

# 2025 Annual Community Report

—CENTRAL OKANAGAN—  
**FOUNDATION**  
*empowering generations to give.*



**Central Okanagan Foundation**  
fuels bold philanthropy,  
catalytic investment,  
& resilient communities.

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**Kristine Bugayong**  
Chief Executive Officer

### **Message from the Chief Executive Officer, Kristine Bugayong (she/her)**

Every day at the Central Okanagan Foundation, we see what's possible when people care deeply about their community. This year, with the launch of our 2025–2028 Impact Strategy, we're building on that collective energy — turning shared values into action.

You'll see that commitment reflected in the pages ahead: from the partnerships we're forming, to the programs we're supporting, to the investments we're making in our community's future. Whether it's strengthening youth services, enabling creative expression, or supporting those facing housing insecurity, each story in this report reflects what's possible when we combine generosity with clear purpose.

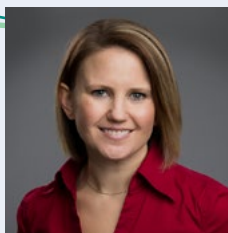
Our approach is grounded in three core activities: supporting local charities and fostering partnerships with community organizations, empowering philanthropists to make informed decisions, and investing for lasting change. Together, these pillars ensure that your support not only meets the needs of today, but also builds the foundation for a stronger tomorrow.

We've backed that commitment with real numbers, tangible outcomes, and inspiring stories of people and organizations stepping up. While our Impact Strategy provides the roadmap, it's the relationships we build, the lived experiences we share and the communities we serve that bring it to life.

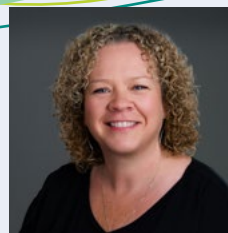
Thank you to our donors, partners, grantees and volunteers for your trust, your collaboration and the hope you help bring to life. Together, we are shaping a more resilient, inclusive Central Okanagan — *where every person, every story, and every gift truly matters.*

## **Staff**

Our staff bring a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication to this work. They are the champions supporting our many partnerships, grantees, donors, and community initiatives.



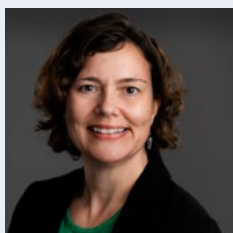
**Abbie Norrish**  
Manager, Grants &  
Community Initiatives



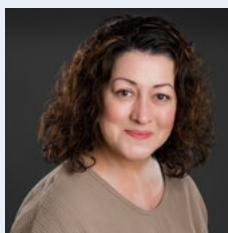
**Bonnie Clarke**  
Administrative  
Associate



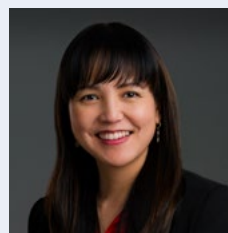
**Julie Belgrove**  
Accounting  
Technician



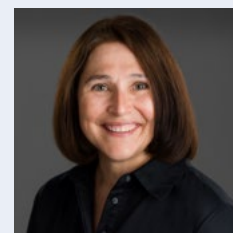
**Lisa Watson**  
Office Administrator



**Niveria Oliveira**  
Manager,  
Reaching Home



**Paulyn Chua**  
Finance Manager



**Paula Mendes**  
Grants & Stewardship  
Coordinator



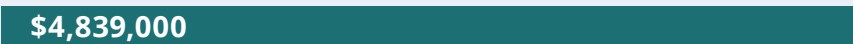
# 2025 by the numbers

**Central Okanagan Foundation** fuels bold philanthropy, stronger communities, and lasting change.

We believe philanthropy isn't just about funding programs, it's about dismantling systemic barriers, investing in lasting solutions, and ensuring resources reach those leading real impact.

## Grants distributed in 2025

**Total Grant Distributions**  
*(without Reaching Home)*

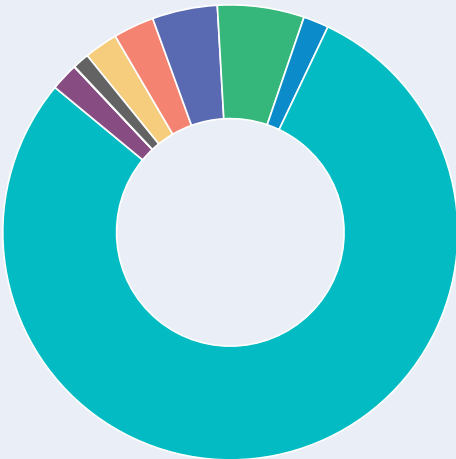


**Grant Distributions from the Reaching Home Program**



## Grant types by \$ distributed in 2025

Animal Welfare	2.39%
Arts & Culture	2.90%
Children Youth & Families	4.63%
Education	6.16%
Environmental	1.80%
Health & Community Service	78.94%
Heritage & Historical	1.97%
Global Initiatives	0.04%
Other	1.17%



To view our financial statements, visit [www.centralokanaganfoundation.org](http://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org)

Central Okanagan Foundation acknowledges our presence on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded tmxwúla?xw (land) of the syilx / Okanagan people who have resided here since time immemorial.

**We recognize, honour, and respect the syilx / Okanagan lands upon which we live, work, and play.**

**\$7m+**  
total grants  
in 2025

**394**  
# grants  
in 2025

**170**  
charities  
received grants

**\$179,000**  
awarded in  
bursaries &  
scholarships

**\$42m**  
total amount  
granted in  
our history

**\$2.8m**  
total donations  
in 2025

**250**  
donations  
in 2025

**363**  
funds  
managed

**\$49m**  
Total assets

# Designated Funds

## Donors support their favourite charities

When a donor is certain about what they'd like to support, they can set up a fund with us and name a specific charity to receive grants from their fund, in perpetuity.



Eveline Aynsley

### Legacy of Care: *Eveline Aynsley's Endowment Fund*

For Eveline Aynsley, caring for animals was more than a passion, it was a lifelong commitment. Born in the Netherlands in 1923, Eveline later made her home in Kelowna, where she became an

advocate for the ethical treatment of animals. For 15 years, she volunteered as the shelter manager of the BC SPCA Kelowna, where her leadership and dedication were instrumental in the construction of the shelter on Casorso Road.

In 2006, Eveline passed away at the age of 82, but her vision for a kinder world lives on. Through the **Eveline Aynsley Endowment Fund for the Ethical Treatment of Animals**, established with the Central Okanagan Foundation, her legacy continues to provide stable, annual support for the BC SPCA Kelowna. To date, the fund has contributed more than \$307,000 to the organization she helped shape.

Designated Funds like Eveline's allow donors to direct their philanthropy toward the causes closest to their hearts, ensuring that support continues in perpetuity. For Eveline, it means that the animals of Kelowna will always have an advocate; a steady, compassionate voice for their care and protection.

**Would you like to join Eveline in creating lasting support for the causes you cherish? Contact us at 250-861-6160 to learn more about setting up a Donor Designated Fund.**



Guppy after



Guppy before



Guppy in his splints



BC SPCA Team with puppies

### Grants In Action: *BC SPCA Kelowna*

The BC SPCA is a non-profit organization that has long been a safe haven for animals in need. The BC SPCA Animal Care Centre in Kelowna serves as a hub for the Okanagan region, with thousands of animals being given second chances. From cats to dogs, birds to small mammals, and even farm animals, the BC SPCA Kelowna's mission is to ensure every animal that comes through their door receives the love and care they deserve.

More than an animal shelter, the BC SPCA Kelowna is also a hub for education and engagement. Through school programs, workshops, and outreach events, they work to inspire compassion, prevent cruelty, and promote the wellbeing of pets and wildlife alike.

Since 2016, **13 funds held at the Central Okanagan Foundation have collectively granted more than \$976,000 to support the BC SPCA Kelowna's work**, a testament to the community's enduring care for animals. Among these funds is the Eveline Aynsley Endowment Fund for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, a lasting legacy that continues to strengthen the BC SPCA's mission. Funds such as this one ensure animals in Kelowna receive the care they deserve.

Together, these funds represent the power that local philanthropy has in creating a lasting impact, one that protects animals, builds empathy, and honours the people who make it possible.

The BC SPCA Kelowna could not operate without the generosity of community supporters and volunteers.

**Learn more about the BC SPCA Kelowna and how to support their work:** [www.sPCA.bc.ca/locations/kelowna](http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/locations/kelowna)

# Agency Funds Charities create their own source of stable funding

## Friends of the South Slopes: *Stewardship That Lasts*

For over 30 years, the **Friends of the South Slopes Society (FOSS)** has cared for Kelowna's trails and natural landscapes. From Mission Creek to the Myra Canyon trestles and Okanagan Mountain Park, their mission is simple but vital: to maintain safe, sustainable access to nature.

Each week, more than 70 volunteers clear brush, remove deadfall, and repair trails—ensuring thousands can enjoy hiking, biking, and horseback riding safely. Their work also protects wetlands and wildlife corridors that sustain the region's ecosystems.

To ensure this legacy endures, FOSS established an Agency Fund with the Central Okanagan Foundation in 2005. "Financial confidence allows us to take on projects like bringing electricity to our maintenance facility, transitioning to battery-powered tools, and protecting critical wetland and wildlife corridors," says FOSS.

Agency Funds provide stable annual support that helps organizations like FOSS plan ahead, invest in sustainability, and continue their stewardship for generations to come.

More than 80 charities have set up their own Agency Fund with us. Their fund is invested so that earnings are granted back to the charity, year after year.



FOSS crew

**Whether you hike, ride, or simply value access to nature, you can help keep Kelowna's trails safe and sustainable.**

**Find volunteer opportunities or make a donation at [www.foos-kelowna.org](http://www.foos-kelowna.org).**

## Kelowna Community Music School: *Building on a Strong Foundation*

At **Kelowna Community Music School (KCMS)**, music education is about more than lessons; it's about building confidence, creativity, and community. With over 400 students and 27 faculty members, KCMS has become a cornerstone of the arts in Kelowna, shaping the next generation of musicians.

Behind the scenes, a long-standing partnership with the Central Okanagan Foundation helps make this possible. Since 1986, KCMS has benefited from its Agency Fund, which provides annual, sustainable support. Those reliable distributions help KCMS focus on what matters most: creating meaningful opportunities for students to learn and perform.

"As a board, we see the Agency Fund as a source of stability year after year," says Maria Correia, Board President. "It allows us to focus on our students and programs, knowing that part of our support is secure."

With enrolment climbing and demand outgrowing its space, KCMS is now launching a capital campaign for a modern building, one designed to expand access, foster collaboration, and meet the energy of Kelowna's growing arts community.



KCMS String Ensemble

"This new space will open the door to more programs, more performances, and more opportunities for young musicians to thrive," says Christine Moore, Artistic Director.

**Support the future of music education in Kelowna! Learn more and donate to the Kelowna Community Music School's new building campaign here: [www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/donate](http://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/donate)**



# Community Grants Program

Supports a wide variety of community programs & projects, along with multiyear operational grants.

This is our core annual granting program, which offers us the greatest flexibility to meet ever changing needs in our community. Donors to this program rely on our expertise to respond to the multitude of grant applications submitted each year.



## YMCA of Southern Interior BC: *Helping Students Get Back on Track*

Every year, too many young people face challenges that put their education at risk. Nationally, one in six Canadian students drop out of school—a process that often begins with suspensions and early signs of disengagement. Recognizing these signals early is critical, and that's where the **YMCA of Southern Interior BC's Back on Track program** steps in.

Formerly known as Alternative Suspension, the program provides short-term, out-of-school support for students ages 12–17 in Kelowna and West Kelowna. When issues such as disruptive behaviour, absenteeism, or risk-taking arise, Principals can refer students for three to five days of focused support. Instead of falling further behind, participants receive one-on-one guidance, skill-building, and connection to wrap-around services that help them re-engage in school and see a brighter future.

"The YMCA's Back on Track program is a vital early intervention initiative designed to support students who are struggling academically and help them regain confidence, motivation, and the tools they need to succeed in school. By addressing academic challenges before they escalate, this program acts as a powerful preventative measure, setting students on a path toward graduation and long-term stability," says Kaitlyn Hilder, Manager of the YMCA's Community Youth & Young Adult Programs.

Research shows that youth who graduate high school greatly reduce their risk of homelessness later in life. By addressing challenges early, Back on Track helps reduce repeat suspensions, prevent dropouts, and keep young people connected to school and community.

In 2024, the Central Okanagan Foundation awarded a \$15,000 Community Grant to support the program, reflecting our commitment to reaching students and expanding support into West Kelowna.

"When students thrive academically, they build resilience and open doors to future opportunities. Thanks to the Foundation, we're able to support youth on their journey toward success."

### YMCA's Student Spotlight: A.H.

When A.H. first connected with the YMCA's Back on Track program, school felt overwhelming and motivation was slipping away. Through one-on-one support, encouragement, and a sense of belonging, A.H. found a new rhythm, and a reason to keep showing up.

"The Y has genuinely improved my life by giving me extra support systems and helped encourage me to go to school. The people are awesome, so is the experience."

Today, A.H. still drops by the Y Youth Centre after school, a small but powerful sign of staying connected and engaged.

### Back on Track - 2024-25 Impact Snapshot:

- **93%** of youth were not suspended again after completing the program
- **256** vulnerable youth participants in 2024-25 school year
- **77%** improved their overall situation at school after completing the program





## Inspired Word Café: *Finding Voice Through Community*

At the heart of the Okanagan's arts scene, **Inspired Word Café** has long been a space where people come together to write, perform, and listen. With support from the Central Okanagan Foundation's Community Grants Program, the organization expanded its reach in **2024 through Say Anything / Say Something**, a series of workshops and performances designed to make spoken word and performance art accessible to everyone.

What began as five workshops and one performance quickly grew, thanks to additional support from BC Arts Council. Each visiting artist offered both a public performance and an intimate, skill-building workshop, allowing community members to first experience their artistry, then learn directly from them days later. "It created this beautiful rhythm," says Artistic Director Cole Mash. "People would watch a performer, feel inspired, and then sit across from them at a workshop, learning how to do it themselves."

Workshops, held at the Alternator Centre for Contemporary Art, were small, welcoming, and open to all ages and skill levels. One highlight was a partnership with Espaces Francophones that brought comedian and writer Jo Güstin from Cameroon. "A Francophone participant told us how rare it was to express their humour in French," Cole recalls. "They'd forgotten how funny they could be."

Through Say Anything / Say Something, the Café featured diverse artists; Indigenous, Afro-Caribbean, LGBTQ2S+, Francophone, disabled, creating a space where the community could see itself reflected on stage.

"Without the Foundation's funding, this program wouldn't have happened," says Cole. "You believed in the idea before anyone else did."

By investing in equity in the arts, the Community Grants Program is helping build a region where every voice, and every story, can be heard.

**"We saw people who'd never performed before find their voice – and be cheered on by a community that saw themselves reflected on stage."**

*Cole Mash, Artistic Director, Inspired Word Café*

## Want to dive deeper?

Explore Inspired Word Café's programs, artist stories, and upcoming events at [www.inspiredwordcafe.com](http://www.inspiredwordcafe.com).

# \$746,600

granted to 33 organizations that provide support to local residents

## Community Grants *Fall Project Grant Recipients:*

British Columbia Lung Foundation  
Canadian Paraplegic Association of B.C.  
Hands In Service Canada  
Inspired Word Cafe Society  
Kelowna Ballet Society  
Lake Country Art Gallery Society  
Lake Country Family Place Society  
Lake Country Food Assistance Society  
Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society  
Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society  
Peachland Community Arts Council  
Peachland Food Bank  
Society for Providing Animal Assisted Therapy Kelowna  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Okanagan Valley  
YMCA of Southern Interior BC  
Zajac Ranch Society

## Community Grants *Spring Multi-Year Operational Grant Recipients:*

Air Rescue One Heli Winch Society  
Be The Change Earth Alliance  
Central Okanagan Region Nutrition Society  
Child Advocacy Centre of Kelowna Society  
Dress for Success Kelowna Society  
Friends of the South Slopes Society  
Hands in Service Canada  
Happy Hooves Sanctuary  
Junior Achievement of British Columbia (JABC)  
Kelowna & District SHARE Society  
Kelowna Community Music School  
Niteo Africa Society  
Okanagan Symphony Society  
Old Friends Canada Society  
Roots of Empathy (School District #23)  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Okanagan Valley  
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Foundation



# Donor Advised Funds Donors can change up their giving choices

## No Small Thing Endowment Fund

When **Hugh Culver** and **Donna Koch** met, they quickly discovered they shared more than a love of adventure, they also shared a desire to give back. "We knew we wanted to make a difference in our community," Hugh explains. "We started by serving on non-profit boards and doing community work where we live and abroad. Creating the **No Small Thing Endowment Fund** was an extension of our volunteer work and our vision for leading an extraordinary life."

For Hugh, the fund also carries a deeply personal meaning. "It was a way to bring my love of nature and life as a guide and adventurer together with a celebration of my brother Dan," he says. Losing Dan at a young age left an indelible mark, one that shaped Hugh's lifelong commitment to helping youth find resilience, confidence, and joy through the outdoors.

Together, Hugh and Donna believe that outdoor experiences have the power to transform. "Outdoor play gave us confidence and shaped who we are today," says Donna. "We want other kids, especially those who might not otherwise have the chance, to discover that same joy and resilience."

The No Small Thing Endowment Fund, established in 2025 as a Donor Advised Fund with the Central Okanagan Foundation, gives them a flexible way to direct their giving to causes they care about most while ensuring the fund continues to support youth for generations to come. "We called it the No Small Thing Fund because even the smallest act of generosity can change a life," says Hugh.

Donors can check in with us on an annual basis to select charities and to learn about emerging community needs.



Donna Koch & Hugh Culver

The fund is already making an impact. In 2025, Hugh and Donna supported Elevation Outdoors with a \$2,500 matching gift that helped the organization raise \$6,100 in new annual monthly giving. They've also supported BGC Okanagan, ensuring that young people in the Okanagan have safe spaces, mentors, and opportunities to thrive.

By combining their love of nature, their history of community service, and a commitment to long-term giving, Hugh and Donna are investing in the next generation. Their message is simple but profound: *small acts of generosity, rooted in community and compassion, can lead to extraordinary change.*

### Want to learn more?

Discover the vision behind the No Small Thing Endowment Fund and how you can join Hugh and Donna in supporting local youth. Visit [www.nosmallthing.ca](http://www.nosmallthing.ca).



Donna Koch & Hugh Culver presenting a cheque to Elevation Outdoors

## Grants In Action: Elevation Outdoors

Founded in 2007, Elevation Outdoors provides youth in the Okanagan with access to outdoor adventure, mentorship, and skill-building experiences. Through snowboarding, mountain biking, climbing, hiking, skateboarding and leadership programs, participants discover confidence, resilience, and belonging. With community support, Elevation Outdoors helps ensure that financial barriers never prevent young people from getting outside and growing through adventure.

Find out more about Elevation Outdoors: [www.elevationoutdoors.ca](http://www.elevationoutdoors.ca).



# Bursary & Scholarship Funds

## Donors support education

Donors can set up bursaries to honour individuals or to focus on specific programs or skills, and they can choose to assist recent graduates or returning students – making education more accessible to all.



## Thank you!

Dear Central Okanagan Foundation,

I am writing to express my gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of the **Dick and Jean Hall Fund Award**. This generous financial assistance means so much to me and will play a huge role in supporting my financial and academic journey. This award allows me to focus more fully on my studies and personal growth.

This fall, I will be beginning my studies in science and psychology at **UBC Okanagan**. With your support, I am able to fully pursue my interests in brain health and mental wellness, both of which are areas that are personally significant to me. I have struggled with anxiety and depression from a young age, and while these challenges have impacted many aspects of my life, they have also shaped my passion for understanding mental health. Over time, I've come to realize I want to turn these challenges into a purpose: *to study the causes of mental illness and eventually help others through a career in clinical psychology*.

Throughout high school, I participated in a wide variety of activities including painting, violin, acting, singing, linguistics, and volleyball. While I've learned a lot from those experiences, my interest in sciences has always remained strong. With this degree, I hope to one day provide others with a proper diagnosis and guide them toward healing.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support. It is a true honour to be chosen for the Dick and Jean Hall Fund Award. I am deeply grateful for your investment in students like me and inspired by your commitment to education.

Sincerely,

*Lily Kawchuk*



Images of Lily Kawchuk, acting in a play

## The Dick & Jean Hall Fund: *Investing In Futures*

For Dick and Jean Hall, giving back to their community was simply part of how they lived. As long-time Okanagan Mission residents, they supported local charities throughout their lives and ensured their generosity would continue long into the future. Through lifetime gifts and bequests in their wills, they created endowment funds at the Central Okanagan Foundation that now provide ongoing support for causes they loved — education, animal welfare, the arts, and community well-being.

Dick, born in 1916, was known for his passion for gardening and his friendly presence at Hall's Store on Lakeshore Hill. Jean, born in 1918, trained as a nurse and devoted her career to caring for others. Together, they shared 48 years of travel, friendship, and service. After Dick's passing in 2001, Jean carried their vision forward, creating additional funds that would keep their generosity alive after she, too, passed in 2009.

Today, the **Dick and Jean Hall Fund** continues to open doors for young people in Kelowna. Last year, the fund awarded four bursaries of \$1,700 each to graduating students at Okanagan Mission Secondary School. For recipients like Lily, these bursaries mean more than financial help, they are an investment in future potential.

**Would you like to join Dick and Jean in creating lasting support for the causes you cherish? Contact us at 250-861-6160 to learn more about setting up a Fund.**



# Reaching Home

## Canada's Homelessness Strategy in Our Community

Through Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, the Central Okanagan Foundation supports local partners working on the front lines of homelessness. In Kelowna, that includes NOW Canada, whose leadership and innovative programs are helping women, youth, and gender-diverse people find safety, stability, and hope for the future.



This project is funded by  
the Government of Canada.

Canada

### Two Decades of Leadership, Growth, & Hope

When Liz Talbott became Executive Director of NOW Canada in 2006, the organization was at a crossroads. The team was fragile, resources were stretched thin, and the demand for safe housing and services for women and youth in Kelowna was growing. "It was very much a team decision," Liz recalls. "The staff welcomed me into the role and committed to moving forward together. Their dedication, along with the support of my daughters, has been my constant motivation."

Over her two decades of leadership, Liz has seen needs grow more complex, with the opioid crisis, rising housing costs, and overlapping challenges of trauma, poverty, and mental health reshaping the landscape. **This past year marked a milestone achievement: the opening of the new Alexandra Gardner Women and Children Safe Centre**, expanding from 20 shelter beds to transitional housing for 24 women.

Though Liz is stepping aside as Executive Director, she isn't stepping away. In her new role as Resource Developer, she'll continue building support for NOW's housing and programs. That future is already visible in initiatives like the **Essentials Program** and the **Shelter Hub**, which reflect the vision Liz and the NOW Team have championed: *creating pathways from crisis to stability, and from survival to hope.*

### Want to learn more?

Learn about Reaching Home:  
Canada's Homelessness Strategy  
[www.housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/  
homelessness-sans-abri/index-eng.html](http://www.housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/homelessness-sans-abri/index-eng.html)

Find out more about the Community Foundation's local partnership, Point in Time Count results, and other reports:  
[www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/reaching-home](http://www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/reaching-home)

Get to know NOW Canada: [www.nowcanada.ca](http://www.nowcanada.ca)

Explore the national picture of women's homelessness:  
[www.womenshomelessness.ca](http://www.womenshomelessness.ca)

### The Essentials Program: Building New Futures

Every woman or youth who enters NOW Canada's Essentials Program faces barriers such as poverty, stigma, homelessness, addiction, or mental health challenges. Within NOW Canada's safe housing, the program offers much more than a roof overhead. Participants join a four-month, trauma-informed life skills curriculum, receive individual case planning and therapy, and remain connected to NOW's continuum of care for as long as needed.

"The Essentials Program changes people's lives," says Liz. "Graduates have gone on to professional careers, to run businesses, and have even worked at NOW in a variety of roles. Their journeys prove that a healthier, independent life is possible."

Community is at the heart of the program. Peer Mentors are women who completed the program themselves and walk alongside participants, offering encouragement and a 'been there, done that' perspective that proves success is real, not just a dream. **By breaking cycles of exploitation, addiction, and violence, the Essentials Program strengthens not only individuals but the entire community.**

### The Shelter Hub: Meeting People Where They Are

When someone is experiencing homelessness, the default is often to enter an emergency shelter. NOW Canada and other community partners have come together to offer the Shelter Hub, which takes a different approach. Through prevention and diversion services, staff work with individuals, couples, and families to explore alternatives whenever it's safe and appropriate.

This might mean connecting someone with relatives, arranging financial supports, or finding short-term housing until a longer-term solution is in place. The goal is to meet people where they are, offer practical options, and take the time to build trust. "Success is often difficult to define," Liz explains. "Sometimes it's simply someone walking through the door and asking for help." Each situation is unique, and for people facing complex mental health challenges, stabilizing can take extra time and support.

Diversion also reduces overcrowding in shelters, keeps families together where possible, and prevents crises from escalating. **It's a quiet but powerful strategy: addressing homelessness early and giving people the chance to move directly into safer, more stable housing.**



Alexandra Gardner Women & Children Safe Centre, suite in new shelter building.



Celebrating the many paths of recovery at NOW Canada's Recovery Day.



# Partnering for Purpose Collaboration & Innovation

**Working together** to amplify community impact through shared learning, strategic investment, and innovation.



## Impact Investing 101 *Investing in Good*

Not every community challenge can be solved with a grant.

Impact investing allows us to do more with what we have, by putting a portion of our assets to work in ways that generate both financial returns and measurable community benefit.

It's a flexible, forward-thinking approach that helps local organizations grow stronger, scale their impact, and build long-term sustainability. By investing directly in community-based projects, like affordable housing, sustainable businesses, or community enterprises, the Foundation is creating a new pathway for change.

Impact investing doesn't replace traditional granting; it complements it. Every investment strengthens the connection between purpose and possibility, helping local organizations thrive while keeping capital circulating within our region.

It's innovative, it's practical, and it's changing the way we think about philanthropy. Impact Investing is transforming how money moves, and how community foundations can lead lasting change.

## Investing Together for Affordable, Sustainable Housing

Five community foundations, including the Central Okanagan Foundation, committed a collective \$100,000 to support **Propolis Cooperative Housing Society's 53-unit, net-zero affordable housing project**. This campaign, which successfully raised \$1.1 million from over 100 investors, demonstrates the power of local organizations and funders collaborating on long-term, sustainable solutions.

"This is a milestone for our Foundation," explains Kristine Bugayong, CEO of Central Okanagan Foundation. "Impact investing allows us to increase and broaden our ability to do good while earning a return and ensuring we are being good stewards of people's trust."

By pooling resources and aligning around shared goals, these foundations are showing that philanthropy can evolve — from writing grants to making strategic investments in community infrastructure. The result? More homes for people, stronger communities, and a smarter way of funding what matters.

*The collaborative \$100,000 investment was made by BC Interior Community Foundation, Central Okanagan Foundation, Community Foundation North Okanagan, Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen, and Shuswap Community Foundation.*

## Measuring What Matters: *Building Capacity for Impact*

When community organizations succeed, our entire region thrives. That's why this year, the Central Okanagan Foundation joined forces with the Community Foundations of the North Okanagan and the South Okanagan Similkameen, along with Purppl, to launch the **Prosperity Fund Impact Measurement Learning Program**.

The initiative supported **32 Okanagan-based nonprofits** working to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion, providing practical tools to help them measure, communicate, and strengthen the impact of their programs.

Participants took part in **hands-on workshops, peer learning sessions, and one-on-one coaching**, gaining confidence to use data and stories to drive change.

By investing in knowledge and collaboration, the Foundations are helping local organizations prove, *and improve*, their impact, ensuring every grant dollar goes even further.

**"The interactive workshops and one-on-one coaching have strengthened our ability to measure and communicate impact. We've come away with a clear strategy and practical tools to collect stories and data that show how our work makes a difference for seniors."**

*Ian Gerbrandt, Executive Director  
of Seniors Outreach*



*Five community foundations in Thompson Okanagan have jointly invested \$100,000 to Propolis Cooperative for affordable housing in Kamloops.*



**Dustyn Baulkham**  
Board Chair

## Message from the Board Chair,

### Dustyn Baulkham (he/him)

This year marks an exciting milestone for the Central Okanagan Foundation with the launch of our 2025-2028 Impact Strategy, a roadmap guiding us toward deeper impact, stronger partnerships, and sustainable growth across our region.

Our work continues to evolve. We're expanding the reach of our granting, forging new partnerships, and mobilizing investments that drive both immediate relief and long-term transformation. Together, these efforts position the Central Okanagan Foundation as a growing catalyst for innovation and equity in the Central Okanagan.

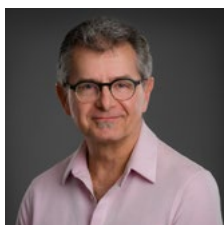
Over the next three years, we'll:

- **Grow Community Impact** – Commit to long-term, equitable, and community-led funding.
- **Communicate & Connect** – Strengthen relationships, visibility, and storytelling.
- **Build a Strong Foundation** – Invest in our governance, capacity, and equity practices.

Guided by our values and fueled by the generosity of our donors, the Foundation is entering a new stage of growth — *scaling our impact, expanding partnerships, and investing boldly in the region's future.*

Together, we're shaping a thriving Central Okanagan where bold philanthropy drives enduring change.

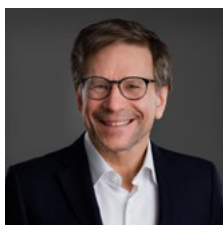
## Board Directors:



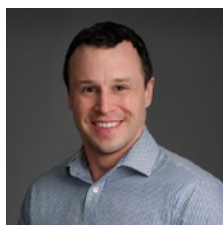
**Doug Rankmore**  
Vice Chair



**Graham Moir**  
Co-Treasurer, *on leave until Sept 2026*



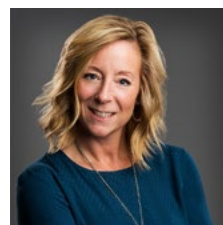
**Daryl Hooley**  
Co-Treasurer



**Mark Brade**  
Secretary



**Andrew Greer**  
Director



**Marni Adams**  
Director

**Central Okanagan Foundation**  
fuels bold philanthropy,  
catalytic investment,  
& resilient communities.

**Connect with us!**



@centralokanaganfoundation