

# OCFootprints

## Celebrating \$1 million in grants

There's no doubt that Oxford Community Foundation has become a growing force for good in Oxford County. We have come such a long way since our humble beginnings in December 2003 when a small group of committed volunteers celebrated the fact we had just become a registered charity! Our progress over the last 17 years is in large part thanks to the generosity and vision of our donors. Today we are celebrating a number of key milestones for OCF: **we have awarded more than 300 grants, totaling over \$1 million to more than 100 local charities.** This astounding impact comes from the dedication of community minded people who share the Foundation's purpose of making Oxford a better place.

We are looking forward to sharing our 2020 annual report with you in June. In it, we'll celebrate the creation of three new legacy funds established by caring and generous donors and we'll share the stories of the impacts the **45 grants totaling almost \$370,000** are making in our community. These grants were from OCF fundholders as well as the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF.) These grants were used for:

- basic needs – food, shelters and housing – that so many of us take for granted;
- new mental wellness programs offered virtually for youth, parents and caregivers;
- community (art) creation kits containing art supplies, instructions and resources for families in need;
- educational programming moved online, and so much more.



Let me quickly tell you about one of those stories. Each of us is experiencing this pandemic in a unique way. Many are struggling with isolation, loneliness and with the emotional toll of this long-haul. A grant to Community Living Tillsonburg was able to help them to develop virtual connections for adults with a developmental disability. This photo was taken when **Rose** saw her friends online for the first time after many months. Her beaming smile and pure joy in this picture say it all!

As we navigate our way through the pandemic, we're reminded that the need for community, connection, and belonging is more important than ever. Your generosity and care for our community continues to inspire hope for what we can accomplish together. We celebrate you and we say THANK YOU. And we look forward to when we can be together in person once again.

In this newsletter, you will read about the many OCF student awards that support education in Oxford County.

We would also like to invite everyone to support or participate in the Oxford County Warden's Annual Charity Golf Tournament which will be held in September. Proceeds from this tournament are vital and make a substantial contribution to sustaining OCF operations for the coming year. Even if you are not a golfer, come out and give it a try. We all have a lot of fun!

You are also invited to attend our Virtual Annual Meeting. This event will be a short business meeting in accordance with our reporting obligations. We hope to host an in person event late in the year where we can share the wonderful successes and stories that have resulted from the grants made in 2020!

And as always, if you are interested in learning more about how you can leave a lasting legacy to make Oxford better, I welcome your call. You can start now and grow your fund over time. Your donations will be invested and the income earned will generate grants in your name year after year. You will leave a lasting legacy that continues to make Oxford better — **forever.**

Stay safe and well and don't hesitate to reach out if you just need to talk to someone!

– Louise Wardrop, Executive Director

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# FUNDHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

## STUDENT AWARDS

At Oxford Community Foundation (OCF), we know that ensuring quality education is one of the most important ways we can assist our future generation. In Oxford County, we unfortunately have less than stellar high school graduation rates. Our children require supports and opportunities early and in many different forms. We work hard to do our part to change that. Our generous donors have established a significant number of student awards that recognize more than academics. Some are based on team play and others community involvement, leadership and skills development. I hope you enjoy the following stories about the donors who established these awards, the 17 2020 recipients, and the opportunities available for 2021.

Each of the awards described is available for 2021 and the deadline for applications is Friday, May 14. For information, please contact your school's Student Services Department or go to OCF's website <https://oxfordcommunityfoundation.org/grant-application/>



### Tyler Arts Spirit Award

Following Tyler's tragic death in November 2018, his family and our community set up the Tyler Arts Legacy Fund at OCF. Tyler's spirit and the way he lived his life, full of



Colin Hutchison

love and kindness are honoured each year through this award. The Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute (IDCI) recipient is the best teammate for selfless play and leadership on and off the court, field or rink. **Colin Hutchison**, 2020

recipient, shared, "I am privileged that you chose me. Tyler was a wonderful friend who made an impact on me that I will never forget."



### Lessif Family Fund Award

In 2011, John and Liz Lessif established the Lessif Family Fund. During their successful business careers, they employed many youth. "John and I have been very fortunate and we strongly believe in helping our youth to become contributors to our communities now and in the future. We want to help make a difference," said Liz Lessif. Each year, grants from their fund support youth initiatives and over the past five years, an award was granted to support students in the Business – Entrepreneurship and Management program at Fanshawe College's Woodstock Campus. The recipient demonstrated maturity, leadership and professionalism with classmates, faculty and staff. In 2020, Lessif Family Fund Bursary was awarded to **Nathan Correll**.



### Hawkins Family Bursaries

In December 2008, the Hawkins family died tragically from carbon monoxide poisoning. Friends and the community created the Hawkins Memorial Fund at OCF to remember the family who were "always ready, willing, and able to help those in need and could often be found volunteering with big, welcoming grins on their faces." Each year, three students are recognized for their community involvement, respect for others and moral courage. In 2020, the Jordan Hawkins Bursary was awarded to **Karolina Krawczyk** from St. Michael's Elementary School.



Noah McLeod

The Cassandra Hawkins Bursary was awarded to **Sydney Vanden Hoek** from St. Mary's High School and the Laurie Hawkins Bursary was awarded to **Noah McLeod** from IDCI. "Thank you so much for honouring me with this award. This is especially meaningful as Richard Hawkins coached my older brother's hockey team," comments Noah McLeod.



Thomas Corlett



### Pat & Barry Smith Bursary

The late Pat Smith, an educator and OCF founder and her husband Barry, a farmer and industry volunteer and leader, established the Pat and Barry Smith Fund at OCF in 2011. Leadership skills are essential



Taylor Buckrell

for our future and that is why each year multiple bursaries are awarded to rural Oxford County grads recognizing these skills and attributes. The 2020 award recipients were

**Taylor Buckrell** and **Meaghan Chittick** both from Central Avenue Secondary School (CASS).



Meaghan Chittick

Meaghan says, "I am sincerely honoured and grateful. Your contribution will go a long way assisting me with tuition and textbook fees." Taylor comments, "I am very grateful. Thank you for your generosity and support."

### Oxford Manufacturers Skill Development Bursary

In 2011, local leaders established a bursary for graduates pursuing a skilled trade either through post secondary education or an apprenticeship. Award recipients show an aptitude for mechanical or applied skills and demonstrate community or school involvement. 2020 recipient, **Thomas Corlett** from CASS shared, "I am currently working at Lloyd's Electric in Woodstock as part of my apprenticeship. Thank you for your generosity and support."



### Lorna & George Roberts Bursary

The late George Roberts was in his words, "just a farmer from north of Embro" who met his future bride, Lorna Thompson while they were both attending the University of Guelph. They valued education and in 2013 established a bursary for students excelling in leadership skills and who are furthering their education at either The Ontario Agriculture College at the University of Guelph and/or the Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition in the College of Social & Applied Human Sciences at the University of Guelph. The 2020 award recipient was



**Jenna Geerts** from Huron Park Secondary School.



### Woodstock District Developmental Services (WDDS) Rosemary George Bursary

The Board of Directors of WDDS established this award in 2007 in recognition of the outstanding leadership and contributions by Rosemary George, retired Executive Director. Recipients have volunteer, work, or family experience related to people who have a developmental disability and who are pursuing a Developmental Services Worker diploma or degree. The 2019 recipient was **Azlyn-lee Marie Grose** from St. Mary's Catholic High School.



### Children's Aid Society Oxford

In 2020, Children's Aid Society Oxford awarded bursaries to seven students in care who were pursuing post secondary education.

Oxford Community Foundation grants support a wide range of causes and needs

What is your area of interest?

Environment Music  
Theatre **Arts** Basic Needs  
Wellness **Culture**  
Sports Education Health  
Heritage Youth  
Seniors Recreation  
Trails Social Services  
Shelters

## Virtual Annual General Meeting

### Business Agenda

On Wednesday, June 23, 2021 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. EDT, Oxford Community Foundation will be hosting its 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM). As a non-profit organization, our AGM is a legal requirement. The business segments will be covered during this meeting and in the fall, we hope to host a social where we can come together to celebrate our donors and share stories of the positive changes their investments are making in Oxford County.

**Please register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvdO-qrD8iHtF3lzYJdAOytBuhbZkHEZJY>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

SAVE THE DATE



Wednesday, September 29



## 2021 Oxford County Warden's Charity Golf Tournament

**Warden Larry Martin** will host his charity golf tournament at **Craigowan Golf Club** on **Wednesday, September 29, 2021** in support of Oxford Community Foundation (OCF.)

"Services provided by our local charities are essential to helping us through this pandemic and ensuring a strong recovery. Let's dig deep to support this worthwhile event," Warden Martin comments.

To find out how you can participate or sponsor, please contact the Golf Committee: [info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org](mailto:info@oxfordcommunityfoundation.org) or 226-667-6404.

Committee members are Rosaline Bruyns, Don Hilborn, Michael Kukhta and John MacDonald.

Look for golfer registration to open on our website soon at [www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org).



**Thank you to our Warden for supporting OCF and helping us raise awareness and funds through this fun event.**

## Bringing Money to Oxford County

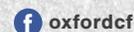
In 2020, Oxford County benefited from \$201,870 granted through OCF thanks to the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF). Without OCF, this money would not have come to Oxford County. The great work we have done for the past 17 years in granting from our permanent donor funds has made it possible for us to partner with Community Foundations of Canada, the Government of Canada and others to bring new money to Oxford County.



Looking Forward...Giving Back!

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**OCF Volunteer Board of Directors:** Bill Mackesy (Chair), Keith Stevens (Vice-chair), Neil Dolson (Treasurer), Rosemary George, Don Hilborn, Michael Kukhta, Heather Lindsay, John MacDonald, Kim Parker, Steve Robb, Karen Sample, Kelly Gilson (ex-officio United Way).

SPRING 2021