

# **WESTSHORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

2020 has been a challenging year to say the least. Looking back on our plan for this year, and reflecting on how things had to quickly change, I am proud how we responded to the needs of our catchment area given the realities of the pandemic. A huge thank you to my Board of Directors who showed strength, flexibility and incredible commitment in a year like no other in our history.

Notwithstanding that we were unable to move forward with key fundraising events, we find ourselves in a very healthy financial position. We continued to recover well from the 2018 financial market downturn and through this healthier market and growth of existing funds and the addition of new funds; our assets are at approximately \$4.3 million.

The ongoing support we receive from our donors, sponsors and partners strengthens our commitment to our mandate of Building a Lasting Legacy and our resolve to maintain and build upon the exceptional quality of life that we enjoy.

Our year began with a matching partnership with Manitoba 150 which enabled us to address a number of needs within our catchment. This was quickly followed by the onset of Covid and as the effects of the pandemic began to unfold, we recognized our obligation to take a leadership role within our communities and do everything we could to support the not for profits that had been, and continue to be, most negatively affected.

Through drawing from our Community Endowment Fund and forging strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations, we developed our own Covid support program and were pleased to be able to quickly respond in a very effective way. As the dust began to clear on this program, we entered our traditional granting cycle and were pleased to support most of the applications that were submitted.

As this wound down, the Federal Government announced the Emergency Community Support Fund designed to help community organizations serve vulnerable Canadians during the COVID-19 crisis. The design and administration of the program relied heavily on the involvement of Community Foundations across Canada and Westshore was successful in securing maximum funding available to Foundations of our size. We distributed the entire amount to organizations within our catchment through an application and assessment process and partially through this success, we were able to secure additional funding through the second phase of the program. We again were able to funnel support directly into the hands of our organizations who were working so hard to serve our communities.

So, traditionally, our one annual round of granting changed to 5 rounds of granting this past year. It has been a tremendous amount of work but we are proud to have been able to accomplish these levels of support. As I write this year-end report, we have received an additional generous gift from one of our steadfast supporters with the request to distribute to several catchment organizations and we are in the process of doing so now.

Along with this unprecedented level of grant related support, our Scholarship program continues to support deserving students in their pursuits of post-secondary studies. We were able to celebrate the accomplishments of these very deserving students, in an outdoor covid compliant way, in early October. It was a wonderful late afternoon event held on the shores of our beautiful lake.

In a “normal” year, our grant and scholarship programs will see us place approximately \$70,000 within our catchment. This year, that support grew to approximately \$200,000!

We look forward to 2021 with renewed optimism. We will continue to explore new partnership funding opportunities and we look forward to supporting organizations and individuals who enable us to continue to build a lasting legacy in our community.

Our commitment to our community is strengthened through the support we receive from you. On behalf of the entire Board, thank you. We would love to hear from you. Visit us at our new website at [www.westshorecommunityfoundation.ca](http://www.westshorecommunityfoundation.ca) , drop us an email at [westshorefdn@hotmail.ca](mailto:westshorefdn@hotmail.ca) , call us at

204-642-9796 or just chat with any of us. This is your Foundation and it is an honor for us to continue to work hard on your behalf.



Tim Arnason

President, Westshore Community Foundation