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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Monday, November 3, 2025

Brandon Area Community Foundation Invests More Than \$800,000 in Regional Community Organizations

The Brandon Area Community Foundation is celebrating its 60th year of operations by distributing more than \$800,000 to 46 successful grant applicants.

The BACF Community Grants program provided funding to qualified applicants from the BACF's granting area in the following fields of interest: Arts & Culture, Community Development, Education, Environment, Health and Wellness, and Recreation.

This year, there were a record 96 applications, from which 46 were selected for funding. A complete list of funded activities is attached. Projects must generally be completed within a year of the grant award. Almost half of the funded projects are located outside Brandon, and several grants support activities that serve residents of both Brandon and the surrounding communities.

"Thanks to donor generosity, we were able to direct more funds to our community grants program, and this year were able to nearly double the amount of awarded grants and increase our funding by approximately 30 per cent over last year," said Dean Hammond, the volunteer Chair of the BACF Grants Committee.

"Over the past 60 years we have funded hundreds of projects throughout our granting area," Hammond said. "We asked the Brandon and Westman community to come forward with a strong set of applications this year, and they did that. Our committee had an excellent selection of quality submissions from which to choose, and we thank everyone for the work they put into their applications." The Foundation and grant recipients will provide regular updates on social media about the various projects over the coming year.

FOUNDATION FACTS: Since 1965, the Brandon and Area Community Foundation (BACF) has invested nearly \$13 million dollars in numerous community organizations throughout southwestern Manitoba. Starting with a modest \$25,000 gift, the organization celebrates its 60th year of operations with approximately \$28 million invested in more than 100 endowed funds.

This legacy commitment from donors past and present now allows the Foundation to grant approximately \$1.2 million each year from community and donor-directed funds to registered charities and community groups that demonstrate a defined need. We also work with donors to create special purpose funds, donor-directed funds or scholarship funds based on areas of interest. To set up a fund or to learn more about us, please call (204) 571-0529, email ED@bacf.ca or visit our website at <https://www.bacf.ca>

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Brandon Area Community Foundation

Grant Listing, November 3, 2025

Organization	Project	Grant
Ag in the Classroom	AgVenture 2026 Agriculture Education Program	\$10,000
Assiniboine Theatre Company	Long-term Investment in Portable Sets	\$2,900
Brandon Literacy Council Inc.	Childrens Activity Supplies	\$2,544
Brandon Riverbank Inc.	Watercraft Decontamination Station	\$3,300
Brandon Westman Christmas Cheer Registry	Technology Upgrades	\$2,500
Brandon's Food for Thought	Support for School Breakfast and Lunch Programming	\$10,000
Children's Den Inc.	Outdoor Exploration Equipment for Early Learners	\$10,000
Downtown Business Improvement Zone	Downtown Beautification: Mural and Artwork Protection	\$19,696
Brandon Bluefins Swim Club	Swim Meet Data Management System	\$20,000
Commonwealth Air Training Plan Museum	Community Crew Quarters: Space Renewal Project	\$6,600
Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition	2026 Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition (Voice) Event Support	\$3,500
Grey Owl Post-Psychiatric Co-op Centre Inc.	Artspace Paint and Supplies	\$1,000
Hamiota 55+ Centre and ReStore	Computer Upgrades	\$1,552
Hamiota Municipality	Library Multi-Use Table Project	\$3,000
Helping Hands Centre of Brandon Inc.	Sprinkler Safety System Refurbishment	\$10,000
International Music Camp	First Aid/Nursing Station Facility Renovation & Improvements	\$5,000
KidSport - Manitoba	KidSport Manitoba Western Grants	\$20,000
Killarney Agricultural Society	Outdoor Dining Hall and Event Space Project	\$20,000
Lions Foundation (MB & NW ON)	Mobile Vision and Hearing Screening Equipment for Kids	\$20,000
Manitoba Band Association	Brandon Level One Band Festival Expansion Support	\$5,000
Manitoba Naturalists Society Inc.	Eleanor Kidd Park: Pollinator Gardens Phase 3	\$15,280
Miniota Community Centre	Multi-sport Facility Expansion and Enhancement Project	\$15,000
R.M. of Glenboro South Cypress	Glenboro Minor Ball Scoreboard Project	\$10,000
Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC)	Cart with a Heart	\$2,500
R. M. of Elton	Elton Community Center Rink Refresh	\$10,216
R. M. of Oakview	Oak River Community Baseball Complex New Bleachers	\$15,000
Sandy Lake Sports Park Inc	Sandy Lake Sports Park	\$6,000
Souris River Conservation District	Conserving Burrowing Owls in Southwestern Manitoba	\$17,500
STARS Foundation (Manitoba)	Hamilton TI Ventilator Replacement Project	\$50,000
Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba	The AGSM in the 21st Century: Archive Development Support	\$13,035
Brandon Regional Health Centre	Foundation For Care Capital Campaign: ICU Suite Support	\$115,000
Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba	Pediatric Oncology Unit Upgrade Support	\$50,000
Health Sciences Centre (HSC) Foundation	Operation Excellence: Robotic Surgery Equipment Support	\$50,000
John Howard Society of Brandon Inc.	Hydroponic Farm and Enhanced Food Security Initiative	\$50,000
R. M. of Cornwallis	Brandon Hills Ball Diamond Backstop	\$ 5,673
Town of Melita	Upgrades to Park & Rink Washrooms	\$56,700
United for Literacy	Supporting Literacy in Brandon	\$2,000
Viscount Cultural Council Inc. Neepawa	Community Centre Furnace Upgrade Support	\$4,500
Wasagaming Community Arts Centre Inc.	Art Studio Upgrade	\$12,830
Watersheds Canada	Nature Discovery Backpacks for Westman Regional Library	\$6,600
Wawanesa and District Community Hall Inc.	Facility Upgrades: Air Conditioning	\$10,000
Western Manitoba Science Fair	2026 Western Manitoba Science Fair Support	\$5,000
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra	WSO Holiday Tour: Support for Brandon Performance	\$20,000
YMCA of Brandon	Child Care Cribs and Emergency Evacuation Cribs	\$21,000
YMCA of Brandon	Security System Enhancements	\$40,000
Young Women's Christian Association Inc.	New Forever Start Program	\$20,000

Total \$800,426.00

* Last Year: \$559,472 granted to 25 organizations. Grant Application website: <https://bacf.ca/grant-policies-and-guidelines/>