

Selkirk & District Community Foundation Community Report spotlights thankfulness



Grants to the Troyanda Dance Ensemble and Rossdale Ukrainian Dance School, pictured above, have both groups thankful they can honour their heritage at this extremely difficult time.

For Immediate Release: Friday May 20, 2022

Coming out on the other side of a global pandemic has proven to be a many splendoured thing – the air is fresher, our friendships are dearer and our families are even closer to our hearts.

It is without a doubt, a time to reflect and the Selkirk & District Community Foundation (SDCF) has used its annual Community Report to compile the things its board members, donors and recipients are thankful for.

With the title ‘We are Thankful For’, the report shares the stories of several of this year’s grant recipients and what they are thankful for.

Bev Clegg, Executive Director of the SDCF, says the report is always centred around a theme and ‘Thankful for’ resonated with everyone.

“We all know what these past 2-plus years have been like and for those who lost loved ones during the pandemic, the toll it has taken on them,” Clegg said.

“These trying times have had a profound impact on everyone, and at the Foundation, we have been able to confirm the good that exists in our community. Volunteers became even more innovative to support the causes they believe in, and the community’s support for the Foundation never wavered. We’re thankful for that, and so much more.”

The Foundation also hit a milestone this year, granting more than \$531,000 to 114 groups.

“It sort of takes your breath away,” said Shauna Curtin, Chair of the SDCF.

“We thank our donors, whose kindness and commitment to community allows the Foundation to connect them with the organizations that make our communities the special places that they are.”

Two local Ukrainian dance troupes – Troyanda Dance Ensemble and Rossdale Ukrainian Dance School – faced not only pandemic-induced difficulties but now the heartbreak of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Both groups received grants from SDCF. Troyanda will use the grant to help them pivot from a planned dance to a new one that reflects today's realities.

"Ukraine is our homeland. She is our heart and our soul," Troyanda's Carina Breanne Romagnoli said.

"Troyanda was planning to stage a production entitled Snow Folk Song, but with the devastating events that have come to Ukraine, we are changing direction."

The group is working on a new production that focuses on the soul of Ukraine.

For Rossdale, SDCF grant money will be used to purchase new costumes. They had ordered costumes from Ukraine, but the delivery never materialized because the owner of the company had to flee her home due to the Russian attacks.

"A lot of people in our community have friends and family who they are worried about," said Rossdale President Crystal Leochko Johnson.

"It has been difficult for our School to resolve the idea of celebrating while our people are suffering."

The Rossdale group has also changed its performance due to the conflict, dropping a dance that had Russian influence.

Other thankful stories in the report include two SDCF scholarship recipients who tell why they're thankful and the Red River North Trails Association, that will use grant money to help complete a portion of trail that will link 5 communities in active transportation.

Curtin strikes a positive note in her message that kicks off the report, saying she is thankful for our beautiful environment, her community, young leaders and all the "wonderful people who donate to the Selkirk & District Community Foundation".

"Your commitment to our cause is inspiring and your resilience has been evident through these tough times. I am thankful for each and every one of you. Thank you for ensuring the SDCF will be Here for Good," Curtin said.

The Selkirk and District Community Foundation is a charitable organization that provides financial support to charitable causes and agencies in the region, which includes Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements. Gifts from donors enable the Foundation to support countless groups and individuals in our community. The Foundation has given in excess of \$3.4 million to more than 125 local charities and community organizations during its 25+ years. For more details contact SDCF Executive Director Bev Clegg at 204.785.9755.