



Members of the Clandeboye Pipe Band Gary Alexander and Dennis Schindler.

Strong connection between donors, recipients and a thriving community

If you've ever wondered what the connection is between donors to the Selkirk & District Community Foundation and non-profits who receive their gift, there's a quick answer – the connection is strong.

In December, the Foundation connected 20 organizations with grants totalling \$131,760. It's an incredible infusion of life into the community and it allows so many groups to do so many good things.

Some of the grant money went to the Clandeboye Pipe Band who will now be able to sound better than ever with the new chanter they'll purchase. The chanter is the part of the bagpipe that allows the player to create the melody – it has holes that you cover with your fingers to make different notes and looks a bit like a recorder.

"We're going to improve the sound of the band with matching chanters, so that all of the pipers sound alike," said Band President Gary Alexander.

"It's kind of important. A lot of us play different types of bagpipes and to have matching chanters makes the band sound better and makes it easier for the people in charge to tune the pipes."

For Shauna Curtin, SDCF Chair, the grant to the Pipe Band demonstrates the wide range of groups who benefit from donors' gifts.

"I love this gift to the Clandeboye Pipe Band," Curtin said.

"Music is important, and especially this type of music that is so culturally significant. The Pipe Band is keeping heritage alive and connecting young and old with music that has stood the test of time. And it's donors who strengthen that connection and help make the Pipe Band better."

Alexander says the Pipe Band, which has been around for about five years and is a teaching band, features players who range in age from nine to 68. He laughs and points out that he's "the old guy", but wants everyone to know that it doesn't matter how old you are, you can join and you can learn.

His own story is that he played the bagpipes when he was around 10 years old, but hadn't played for about 50 years before picking it up again. He's hoping others will come out and give it a try too.

"We're always looking to recruit," he said.

“We want new members and they can be any age.”

If you want to learn more about the Pipe Band, they’ll be part of the Robbie Burns celebration at the Clandeboye Hall on Jan. 27. You’ll be able to take in their music, watch some highland dancers and of course sample the haggis.

Other groups that received grants include the East Selkirk Early Learning Centre, which, when all phases are open, will accommodate 74 kids. The Foundation grant will help furnish rooms in the new building.

The Selkirk & District Curling Club received a grant that helped pay for a new ice plant after the compressor in the old one crashed last year. The Riverside Grill is working towards re-opening in the future and a Foundation grant will allow them to put in a new air exchange unit.

The Foundation is able to provide these important grants because of generous donors. In November the annual Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge saw 174 donors, over seven days, donate \$88,245 to the SDCF. Which brings us back to that connection between donors and recipients – it’s a strong connection.

The next grant intake is coming up in February, watch for more information on sdcf.ca.