



Reverend Naggie Sterling with volunteers from Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen.

SDCF's June Community Report out now

The Selkirk & District Community Foundation's June report is out now and full of the kind of news that puts a smile on your face and highlights the great people in our communities.

Called 'Community is Vital', the report takes a look at the work being done by volunteers across the region whose goal is always to lend a helping hand and improve the lives of others. In many ways, the community report emphatically announces the Foundation is Here for Good!

"When the Foundation's report comes out, it's always such a positive thing," says Foundation Vice Chair Deborah Vitt.

“The most difficult part of putting this report together is narrowing it down to which groups we choose to showcase. The grant applications the Foundation receives every year represent the fantastic work that individuals and groups are doing day in and day out. So picking just a few to feature in the report is a challenge, but they represent the efforts of volunteers from the entire region.”

The Foundation supported 140 projects, including individual scholarships and bursaries, in 2024-25 to the tune of \$730,910.

In the report, you’ll read about Reverend Naggie Sterling and a group of Knox Presbyterian Church members who have revived a practice that was paused during Covid – they have started providing a Saturday lunch at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen.

In years past, a group of churches in the region took turns providing a weekend meal at the soup kitchen all month long. A Foundation grant helped Sterling and his crew get going again, and he’s hopeful other churches can join in.

“We wanted to find ways and means to be supportive of the community, do community outreach. We want our outreach to be touching lives and meeting real and practical needs,” Sterling says.

“It was done before and it is a present need.”

Over at the Gaynor Family Regional Library expansion is on the horizon. The area vacated by the Planning Board will be transformed into a magical space that will educate and illuminate the minds of the young.

Ken Kuryliw, Director of Library Services, says with 150,000 visitors to the library each year, it is one of the busiest in the province and the new space is needed.

“The 6,000 square feet where the Planning Board used to be will become the Rotary Hideaway, a massive children’s area,” Kuryliw said.

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is also making a return to the area. A Foundation grant is helping the organization hire a Regional Coordinator. Phase 1 will see the program work with local schools.

“Overall the project is aiming to start youth in school mentoring programs,” says Jane Marion, BBBS Winnipeg Executive Director.

“It’s older students mentoring younger students in school partnerships, in both Gimli and Selkirk. Thanks to the Foundation’s funds, we are able to start to take next steps in terms of project implementation.”

The report also provides an update on Vital Signs 2.0, which the Foundation team has been working on with a very engaged community over the last year.

A town hall in October 2024 attracted 110 people, who were engaged, enthusiastic and committed to putting in the hard work necessary to complete Vital Signs.

And earlier this month, 75 people came out to put the finishing touches on the report. Vital Signs 2.0 will be released this fall.

The 'Community is Vital' June report can be found [HERE](#).