacock



Scott Wilson

Scott Wilson from Salford was awarded the **OCF Lorna & Gorge Roberts Scholarship**. As George used to say, he was "Just a farmer from the north of Embro" who valued the importance of education. Scott is following in George's footsteps by pursuing an education in agriculture at the University of Guelph Ridgetown campus. After school, Scott plans to be the sixth generation of the Wilson family to farm in Salford.

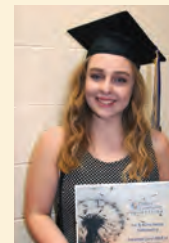
Recipients of the **OCF Pat and Barry Smith Scholarship** recognizing leadership in both school and community were **Josie Heeney** from IDCI who is attending Vancouver Island University for Business Administration, **Ashlyn Kernaghan** from Glendale High School who is pursuing an Honours Science, Environmental Chemistry degree at Trent university and **Emily Slosser** from CASS who is attending Queen's University for Chemical Engineering.



Josie Heeney



Ashlyn Kernaghan



Emily Slosser

ENVIRONMENTAL

6 Ingersoll Nature Club *Preserving and enhancing our natural environment*



A grant from the **Ken & Lynda Whiteford Fund** allowed the Ingersoll Nature Club to erect durable and informative trail signage at the entrance of Lawson Reserve an extensive trail system of Carolinian woodland and wetland in South West Oxford. The Club has been safeguarding habitats for endangered species, protecting biological diversity and creating opportunities for recreation and nature appreciation.

SOCIAL SERVICES

7 Domestic Abuse Services Oxford *Providing babies with a safe place to sleep*



Grants from the **Ken & Lynda Whiteford** and the **Ross & Fran McElroy Funds** purchased two heavy duty steel folding cribs for the 35-45 babies and young children who live in **DASO's** shelter on an annual basis. These collapsible units provide a secure place to sleep and

allow for easier and safer movement of cribs to the bedrooms where they're needed.

8 Operation Sharing *Helping people find new hope*

Grants from the **Frank & Marion Smith** and the **Operation Sharing Agency Funds**

support the many programs of **Operation Sharing** providing a better day for the many less fortunate

within our community. Key programs include "The Inn" which gives homeless people a place to sleep out of the cold, and the "Food For Friends" food cards and "Coats for Kids" programs.



“One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn’t as individuals.”

Jean Vanier

HEALTH & WELLNESS



Grants from the **Doug & Yvonne Eckel**, the **Henning Hansen** and the **Joland Family Funds** are helping to reduce childhood hunger through the Weekend Backpack Food Program. Fifty children from five Tillsonburg elementary schools are provided with backpacks of food to take home over the weekend. Ingredients and easy recipes are included to help promote the preparation of healthy meals in the home with the family.



10 Indwell Outfitting Blossom Park's kitchen

A grant from the **Maple Leaf Community Fund** is supporting the purchase of kitchen equipment for Blossom Park, a 34-unit affordable housing community. Programming at Blossom Park will include nutrition education and safe food handling, meal planning, budgeting and grocery shopping trips, healthy cooking classes and assisting local elementary School Nutrition Programs.

EDUCATION

11 Navy League of Canada – Woodstock Branch

Advancing drill training

A grant from the **Canada Summer Games Fund** is supporting range safety equipment and training for the younger cadets, enabling more youth to participate in biathlons and triathlons. The training advances attention and focus and promotes physical fitness.



12 Township of Zorra

Expanding and enhancing the camp experience

A grant from the **Canada Summer Games Fund** allowed **Zorra Township** to increase the number of participants in their March Break program and to partner with the Sportball organization. Local youth of various

ages, experience and ability enthusiastically participated in quality sport activities.



*“The best preparation for tomorrow
is doing your best today.”*

H. Jackson Brown Jr.



13 Woodstock Minor Hockey

*Introducing kids to
the game of hockey*

A grant from **Hawkins Family Memorial Fund** allows kids to “Just Try It!”. The program introduces children and their families to the game of hockey. For a day during March break, kids are provided with free equipment, ice time and lunch. And, if they decide to join a league in the fall, the equipment they used for the “Just Try It!” program is theirs to keep.



14 Woodstock Special Olympics

Celebrating athletes and volunteers

A grant from the **Canada Summer Games Fund** is helping to cover the costs of **Woodstock Special Olympics’** awards banquet for volunteers and the over one hundred intellectually disabled athletes participating in competitive sports programs.

HISTORY

15 Norwich & District Historical Society *Enhancing the visitor experience*



A grant from the **Alabastine-Wilkinson Fund** supported the creation of audio guides and artifact labelling with QR codes. Exhibitions are more accessible to the visually impaired and rather than reading labels, visitors can now listen to the self-guided tour while exploring the displays. The audio guides are also being made available online which will allow guests to experience the museum's collections from the comfort of their homes.



Additional grants from donor designated funds were made as follows:

- **Dr. Patricia Brown Fund** to Knox Presbyterian Church for tower restoration
- **Joland Family Fund** to Grand Erie District School Board for preserving archives and to the Lynedoch's Evergreen Cemetery for cemetery maintenance
- **Ross & Fran McElroy Fund** to VON Sakura House

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

Margaret J. Wheatley



Making Charitable Giving Easy

OCF works with individuals, families, corporations and organizations to develop the right plan, taking into account charitable interests, timeline and desired degree of involvement. OCF looks after all the details, to make it seamless and easy, so that legacy funds grow and give back year after year.

Legacy Funds

Community Fund

Your gift is used to meet ever-changing community needs and priorities, including those that may not even be known at the time you made your gift. OCF evaluates all aspects of community well-being — arts and culture, environment, health and social services, youth and more. Your trust in OCF makes it possible for us to make decisions in response to our community's most pressing needs and priorities.

Alabastine-Wilkinson Family Fund
Builder's Circle Fund
Doug & Yvonne Eckel Fund
Founder's Circle Fund
Henning Hansen Memorial Fund

Field of Interest Fund

You identify your area(s) of interest when you establish your Fund. OCF Grant Committee makes the decisions about which organizations to support taking your interests into consideration.

Tyler Arts Memorial Fund
Hawkins Family Memorial Fund
Oxford Environmental Fund
Oxford Manufacturers Skill Development Scholarship Fund
George & Lorna Roberts Scholarship Fund
Pat & Barry Smith Scholarship Fund
WDDS Rosemary George Scholarship Fund

Donor Advised Fund

Functioning like a private foundation, you or your named successor make choices annually about which charities and specific initiatives you wish to support.

B&R George Cultural Fund
Lessif Family Fund
Bill & Mary Mackesy Fund
Ken & Lynda Whiteford Fund

Donor Designated Fund

You recommend specific charities you wish to support at the time you set up your Fund and OCF manages the annual distribution to those charities.

Dr. I. Patricia Brown Fund
Joland Family Fund
Ross & Fran McElroy Fund
Frank & Marion Smith Fund

Agency Fund

Charitable organizations can establish an endowment with OCF to provide a permanent source of funding for their organization. Donors who wish to leave a legacy to their favourite charity benefit from knowing a trusted organization is managing their Fund so the charity can concentrate on its community mission.

Children's Aid Society of Oxford County Endowment Fund
Operation Sharing Endowment Fund

Legacy Bequest

Giving through your will allows you to support your favourite causes even after you are gone. Any of the above Funds can be established as part of your estate plan. Including a charitable bequest in your Will is a simple way to make a lasting gift to your community. When you make this gift through OCF we establish a Fund that becomes your personal legacy of giving.

Get Involved!

For more information about the Foundation, including how to establish your own fund or support the Foundation, please contact us at

info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org
226-667-6404



Oxford Community Foundation has granted more than **\$470,000** since 2006.

2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

We are part of a national movement of over 191 community foundations across Canada. Our impact reaches locally, nationally, and internationally. Our numbers showing growth and stability are shown in the following financial, investment and operational highlights below. This summarized information is extracted from the unaudited Financial Statement prepared by Micacchi Warnick and Company (MW&CO.) In keeping with our commitment to financial accountability and transparency, full audited financial statements are available by contacting the office at info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org or 226-667-6404.

OCF funds are pooled with and managed by the London Community Foundation. This relationship is re-evaluated annually by the OCF's Finance and Investment Committee. All portfolios are managed by professional investment managers and are in accordance with investment policy and guidelines. Our financial stewardship strategy looks at a long-term horizon and ensures legacies created by donors are respected and grant making continues in perpetuity.

Summary of Statement of Operations and Fund Balances Year Ended December 31, 2018

	2018	2017
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,432,315	\$1,373,701
<i>Operating Expense as a % of Total Assets</i>	6.0%	5.4%
<i>Investment Returns Net of Fees</i>	-1.8%	8.9%
Donations and Fundraising	\$214,039	\$106,916
FUNDS BALANCE		
Endowed funds (community, individual & agency)	\$1,377,985	\$1,136,221
Operating funds	\$130,219	\$138,993
Funds held on behalf of other parties	\$25,238	\$63,146
Total Funds Balance	\$1,403,223	\$1,338,360
GRANTS & DISBURSEMENTS		
OCF Grants & Disbursements	\$39,670	\$53,201
Flow Through Grants & Disbursements	\$39,171	\$30,225
Total Grants & Disbursements	\$78,841	\$83,426

*Total Amount
granted in 2018*

OVER
\$78
THOUSAND

*including flow
through grants*

Recognizing Our

FOUNDERS' & BUILDERS' CIRCLE

Our Community Foundation founders and builders are local families and organizations. All share a passion for helping the people who make Oxford County such a special place to live.

Founders' and builders' families are the catalyst investors and community leaders who created and help sustain this community foundation. They share a commitment to understanding the good work a Community Foundation can do and the impact it can have on complex local issues and solutions.

Founders and builders initially pledge \$2,000 each to help OCF cover general operating costs. Several have since established their own individual funds, amplifying their legacy and positive impact on our community.

Our group of Founders and Builders continues to grow! Our sincere thanks to:

Founding & Building Member Endowment Funds

(year established)

Alabastine-Wilkinson Family Fund (2005)
Douglas & Yvonne Eckel Fund (2006)
B&R George Cultural Fund (2006)
Joland Family Fund (2006)
Lessif Family Fund (2007)
Pat & Barry Smith Fund (2007)
Ken & Lynda Whiteford Fund (2007)
Ross & Fran McElroy Fund (2009)
Hawkins Family Memorial Fund (2010)
William and Mary Mackesy Community Fund (2018)

Founders' Circle Fund Members

Anonymous Donor
Joan Bartlett
Jeff & Kelly Cole
Bryon Dorey & Bettianne Hedges
Edward Down
John B. Finlay & Mary Anne Silverthorn
Ernie Hardeman
Michael Harding & Terry Chisholm
Harvey Hunt
Shirley Julian
George Klosler
Gene & Phyllis Lawrence
Paul & Heidi LeRoy
David & Sherry Lowes
David & Lynda MacKenzie
William & Mary Mackesy
David & Lynda MacKenzie
Rev. Harry & Camilla MacPherson
Camelea Mason Holdings
Carol Martis
Dr. Ross & Fran McElroy
Jim & Linda McNamara

Dr. Don & Lisa Miettinen
Jeff Mitchell
Tanya Murray
David & Helen Ness-Jack
Barbara Newell
Dr. Maria & Joseph Odumodu
James Palmer
Bill & Jane Paquette
Ken & Dianne Parnell
Donald Post
POW Laboratories Inc.
Dr. Leonard Reeves
Scotiabank
Betty & Bill Semeniuk
Grant Smith
Evan Soloman & Tammy Quinn
James & Louise Stewart
Don & Beth Taylor
Ted & Mary Thorn
Bill Van Haeren
Adalene Weaver
Wingate Raiders IODE
Gerry Wormwold
in memory of Dora Wormwold

Builders' Circle Fund Members

Edward Down
Paul & Mary Ellen Edwards
Keith & Fran Hudson
George Klosler Sr.
Estate of Marjorie Lowe
David & Lynda MacKenzie
William & Mary Mackesy
Dr. Don & Lisa Miettinen
Tanya Murray
David & Helen Ness-Jack
in memory of Paul T. Ness-Jack
Dr. Harry Parrott
Donald Post
POW Engineering
Dr. Leonard Reeves
George & Lorna Roberts
Bill & Betty Semeniuk
Mary Anne Silverthorn
Don & Beth Taylor
Ken & Lynda Whiteford



2018 Warden's Annual

GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Friday, June 8th, 2018, the County of Oxford in partnership with the Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) hosted the Warden's Golf Tournament at Craigowan Golf Course.

Sixty-two organizations and individuals showed their support through sponsorship and prizes while 90 golfers came out to enjoy friendships and a fabulous day on the course. This event is your community foundation's major fundraiser and over \$21,000 was raised to support OCF operations. This funding allows donations and earnings from donor and community funds to be granted to worthwhile Oxford projects that will continue to make Oxford better now and into the future. Your support and that of the many volunteers who helped make this day a success is greatly appreciated.



Donor & Sponsorship Recognition

Our Sincere Thanks

Donating to OCF creates a community legacy that starts today and gives for generations to come. Sincere thanks for the generosity of the individuals, families, organizations and businesses listed below who made a gift of \$100 or more in 2018.

1242623 Ontario Inc.
201297 Ontario Ltd.
A. P. Hurley Construction
Agridon
Arts, Joe & Arley
Arts, Marinus & Cathy
Arts, Patricia
Ayr Farmers Mutual
Baird Machines Inc.
Bates, Douglas & Margaret
Beckett, Lawrence
Bell, Doug
Belore, Elsie
Blowes, Barry
Brenneman, Monique
Calder, Gary
Canada Brokerlink
(Ontario) Inc
Cantelon, Dr. William
Cargill Limited
CAS Staff
Chaput, Margaret
Clarke, Betty
Cole, Mike
Cowan Insurance
Cuthbert, Angela
Cyril J. Demeyere Ltd. (CJDL)
Darville, Tracey
Davies, Patricia
Donfer Farms Inc
Down, Edward
Drakar Enterprises Limited
E & E McLaughlin Ltd
Earl Hardy Trucking
Elm Hurst Inn & Spa
ERTH Corporation
Execulink Telecom
Fanshawe College
Fenn, Vicki
Friendly City Crossfit
G. Douglas Vallee
Gallagher, Dick
George, Brian & Rosemary
Glenhyrst Art Gallery
Granger, Warren & Joanne
Hayes, Angel
Heartland Farm Mutual
Hendriksen, Sheryl & Hank
Hewitt, Mavis
Horlick, Lynn
Horne, Heather
Hutchison, Eric & Michelle
Ingersoll & District Minor Hockey
Association
Inovata Foods
Investment Planning Counsel
Jackson, Kelly
Jason Lessif
Johnston, Tammy
Jorgensen, Lisa
K. Smart Associates
Kellee, John/Janzen, Jadelynn
Kestle, Jonathan

Kirwin, Wayne
Klein, Dana
Laporte, Mitch
Lawyers' Resource Centre
Limited Partnership
Lessif, Jeff (Anglers International)
Lessif, John
Likins, Tracy
Lindeblom, Douglas
Lindsey, June
Little Caesars
Lunn, Nancy
Lyons, Marilyn
MW&Co
Maaskant, Charlie
MacArthur, Henriette
Mackenzie, Dave MP Oxford
Mackesy, Bill & Mary
McDonalds Restaurant –
Oxford County
McElroy, Ross & Fran
Melo, Frank
Miettinen, Dr. Don & Lisa
Millards Chartered Professional
Accountants
Moore, Rebecca
North Blenheim Mutual Insurance
North London Nationals Bantam
MD Hockey
Norwich Township
NOUR Private Wealth,
Kevin Wardrop
Odumodu, Dr. Maria & Joe
Ogilvie's Planing Mill
Olson, Marg
Oxford Agropro Ltd
Oxford Sand & Gravel
Parry, Linda
Partnoy, Danita
POW Engineering
POW Laboratories Inc.
POW Specialty Equipment Inc.
POW, Shauna & David
Reid, Hieu & Roger
Ridgewood Capital Asset
Risk Review Inc.
Robert Q Travel
Ross, Don
Rotary Club of Ingersoll
Royal Bank of Canada
Sander, Heidi
Schrijver, Wilma
Shakers Family Restaurant
Sierra Construction
Sierra Group of Companies
Smith, Julie
South Easthope Mutual Insurance
Spriet Associates Engineers
& Architects
St. Joseph's Catholic School
Tillsonburg
Starlight Convenience
Stevens, Keith

Stokes, Ryan
Struyk, Vera
Stubbe's Brand Source
Sylvite
Taplay, William
Taylor, Elizabeth
Taylor-English, Diana
TD Helps
Thames Medical Centre
Thamesford Lions
The Mortgage Centre
The Toronto-Dominion Bank
Thorndale Farm Supplies
Tirecraft Ontario
Toyota Boshoku Canada
Transarctic Canada Inc
Tremblett, Jessi
Tremblett's Independent
Utica College
Utica College Physical Therapy
Society
Uvalux Tanning & Support
Vanhie, Candice
Verhoeven, Martin
Verspeeten Cartage Ltd.
Wardrop, Katie
Wardrop, Louise & Rick
Warner, Bill
Waugh, Dianne
Whiteford, Kenneth
Wilkinson, Janet
Willow Lake Campground
& RV Park
Woodstock Collegiate Institute
Woodstock District Chamber
of Commerce
Woodstock Print
Woodstock Santa Claus Parade
Committee

Gifts were made in honour of:
Retirement of Brenda Tabor
Retirement of Keith Stevens

**Gifts were made in
fond memory of:**

Tyler Arts
Jim Avey
Patrick Dennis
David Arthur Dodsley
Janice Gibson
Steve Hobbins
Robert "Bob" Johnston
Ruth McGreery
Earl Schwartz
Eon Simpson
Pat Smith
Brian Stephenson
Millie Tatham
James Wardrop
Roger Wardrop
Gorden Wilford
Alma Yates

Our success depends on
the gracious support of
our corporate partners
and donors listed below.

We thank you!



31st Line Strategic
Communications





LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...

Perhaps one of the most impactful moments for me this past year occurred during two charity visits on the same day. Each year, along with board members and fundholders, we visit the charities to experience your OCF donations and grants in action – these are the pictures you see in this annual report.

The staff and volunteers at these organizations are passionate, talented, knowledgeable and extremely committed to making Oxford a better place for all, and they inspire me.

It was on one of those days, when we visited Operation Sharing's "The Inn" Oxford's homeless shelter and Domestic Abuse Services Oxford, that I was reminded of the complex issues we face in our community, the increased demand for their services and the hard work that is required to support those in difficult situations. An important lesson that was reinforced for me was that each of us has the capacity to be and do better. If a homeless person or an abused woman with her children has had the strength to reach out for help, we should do everything in our power to provide for their immediate needs but also to walk along side them to actualize their future wellbeing and potential.

No single organization can solve these complex issues alone. It's through purposeful and meaningful grants that OCF fundholders provide hope, the right support systems and someone to believe in them.

"We rise by lifting others." Robert Ingersoll

Louise Wardrop, Executive Director