



OCF IMPACT

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



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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Starting something new—and sustaining its momentum—is no small feat. That’s why it’s important to pause and reflect on how far we’ve come.

Over the past few years, the Oxford Community Foundation has experienced remarkable growth. We’ve quadrupled our assets and gone from granting a few thousand dollars annually to distributing several hundred thousand. This transformation is a testament to the incredible support of many: our visionary founders, extraordinary board members who lead with purpose, generous donors who have established 40 legacy funds, and our charitable partners who are creating meaningful change on the ground every day.

We are proud to share our **2024 Annual Report**, a snapshot of the impact we’ve made together. In the past year, the Foundation granted **\$216,203** to **54 charitable organizations** and **22 students** pursuing post-secondary education. With this, our

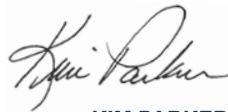
total grants surpassed **\$2 million**, supporting more than **115 registered charities** across Oxford County. These figures represent far more than statistics—they reflect lives uplifted, needs met, and futures brightened.

In 2024, we welcomed **five new funds**, including the **Cheryle & Peter Evans Community Fund**, established through a generous bequest in Peter Evans’ will. This fund is a powerful reminder of the impact legacy giving can have—continuing to support people and causes for generations.

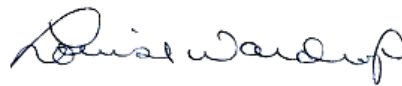
Looking ahead, we know opportunities and challenges lie before us. To meet them, we are investing in the Foundation’s future—implementing an integrated system to streamline our operations, strengthen donor services, and improve granting processes and outcomes.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your ongoing support is helping us build a stronger, more vibrant Oxford—**now and for generations to come.**

With gratitude,



KIM PARKER
CHAIRPERSON,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



LOUISE WARDROP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A MEMBER OF:



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA**
all for community

**FONDATIONS
COMMUNAUTAIRES
DU CANADA**
ensemble pour tous

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) is dedicated to making Oxford a better place for everyone. In 2024, the Foundation granted \$216,203 to 54 charitable organizations and 22 students pursuing post-secondary education, bringing its total grants to over \$2 million to more than 115 registered charities. These numbers go beyond statistics—they reflect real lives changed and renewed hope.

Local legacy funds allow donors to ensure their contributions stay within Oxford, with \$163,878

granted from 40 local funds. In addition to keeping resources within the community, OCF also brings funding to Oxford. In 2024, \$52,325 was granted through the Canada Summer Games Fund and the Maple Leaf Community Fund in honor of Harvey and Erma Beaty, supporting vital food security programs.

We're honored to support community-driven initiatives throughout Oxford, and we hope the impact stories that follow inspire you.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Good physical and mental health are key to improving quality of life and reducing healthcare costs. By promoting and adopting healthy habits like regular exercise, balanced nutrition, and stress management, individuals are less likely to develop preventable health issues. Access to healthcare services plays a crucial role in supporting these practices and ensuring timely treatment. When people stay healthy, they not only enjoy better well-being but also ease the burden on the healthcare system, helping the entire community thrive. In short, fostering health and wellness benefits both individuals and society as a whole.

SELAH TREATMENT CENTRE

Grants of \$1,500 from the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce Community Fund, \$1,200 from the Donald Post Community Fund and \$370 from the Dolson Family Fund supported the Addictions Programs Enhancement. The program has improved addiction services by expanding therapists' expertise through specialized continuing education. This training builds on existing skills, equipping therapists with evidence-based techniques that improve outcomes, reduce relapse rates, and address the growing demand for



qualified addiction professionals. The initiative also fosters greater awareness, reduces stigma, and strengthens community support systems, leading to a more compassionate response to substance use disorders. These improvements directly benefit clients, their families, and Oxford County residents, enhancing overall well-being. Additionally, by providing essential mental health and substance abuse support, the program contributes to efforts to reduce homelessness in Oxford County, offering individuals a path to recovery and stability.



DAYSPRING PREGNANCY & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE

Grants included \$1,000 from the Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund for general initiatives, and \$5,110 from the Maple Leaf Community Fund, in honor of Harvey & Erma Beaty, to support the Baby Brunch program. This program educates parents on choosing healthy, budget-friendly foods and addresses food security for families with young children facing financial hardship. Operating monthly in Woodstock, Ingersoll, and Tillsonburg, the grant allowed the purchase of 40 crockpots to distribute to participating families in need. One participant shared, "I am so appreciative for the Baby Brunch program. Money is really tight right now and with the food prices climbing, these helps ease the stress a little bit in our family. Thank you so much for doing this program!"

ADDITIONAL HEALTH & WELLNESS GRANTS:

- \$2,000 from William & Mary Mackesy Fund and \$17,935.88 from Maple Leaf Community Fund in honour of Harvey & Erma Beaty to VON Ontario Student Nutrition Program
- \$1,000 to Zorra Highland Park Public School Student Nutrition Program from William & Mary Mackesy Fund
- \$2,000 to Alexandra Marine & General Hospital Foundation from the Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$3,000 to Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners from the Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$1,900 to the Tema Foundation for Thamesford Fire Peer Support Teams from the Thamesford Lawn Bowling Club Fund
- \$1,000 to VON Sakura House from the Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$1,300 to Woodstock Hospital Foundation from the Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$500 to Woodstock Hospital Palliative Care Unit from the Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$1,000 to YMCA Woodstock from Ken & Lynda Whiteford Fund

SOCIAL SERVICES

Social services are vital in strengthening communities by supporting individuals and families in need, promoting equity, and improving well-being. Services like mental health counseling, housing assistance, and job training create a safety net that helps people navigate challenges and avoid hardship. By addressing basic needs and fostering stability, social services reduce crime, enhance education, and promote economic mobility, leading to healthier, more resilient communities where everyone has a better chance to thrive. They also help reduce crime, improve educational outcomes, and promote economic mobility, ultimately benefiting society as a whole.

TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH FIRE SERVICE

Grants of \$400 from the Norwich Township Community Fund and \$600 from the Heroes Among Us Fund supported the Smoke/CO alarms door to door campaign. Twelve combination smoke/CO alarms were purchased and distributed during campaigns and emergency responses. This initiative supported individuals in the township who have demonstrated need. Derek Van Patee, Director of Fire and Protective Services/CEMC, shared "There's something truly rewarding about leaving a home with a working smoke/CO alarm where there was none before—it could very well save a life." This important cause is making a real difference in our community.





YOUTH UNLIMITED NORWICH

Grants of \$1,750 from the Tyler Arts Memorial Fund and \$1,825 from the William & Mary Mackesy Fund supported The Forge Boys Night Out program. The program empowers high school boys (grades 8-12), teaching essential life skills, starting with cooking, baking, and car maintenance, while also focusing on mental and emotional well-being. Targeting high-risk youth, The Forge offers positive, engaging activities that help prevent boredom, which can often lead to trouble. This initiative not only nurtures well-rounded young men but also helps break cycles of hardship within families. The excitement among the boys was palpable and the program continues to inspire youth to choose positive paths, fostering a brighter future for them and our community.

ADDITIONAL SOCIAL SERVICES GRANTS:

- \$5,000 from the Maple Leaf Community Fund in honour of Harvey & Erma Beaty to the YFC Woodstock, The Table Program for Youth
- \$2,215 from Alabastine-Wilkinson Fund, \$720 from Oxford County Youth Fund, \$2,475 from William & Mary Mackesy Fund, \$270 from Joland Family Fund to the Town of Tillsonburg VIBE Youth Space
- \$3,000 to Community Options for Justice Oxford from William & Mary Mackesy Fund
- \$3,500 from Maple Leaf Community Fund in honour of Harvey & Erma Beaty to Cycles of Life for Supportive Transitional Living
- \$300 to Ingamo Homes from Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$1,250 to Multi-Service Centre Tillsonburg from Henning Henson Memorial Fund
- \$400 from Frank & Marion Smith Fund and \$8,500 from First United Church Operations Sharing Fund to Operation Sharing
- \$500 to Oxford County Animal Rescue from Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$3,000 to Oxford County Community Health Centre, House to Home Fund, from William & Mary Mackesy Fund
- \$500 to Oxford County Libraries from Oxford County Library Fund
- \$5,275 from Maple Leaf Community Fund in honour of Harvey & Erma Beaty and \$5,000 from the Stevens Fund to South Gate Centre
- \$6,300 to Tillsonburg Multi-Service Centre, Meals on Wheels, from Maple Leaf Community Fund in honour of Harvey & Erma Beaty
- \$5,825 to United Way, Ingersoll Light House, from Maple Leaf Community Fund in honour of Harvey & Erma Beaty

EDUCATION

Education is one of the most powerful tools for personal and societal advancement, offering lifelong benefits that extend well beyond the classroom. Lifelong learning enables individuals to continually adapt to changing job markets, acquire new skills, and stay relevant in a competitive workforce. Education plays a key role in breaking the cycle of poverty, as it equips individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to access better employment opportunities and improve their quality of life. By fostering a more educated population, societies can experience increased economic mobility, reduced inequality, and a more vibrant, innovative workforce that drives long-term prosperity.

STRONG START CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

A \$2,000 grant from the William & Mary Mackesy Fund, funded the early reading intervention programs helping Oxford County children to become confident, lifelong readers. Children are paired with trained community volunteers, working one-on-one with them during the instructional day. Together, they play carefully designed games and activities that help children practice the names of the letters, the sounds they make, how to blend sounds together to build words, and how to decode and read words. Volunteer Ethan shared "It's amazing how learning a few sounds can open a whole world of reading for them." Helen Kelch Regional Program Co-Ordinator for Ontario West commented "Our program thrives because of the dedication of our community Volunteers."





BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF OXFORD COUNTY & OXFORD COUNTY'S RAINBOW COALITION

Grants of \$800 from the Doug & Yvonne Eckel Fund, \$150 from the Heroes Among Us Fund, and \$770 from the Oxford County Rural Fund supported Oxford County's Rainbow Coalition educational series. The project equips residents with the knowledge and tools to understand, support, and advocate for 2S/LGBTQ+ individuals, helping to foster a more inclusive, respectful community. The training sessions covered identities, history, lived experiences, and practical ways to offer allyship. Participants reflected on how to raise awareness and improve daily support for 2S/LGBTQ+ individuals, ultimately contributing to better mental health outcomes for a group that faces heightened risks. Thanks to these grants, the Coalition was able to rent space in Tillsonburg and Norwich, making the training accessible across the county. The impact has been deeply felt and widely appreciated.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION GRANTS & STUDENT AWARDS:

- \$11,500 to Children's Aid Society of Oxford for 7 bursaries from CAS Oxford Agency Endowed Fund
- \$1,970 to Upper Thames River Conservation Authority for ISAN's Nights for Truth: Conversation and Reconcili-ACTION series from the Stevens Fund and \$30 from the Oxford County Rural Fund.
- \$2,000 to St. Joseph's Elementary School playground equipment from Lessif Family Fund
- \$600 to United Way Oxford Supplies 4 Students from Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$500 to Woodstock Public Library from Ross & Fran McElroy Fund
- \$300 to Juan Martinez Alzate from St. Mary's Catholic HS for the Cassandra Hawkins Memorial bursary
- \$270 to Jenna VanBoekel, HPSS for the Joland Family Fund bursary
- \$50 to Austin Bowers from St. Michael's Elementary School for the Jordan Hawkins Memorial bursary
- \$1,800 to each Dany Overdeest from HPSS and Ainsley Heggie from CASS for the Klosler Family Fund bursaries
- \$300 to Mia Funnell, IDCI for the Laurie Hawkins Memorial bursary
- \$2,000 to Jillian Hallman of WCI for the Lorna & George Roberts bursary
- \$1,500 to each Julian Jean and Yocelyn Ticas from St. Mary's Catholic HS for Oxford Manufacturing Skills Development bursaries
- \$1,500 to each Jacquelyn Yates from WCI and Emily Bruinsma from IDCI for the Pat & Barry Smith leadership bursaries
- \$500 to each Bridgette Capaldi and Andrew Power from IDCI for Tyler Arts Athletic Spirit Awards



THE ENVIRONMENT

A healthy, sustainable environment is crucial to our quality of life, impacting everything from clean air and water to green spaces. These elements support physical, mental, and emotional well-being, fostering peace and connection. A healthy environment reflects a healthy community, where people work together to protect natural resources, reduce pollution, and promote sustainability. By prioritizing environmental health, communities create safer, more livable spaces, benefiting both individuals and society while ensuring a future where people and nature can flourish.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES OXFORD (DASO)

A \$1,500 grant from the Stevens Fund helped DASO improve lighting, reducing energy consumption and creating a brighter, safer space for women and children fleeing violence. DASO serves as a temporary home to a number of women-identified individuals, along with their children, who are fleeing violence in their family or in their relationships. The grant supported new lighting in staff offices, the kitchen, and the second-floor hallway, replacing outdated, dim fixtures that hindered visibility. The physical environment is incredibly important to support individual and family well-being. These upgrades enhanced the physical environment, promoting well-being and dignity for both staff and service users, and provides a more comfortable and supportive atmosphere as residents work to rebuild their lives.

ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENT GRANT:

- \$630 from the Stevens Fund and \$370 from the Oxford Environmental Fund to Oxford County Trails Council

ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

Arts, culture, and heritage are vital to the vibrancy of our community, transforming spaces and enhancing quality of life. A diverse arts scene and the preservation of cultural heritage foster creativity, connection, and inclusivity, while offering opportunities to celebrate unique identities. This diversity strengthens community pride, as residents feel a deeper connection to their surroundings and a sense of ownership over their local identity. Engaging with cultural events boosts satisfaction and helps build a positive, resilient, and connected community.

THE INGERSOLL CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE

A \$1,000 grant from the Ken & Lynda Whiteford Fund supported Inspired Connections: Art Therapy for Mentorship & Creativity, a special art-based event for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County. With six mentor/mentee pairs participating, the event successfully used art as a therapeutic tool for emotional expression, strengthened relationships through shared creative experiences, and provided a fun, supportive environment to help reduce stress and promote well-being. Participants explored alcohol inks, experimenting with colour mixing and chemical reactions to create unique prints, and tried jelly-like printing plates. These beginner-friendly lessons were chosen to foster creativity, encourage self-expression and expose participants to the new forms of visual art in an inclusive environment.





THEATRE WOODSTOCK: LIVE ORCHESTRA FOR THE CABARET PERFORMANCE

A \$2,500 grant from the William & Mary Mackesy Fund and \$3,200 from the B&R George Cultural Fund supported the live orchestra for the Cabaret performance. Coordinated by Chuck Baxter, musical director, the orchestra was composed of eight full instrumentalists. Three of those individuals were also actors in the show, often scooting out from behind the curtain to play in the orchestra. Cabaret ran eight sold-out, public performances. It was an incredibly special show, and the orchestra took it to another level and elevated theatre in Oxford County. "Once in a while you come across a performance that blurred the lines between professional and community theatre...this was one of those shows." The musical director has been nominated for a Western Ontario Drama League Award along with fifteen other awards for the show.

ADDITIONAL ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE GRANTS:

- \$500 to The Grand Theatre Youth Program from Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$29,800 to K2K Productions from Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$500 to Stratford Festival from Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$500 to Woodstock Art Gallery from Ross & Fran McElroy Fund

SPORTS & RECREATION

Sports and recreation play a key role in developing healthy citizens and communities. They promote physical health, reduce the risk of chronic diseases, and improve mental well-being. Beyond fitness, sports foster social connections, teamwork, and a sense of belonging, building stronger, more inclusive communities. They also teach valuable life skills like discipline and leadership.

- \$5,000 to the Thamesford Lions Club from the Thamesford Lawn Bowling Club Fund
- \$540 to Woodstock Minor Hockey from the Hawkins Family Memorial Club
- \$500 to Woodstock Minor Soccer Club from Ross & Fran McElroy Fund
- \$3,378.60 to Woodstock Special Olympics from the Canada Summers Game Fund
- \$2,143 to Zorra Township, Thamesford Arena Free Skating from the Thamesford Lawn Bowling Club Fund

GRANTS IN OTHER CATEGORY

- \$22,000 to Innerkip Presbyterian Church from the Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$3,700 to Knox Presbyterian Church from the Dr. I. Patricia Brown Memorial Fund
- \$180 to Lyndoch Evergreen Cemetery from the Joland Family Fund
- \$500 to Mothers with Heart for Ethiopia from Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$1,000 to Oxford Baptist Church from Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$500 to Presbyterian Cemetery from Ross & Fran McElroy Fund
- \$2,500 to the Great Commission Foundation from Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund
- \$500 to ELIC Fund from Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Fund

2024 OXFORD COUNTY WARDEN'S CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

THANK YOU for supporting Oxford Community Foundation at the 2024 Oxford County Warden's Charity Golf Tournament held at Oxford Hill Golf Course.

Our deepest thanks to the tournament sponsors, golfers, and generous donors—without your support, the Foundation's work wouldn't be possible.

As our largest annual fundraiser, the tournament helped raise over \$32,000 to support the operations of the Oxford Community Foundation. These vital funds enable us to award grants for the very initiatives featured in this report.

Because of you, we're able to keep resources in Oxford while also bringing new funding into the community. You are helping to build a stronger, more vibrant Oxford—today and for the future.



MAJOR SPONSORS

We are profoundly grateful to all our sponsors and the dedicated volunteers who made this event a success.





REMEMBERING A FUNDHOLDER

We were deeply saddened to learn of Liz Lessif's passing on April 22, 2024. Her husband, John, shared a beautiful reflection:

"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 Italian cuisine—loved playing cards, loved her flowers, and most importantly, she loved me. But above all, Liz loved life."

Liz was a valued member of our board for many years, serving with dedication and compassion. She held the role of Chair in 2017 and 2018, leading with wisdom, warmth, and generosity. Liz's kindness, humility, and unwavering commitment to her community touched everyone who had the privilege of knowing her. She will be dearly missed, but her legacy lives on through the Lessif Family Fund.

Liz and John made Tillsonburg their home—a place where they chose to raise their family and invest in the community

through their ownership of several McDonald's restaurants. Together, they supported countless local initiatives and organizations in Tillsonburg and across Oxford County.

Understanding the enduring impact of giving, John and Liz established the Lessif Family Fund with the Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) in 2007. Supporting youth has always been a passion of theirs. Through the fund, they've continued to uplift young people in meaningful ways—providing employment opportunities to students at their restaurants, and later, awarding grants that have empowered programs such as safety equipment for neonatal transport at Woodstock Hospital, beds for the Children's Aid Society, playground enhancements at Tillsonburg Little School, school snack programs, Junior Achievement's Learning by Doing program, Big Brothers Big Sisters' GoGirls program, Strong Start literacy program, Supplies4Students and student business entrepreneur awards through Fanshawe College.

Liz's spirit of generosity, love for life, and dedication to her community live on through every life touched by the Lessif Family Fund.



LEGACY

Everyone Leaves a Legacy – What Do You Want Yours To Be?

At the Oxford Community Foundation (OCF), we frequently meet individuals and families who are exploring how they can leave a meaningful, lasting gift to their community. They ask thoughtful questions: What do I want my legacy to be? How can I make a lasting impact? How can I ensure continued support for the causes I care about? Behind these questions lies a common

theme—the heartfelt desire to give back to a community that has given them so much. We help you navigate fund options to create your personalized legacy. Whether you choose to establish a permanently endowed fund or one designed for immediate or time-specific impact, we will work with you to tailor a solution that aligns with your charitable goals, your timeline, and your vision for change.

NEW FUNDS



CHERYLE & PETER EVANS COMMUNITY FUND

Cheryle and Peter Evans' compassion for both people and animals lives on through the Cheryle and Peter Evans Fund, established with a bequest from Peter's will. This legacy fund will provide annual grants supporting human and animal welfare. After retiring to Woodstock, the Evans embraced their community with warmth and generosity. Known for their kindness and love of giving back, they were also devoted to their beloved pugs, Jasmine and Calla.

INNERKIP COMMUNITY FUND

Anonymous donors with deep roots in the community established the Innerkip Community Fund to support and sustain local initiatives that enrich life in the village. This thoughtful gift will provide ongoing support for a range of needs, including the upkeep of the local cemetery, development of minor baseball programs, and other community-driven projects. The donor's quiet generosity reflects a strong commitment to preserving Innerkip's spirit, heritage, and sense of togetherness for generations to come.



BILL & WILMA FARR FUND

Lifelong Oxford County residents, Bill (deceased 2018) and Wilma Farr shared a deep love for nature and their community.

An avid photographer, Bill captured the beauty of Canada's landscapes with an artist's eye, turning their travels into lasting visual memories.

His camera was a constant companion, reflecting the couple's shared appreciation for the natural world. To honor this passion, Wilma established the Bill & Wilma Farr Fund—supporting environmental initiatives and preserving their legacy of care for nature and Oxford County.



WAYNE MCKAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

Wayne McKay passed away on January 21, 2024, at the age of 68, surrounded by love. A proud son of Oxford County, he embraced the outdoors and rural life from a young age. After earning a Civil Engineering degree from McMaster University, he settled in Sarnia with his wife, Sharon, and their sons, Fraser and Patrick—his greatest pride.

To honor his memory and hometown roots, Sharon established the Wayne McKay Youth Leadership Development Fund. Inspired by the leadership opportunities Wayne experienced in his youth, this fund will continue his legacy by empowering future leaders.

SOUTH GATE CENTRE FUND

An Agency Fund was established for the South Gate Centre. The fund's aim is to provide long-term financial stability by creating a steady, sustainable source of income to support programs and services for older adults. Donors can contribute during their lifetime or leave a bequest in their will, knowing their gift will be invested wisely and continue to benefit the Centre for generations. The Centre partnered with OCF to reduce the administrative burden, ensuring professional fund management, and strengthens donor trust—making it easier to build a lasting legacy that supports the well-being of seniors for generations to come.

FUNDS OPTIONS & EXISTING FUNDS

We are truly inspired to have so many forward-thinking and generous donors and fundholders each of whom is building a stronger, more resilient community for everyone, today and always.

COMMUNITY FUNDS are a flexible way to support ever changing community needs. You leave it up to us and our grants committee to ensure the community's most pressing needs are supported. We fund all aspects of community well-being – arts and culture, education, the environment, health and wellness, heritage, recreation, and social services – trust the Foundation to find the groups that need money the most.

- Founders' Circle Fund
- Builders' Circle Fund
- Alabastine-Wilkinson Family Fund
- Dolson Family Fund
- Doug & Yvonne Eckel Fund
- Cheryle & Peter Evans Community Fund
- Henning Hansen Memorial Fund
- The Heroes Among Us Fund
- Innerkip Community Fund
- Jean Matheson Heroes Fund
- Norwich Township Community Fund
- Oxford County Youth Fund
- Donald Post Fund
- Woodstock Chamber of Commerce Community Fund

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

- Tyler Arts Legacy Fund
- Bill & Wilma Farr Fund
- Hawkins Family Memorial Fund
- Klosler Family Fund
- Wayne McKay Leadership Development Fund
- Oxford Environmental Fund
- Oxford Manufacturers Skill Development Fund
- George & Lorna Roberts Fund
- Pat & Barry Smith Fund
- WDDS Rosemary George Fund

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS function like a private foundation, a donor-advised fund allows you to be involved in selecting 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
- Dennis & Joan Vollmershausen Family Fund

DONOR DESIGNATED FUNDS allow you to select your favourite charities, and we ensure they are supported not just once, but every year.

- Dr. I. Patricia Brown Fund
- Ross & Fran McElroy Fund
- Oxford County Library Fund
- Frank & Marion Smith Fund

FLEX FUNDS offers you the flexibility to meet your unique needs by combining one or more interests and fund types.

- Joland Family Fund
- Thamesford Lawn Bowling Legacy Fund

AGENCY FUNDS allows registered charities to building a sustainable source of funding for their organization. Anyone can contribute to an agency fund today or through a bequest in their will, allowing the 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
- South Gate Centre Fund

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

**Think about the legacy you would like to leave and contact me to explore your options:
Louise Wardrop, Executive Director • lwardrop@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org • 226-667-6404**

2024 FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

FOCUSED ON STABILITY, GROWTH, AND STRONG RETURNS

Oxford Community Foundation is grounded in a legacy of disciplined financial stewardship, and 2024 marked a year of exceptional performance. We achieved a net investment return of 12.0%, rising from 9.8% in 2023—an outcome that speaks to the strength of our long-term strategy and our unwavering commitment to preserving and growing the assets entrusted to us by our donors.

Our investment portfolio is managed in partnership with the London Community Foundation and guided by the oversight of OCF's Finance and Investment Committee. This annually reviewed relationship ensures alignment with our mission, enabling us to drive meaningful growth while maintaining operational efficiency.

We are steadfast in our commitment to transparency and accountability. Audited financial statements are prepared annually by MW&CO, and we actively welcome feedback from donors and community partners. Copies are available upon request by contacting info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org or 226-667-6404.

TOTAL AMOUNT GRANTED IN 2024:

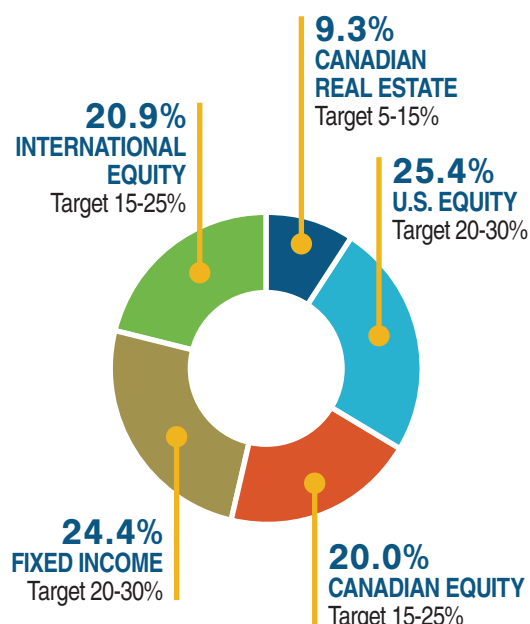
\$216,203

While 2023 featured significant one-time external funding, 2024 reflected an increased return to balanced community-focused granting, led by strong internal resources and donor support.

	2024	2023
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,036,039	\$2,951,648
Operating Expenses as % of Total assets	4.0%	5.6%
Investment Returns Net of Fees	12.0%	9.8%
Donations, Honorariums and Fundraising	\$1,119,657	\$620,786
FUND BALANCES		
Endowed funds (community, individual, agency)	\$3,620,924	\$2,483,808
Spend down funds (community, individual)	\$110,551	\$125,926
Operating Funds (Founders & Builders)	\$191,534	\$178,679
Funds held on behalf of other parties	\$33,539	\$30,452
Total Fund Balance	\$3,956,549	\$2,818,865
GRANTS & DISBURSEMENTS		
OCF Funds - Keeping Money in Oxford	\$163,878	\$128,404
Partnership Funds - Bringing Money to Oxford	\$52,325	\$418,120
TOTAL GRANTS	\$216,203	\$546,524

INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION

OCF's long-term investment approach ensures our asset mix supports sustained, meaningful community impact.



STRONGER RETURNS, STRONGER IMPACT

2024 Net Investment Return:

12%

(up from 9.8% in 2023)

This performance underscores the strength of OCF's investment strategy and disciplined management.

Key outcomes in 2024 included:

- \$1.1M growth in endowed funds
- \$1M+ increase in total assets
- Reduced operating expense ratio
- Reinforced long-term community impact

Strong returns continue to position OCF for sustainable growth and deeper local investment.

Recongnizing our Builders & Founders

Each of our Founders and Builders, listed below, initially pledged \$2,000 to help cover operating costs. They provided us with the stability from which to grow. Over time, several of our Founders and Builders established their own funds, amplifying their legacy and positive impacts in our community. They are listed separately in the first section.

FOUNDING & BUILDING MEMBERS

WHO ALSO CREATED ENDOWMENT FUNDS

(YEAR PERSONALIZED LEGACY FUND 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)
- Klosler Family Fund (2022)

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
- 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
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WE RECOGNIZE OUR HEROES

The Heroes Among Us Fund was established in 2019 to honor the countless selfless and compassionate acts performed every day by ordinary individuals who make Oxford a better place. Through ongoing annual community grants, the legacy of these everyday heroes will live on—impacting lives for generations to come.

- Larry Balkwill
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- Teun DeBeer
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- Dale Fanset
- Sam Horton
- Deb Landon
- Jean Elizabeth Matheson
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OUR SINCERE THANKS

To each donor and sponsor: we hope you know how much you mean to us and the community you support! Our heartfelt thanks for the generosity of the individuals, families and organizations listed below who contributed \$100 or more in 2024.

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- Cathy Poole



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