

Impact Report: Year Three of the South Huron Vitality Fund

A Report to South Huron Council

Submitted by Tom Prout, Sunset Community Foundation

South Huron Vitality Fund

September 2022

Executive Summary

The Sunset Community Foundation is deeply grateful for the Council's vision and generosity in creating the South Huron Vitality Fund. We are delighted that Council felt our granting expertise, married with the local knowledge of the South Huron Community Fund Committee, would result in good grant-making and a significant impact in South Huron.

As with so many other activities, granting from the Vitality Fund was affected by the pandemic. However, 2022 is on the positive side of the pandemic with more activity from community groups and organizations. A total of 11 applications (up from 3 in 2021), asked for more than \$30,000 in grants. Some of the applicants were better suited, and thus encouraged, to apply to the annual grants issued by the Sunset Foundation rather than the Vitality Fund.

2022 Grants

The Foundation was thrilled to receive an additional \$50,000 from the Municipality toward the permanent endowment of the South Huron Vitality Fund in 2021, bring the total as of December 2021 to \$120,265. With the addition of \$50,000 in 2022 the South Huron Vitality Fund will be in excess of \$170,000, providing even more funds for grants to Community Groups in 2023.

The financial summary of the Fund for the year 2021, which is the basis of grants for 2022 is:

Investment revenue (net of investment fees) for 2021: \$14, 693

Administartion fee \$919

Fund as of Dec 31, 2021: net of all fees - \$120,265

2022 Grants \$ \$7075

Deb Gill, Chair of the Sunset Community Foundation, as well as Tom Prout, Frank Palen, and Mary Peterson of the South Huron Community Fund reviewed the 11 applications. After a thorough discussion, the grants committee recommended the following: Four groups received funding for a total of \$7075 in grants. Two of the four groups did not have charitable status so they successfully partnered with other community groups who have charitable status. Although the individual grants were not large, for the organizations who receive them and the people they serve, they make a huge difference. Thank you!

South Huron Community Creative Arts Centre (\$2450)

The South Huron Community Creative Arts Centre will provide a dynamic and accessible hub for experiencing the creative arts and for nurturing creativity and positive mental health: essential 21st century skills. The centre will provide area citizens of all ages, pre-school to seniors, with the opportunity to participate in innovative creative arts programming as both learners and as



volunteers through classes, exhibitions and performances in the visual arts, music, traditional arts and crafts, drama, and dance. The centre will be, at its heart, a place for learning, exploring, trying, participating, creating, and connecting to the arts and one another.

The Creative Arts Centre partnered with Exeter United Church to deliver this community project. Exeter United is providing the venue for all of the Arts Centres activities.

Carol Dougall representing the Arts Centre, Frank Palen representing the Community Fund, and Anne Johns representing Exeter United Church

Carol Dougall representing the

Exeter Community Library (\$1875)

The goal of this project is to provide our community with the opportunity to experience hands on learning connected to hydroponic growing systems and local food security year round. The installation of an indoor hydroponic system will both be a point of interest and curiosity in the branch as well as a focal point to continue to build garden and food security programming



around. The Exeter Branch already facilitates the Huron County Seed Library and outdoor display gardens so the addition of an indoor hydroponic system is a natural next step. Their goal is to provide innovative programming for all ages that nurtures a connection to growing food and caring for plants. We hope that the inspiration found through the Indoor Garden Project will encourage more people to take up gardening and growing – which will positively benefit their physical, mental, and community health.

Jim Dietrich Library Board, Cheryl Rau and Sairoz Mohamed, library staff

Exeter Skating Club (\$2000)

This project provides an opportunity for 4 client families (four skaters in total), to learn how to skate by participating in the Exeter Skating Club's CanSkate program. CanSkate is Skate Canada's official "Learn to Skate" program. It is highly regarded by other ice sport organizations as the favoured curriculum to develop the skills needed to participate in their sports. It is also an excellent program to teach Canadians to skate for the joy of skating at any age or ability.



The Exeter Skating Club partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) to deliver this project. BBBS will select the participating families as well as provide them with helmets and skates, a great partnership.

Tom Prout Chair of the South Huron Community Fund, Amy Wilhelm ED of BBBS, and Tiffany Morley President of the Exeter Skating Club

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron (\$750)

The goal of the project is to provide the opportunity for the Littles in their program to experience summer day camp, at no cost to the family. Summer day camp will provide Littles with mentoring support through group-based programming. By participating in recreational activities, Littles will develop self-esteem and social skills within a supervised activity. The day camp will also provide educational interaction and role modeling with adult staff and volunteers. In turn, this will allow them the opportunity to develop stronger relationships between Littles and their families.



Meghan Hartman, Project Coordinator, Amy Wilhelm ED of BBBS, Tom Prout Chair of the South Huron Community Fund.