

OCF Impact

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**Oxford
Community**
FOUNDATION

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



Community is the glue that holds us together

2020 was a challenging year, but it is also a year to celebrate. It's because of you, that together we mark a key milestone in OCF's history. We have awarded more than 300 grants totalling over \$1 million to more than 100 local charities. This astounding impact comes from the dedication of community-minded people who share in helping to make Oxford a better place.

Your support and generosity are responsible for ensuring our community receives a steady stream of grants each year. We also continue to work hard to bring new money to Oxford through partnerships like the one last year with Community Foundations of Canada and the Government of Canada. In our Community Impact section of this report, you can read more about the \$286,040 granted from the Emergency Community Support Fund.

Even with these significant milestones and partnerships, we recognize there's more work to be done. There's still so much uncertainty, and if history is any indication, recovering from the economic and social upheaval caused by a pandemic will take years.

Together as a community, the glue that holds us together, we will build back stronger. To help us in that journey, we are honoured to work with donors to set up permanent funds. Recognizing the power of endowment for continuous growth and giving, three new funds were opened last year by Neil & Gail Dolson, by Donald Post and by an anonymous donor.

We're also grateful to be guided by a group of talented and dedicated volunteers on our Board and Committees. During 2020 we said goodbye to Richard Fanning and Mary Holmes, and we welcomed new board members Heather Lindsay and Kim Parker.

To our donors, sponsors, community partners and volunteers - we celebrate you and we say THANK YOU. When you read this report, we hope you are inspired to join us in our journey to make Oxford County better today and for years to come.

Bill Mackesy
Chair, Board of Directors

Louise Wardrop
Executive Director

A member of:



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

FONDACTIONS
COMMUNAUTAIRES
DU CANADA

Oxford Community Foundation Volunteer Board of Directors:



Bill Mackesy
(Chair)



Keith Stevens
(Vice-chair)



Neil Dolson
(Treasurer)



Rosemary George



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Michael Kukhta



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Karen Sample



Kelly Gilson
(ex-officio
United Way)

Staff:



Rosaline Bruyns,
Office & Grants
Administrator



Louise Wardrop,
Executive
Director

Community Impact

Grants at Work in Oxford County

Oxford Community Foundation's (OCF) purpose is to make Oxford a better place for all. In times of great need like this past year, your community foundation's support is crucial. In 2020, OCF distributed **\$356,040** to **34 organizations** and **16 awards** to students. In the following pages, we share pictures and stories made possible by partnerships and you our donors and fundholders. Your investments and your trust in the Foundation help build strong communities where everyone has the opportunity to be happy, to be healthy and to thrive. You help to make Oxford County a better place for all – especially in hard times.

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EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

Collaborating to bring new money to Oxford County

Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) was honoured to work with local charities serving vulnerable populations most impacted by COVID-19. OCF granted **\$286,640** as part of the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF). This **\$350 million** program was funded by the Government of Canada and implemented by Community Foundations of Canada, the Canadian Red Cross, and United Way Centraide Canada.

ECSF grants distributed by OCF included:

The Refuge, a day shelter, received **\$74,686** for kitchen appliances and staffing to help expand their services from one to five days. The Refuge supports the homeless, those experiencing active addiction, and mental health struggles by providing meals, day shelter, clean laundry, clothes, toiletries, sleeping bags and so much more.



Indwell affordable housing communities received **\$37,184** to support tenants through enhanced cleaning, sanitation, better access to healthy food as well as technology so that tenants could connect with support networks, family and friends. Staff also received mental health and addictions support training.



Oxford County Community Health Centre received **\$10,000** to purchase supplies and services for residents at Huron House, a 14-room transitional housing facility. The pandemic has led to an increased need for housing. *"A safe, secure, supportive environment to help people get off the streets and working towards a permanent solution to a temporary problem. I can honestly say it has saved me."*
– Huron House Client#3

EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

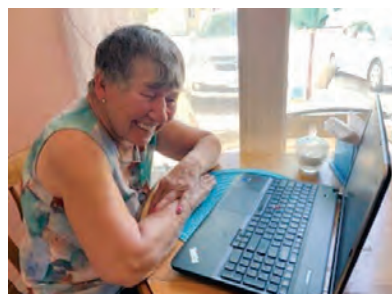
Social Planning Council Oxford received **\$19,500**. In partnership with the Oxford Housing Action Collaborative and other community agencies, they are working together to find system solutions for ending chronic homelessness.

The Women's Employment Centre (WERC) received **\$10,000**. WERC partnered with Cycles for Life to provide food and personal care items for those in need looking for work.

Domestic Abuse Shelter Oxford (DASO) received **\$50,000** to build two bathrooms in existing bedrooms and to purchase amenities such as small fridges, tablets, comfy chairs and loveseats, lamps and side tables for residents' bedrooms. DASO received an additional **\$16,093** to install new safe and secure windows that can open to provide fresh air and ventilation. The upgrades helped to improve the quality of life for families staying in the shelter, particularly during the stay-at-home orders.



Welkin, Child and Youth Mental Wellness, received **\$40,000** to launch an online hub for family and caregivers so that they could connect to formal treatment, education and peer supports.



Community Living Tillsonburg who supports individuals with an intellectual disability received **\$19,376** to develop an easy-to-use

virtual hub so individuals, their families and support systems could socialize, learn and participate in activities.



Woodstock Art Gallery received **\$6,400**.

In partnership with Children's Aid Society Oxford, they distributed

community creation kits containing art supplies, instructions and resources to families in need. They also teamed up with the Woodstock Public Library inviting young artists to create artwork inspired by their favourite books and stories for a virtual exhibition, The Art of Stories.



Junior Achievement received **\$2,000** to create a readily accessible digital platform for their financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work readiness programs for students in Oxford County.

Strong Start received **\$1,401** from the **GCSF Fund** and **\$500** from the **William & Mary Mackesy Fund** to boost literacy skills, launching a free online resource for parents designed by educators. The highly adaptable games and activities for children ages 3 to 9 are designed to boost literacy skills and address gaps for children who have fallen behind due to long absences from school.

SOCIAL SERVICES



Helping Hand Food Bank

Alleviating child hunger

\$1,150 from the **Alabastine-Wilkinson Family Fund** is helping to reduce childhood hunger through the **Backpack Food Program**. During Covid-19, home deliveries to 65 children were made each week. Packs of food also included ingredients and simple recipes to help promote the preparation of healthy meals in the home with the family.

Operation Sharing

Contributing to better days

\$8,950 from the **Operation Sharing Agency Fund**, the **Frank & Marion Smith Fund** and the **Stevens Family Fund** assisted in the purchase of takeout containers at Bullwinkles. Demands for food during COVID-19 increased and this program provided assistance to between 30 and 40 individuals three days a week.



Children's Aid Society Oxford

Connecting and cooking virtually

\$5,079 from the **Maple Leaf Community Fund** in honour of **Harvey & Irma Beaty** was used to purchase new fridges, stoves and kitchen utensils for the **Woodstock and Ingersoll Open Door** locations. The program offers food, supports, and community connections. During COVID-19, virtual cooking programs allowing children, youth and adults to connect with one another through a fun activity while developing cooking skills. "It was really difficult with the old appliances which barely worked. This will make it so much easier when we are trying to cook or bake", said one program participant.



ARTS & CULTURE



Woodstock Art Gallery

*Showcasing
local artists*



\$2,000 from the **B&R George Cultural Fund** and the **Ross & Fran McElroy Fund** will support two initiatives. Due to the pandemic, the **Common Collective** show was postponed. A group of five new media artists from Southwestern Ontario will have their show in the Community Gallery in July 2021. At the same time, the Visual Elements exhibition will be offered both virtually and in the Gallery.



Oxford Winds Concert Band

*Christmas with The Winds...
at Home!*

\$750 from the **William & Mary Mackesy Fund** supported the online holiday music collaboration project which made music accessible and available at no cost to local residents during the pandemic. The concert video featured 18 musicians performing 21 holiday songs including a variety of instruments, solos, duets, and multi-track recordings. Enjoy the recordings: <https://youtu.be/qvYgX5wHrJY>

Woodstock Museum

Sharing vintage Christmas Cards

\$500 from the **Ross & Fran McElroy Fund** financed the online original “Christmas Card” exhibit for the holidays. The intriguing history of Christmas cards and some captivating card visuals from the Museum’s collection were shared online.



Ontario Student Nutrition Program

Learning to grow and harvest their own food

\$13,321 from the **Maple Leaf Community Fund** in honour of **Harvey & Irma Beaty** provided a grant to the **Ontario Student Nutrition Program** for their garden grow programs. A tower garden virtual training session was provided, and garden kits were distributed to 89 families in Oxford County. Students learned about food literacy and nutrition, and developed life skills through experiential learning by planting, growing, and harvesting their own vegetables.

Diabetes Canada

Encouraging a sense of fun and adventure

\$1,450 from the **William & Mary Mackesy Fund** enabled **Diabetes Camps** to continue through social media, live videos, webinars, independent activities, and more. The camps help to reduce feelings of isolation and allow children and youth to share their struggles with each other – an audience that understands, which is ever more crucial given these uncertain and challenging times. Youth maintained their sense of belonging, community, and limitless possibilities all while learning to effectively manage their diabetes.

Junior Achievement

Gaining financial tools to thrive

\$800 from the **William & Mary Mackesy Fund** supported **Junior Achievement's Economics for Success Program** for Oxford County students. "It was extremely well-aligned with the expectations in the new math curriculum on Financial Literacy!", commented a JA Teacher, Gr. 7 Dollars with Sense Program.

United Way Oxford

Opening up new opportunities for a better future

\$1,000 from the **Lessif Family Fund** supported **United Way Oxford's Supplies 4 Students** program. Education is a game changer and provides pathways out of poverty for children and youth. Working with local members of the Supplies 4 Students collaborative, United Way adapted the program to incorporate the changing school situation and pandemic safety requirements. Participating families were able to receive guidance on efficient spending and to choose a more customized experience with expanded options.



Woodstock Public Library

Offering the Little Readers Book Club virtually



\$500 from the **Ross & Fran McElroy Fund** supported the shift to online for their Little Readers Book Club story-time program. Reading with children is so important – not only does it kick start their love of reading and increases

their vocabulary, it also provides a great opportunity for bonding, creating life long memories for both adult and child. The Club is designed for pre-school children to read 1,000 books with their caregivers before they enter Kindergarten.

Student Awards

\$1,000 Lessif Family Fund Bursary was awarded to **Nathan Correll**. Bursary recipients attend the Business Entrepreneurship and Management program at Fanshawe College's Woodstock Campus and demonstrate maturity, leadership and professionalism with classmates, faculty and staff. Nathan shared,



"I have worked hard the last year and a half and earned the Dean's Honour Roll for the 2019-2020 school year and am working towards it again this school year. The professors have been a wealth of information and have helped build my confidence and skills in business. I have built amazing and meaningful relationship with both teachers and classmates and have really seen my network grow through my time at Fanshawe. I hope to start my own company after graduation and am open to any opportunities that come my way for that to happen. Your kindness has made a huge difference in the life of my family and I, and I hope to pass it on one day."



\$500 Tyler Arts Spirit Award

was award to **Colin Hutchison**. The Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute (IDCI) recipient is the best teammate for selfless play and leadership on and off the court, field or rink. Colin Hutchison shared, *"I am privileged that you chose me. Tyler was a wonderful friend who made an impact on me that I will never forget."*



Awards from the **The Hawkins Memorial Fund** remember the family who was *"always ready, willing, and able to help those in need and could often be found volunteering with big, welcoming grins on their faces."* Three students are recognized each year for their community involvement,

respect for others and moral courage. **\$50** for the **Jordan Hawkins Bursary** was awarded to **Karolina Krawczyk** from St. Michael's Elementary School, **\$250** for the **Cassandra Hawkins Bursary** was awarded to **Sydney Vanden Hoek** from St. Mary's High

School and **\$250** for the **Laurie Hawkins Bursary** was awarded to **Noah McLeod** from IDCI. *"Thank you so much for honouring me with this award. This is especially meaningful as Richard Hawkins coached my older brother's hockey team,"* commented Noah McLeod.



\$500 was awarded to both **Taylor Buckrell** and **Meaghan Chittick** from Central Avenue Secondary School (CASS) for the **Pat & Barry Smith Leadership**

Bursaries. These rural Oxford County grads were recognized for their leadership skills and community involvement. Meaghan said, *"I am sincerely honoured and grateful. Your contribution will go a long way assisting me with tuition and textbook fees."* Taylor commented, *"I am very grateful. Thank you for your generosity and support."*



\$1,500 was awarded to **Thomas Corlett** from CASS for the **Oxford Manufacturers Skill Development Bursary** which recognizes students who demonstrate an aptitude for mechanical or applied skills as well as community or school involvement. He shared, *"I am currently working at Lloyd's Electric in*

Woodstock as part of my apprenticeship. Thank you for your generosity and support."



The **Lorna & George Roberts Fund** awarded a bursary of **\$1,900** to **Jenna Geerts** from Huron Park Secondary School. Each year a bursary is awarded to a student who excels in leadership skills and who is furthering their education at either The Ontario Agricultural College at the University

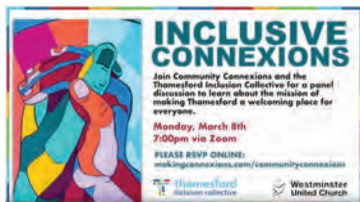
of Guelph and/or the Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition in the College of Social & Applied Human Sciences at the University of Guelph.

The **Children's Aid Society Oxford Endowment Fund** awarded bursaries totalling **\$9,000** to seven students in care who are pursuing their post secondary school education.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Community Connexions

Providing awareness, connection and community



\$2,900 from the **Founders' Fund** is funding audio visual equipment upgrades and the hosting of free community online events

to provide connection and raise awareness about relevant issues. Topics include making Thamesford a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone, strategies for peaceful parenting, a virtual photo contest, and a family cook-along.

Sunshine Foundation

Helping dreams come true

\$1,000 from the **Ken & Lynda Whiteford Fund** is making a **Sunshine Dream** come true. An accessible backyard swing and deck are being constructed for a young woman living with severe quadriplegic cerebral palsy and dystonia.

The Refuge Day Shelter

Providing foot care



\$990 from the **Henning Hansen Fund** is allowing **The Refuge** to provide regular professional foot care for those currently experiencing homelessness. Proper foot care improves wellbeing and reduces visits to the hospital emergency room.

Tillsonburg Senior Centre

Easier cleaning during a pandemic

\$850 from the **Alabastine-Wilkinson Family Fund** allowed the Centre to purchase a sanitizing fogger and related sanitizing solution. The fogger allows them to quickly and effectively sanitize hard and soft surfaces, so that everyone who uses the facility reaps the benefits, from yoga students to folks playing pool. The solution itself is an anti-microbial effective against COVID-19 as well as many other viruses and bacteria and will serve the Centre for years to come.

ENVIRONMENT

Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre

Reducing environmental footprint

\$2,000 from the **Doug & Yvonne Eckel Fund** and the **B&R George Cultural Fund** supported the replacement of outdated lighting. The upgraded LED lighting and motion sensors will reduce energy usage and operating costs.



Thames Talbot Land Trust

Protecting Nature Reserve

\$500 from the **Environmental Fund** is supporting the permanent protection of **Mud Lake Nature Reserve**. This 104-acre nature sanctuary in Oxford County is home to many wildlife species such as birds, butterflies, amphibians and reptiles that use the extensive marsh.



Beachville Park

Having fun shooting hoops

\$1,700 from the **Canada Summer Games Fund** supported the purchase of basketball posts and nets for **Beachville Park**. Community members are coming together outdoors on the court to develop skills, confidence, teamwork and just have fun.

Embro Splash Pad

Recognizing a local hero to help create a close-knit community

\$3,150 from the **Heroes Among Us Fund** and the **Jean Matheson Heroes Fund** is helping to construct a fun for all ages splash pad.

The colourful outdoor aquatic recreation area will combine flowing, misting and jetting water, and will encourage inclusive, unscripted play and discovery. Splash pads not only provide physical activity for children, but they are also a central place for families to gather, socialize and have fun.



Ingersoll & District Minor Hockey

Helping children play hockey in Ingersoll



\$500 from the **Tyler Arts Legacy Fund** went to **Ingersoll & District Minor Hockey** to help cover registration fees for families with financial challenges. Family, friends and

community are keeping Tyler's spirit alive through an annual Memorial 3 on 3 Fundraiser with proceeds going to the Fund.

Woodstock Minor Hockey

Introducing youth to the game of hockey

\$450 from the **Hawkins Memorial Fund** supports the **Just Try It** hockey program offered through **Woodstock Minor Hockey**. COVID-19 lockdown hit just as the program was to run during March break 2020. Future fun-filled sessions will help beginning hockey players to develop positive playing attitudes and foster an enjoyment of hockey as a lifetime sport and hobby. The funding will provide the children with ice time, lunch, and equipment that they can keep if they decide to join a hockey league in the fall.



Additional grants were made as follows:

- from the **Joland Family Fund \$200** granted to the **Grand Erie District School Board** for preservation of archives and **\$200** granted to **Lynedoch's Evergreen Cemetery** for cemetery maintenance
- from the **Dr. I Patricia Brown Fund \$3,500** granted to **Knox Presbyterian Church**

WE REMEMBER A FUNDHOLDER

Douglas Kennedy Eckel

February 28, 1933 — June 20, 2020



We were saddened to learn of Doug Eckel's passing in June 2020. Doug was OCF's first Treasurer, a founding board member, and he and his wife Yvonne were among the first donors to establish a fund. With his involvement in the Community Foundation from its inception, Doug was well versed

in the tremendous flexibility and good a fund with OCF can do in the community. Although some who open funds with OCF have a specific area of interest, Doug and Yvonne chose a different approach. They chose to establish a Community Fund recognizing that their fund would outlive them and that the needs in Oxford County would evolve over time. This approach allows grants from their fund to be directed to different causes over time, based on where the need is greatest and to new needs as they emerge.

Grants from the **Doug & Yvonne Eckel Fund** have supported numerous initiatives. Here are just a few examples of grants made over the years from their fund: Economics for Success program through Junior Achievement, Imprinting Generations print making program at The Woodstock Art Gallery, a workshop for singers through Woodstock Fanshawe Singers, iPads for memory games at Alzheimer Society Oxford, the weekend backpack food program at Helping Hands Food Bank, a refrigerator for Navy League of Canada-Woodstock, a scanner/laser printer for the Oxford Historical Society and new energy efficient lighting for the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre.

Doug was proud of his role in helping to create OCF and he was a familiar face at our events. He and Yvonne will be missed by the OCF family, but **their legacy will live on – forever**, helping to give back and make Oxford a better place.



RECOGNIZING OUR HEROES AMONG US

The **Heroes Among Us Fund** was established in late 2019. It was inspired by the thousands of selfless, caring actions carried out every day by ordinary people making Oxford a better place. The timing could not have been more fortuitous. COVID-19 hit a few months after the fund was created.

The **Heroes Among Us Fund** continued to grow throughout 2020. In the name of all these unsung heroes, it will live on forever through ongoing annual grants supporting their interests and our community's ever-changing needs. The fund is gaining awareness and popularity with each nomination and contribution – big or small – recognizing either a living hero or one that has been lost.

Jean Matheson was one of the inspirations behind the creation of the **Heroes Among Us Fund** and her family said it best, *"If you have a hero in your family, don't wait. Let them know and make a donation to the overall fund – big or small. We encourage you to add your hero's name to the growing list of selfless, quiet heroes recognized in Oxford County through the Heroes Among Us Fund. As her family, we are glad we did."*



We are proud to share these stories about our first Heroes:

Jeff Brooks



Jeff is a Hero to his friends and family because he is always there ready to give in many different ways, with no gain or recognition for himself. He is often quietly in the background, supporting those in need financially or delivering a kind word of encouragement, often desperately needed at that time. He's a mentor to many and a loyal, supportive friend. As a quiet Hero in Oxford County, thank you, Jeff, for all you do!

will never be forgotten. Eleanor was also an avid skier and helped teach many youth to ski at Cobble Hills. Eleanor was born and raised in Oxford County and cared deeply about the County and the community of Embro. She loved the outdoors and was most often to be found outside, no matter what the weather! She was an active volunteer at the Embro Dinner Theatre and she and Bruce volunteered for many years at the Embro Highland Games 10 km run. If you needed a hand, Eleanor was there to give one. If you needed a friend, Eleanor was never far.

Eleanor Elliott (died March 22, 2016)



Eleanor was wife and best friend to Bruce Elliott for over 44 years and an immensely proud mom to Traci, Ryan, and Darren. Eleanor is a hero for all she did to make life interesting and to care for one dear neighbour who struggled with memory issues later in life. She had many conversations about horses, farming and nature – common interests for both. They laughed, talked and enjoyed each other's company immensely and they went on many outings and adventures together. Eleanor went above and beyond to enrich his life in later years. Her kindness and caring

Dale Fanset (1964–2020)



Dale is now "Takin' Care of Business" on the wild blue yonder's dance floor. Dale (aka Uncle Guido) will be remembered by his large family and many friends for his fun-loving nature and mischievous grin. He was an accomplished curler, golfer, baseball player, darter and beer pong champion and could be described as the life of the party. Dale took much pride in and was highly regarded for his icemaking skills at the Tillsonburg and Ingersoll curling clubs. Dale was liked by all and a hero to many including his loving partner Stephanie, his son Travis and all of the Ingersoll junior curlers. ►

RECOGNIZING OUR HEROES AMONG US

Sam Horton



Sam is an inspiration and an instigator. He has contributed much to our community through his dedicated work as a police sergeant, with Kiwanis Club and the Safe Cycle Program. Sam was instrumental in helping to establish the Hawkins Family Fund at OCF, although he doesn't like to be in the spotlight himself! He is the inspiration behind the name for this fund, that now honors Sam as well. It is thanks to his prophetic reflections in the summer of 2019, during an OCF interview about the Hawkins Family, that the **Heroes Among Us Fund** was created. In Sam's heartfelt reflections about Laurie Hawkins, he commented that it is often only after there is a passing that we truly realize this person was truly important and made a difference. He described Laurie and many others like her as "the heroes among us." He reminded us that Laurie helps us remember there are heroes among us every single day. They are quiet and unassuming. They aren't looking for recognition. But they are there, making a difference to those around them. Sam's profound words had a deep and lasting impact on several of us at OCF and they're the inspiration behind our **Heroes Among Us Fund**.

Deb Landon



Deb has a big heart, a great warm smile and has been dedicated to children and our community throughout her entire life. She was the driver behind the establishment of the Hawkins Family Fund with OCF. Deb also contributed much more to Oxford. Thanks to her dedication and hard work for many years at Big Brothers Big Sisters Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and Area, Deb is the reason we have so many thriving Bigs and Littles in those communities. Her family and her friends are her reason for being and bring her immense joy. Deb is truly a quiet hero and an inspiration to many!

"We don't do what we do in the community for recognition," Deb said. "We do it to make living in Oxford County a wonderful experience – a safe place to call home."

Jean Elizabeth Matheson (1921-2021)



Jean Matheson was an inspiration to her family, friends and those who knew her in her community. Her daughter commented in her eulogy that Jean always had a positive attitude and her life was an example for others. Jean was the epitome of a quiet "Hero Among Us" in Oxford County.

Jean was very involved with her community and always went out of her way to keep in touch with others, particularly those who were sick or alone. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Embro and always pitched in to help with any church events. She volunteered with the "Willing Workers" group, the Ladies Aid Society and the Women's Missionary Society, as well as the Women's Institute at Harrington. Throughout her life, Jean remained a familiar face at all Embro Community events including The Highland Games, the fair, the Haggis supper and more. She also did her part by collecting for the Cancer Society.

Health problems came along but Jean beat the odds with her positive attitude and determination. She never complained and did not want to talk about her problems, being much more interested in any other news or what you were doing. Jean's family decided to honour her as a Hero Among Us while she was living, to let her know how much she meant to her family and community. Jean was thrilled to learn about the fund and that she was to be honoured at the age of 98.

After her passing many friends and community members chose to honour Jean, by making a donation to the Heroes Among Us Fund in her name. Jean and the family were glad to know the first donation from the Heroes Among Us Fund was made in 2020, to the Embro Splash Pad and that her fund was able to make up a portion of the total donation!

Robert M. Matheson (1943-2020)



Bob was an active volunteer in the Embro community. He was a member and Past President of the Zorra Caledonians and the Embro and Zorra Agricultural Society. He and his wife Helen volunteered for many years handing out water for the 10km run at the Highland Games. Bob was involved in committees

first to build the Embro Community Centre and then later to add a viewing platform with seating and wheelchair access out in the warm lobby of the arena. This platform allows people with handicaps to comfortably watch hockey games through the glass. In his later years, Bob relied on a scooter to get around and he himself was able to enjoy the platform he played a part in building years before! He was also a hero to his family – his wife Helen, children Paul, Scott and Ian and his five grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING OUR HEROES AMONG US

Claude Normandeau (1939–2020)



Claude was a sophisticated, kind and gentle man who was always calm in the face of challenges. He was a hero and a mentor to many during his lifetime. He was devoted to the building and advancement of his beloved city of Montreal and Canada. One project he was particularly proud of was the purchase and transformation of the abandoned Windsor Hotel property into a modern office building while maintaining its heritage elements. He appreciated art, music, wine and loved to travel to exotic locations. His greatest love however was for a Dairy Princess from Oxford County who became an accomplished lawyer and to whom he was married to for almost 34 years.

Eleanore Wardrop



Eleanore is a woman of few words with an infectious laugh. She appreciates the simple, important things in life and gets things done through her strength, immense positivity and sheer determination. Elegant and efficient in her pleated skirts as head secretary at Ingersoll District Secondary School, the principals and teachers appreciated and depended on Eleanore for continually going above and beyond in every aspect of her job. She kept that school running flawlessly for decades. She's a beautiful person with immense love and pride for her family. Eleanore is a true, quiet, behind the scenes Hero with a heart full of love.

Want to nominate a Hero?

Contact us or go to our website to find out how. info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org or 226-667-6404

2020 WARDEN'S ANNUAL



Golf Tournament

THANK YOU for supporting Oxford Community Foundation at the 2020 Oxford County Warden's Charity Golf Tournament held on Friday, September 25, at Ingersoll Golf Club.

We were thrilled that even in a year that challenged so many organizations and individuals, you showed up and provided your support through sponsorship and prizes. And our golfers came out too. They followed the COVID-19 health protocols and enjoyed a fabulous day on the course. This event is your community foundation's major fundraiser and over **\$23,000** was raised to support OCF operations. These funds help make it possible for us to distribute grants for all of the initiatives you are reading about in this annual report. You help make Oxford a better place for all now and forever. **Your support and that of the many volunteers who helped make this day a success is greatly appreciated.**



CREATING YOUR LEGACY

Customized options makes giving flexible and easy for you and your family

Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) helps people leave a personalized, lasting legacy in Oxford County, to make it a better place. We make charitable giving easy, providing the opportunity to target your areas of interest, and protect your legacy by investing and granting your funds wisely. OCF works with you to develop a specific plan that meets your timelines and provides you with your desired degree of impact and involvement. You can start small and build your fund over time. A list of our OCF funds and fundholders can be found below.

Community Funds

You leave it up to us and our grants committee to ensure the community's most pressing needs are supported each year. We fund all aspects of community wellbeing — arts and culture, education, the environment, health and wellness, heritage, recreation, and social services.

Founders' Circle Fund
Builders' Circle Fund
Alabastine-Wilkinson Family Fund
Dolson Family Fund
Doug & Yvonne Eckel Fund
Henning Hansen Memorial Fund
The Heroes Among Us Fund
Jean Matheson Heroes Fund
Donald Post Fund

Field of Interest Funds

On your behalf, our grants committee will target gifts to address a community issue in an area important to you.

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

Donor Advised Funds

Functioning like a private foundation, a donor-advised fund allows you to be involved in choosing which charities and initiatives to support each year.

B&R George Cultural Fund
Lessif Family Fund
William & Mary Mackesy Community Fund
Stevens Fund
Ken & Lynda Whiteford Fund

Donor Designated Funds

You select your favourite charities, and we ensure they are supported, forever.

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

Registered Charity Funds

Allows registered charities to create their own endowment, building a sustainable source of funding. This allows organizations to concentrate on their community mission knowing that funding is available each year.

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

Gift in Will or Other Planned Gift

This type of commitment allows you to support your favourite causes even after you are gone. Including a charitable bequest in your will or through a life insurance policy is a simple way to make a lasting gift that will live on in your community.

When you make a gift through OCF, we establish a Fund that becomes your personal legacy of giving — **forever**.

To start your giving journey today, please contact us at:

info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org
226-667-6404

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2020, Oxford Community Foundation hit an important milestone

We have granted over \$1 million to more than 100 charities in Oxford County!

The 2020 financial report demonstrates OCF growth and stability. This summarized information is extracted from the unaudited Financial Statement prepared by MW&Co. In keeping with our commitment to financial accountability and transparency, reviewed financial statements are available by contacting the office at info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org or 226-667-6404.

Donor gifts are pooled and investment management is provided by the London Community Foundation. This arrangement helps us maximize growth and minimize costs. The relationship is re-evaluated annually by OCF's Finance and Investment Committee. Our financial stewardship strategy looks at a long-term horizon and income generated is used to make grants every year. This allows us to build for the future as well as have an immediate impact.

Our stakeholders can depend on us to be a transparent, professional and accountable stewards of gifts received.

Summary of Statement of Operations and Fund Balances Year Ended December 31, 2020.

	2020	2019
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,826,824	\$1,637,643
<i>Operating Expense as % of Total Assets</i>	5.4%	6.2%
<i>Investment Returns Net of Fees</i>	5.5%	10.2%
Donations and Fundraising	\$209,580	\$214,656
FUNDS BALANCE		
Endowed funds (community, individual, agency)	\$1,540,417	\$1,377,985
Operating Funds	\$162,169	\$130,219
Funds held on behalf of other parties	\$27,651	\$25,238
Total Fund Balance	\$1,730,237	\$1,533,442
GRANTS & DISBURSEMENTS		
OCF Grants	\$49,105	\$51,928
Flow Through Grants	\$306,735	\$35,095
Total Grants	\$355,840	\$87,023

Total Amount granted in 2020: **\$355,840**
including flow through grants

A Strong Foundation Built on Years of History



The Community Foundation movement in Canada has been around since 1921. Following humble beginnings in Winnipeg, this movement helps heroes to drive local solutions on issues that matter most in each of our communities. This movement has grown to more than 191 Community Foundations across the country.

Oxford Community Foundation obtained charitable status in December 2003. Our creators brought together a network of like-minded people, all working to make Oxford a better place for all. They shared a vision of a community that is strong and healthy, connecting people to causes they care about including arts and culture, education, the environment, health & wellness, heritage, recreation and social services.

Each of our Founders and Builders, listed below, initially pledged \$2,000 to help cover general operating costs. Their confidence and financial commitment provided Oxford Community Foundation with the stability from which to grow.

Several of our Founders and Builders have established their own funds, amplifying their legacy and positive impacts in our community.

Founding and/or Building Fund Donors who have established Legacy 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)
Donald Post Fund (2020)

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 Sr.
Gene & Phyllis Lawrence
Paul & Heidi LeRoy
David & Sherry Lowes
David & Lynda MacKenzie
Rev. Harry & Camilla
MacPherson
Camelea Mason Holdings
Carol Martis
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
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 Wormald in memory
of Dora Wormald

Builders' Circle Fund Members

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

RECOGNIZING OUR DONORS & SPONSORS

Our Sincere Thanks

To each and every OCF donor and fundholder: we hope you know how much you mean to us and the community you support! Sincere thanks for the generosity of the individuals, families and organizations listed below who made a gift of \$100 or more in 2020.

1242643 Ontario Inc.
31st Line Strategic Communications
Agridon, Don Ross
AJ Baker Public School
Arts, Marinus & Catherine
Ayr Farmers Mutual Insurance
Baird Machines Inc.
Bardoel, Jennifer
Bayson Heat Treating Inc
Black, Halie
Black, Lisa
Bolten Manor Holsteins Ltd
Bossy Nagy Group
Bouman, Dr. Ryan, Dentistry
BrokerLink – Ingersoll,
Can-tario Brick & Stone
Carpet One – Woodstock
Carrie, Scott
Cedar Signs Inc.
Children's Aid Society of Oxford
County
Cookson, Jim
Crabby Joe's Pub & Grill
Crockford, Tyna
Cyril J. Demeyere Ltd Engineers
Dolson, Neil & Gail
Dombrowski, Tony & Allison
Down, Edward
E & E McLaughlin Ltd.
ERTH Corporation
Fanset, Connie
Fanset, David
Farm Credit Canada
Fishleigh, Harvey & Linda
Frank Cowan Company
Gedies, Steve & Tracy
George, Brian & Rosemary
Heartland Farm Mutual Insurance
Hodgins, Arley
Honsinger, Jay
Houston, Joan
Ingersoll Curling Seniors League
Investment Planning Council
Jones, Richard
K. Smart Associates Engineers
& Planners
Klosler, George
Libro Credit Union - Woodstock
Lindsay, Ron
MacDonald, John & Marianne
MacKenzie, David & Lynda
Mackesy, Bill & Mary
Mayberry, Tom
McElroy, Ross & Francis
McGregor, Stephanie
Miettinen, Lisa

Millards Chartered Professional
Accountants
Odumodu, Maria & Joe
Oxford Awnings
Parnell, Dianne & Ken
Paton, Heather
Pet Value – Ingersoll
Post, Don
POW – PPA Engineering Technology
Presse, Shane
Pretty, Scott
R. Thompson Landscape
RBC Wealth Management
RBC Dominion Securities
Red Barn Berries
Sample, Karen
Semeniuk, Bill & Betty
Seymour, James
Shippey, Doug
Sierra Group of Companies
South Easthope Insurance Ltd.
Sovran, Bertha
Spriet Associates Engineers
& Architects
Steinback, Nancy
Stevens, Donald
Stevens, Ian
Stevens, Jacquelyn
Stevens, Keith & Joan
Taylor, Elizabeth
Tirecraft - Ingersoll
Town of Ingersoll
Town of Tillsonburg
Transarctic Canada
Tremblett's Independent Grocer -
Ingersoll
Trigon Construction Management
Wardrop, Louise & Rick
Whiteford, Ken & Lynda
Wilson, Teresa
Zufelt, Wil

Gifts were made in fond memory of:

Tyler Arts
Tim Bannon
Patricia Boeder
Arthur Boughtflower
Douglas Eckel
Eleanor Elliott
Joan Falconer
Dale Fanset
Fran Foster
Michael Hennessy
Joe Hutter
Jean Elizabeth Matheson
Robert M. Matheson
Claude Normandeau

With immense gratitude, we recognize the support of our major corporate partners and donors listed below.



BOSSY NAGY GROUP
Chartered Professional Accountants



**Wealth Management
Dominion Securities**

Richard Holmes and Randy Lee
Wealth Management, Woodstock



Shaping Lives For Better

Community is what's all around us – our families, neighbourhoods, clubs, groups, businesses and school. The definition is vast but as this pandemic has reminded us, so is our need for community. Individual happiness and success depend on the health of our communities. A strong community and the people in it provide us with a sense of belonging, a safe environment and supports each of us in times of need. It also influences our ability to grow, contribute and thrive.



Robin De Angelis and Dee Logan.

This year, community foundations across Canada including OCF, have worked tirelessly to support our most vulnerable. We have also continued to provide growth opportunities. This story is about one of those growth opportunities made possible by OCF and Community Foundations of Canada (CFC).

In September 2020, 120 Canada-wide youth leaders aged 18 to 29, gathered virtually for **ffwd2020 summit**. Hosted in collaboration between CFC, Youthful Cities and RBC Future Launch, the ffwd2020 summit was completely by and for youth, bringing together ideas and visions for the future of work.

Delegates worked together to identify key themes related to issues and barriers surrounding their future of work. Projects which integrated principles of equity and inclusion, consisted of the growth and development of equitable employment networks, professional skills-building opportunities, and language-inclusive tools and training.

Two rising stars from Oxford County participated in the summit and the development of these projects.

Robin De Angelis, Cultural Communications Coordinator at Woodstock Art Gallery, has her master's degree in journalism and communications. She is passionate about storytelling and local arts and culture. In her spare time, she consumes a lot of media and confesses to be a podcast addict. Robin was also given the career building experience to "takeover" the Community of Foundations of Canada Instagram account.

Dee Logan is the Education Coordinator at the Woodstock Art Gallery. Dee's personal and professional philosophy is grounded in the awareness that art is a universal language, allowing us to make meaningful and diverse connections and encouraging open and honest conversations. Her teaching practice is trauma-informed and holistic in its approach with a focus on using art and self-expression as a powerful tool for healing, deep understanding, and positive social change.

According to **Mary Reid**, Director/Curator of the Art Gallery, "This was a tremendous opportunity for Robin and Dee. These two bright lights have been in the driving seat at the Gallery while the more senior staff took a back seat role. The shift to virtual programming so quickly and so swiftly is due in large credit to these two extraordinary women."

Louise Wardrop, Executive Director