



OCFootprints

APPRECIATING OUR CHARITABLE SECTOR

At Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) we believe in the power of community and that together we can make Oxford better.

At OCF, we build relationships with our generous donors and our resourceful charitable organizations. These organizations come in all shapes and sizes, and we all need them. There may be a time in our life when we need to access a food bank, find somewhere to live, or depend on the care of hospice. One day our children may need to access speech therapy or want to learn new employment skills. We all benefit from experiences and spaces that nourish us, keep us healthy, and give us a sense of belonging like theatres, green spaces, and seniors' activity groups. Our charitable organizations make our community better.

Last year, the Foundation's reach was felt by 40 charitable organizations each one of them supporting our community through their vital programs.

Some of these grants supported:

- **Arts & culture** – youth performing arts programs
- **Heritage** – digitizing museum collections
- **Social Services** – transportation home from the food bank, seniors' coffee fund
- **Mental Health** – suicide prevention training for volunteers supporting youth
- **Education** – children's literacy programs, student bursaries
- **Environment** – barrier free access to the Thames River
- **Recreation** – free skate Sundays, subsidized YMCA memberships

If you are interested in hearing about the more than \$540,000 granted last year and about exciting things to come, please join us at our Annual Community Event on Wednesday, June 5th, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall. Please RSVP by May 27th.



I look forward to seeing you there.

Louise Wardrop, Executive Director
lwardrop@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org
226-667-6404 office | 226-232-6222 cell

IMPORTANT DATES

Annual Community Event



Please join us to celebrate community impact together

Wednesday, June 5th, 4 – 6 p.m.

Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall
108 Wonham St. S., Ingersoll, ON

RSVP by May 27th to Rocio Salinas at info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org



Community Granting Fall 2024

Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) community grants support our entire county in all facets of our community – from arts, culture, heritage, education, the environment, health and wellness, social services, and recreation.

Applications for OCF community grants will **open Monday, August 19th and close on Monday, September 30th.**

Oxford County Warden's Annual Charity Golf Tournament



Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan: "Promoting community vitality is a foundational pillar in Oxford County's Strategic Plan, and Oxford Community Foundation plays a pivotal role in this through its support of activities and initiatives that promote community wellbeing. It is an honour for Oxford County to be a part of this event that supports local organizations, the community, and our people."

Monday, September 23rd
The Oxford Hills, 324183 Mt Elgin Rd, Mount Elgin

Sponsorship opportunities and golf registration are now open. Go to our website or scan the QR code for more information.



For more information about our grants or events, please go to our website www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org or contact Rocio Salinas at 226-667-6404 or info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org

.....

fundholder

spotlight

Lessif Family Fund

John and Liz Lessif chose Tillsonburg as the place to live, raise a family and own and operate multiple McDonalds locations. Being community minded, John and Liz supported many organizations in Tillsonburg and throughout Oxford County in different capacities. The Lessifs were also well versed in the tremendous flexibility and good a legacy fund with Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) can do, so in 2007, John and Liz Lessif establish the Lessif Family Fund with OCF.

Supporting youth has always been a priority for the Lessifs. They were able to employ many students at their local McDonalds locations, and they continue to support our youth through grants from the Lessif Family Fund.

Grants from the Fund have supported numerous initiatives including Supplies4Students, safety harness for Neonatal Transport at Woodstock Hospital, mattresses and beds for Children's Aid



Society, playground equipment at Tillsonburg Little School, school snack programs, Junior Achievement Learning by Doing program, Big Brothers Big Sisters GoGirls program, Strong Start literacy programs and Business Entrepreneur Student Awards through Fanshawe College.

We were saddened to learn of Liz's passing on April 22 of this year. John shared with us, "Liz loved her family, loved her friends, loved her grandchildren, loved to travel, loved to do things for people quietly, loved her golf, loved to cook, especially loved Italian cuisine, loved playing cards, loved her flowers, and importantly loved me, but most of all she loved life!"

Liz was a valuable member of our board for many years and took on the Chair position for 2017 and 2018. Liz was a very special and giving person and she will be missed. Her legacy will live on through the Lessif Family Fund.



 **oxfordcf** | oxfordcommunityfoundation.org | 226-667-6404 | 447 Hunter St., Woodstock ON N4S 4G7

One of 210 Community Foundations in Canada

OCF Board of Directors: Kim Parker (Chair), Brian Hadley (Vice-chair), Keith Stevens (Past Chair), Neil Dolson (Treasurer), Izabela Bielaska, Jade Davies-Phillips, Lynne DePlancke, Jamie Forrest, Barry Foster, Selina Guy, Karen Sample, Alan Taylor Kelly Gilson (ex-officio United Way)