



# COMMUNITY BUILDING

Annual Report 2019-2020



*Whistler*  
Community  
Foundation

**\$323,869**

GRANTED OUT  
IN 2019

**59**

GRANTS &  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$6.9**  
MILLION

INVESTED  
AS OF DEC 31, 2019

**\$3.1+**

MILLION

IN GRANTS  
GIVEN OUT SINCE 1999

**35**

FUNDS

**\$271,243**

DONATIONS  
RECEIVED  
IN 2019

**9**

VITAL  
CAFES

# Welcome

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2019 was extraordinary for the Whistler Community Foundation (WCF) as we celebrated our 20th anniversary. After two decades of operation, we made a conscious choice to consider the ways we can best continue to serve and create impact in our community. One key ingredient that we are most grateful for is the continued support of our donors and volunteers. Without you, none of our impact would be possible. In celebration of a year marked by many important milestones, we would like to share our favourite learnings and successes — from a wonderful, but lengthy list.

Our refreshed name “Whistler Community Foundation” and vision, “to be impactful in supporting the charities and organizations that address evolving community needs,” are a reflection of our collective ambitions.

Based on our strategic plan, the focus of the WCF in 2019 was to increase outreach toward grant recipients, local funders and dedicated donors. As an incoming Executive Director, Claire made it her personal goal to reach out to our community and build relationships with each of these groups. By taking the time to discover the best ways in which we could collaborate to support the community, some wonderful partnerships emerged. Month after month staff and board members worked hard to build these relationships and as a result, we welcomed 3 new board members, 10 new committee members and 186 gifts to funds.

The WCF fulfilled its mission, as “the steward of money gifted to the community”, and supported organizations in the areas of environment, arts & culture, social service and education by providing 59 scholarships, grants and annual charity disbursements, for a total of \$323,869 in 2019.

The refreshed raison d’être aims to ensure we continually support, collaborate and partner with community non-profits as they advance bold and innovative solutions at the local level.



“There is no doubt: this is a challenging and yet an exciting time for community philanthropy.”

- CLAIRE

This message is being written during a turbulent time due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an unforeseen situation that was not part of anyone’s plan. And, although the COVID-19 pandemic didn’t fit the plan, one thing that has shined through is the strength and resiliency of our community.

We are proud to be a part of the Whistler Community Foundation and helping reimagine the impact of our Emergency Fund. Granting \$20,000 to Whistler Community Services Society to support the food bank and outreach services was one way in which we were nimble in our response to COVID-19.

There have been many stories of kindness in our community. Small simple gestures like hanging hearts in the windows, banging pots in honour of front line workers at 7pm each night and the music video “Together from Sea to Sky” coupled with an outpouring of financial support from those in a place to give, are just a few of the reasons that we are optimistic our community will get through this difficult time. These actions truly sum up the heart and soul of Whistler and reinforces the purpose that the Whistler Community Foundation serves: to invest in a thriving community.

On behalf of the board, we express our appreciation for the trust and collaboration of community members who are joining us on this journey. We look forward to the year ahead and to taking our next steps on this journey with you.

**Sue Lawther, Chair**

**Claire Mozes, Executive Director**

# 2019 Programs

## WHISTLER'S VITAL SIGNS

In 2019, Whistler's Vital Signs shifted direction and adopted an interesting project that would have us host 9 Vital Cafes. The cafes began with a local expert presenting at the front of the room, but by time our summer break rolled around and we had our Vital Signs Coordinator, Libby, firmly in place, we shifted once again.

Our new format included panelists who would give expert opinion and lived experience from various community groups. Our community enjoyed the new format and even felt a greater sense of belonging when the panelists joined them at the discussion table. We completed a short form report that summarized the finding of these Vital Conversations.

Vancouver Foundation enjoyed this idea so much that they provided us with a grant to publish podcasts relating to the 2019 season of Vital Cafes. The Vital Podcast, with Host Kim Slater, can still be found at [whistlerfoundation.com](http://whistlerfoundation.com).

## NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL GRANTS

Neighbourhood Small Grants is based on a simple but powerful idea – that everyone is a valuable member of the community and that we all have something to share. The NSG program aims to build connections between neighbours in Whistler and create a sense of belonging for all who live here.

Last summer, we offered 8 Neighbourhood Small Grants. Some neighbourhoods used the funds to host a block party that included sharing the workload, skills or knowledge. Emerald Estates held a FireSmart session and an invasive weed pull at the start of summer with a BBQ reward in September. And Whisky Jack held a block party that included entertainment as a way to share hobbies.

## NON-PROFIT NETWORK

With the arrival of our new executive director in June 2019, WCF took the opportunity to consult with non-profits and their representatives to see how they would like to see the Non-Profit Network move into the future.

In the fall of 2019, we encouraged the use of speakers in the local non-profit community. The group flourished and began sharing resources more frequently and started self-organizing, all of which has proved effective in the wake of the new year that brought us a pandemic. We hope to continue to see support for one another blossom.

## 2020 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Nominations opened as usual in 2019, and in fact, the nominations closed without a hitch. And, as is tradition, Whistler Community Foundation was honoured to select the nominees for the 2020 Citizen of the Year.

However, the need to cancel large gatherings, due to the pandemic, put a damper on the annual event designed to “inspire, empower and celebrate Whistler’s innovators, trailblazers and community cultivators”. The black-tie Whistler Excellence Awards Presented by Blue Shore Financial, for the first time, was postponed.

We are pleased to announce the 2020 Citizen of the Year finalists: Dave Clark, Jade Quinn-MacDonald and PJ O’Heany. And, we hope to celebrate each of them in the near future.





# 2019 Grants

## FEASTING FOR CHANGE

If you know much about Pemberton, you know that they are small in numbers, and mighty in social good. That's the reason the Feasting for Change highlight reel is long and steeped in community pride. With multiple programs, each with its own solid purpose driven mission, Stewardship Pemberton has once again surprised us with the value they provide with a small Environmental Legacy grant of \$5,800.

Back in 2016, Feasting for Change led the introduction of the Pemberton Fruit Tree Project which included a volunteer community kitchen that jellied the fruits from the storied crabapple trees that line Pemberton's main street to raise funds for further projects. The project not only raised funds; it also accepted a dual mission to save the bears from conflict with humans that was mounting because of the fruit bearing trees. This year 40 volunteers harvested 2155 lbs. and donated 1304 lbs. of tree fruits from the street lined trees, as well as, private trees throughout the community.

Since then, Feasting for Change has introduced the Grow-it-Forward Garden and the Pemberton Seed Library, which has received overwhelming support even from businesses selling seeds. One of the most inspiring outcomes of the 2019 Grow-it-Forward Garden was the local classroom and nature camp participation in growing seed starts, planting saplings, attending a pollination workshop, pitching in at the garden plot, and participating in the fall seed saving workshop. All of this hard work culminated in 465 lbs. of food being donated to local people.



# Funds

## Discretionary Funds

- American Friends of Whistler
- Bob and Sue Adams Leadership Funds
- Community Fund
- Emergency Fund
- Environmental Legacy Fund
- Kathy Barnett Memorial fund
- Moving Mountains for Children Fund
- Pemberton and Area Community Endowment Fund
- Whistler Blackcomb Fund
- Whistler Youth Foundation Fund

**Discretionary funds, also known as Community Funds and Field of Interest Funds, provide grants as determined through our community granting program each year.**

## Administrative Funds

- Community Foundation of Whistler Operating Endowment Fund

**Administrative funds support the administration and growth of the foundation.**

## Charity Funds

- Arts and Culture Legacy Fund
- AWARE Environmental Fund
- Whistler Adaptive Sports Program
- Whistler and Pemberton Big Brothers and Sisters Fund
- Whistler Animal Galore Fund
- Whistler Museum and Archives Society Fund
- Whistler Public Library Fund
- Whistler Search and Rescue Fund
- Whistler Skier's Chapel Fund
- Whistler Summit Centre Fund
- Zero Ceiling Society Fund

**Charity funds are managed by the foundation on behalf of a registered charity. Each charity benefits from professional support and a stable income. We accept donations direct to each of these charity funds.**

## Donor Advised Funds

Barb and Terry  
Deutscher Fund

Deborah Smythe  
Family Fund

Emerald Foundation

Jill Ackhurst Social  
Action Fund

Mischa Arnott Fund

Whistler Employee Fund

**Donor advised funds are often established by individuals, families and groups who would like to be actively involved in granting decisions. In this type of fund, we provide a simple solution to private family foundations.**

## Donor Designated Funds

Ackhurst Rotary Club of Whistler

Marlene Siemens Callanish Society Fund

**Donor designated funds offer grants to specific named charities.**

## Scholarship Funds

Chili Thom Memorial Scholarship Fund

Doug and Mary Forseth Fund

Grad Legacy Scholarship Fund

Kelty and Riley Dennehy Scholarship Fund

Sarah McSeveney Scholarship Fund

Wendy Thompson Scholarship Fund

Whistler Scholarship Society Fund

**Scholarship funds are often made in memorial and can be developed by individuals or organizations with a defined field of interest. Scholarships are distributed to Sea to Sky high school graduates to pursue further education.**



**Donate to an existing fund or establish a new one - *the choice is yours!***

Helping you support the causes that you are passionate about is what we do best. Make a gift to any of the specific funds listed, or to the Community Endowment Fund to support the community. Should you prefer to set up a new fund, we can tailor it to the specific interests and needs of you, your family, organization, or company.

**To discover the power of your generosity visit [whistlerfoundation.com](http://whistlerfoundation.com)**

# Financial

The following excerpt is from our annual financial statements. Please see our website for the complete financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the year ended December 31

	Endowment Funds	Restricted & Flow-through Funds	Unrestricted	2019	2018
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$253,321	\$80,649	\$22,090	\$356,060	\$493,085
Accounts Receivable	-	-	\$1,488	\$1,488	\$1,301
Investments	\$6,651,253	-	-	\$6,651,253	\$5,968,894
	\$6,904,574	\$80,649	\$23,578	<b>\$7,008,801</b>	<b>\$6,463,280</b>
<b>Managed trust funds</b>				<b>\$250,781</b>	<b>\$141,372</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>					
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	-	-	\$15,459	\$15,459	\$17,156
Grants payable	\$74,891	\$40,150	-	\$115,041	\$279,313
	<b>\$74,891</b>	<b>\$40,150</b>	<b>\$15,459</b>	<b>\$130,500</b>	<b>\$296,469</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$6,829,683</b>	<b>\$40,499</b>	<b>\$8,119</b>	<b>\$6,878,301</b>	<b>\$6,166,811</b>
	<b>\$6,904,574</b>	<b>\$80,649</b>	<b>\$23,578</b>	<b>\$7,008,801</b>	<b>\$6,463,280</b>
<b>Managed trust funds</b>				<b>\$250,781</b>	<b>\$141,372</b>

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended December 31

	2019	2018
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations	\$271,243	\$691,924
Interest and dividends	\$177,130	\$164,198
Gain (Loss) on investments	\$742,578	\$(347,527)
Administration fee	\$2,682	\$1,958
	<b>\$1,193,633</b>	<b>\$510,553</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Grants	\$323,869	\$690,560
Administration	\$158,274	\$125,428
	<b>\$482,143</b>	<b>\$851,988</b>
<b>(Deficiency) Excess of revenues over expenses for the year</b>	<b>\$711,490</b>	<b>\$(305,435)</b>



“Today I wake up and have a purpose, have responsibilities and have a chance at a better life than I ever thought possible. I have a job that I love, a roof over my head and food on the table. Zero Ceiling has changed every aspect of my life in a positive way.”

- AL, WORK 2 LIVE GRADUATE TEACHING

# Grants

# Community

## WHISTLER COMMUNITY GRANTS

Whistler Learning Centre Business & Leadership Education Bursaries **\$3,000**

Whistler Waldorf School Society New Licensed Group Childcare Program **\$3,000**

## WHISTLER YOUTH GRANTS

Whistler Writing Society Authors in the Schools **\$1,000**

Pemberton Children's Centre Society Sensory Path **\$300**

## SOCIAL CARE GRANTS

Sea to Sky Community Services & Whistler Multicultural Network Parenting in Another Culture **\$2,300**

Whistler Community Services Society Pregnancy and Infant Loss **\$750**

Howe Sound Women's Centre Mama Baby Connection **\$750**

Zero Ceiling Society Work to Live: Support Pillar **\$1,500**

## PEMBERTON AND AREA COMMUNITY GRANTS

Pemberton Children's Centre Society Playground Storage **\$1,500**

Signal Hill Elementary School PAC Hockey Court Re-Pavement **\$1,500**



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# Learning

## KATHY BARNETT LEADERSHIP GRANTS

Howe Sound Women's Centre Society Ashely Oakes: Executive Lab **\$1,359**

Howe Sound Women's Centre Society Laurie Hannah: Nia White Belt Training **\$1,602**

Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre Helen Mitchell: Nonprofit Management Certificate **\$3,000**

## BOB AND SUE ADAMS LEADERSHIP GRANTS

Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, Helen Mitchell: Nonprofit Management Certificate **\$500**

# Legacy

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY GRANTS PROGRAM

AWARE Rare Bird Survey Northern Goshawk **\$6,000**

AWARE Capacity Support **\$10,000**

AWARE School Climate Change Workshops **\$5,000**

AWARE Whistler Nature Camp **\$26,000**

Whistler Naturalists Society Fungus Among Us Mushroom Festival **\$5,500**

Whistler Naturalists Society Whistler BioBlitz **\$20,000**

Whistler Naturalists Society Bird Studies **\$2,000**

Whistler Museum & Archives Society Wedgemount Glacier Monitoring **\$2,500**

Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council Inventory, Control and Monitoring **\$22,000**

Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council Education, Outreach and Training **\$21,000**

Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council Capacity Building & Governance Training **\$5,000**

Stewardship Pemberton Society Feasting for Change **\$5,800**

Stewardship Pemberton Society Bat Conservation Pemberton **\$12,180**

Whistler Waldorf School Bees to Trees **\$1,050**

## SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

\$1,000	<b>Isaak Berrisford</b>	Howe Sound Secondary	Wendy Thompson Scholarship
\$1,000	<b>Matthew Ogilvie Turner</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Wendy Thompson Scholarship
\$500	<b>Lauren Wentzel</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Whistler Scholarship
\$500	<b>Jillian Deane</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Whistler Scholarship
\$500	<b>Rachel Unruh</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Whistler Scholarship
\$500	<b>Jenna Tobias</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Whistler Scholarship
\$500	<b>Mila Wittenberg</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Whistler Scholarship
\$500	<b>Jasmin Skoupas</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Whistler Scholarship
\$1,500	<b>Bartosz Warzybok</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Kelty and Riley Dennehy Scholarship
\$1,500	<b>Nikolas Rohde</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Kelty and Riley Dennehy Scholarship
\$500	<b>Ayden Kristmanson</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Doug and Mary Forseth Scholarship
\$500	<b>Pietra Kamstra</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Doug and Mary Forseth Scholarship
\$500	<b>Nevada Knapton</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Grad Legacy Scholarship
\$500	<b>Soledad Pena</b>	Whistler Children's Centre	Sarah McSeveney Scholarship
\$500	<b>Brody McMillian</b>	Pemberton Secondary School	Chili Thom Memorial Scholarship
\$500	<b>Bianca Kodato</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Chili Thom Memorial Scholarship
\$500	<b>Pedro Johnson</b>	Howe Sound Secondary	Chili Thom Memorial Scholarship
\$500	<b>Keanna Lee</b>	Community (Arts Whistler)	Chili Thom Memorial Scholarship
\$500	<b>Savannah Albrecht</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Wendy Thompson Bursary
\$500	<b>Jillian Deanne</b>	Whistler Secondary School	Wendy Thompson Bursary
\$500	<b>Abi Ronayne</b>	Pemberton Secondary School	Wendy Thompson Bursary
\$500	<b>Charlize Littlelight</b>	Pemberton Secondary School	Wendy Thompson Bursary
\$500	<b>Nychaya Macdonald</b>	Pemberton Secondary School	Wendy Thompson Bursary
\$500	<b>Marin Bergstrom</b>	Pemberton Secondary School	Wendy Thompson Bursary
\$500	<b>Reimi Shishido</b>	Pemberton Secondary School	Wendy Thompson Bursary
\$500	<b>Sierra Pochay-McBain</b>	Pemberton Secondary School	Wendy Thompson Bursary
\$500	<b>Tiago Pereda</b>	Pemberton Secondary School	Wendy Thompson Bursary
\$500	<b>Ella Hubbard</b>	Howe Sound Secondary School	Wendy Thompson Bursary
\$500	<b>Jordan Fanzone</b>	Howe Sound Secondary School	Wendy Thompson Bursary

# Donor Directed Grants

Spearhead Huts Society for Kees and  
Claire Hut Youth Bunk Room, **\$45,000**

Meadow Park Sports Centre Stretching  
Room Expansion, **\$10,000**

# Charity Funds Annual Disbursements

Arts and Culture Legacy Fund **\$18,330**

AWARE Environmental Fund **\$218**

Big Brothers Big Sisters Sea to Sky Fund **\$200**

Whistler Public Library Fund **\$235**

Whistler Animals Galore Fund **\$284**

Whistler Adaptive Sports Program Fund **\$2,500**

Whistler Museum & Archives Society Fund **\$500**

Whistler Search and Rescue Fund **\$35,600**

Zero Ceiling Society Fund **\$285**

# Get Involved

Community Foundations are multi faceted. We work from all angles of philanthropy. This approach encourages our donors to make connections to the causes that they care about the most. And in turn, we provide support to the pressing needs of our community, together. We invite you to consider ways in which you can give to help our funds grow so that more community needs can be met. As the Whistler Community Foundation navigates through 2020, we will continue to build relationships with valuable volunteers, donors and charities.



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# 2019 Leadership Grants



Ashley Oakes, in a grant follow up report, made it clear that wearing your heart on your sleeve is A-OK! It's especially helpful when you open your heart wide to the staff you lead the way Ashley has done.

With support from Whistler Community Foundation's Kathy Barnett Grant, Ashley took the opportunity to enroll in the Vantage Point Vancouver Executive Lab. Set up in topical monthly segments, the lab focused on a learn and apply routine that supported Ashley in increasing morale within the Howe Sound Women's Centre and Pearl's Value & Vintage team.

Values based leadership, change management, board governance, conflict resolution and strategic visioning made up the key components of the seven-month long journey to build Ashley's confidence in leadership and to hone and develop a freshly empowered team.

A powerful and surprising development was the nurturing of stronger ties between the Howe Sound Women's Centre and WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre. WAVAW's executive director studied alongside Ashley, which led to mutually beneficial learning experiences and inclusion of non-cis-gendered folk into programs and services at Howe Sound Women's Centre.

Two of Ashley's greatest takeaways was to learn to ask for help from consultants or specialists and to accept that not everyone will be on board with every decision, and by providing a rationale Ashley can help reduce impacts on the whole team. Ashley expressed her gratitude to Whistler Community Foundation and Kathy Barnett Grant for financial support in this endeavor. We must say that we are proud of our involvement in Ashley's journey.

# What's Next

Through Whistler's Vital Signs, we have learned the needs in our community will likely be magnified by the impact of COVID-19. With a plan to do a full report in 2021, Whistler's Vital Signs staff and committee members will be examining data and reaching out to our community. By exploring the strengths, challenges and needs of local people, we hope to gain a better understanding of the impacts of the pandemic in comparison to life since the last full report in 2018. The Vital Signs 2021 report will share knowledge with charities and multi-levels of government who host programs that support our community.

## BELONGING

“Relentlessly pursuing a future where everyone belongs.”

Alongside Community Foundations of Canada, we believe in a future that is bright, a future that is just and sustainable, and a future that is not the status quo. A future where, no matter a person's background, they feel a sense of belonging in Canada. We're building a movement that connects community foundations, partners, and Canadians to make this future a reality.



## Donor Impact

In 2019, Authors in the Schools program involved over 1300 students at 17 schools throughout the Sea to Sky Corridor, and encouraged students to take a greater interest in reading and Canadian and Indigenous culture, through the study of Canada's finest literary and Aboriginal authors' books. Guest authors Cherie Dimaline (The Marrow Thieves), Deborah Ellis (My Story Starts Here: Voices of Young Offenders), Kit Pearson (Be My Love) and Richard Van Camp (Moccasin Square Gardens) delivered 419 books.

Investing in a Thriving Community

# Thank You

To our donors of 2019, thank you. Your gifts support long-term needs and opportunities and invest in solutions that strengthen our community now and in the future. You gave to the causes and charities you care about, knowing that the Whistler Community Foundation's expertise and community connections will ensure your gift has the most meaningful impact. We truly appreciate your support and commitment to making a lasting difference.

## SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS



Thank you to the many volunteers of the Standing Committees, whose contributions of local knowledge and expertise strengthen the Whistler Community Foundation's work. Please reach out, if you are interested in joining any of our committees.

## STANDING VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES

Citizen of the Year Selection

Communications

Environmental Legacy Grants

Emergency Fund Advisory

Executive & Governance

Finance and Investment

Fund Development

Pemberton Community Grants

Scholarships & Bursaries

Whistler Community Grants -  
Youth, Social Care and Leadership

Vital Signs

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John Walker, Treasurer

Robin Douglas, Past President

Debbie Smythe, Director

Sharon Broatch, Director

Paul Dorland, Director

Gizem Kaya, Director

Carolyn Crompton, Director



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