

OCFootprints

Introducing the Heroes Among Us Fund.

HEROES among us FUND

IN OXFORD • FOR OXFORD • FOREVER

It all started in the summer when the Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) interviewed Sam Horton and Deb Landon, two of the committee members who helped to fundraise and start the Hawkins Family Memorial Fund. This fund is a lasting legacy in memory of the impact Laurie, Rick, Cassandra and Jordan had in our county and every year, grants from the investment income from that fund continue to do good in Oxford.

During the interview, Sam Horton reflected, "It isn't until there is a passing like this that we go, wow that person was really important. We need to remember this. Laurie helps us remember that there are heroes among us. There are some really important heroes among us, even today, that we forget about sometimes."

These profound words had a deep and lasting impact on several OCF people working on the interview project. Sam Horton's words are the inspiration behind the new Heroes Among Us Fund.

Every single day, there are ordinary people in Oxford quietly doing what they can to make Oxford a better place. Their thousands of selfless, caring actions all combine to make our community stronger.

Every single person has a hero or heroes in our lives. Some are living and others are no longer with us, but they all have one thing in common – they all made or are making a contribution in Oxford and are part of our history.

Who is your hero?

We all know a local hero in our community. They may be a friend, neighbour, or family member who makes a positive impact nearly every single day, making the place we live a better one through their actions and contributions. They don't ask for recognition for their efforts; they just keep contributing in a quiet and generous way. They don't think of themselves as heroes. But we know they are.

Now there's a way to recognize them and build on their legacy of contributions to their community through the Heroes Among Us Fund. This fund is for anyone who would like to recognize a hero in Oxford. Contributions to this fund can be as small as \$20. Donations will be invested and each year investment income will be granted back to worthwhile Oxford initiatives in recognition of these unsung heroes.

With your first donation to the fund, the hero will receive an embossed certificate recognizing them as a "Hero Among Us." For each subsequent donation, small or large, donors will receive a charitable receipt and the hero will receive a note informing them of the contribution made by the donor recognizing them as a Hero Among Us.

Additional recognition is based on the following three levels:

● LEVEL 1: One-time donations from \$20 to \$1999.

Heroes will be recognized in the year of the donation on our website and in our Annual Report.

● LEVEL 2: One-time or cumulative donations over time that eventually total \$2,000.

Donations in any amount can be added at any time to grow the total given for any hero to this level. Once a hero reaches \$2,000 in donations, the hero will receive a personalized note letting them know they will now be permanently recognized on our wall of heroes, on our website, in our social media and in our annual reports.

● LEVEL 3: One-time or cumulative donations over time eventually adding up to a minimum of \$10,000.

Once a hero reaches \$10,000 in donations, the hero will receive a personalized note informing them that community grants from the Heroes Among Us Fund will now be made in their name. Every year from then, a specific grant(s) will be given in your hero's name. The hero will continue to be permanently recognized on our wall of heroes, on our website, in our social media and in our annual reports.

The Oxford Community Foundation website will list grants made each year from the Heroes Among Us Fund. The stories of how these funds are helping to make Oxford a better place will be captured and shared.

Regular and continued donations are encouraged. They are a great way to recognize a hero's birthday, anniversary, retirement, friendship, death (Heroes Among Us Fund can be recognized for donations in their obituary) or as a gift at Christmas – especially for those who already have everything and are community minded.

Already have a hero in mind? Why not jump into the pool right now! Contact the Oxford Community Foundation to get started.





Do you *believe* in your community?

Yes, you do, and you are heroes in our eyes. Sixteen years ago, a single gift started Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) and that gift is still making a difference in our community today. Because of you, this year OCF funds will have granted more than \$500,000 to over 100 local organizations since we began.

Each year end, our fundholders and volunteer grants committee members have hard decisions to make. And this year was no different. While we are thrilled to be able to help so many all across our beautiful county, numerous requests go unfunded. We are seeing needs continue to increase, needs for safe and accessible spaces, for supporting families with necessities and opportunities to learn, create and play, for preserving and sharing our history, for protecting our environment and for so many other things that make communities stronger.

We need your help! You too can join us and play a pivotal role in building a stronger community, creating brighter futures and ensuring a more vibrant Oxford County today and tomorrow by providing a gift today.

Consider nominating a hero or think about us when doing your year end donations. A charitable donation can dramatically reduce the taxes you pay. It's the simplest and most gratifying way to save money on your income taxes. And, it puts you in control of where and how your money is spent.

Several of our donors are also discovering their publicly traded shares and mutual funds hold the key to helping them realize their dreams of giving back to the community. And, they are putting maximum tax savings to work. Did you know that if you give publicly traded securities to OCF, you are not required to pay tax on any capital gain that results from the gift? You also receive a charitable receipt for the fair market value of the securities on the day we receive them in our account. You save on taxes and more of your money stays in Oxford County supporting your community and the causes you care about.

Please contact me for a donation card or to find out how to donate securities – it's easy.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and we thank you for your dedication to making our community a better place for all today and forever.

— Louise Wardrop, Executive Director

MEET TWO HEROES



Deb Landon



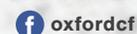
Sam Horton

"We talk about heroes in our community, and I get to sit beside one, because Deb is one of those individuals in our community that has done so much, and you know, sometimes it isn't seen."



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OCF Volunteer Board of Directors: Bill Mackesy (Chair), Keith Stevens (Vice-chair), Richard Fanning (Treasurer), Liz Lessif (ex-officio Past Chair), Neil Dolson, Rosemary George, Don Hillborn, Mary Holmes, Michael Kukhta, John MacDonald, Steve Robb, Karen Sample, Kelly Gilson (ex-officio United Way)