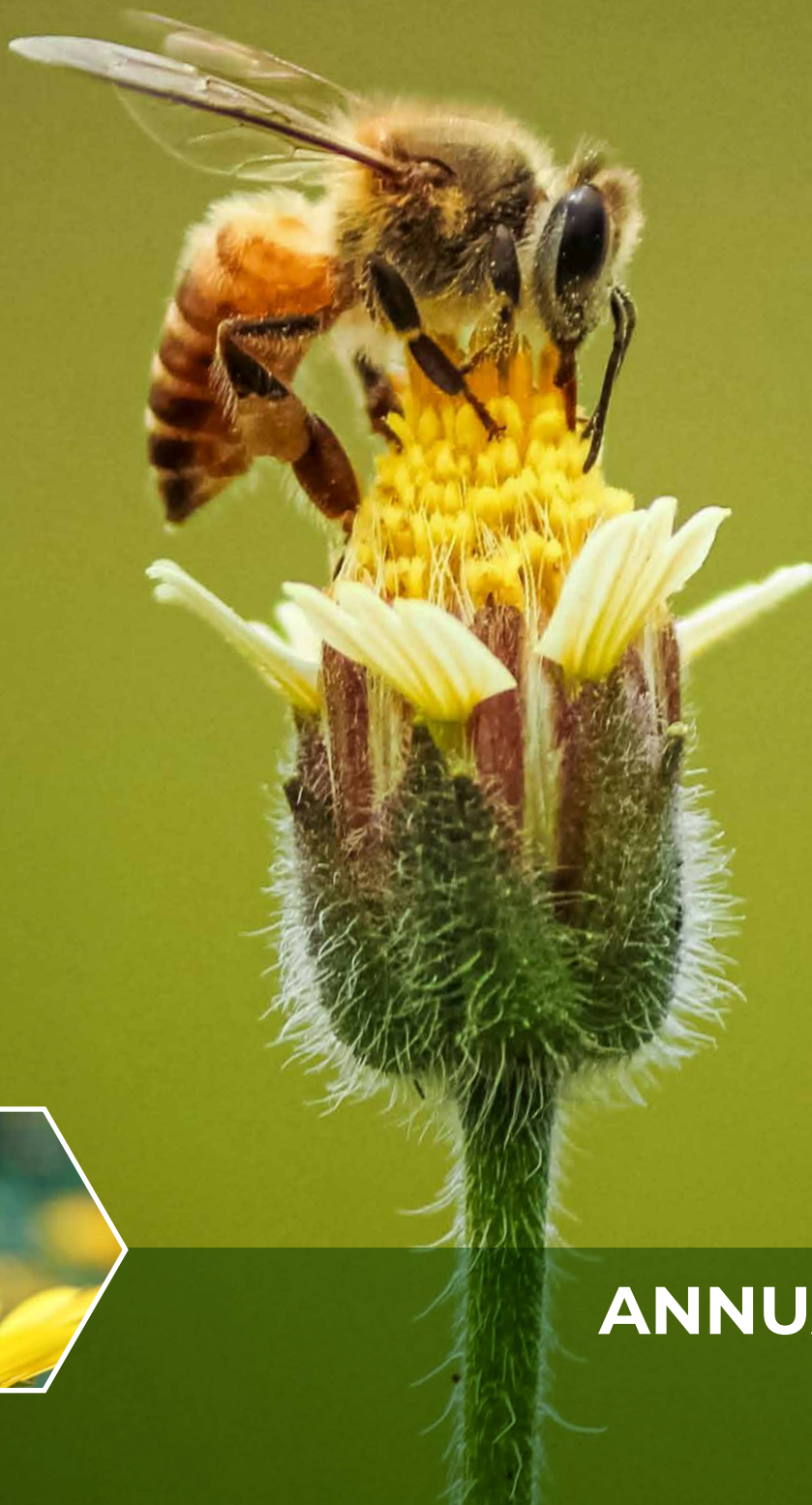




2024

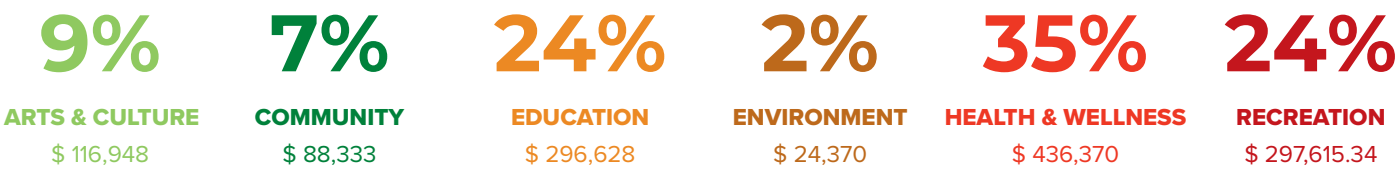
ANNUAL REPORT



BOARD MEMBERS

TOTAL GRANTS

\$1,260,266



GIVING TO YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Your local Community Foundation is a charitable non-profit organization that contributes time, leadership and financial support to initiatives that benefit your community most.



MARC ALAIN
CHAIR



GREG GATIEN
VICE CHAIR



DALE MCKAY
SECRETARY



JAIME PUGH
TREASURER



MICHELLE HOOD
DIRECTOR



GAIL CULLEN
DIRECTOR



DEAN HAMMOND
DIRECTOR



BRYAN WEBBER
DIRECTOR



JANET WILCOX-MCKAY
DIRECTOR



JON ZILKEY
DIRECTOR



DENNIS HUNT
DIRECTOR



JEFF FAWCETT
MAYOR OF BRANDON
DIRECTOR (EX-OFFICIO)

YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY



Youth in
Philanthropy



\$12,000

Empowering the Next Generation: Youth in Philanthropy 2024

The Brandon Area Community Foundation (BACF) is proud to continue fostering youth leadership and community engagement through the Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) program. In 2024, BACF partnered with the United Way of Brandon & District to provide funding over the next three years, ensuring local students can continue making a difference in their communities.

In 2024, students from Elton Collegiate, Crocus Plains High School, École secondaire Neelin High School, and Vincent Massey High School each received \$3,000 to support local non-profits. With these funds, students took the lead in selecting causes that matter to them, directing grants to 12 organizations working to improve lives in Brandon and the surrounding area.

Among the funded initiatives were programs addressing food insecurity, animal welfare, housing support, and community recreation. Organizations such as Helping Hands Centre and the City of Brandon Youth Centre received

funding to enhance their food programs, while the Community Health and Housing Association continued its outreach efforts to assist individuals experiencing homelessness. Brandon's Food for Thought ensured more children received nutritious meals, and Westman Dreams for Kids helped fulfill a child's dream of visiting Disney World.

Additionally, support for animal welfare remained strong, with grants awarded to the Brandon Humane Society and Funds for Furry Friends to improve shelter facilities and foster care programs. The Brandon Riverbank Inc. and Western Manitoba Regional Library received funding for community recreation and literacy initiatives.

By participating in Youth in Philanthropy, students gain hands-on experience in charitable giving and civic engagement, learning how small acts of generosity can create lasting change. BACF is honoured to support this program, helping young philanthropists shape a brighter future for their community.

FUNDRAISING



\$114,793

Tim Horton's Smile Cookie Campaign

Thanks to the incredible support of the Brandon community, the 2024 Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign raised an outstanding \$114,793 in total for the Brandon Area Community Foundation (BACF) and Westman Dreams for Kids.

This amazing achievement wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of sponsors, pre-orders, and everyone who purchased a Smile Cookie. Every dollar raised will go toward making a meaningful impact, supporting programs and initiatives that strengthen our community and help local children and families thrive.

Thank you for your generosity and for making 2024's Smile Cookie campaign such a tremendous success!



LEGACY FUNDS



Shannon & Harry Peters Hand-Up Renewable Bursary

In 2024, the Brandon Area Community Foundation (BACF) proudly launched the Shannon & Harry Peters Hand-Up Renewable Bursary in celebration of International Women’s Day. This transformative initiative supports single mothers returning to school by covering tuition for their first two years of college and offering additional financial aid for living expenses.

Driven by a desire to create meaningful change, Shannon Peters partnered with BACF and Assiniboine College to make this vital resource a reality. “Creating this bursary, helping in this way, will change the course of someone’s life,” said Dan Robertson, 2024 Chair of BACF. “Shannon and Harry Peters’ bursary will do that.” Robertson expressed gratitude for the opportunity to help bring the Peters’ vision to life and hopes their generosity inspires others to give back.

This bursary reflects BACF’s ongoing commitment to empowering individuals through education and fostering opportunities that strengthen the community.

Youth Science Canada Endowment Fund

The Brandon Area Community Foundation was honoured to manage the newly established Youth Science Canada (YSC) Endowment Fund, supporting YSC’s mission to empower young Canadians through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Since 1962, Youth Science Canada has inspired over 500,000 young minds annually, equaling the number involved in minor hockey. Supported by 8,000 volunteers nationwide, YSC programs encourage youth to tackle issues in energy, health, and innovation while developing critical problem-solving skills.

Trevor Maguire, Financial Advisor and past Chair of YSC, praised BACF, stating: “The BACF made the process simple, and their partnership with Cardinal Capital Management ensured our investments received sound, conservative management. This allows our endowment to provide a stable income stream now and in the future.”

By managing the YSC Endowment Fund, BACF ensured the long-term sustainability of these transformative programs, fostering curiosity and innovation among Canada’s future leaders. This partnership reflects BACF’s dedication to creating lasting impacts locally and nationally.



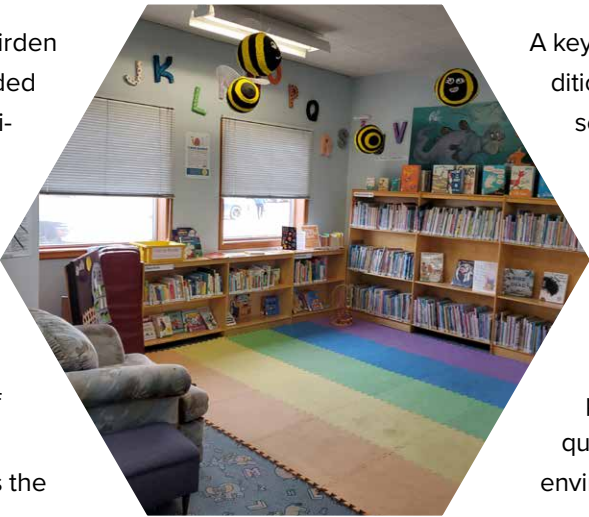
GRANTS

Border Regional Library - Virden Library Branch Renovation

\$50,000

The Border Regional Library’s Virden Branch underwent a much-needed transformation in 2024, made possible in part by a \$50,000 grant from the Brandon Area Community Foundation (BACF). This renovation project was designed to reimagine the library as a more inclusive, accessible, and welcoming space that meets the needs of the entire community.

Among the completed upgrades was the creation of a larger, more inviting entrance. This new entrance includes a 24-hour community information board and a sheltered return box, making library services more accessible to all, even after hours. The library’s washrooms also received a major overhaul, ensuring they meet modern accessibility standards and providing a safe and functional space for visitors of all abilities.



A key feature of the renovation was the addition of a multipurpose room, which serves as a space for library programming, community gatherings, and meetings. This room has its own entrance for after-hours use, extending the library’s role as a community resource. To make better use of the existing space, public computers were relocated to a quieter area, creating a more relaxing environment. The children’s area was also moved to provide a less congested and more enjoyable experience for young patrons.

With these updates, the Virden Library aims to become a true hub for connection, learning, and engagement. BACF is proud to support this project, which will ensure the library remains a vibrant and essential part of the community for years to come.

Community Health and Housing Assoc. - Joshua Jacks Centre - Arts, Culture & Recreation programming

\$10,000

In 2024, we were proud to award a \$10,000 grant to the Community Health and Housing Association’s Withdrawal Support Services (WSS) program at Joshua Jacks Centre. These funds have played a vital role in enhancing the centre’s daily Art Program, which provides participants with opportunities to heal, connect, and rediscover a sense of purpose.

The Art Program offers more than creative expression—it builds social connections by bringing participants together for evening activities such as crafting, yoga, drumming, and musical sessions. These experiences help reduce isolation, foster friendships, and create a supportive community. The program also promotes dignity and respect, demonstrating

that every participant is a valued member of society deserving of recognition and self-worth.

Through this grant, the WSS program was able to purchase musical instruments, including guitars and ukuleles, which have had a calming and therapeutic effect on participants. For many, music has reignited old passions, introduced new hobbies, and provided healthy ways to connect with others. Additionally, the program has deepened cultural connections by welcoming Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Elders to lead beading sessions and share traditional stories. These moments have allowed participants to reconnect with their heritage, fostering a sense of pride and cultural identity.

GRANTS

Brandon-Westman Christmas Cheer
- Website Software Enhancement Project

\$ 4,500

In 2024, the Brandon-Westman Christmas Cheer organization received a \$4,500 grant from the Brandon Area Community Foundation (BACF) to enhance its software system for the annual Christmas hamper initiative. This vital program provides hampers filled with food and gifts to families in need during the holiday season. The current software, used to manage the application, processing, and delivery of these hampers, had become outdated and inflexible. The upgrades aimed to streamline the entire process, from initial application to final delivery, ensuring quicker, more efficient service. Enhanced tracking features reduced errors, ensuring no family is left



behind, while the addition of a web-based system allowed volunteers to contribute remotely, improving accessibility and increasing participation. These advancements also enabled better data analysis, allowing for improved planning and resource allocation for future campaigns. This project is a step forward in supporting the growing needs of families in the Westman area and ensuring the program continues to deliver joy and relief to the community.

BACF is proud to contribute to this impactful initiative, helping to modernize operations and enhance the reach of such an important community program.

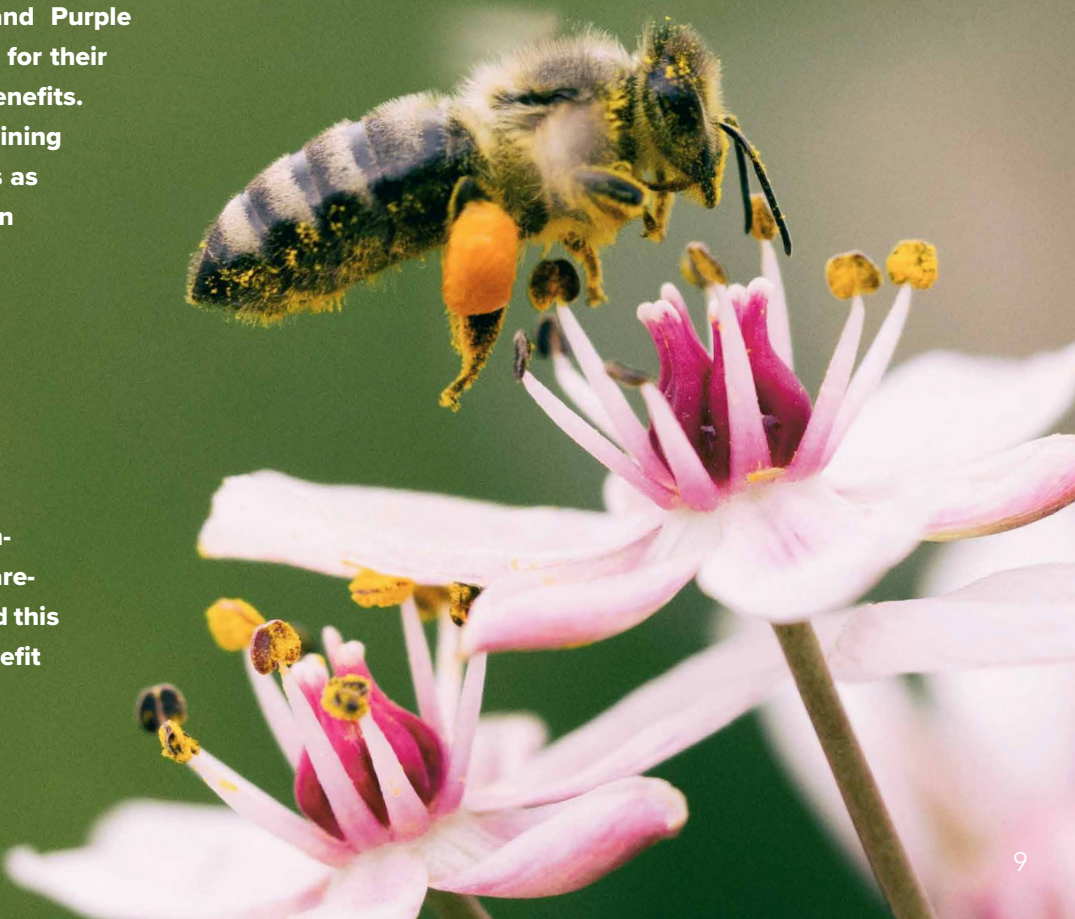


GRANTS

Nature Manitoba
- Eleanor Kidd Park-Pollinator Gardens

\$ 7,370

In 2024, the Eleanor Kidd Park Pollinator Gardens project, led by Bee City Brandon under Nature Manitoba, took significant steps toward revitalizing a once-beloved greenspace. Supported by a grant from BACF, this initiative transformed the park into a thriving habitat for pollinators while educating the community on the importance of native plants. Eleanor Kidd Park, once a meticulously landscaped garden, was devastated by flooding in 2011 and 2014. With flood protection infrastructure now in place, Bee City Brandon reimagined the space as a haven for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. BACF's funding helped install educational signage in English, French, Ojibwe, Dakota, and Michif, ensuring visitors could learn about the park's native plants and their cultural significance. In 2024, volunteers planted 1,100 native wildflower plugs, contributing to the goal of establishing 2,450 plants across 234 square meters. Species such as Giant Hyssop, Showy Goldenrod, and Purple Prairie Clover were carefully selected for their drought resistance and ecological benefits. The garden not only supports declining pollinator populations but also serves as a model for sustainable landscaping in the region. This project engaged the community, with approximately 30 volunteers participating in planting efforts. By restoring Eleanor Kidd Park, Bee City Brandon has not only helped pollinators flourish but also provided a renewed space for connection, learning, and ecological awareness. BACF is proud to have supported this meaningful initiative, which will benefit Brandon for years to come.



GRANTS

Glenboro Agricultural Society **\$15,000**
- Development of Diamond Trail Community Path

The Brandon Area Community Foundation (BACF) is proud to support the Glenboro Agricultural Society and its partners with a \$15,000 grant to help bring the Diamond Trail Community Path Project to life. This initiative exemplifies how community-driven projects can repurpose spaces to create inclusive, active, and vibrant gathering places for all. In 2023, following the closure of the Glenboro Turf Club, the Glenboro Agricultural Society took ownership of the former track and facilities. Recognizing an opportunity to transform this space, the Society collaborated with Glenboro Minor Ball to form the Diamond Trail Committee. Their vision? A revitalized area featuring a lighted walking trail, enhanced camping facilities, and upgraded ball diamonds to serve the growing needs of the community. The Diamond Trail will be lined with over 200 towering pine trees, offering a beautiful and serene environment for walking, running, skiing, and snowshoeing. The plan also includes the addition of 10 full-service campsites to support the community's expanding recreational use and provide accommo-

dations for visitors drawn by local events, minor baseball tournaments, and major infrastructure projects. The upgrades build on Glenboro's proud tradition of investing in recreation and community spaces. Over the past eight years, Minor Baseball and the Agricultural Society have worked tirelessly to improve the area, including upgrades to ball facilities and the construction of a canteen, maintenance area, and washrooms. These enhancements, also supported by BACF in 2018, have fostered a sense of pride in Glenboro and created a welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. The Diamond Trail Community Path Project aligns perfectly with Glenboro's commitment to promoting fitness, family values, and sustainability. By providing accessible and inviting spaces for recreation, the project not only encourages physical activity but also strengthens community connections. Projects like this demonstrate the power of collaboration in building a stronger, healthier future for small towns.

GRANTS

Oak Lake CARE Centre Inc. **\$15,000**
- New Day Care Equipment & Toys

The Brandon Area Community Foundation (BACF) was proud to award a \$15,000 grant to Oak Lake CARE Centre Inc. (OLCC) in 2024 to assist in equipping its newly established daycare facility, OLCC-2. This essential project addresses the pressing need for additional licensed childcare spaces in the Westman area. The new daycare, funded through the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning program, is owned by the RM of Sifton and operated by the OLCC board. With the addition of 74 new spaces, the total number of childcare spots provided by OLCC have increased to 105, benefiting families in Oak Lake and surrounding communities, including Virden, Hartney, Souris, Brandon, and more. The facility features six new rooms, opening in phases which began in Fall 2024 as equipment, toys, and staffing are



secured. BACF's grant helps fund critical items such as cribs, tables, shelves, and toys, guided by the Government of Manitoba's standards for childcare centers. Furnishing each room requires significant investment, ranging from \$6,000 to \$15,000. This project has had a transformative impact on the community by alleviating pressure on childcare facilities in the region, supporting parents as they return to work or school, and contributing to improved economic stability for families. Early childhood education also lays a foundation for academic success, further enhancing the long-term benefits of this initiative. BACF is honoured to support this vital endeavor, which not only meets the immediate needs of families but also strengthens the community for years to come.

RM of Oakland Wawanesa **\$52,338**
- Riverbend Park Playground Upgrade Project

The Brandon Area Community Foundation (BACF) was pleased to support the RM of Oakland Wawanesa with a \$52,338 grant in 2024 for the Riverbend Park Playground Upgrade Project. This vital initiative replaced the aging and unsafe playground structure at Riverbend Park, ensuring a safe and inclusive play environment for children of all abilities. The new playground was designed with accessibility in mind, welcoming local families, daycare groups, visitors to the baseball diamonds, and guests from neighboring communities like Brandon. By creating a modern and inclusive play space, the project has enhanced the overall visitor experience at Riverbend Park and strengthened community connections.

This project is part of a larger multi-phase plan to rejuvenate the Riverbend Park recreational area. Phase 1, completed in 2024 with BACF's support, included significant upgrades such as a new shade structure, dugouts, portable pitching mounds, and enhanced baseball diamond surfaces. Phase 2, set for completion in 2025, focuses on the playground replacement, ensuring the area continues to be a hub of activity and enjoyment for families and visitors alike. BACF is proud to be a part of this transformative effort, helping to create a vibrant, safe, and inclusive recreational space that will serve the community for years to come. This project underscores the power of partnership and investment in community well-being.





Brandon Area Community Foundation acknowledges with respect and gratitude that our offices are located on Treaty 2 Lands which are the traditional homelands of the Dakota, Cree, Oji-Cree, Anishanabek, Dene and Metis peoples.

For more information visit **baccf.ca** or call **204-571-0529**

