



# PROMISE

past, present, and the possible ————— 2021

## Leslie and Irene Dubé: Faith-Filled Philanthropy

Tori Slade Tribute  
Creates Musical Space  
for Children and Youth  
of All Abilities

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Bill Peterson and  
Paul Lavoie Get the  
Best Mileage for  
Giving Back

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Giving to Their  
Community is in the  
Shaw Family DNA

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Prairie Harm  
Reduction Offers  
Safety and Dignity  
without Stigma





# Your gift keeps giving. Your story never ends.

By reinvesting your gift each year, Saskatoon Community Foundation makes it easy to create a lasting legacy of personal impact in our community.



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# Message from the Board Chair and CEO

A never-ending story is the inspiration for our new awareness campaign. Honouring the story of a life well-lived and extending that story forever is at the heart of our work at Saskatoon Community Foundation. We enable our donors to make gifts with lasting benefit to the community.

*As we meet with donors, so many describe their desire to “give back”, recognizing that this community has given them much over the years as they have fulfilled their dreams.*

Donors also talk about the desire to shape the community they care about into one where everyone experiences equity, finds opportunities, and feels that they belong.

We hope you will be inspired as you read the incredible story of Les and Irene Dubé’s faith-filled philanthropy, Bob Steane’s estate gift that sustains the arts, the history of B’nai Brith and the Shaw family, the Saskatchewan roots of Bill Peterson and Paul Lavoie, and the sweet memory of Tori Slade’s joy of music. In our profile of Gladys Hall, you will meet a woman just like any of us, who used financial advisors’ investment advice to grow her fund to benefit many.

In our interview with Jason Mercredi, you will learn about the compelling work of Prairie Harm Reduction. We report on the Saskatoon Inter-Agency Response to COVID-19 and their life-saving work. And we salute the generous supporters who have committed financial support to the work of Reconciliation, even without a spectacular gala and gathering this year.

We are grateful to a generous philanthropist for making our multi-year awareness campaign possible. Thanks to this gift, more will see how the foundation is a vehicle for all levels of philanthropic giving. We all have a story; we all have capacity to give. We invite you to watch for our ads and contact us to share your story.

Thank you, Saskatoon. “Your gift keeps giving. Your story never ends.”

**Curtis Kimpton**, CFP, CLU, RRC, BComm  
Board Chair

**Carm Michalenko**, BComm, MBA  
Chief Executive Officer



Photos by David Waldner Photography.

**Our Vision: A vibrant community where everyone belongs.**



# Tori Slade Tribute Creates Musical Space for Children and Youth of All Abilities

Brenda Baker's passion and career had always been music and performance. When her firstborn daughter was a few months old, she realized her true calling.

*Although Tori didn't have language, what she loved most was music.*

Today, Brenda pours her energy into Kids of Note and The Notations, non-auditioned integrated choirs for children, youth, and young adults. The choirs' integrated model is unique, creating space for choristers with and without disabilities to make music together. The choirs were founded for and inspired by the children who had nowhere else to put on concerts for large audiences.

Brenda and husband Art Slade welcomed their first child, Tori Lorraine Slade, in 2003. At her birth, they learned she had Down syndrome, despite earlier assurances that their pregnancy was typical.

"We loved her as soon as we saw her; it was immediate," says Art. But he acknowledges his and Brenda's mingled emotions of celebration and grief as they set aside what they had imagined for their baby's life and began to reimagine what lay ahead for her.

Tori stopped hitting developmental milestones like rolling over and sitting up, and a diagnosis of epilepsy was made. As she approached age five, she continued to need feeding and lots of care. Although she didn't have any language, she would laugh. And what she loved most was music.

"We both sang to her and played interactive games and she chuckled. She had a little plastic toy piano with eight rainbow keys and could go for about two hours playing it. She would lie on her tummy and get up on her elbows and play and sing and laugh," Brenda remembers.

From the beginning, the disability community embraced the Slade-Baker family as their own. "You're just hugged by the community," says Brenda. "They knew we'd be ok."

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***The choir exists so someone like Tori can enjoy Kids of Note. I just know she would have loved it. We would have given her a solo on her piano.***

After Tori's birth, Brenda connected with Dee Cole, who had a school age child with Down syndrome. She visited the Coles' home and met seven-year-old Ali, who was homeschooled and loved to sing. But Ali didn't have a place to sing. She was unable to fit into recreational choirs because she tired easily and her vocalization was heard as being "different".

It was powerful motivation to dream big. In September 2005, Brenda founded Kids of Note, with help from a pianist, and Grosvenor Park United Church providing the space. Within a couple of years 25 children, including Ali, were putting on popular shows. In 2009 Brenda's sister, Diane Phillips, would add her talents with her background in piano and choral music to start The Notations. This meant those choristers who aged out of Kids of Note would have somewhere to continue performing. In both choirs, maintaining appropriate peer groups was important.

For Brenda and Art, giving children of all abilities an opportunity to experience music is vital: "The choir exists so someone like Tori can enjoy Kids of Note. I just know she would have loved it. We would have given her a solo on her piano."

But after only five short years of life, Tori passed away in 2008 after a leukemia diagnosis and treatment.

Heartbroken, Brenda and Art wanted to do something in Tori's memory in a way that would spread joy and kindness. In establishing the Tori Slade Fund at Saskatoon Community Foundation, they hit on a fitting tribute reflecting who Tori was and her rapturous experience of music. The memorial fund would help sustain Saskatoon's integrated choirs for other children like her. At the same time, they hoped it would set a precedent for other families who might want to memorialize a loved one who also happened to have a disability.

***Brenda and Art wanted to do something in Tori's memory... reflecting her rapturous experience of music.***

Brenda sees the role of philanthropic giving in a community: "There are so many needs... this fund allows a wider variety of people to be engaged in philanthropy. You don't have to have a huge amount of money. You can make a change that feels very direct and personal. With Tori's fund it is yet another way we feel her presence in our lives."

Reliable funding for Kids of Note and The Notations enables the choirs to hire concert musicians and keep fees affordable. "This means we can put on more impressive concerts and register choristers from all walks of life," notes Brenda. Through public performances all participants experience benefits like developing their talents, gaining confidence, and having a crowd applaud and support them. And all choristers benefit in different ways from the unique experience of belonging to a group where disabilities are "normalized."

Like the Special Olympics, Kids of Note enables the dreams of children and youth to become possible. Brenda and Art want to see the choirs established in Saskatoon's arts scene for decades to come. A lasting change in perceptions of people with disabilities is the goal.

In Brenda's words, "For a long time I've felt that this is what my life was leading to, what I was preparing for through all my other arts experiences. And many volunteers feel similarly about their involvement in the choirs. Saskatoon Community Foundation's support in providing this funding opportunity is really helping all of us to do something great for our city and our young people." ●





# Bill Peterson and Paul Lavoie Get the Best Mileage for Giving Back



**For Bill Peterson and Paul Lavoie, charitable giving in support of community needs all began with their Saskatchewan roots and business networks.**

Bill remembers former mayor, the formidable Cliff Wright, who spoke powerfully about investing with Saskatoon Community Foundation in support of local charitable work: "I was inspired by Cliff Wright. He has always been big on the obligation to support what's close by. If you have been successful, you give back to the community that made you successful."

By their own account, Bill and Paul have been living quiet, uneventful lives in retirement, in their home on an acreage in Saanich for the last six years. Paul, who grew up in Prince Albert, retired from a career with Canadian Tire in Saskatoon, and Bill retired as senior partner with the Saskatoon marketing agency Creative Fire. They are parents to two not-so-mellow rescue dogs and four outdoor cats, and have given up their boat in favour of backyard living.

***If you have been successful, you give back to the community that made you successful.***

"We like animals better than most people," Paul laughs, "In lots of places animal issues can be political or complex." And so they choose to throw their considerable charitable support behind causes others might not think of as important. They want to see animal welfare agencies in Saskatoon enjoying greater capacity, upgrading their facilities, doing things that are tangible. Their strategic giving to organizations like the SPCA and New Hope Dog Rescue prioritize sustainability: "Imagine how difficult it is for some of those little places to keep going."

Their Saskatoon visits have not happened recently because of the COVID pandemic and restrictions on travel.

Bill's journey with Parkinson's disease and medical treatment started out with Drs. Rajput in Saskatoon before he transferred to the UBC Movement Centre for what he describes as an "oil change." Following his recent Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgery, friends and family have remarked on the noticeable improvement in his health, and the Parkinson's medication is regulated better. "They have cut the meds more than in half, and may cut back again. There are less horrible side effects."

Paul acknowledges the demands of caregiving for a spouse with the disease: "The damn thing about Parkinson's is that you have to be with him the whole time because he might freeze up." As a result, they are homebound much of the time.

Bill's and Paul's hope for their charitable fund benefiting Parkinson's treatment is good results for future Parkinson's patients. "I had always thought if I ever get really sick, I'm going to the Mayo Clinic. But it turns out the North American experts are right here (in Saskatoon). So we did actually support that kind of expertise, to build the broader brain program. The only way that's going to get built is with a few donated dollars.

"I hope that people who get diagnosed, they don't have to go blindly when they find out. Doctors will have a better way to tell people what they are up against. They may not be able to travel for treatment, so the more local you give, the more local treatment and services can be provided in your community."

***Their hope for their charitable fund is good results for future Parkinson's patients.***



# The Arts Grow and Evolve Thanks to Bob Steane's Great Gift



Photo courtesy of St. Paul's Hospital Foundation.



Robert Steane is remembered as a leader in our community, a friend to many, and a great supporter of the arts during his lifetime. His desire to direct his legacy gift to multiple community arts organizations in a powerful way led him to select Saskatoon Community Foundation. He trusted the foundation to bring his

great gift to the arts to life, enabling organizations to flourish artistically and grow their resources and impact. Now, Bob's estate gift is doing exactly this, making a difference for eight organizations at a moment when they would have otherwise faltered.

In 2020, the Bob Steane Fund for the Arts directed funds to 25th Street Theatre, Gordon Tootoosis Nîkānîwin Theatre, Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, Saskatoon Summer Players, SUM Theatre, Broadway Theatre, and Persephone Theatre.

Because of Bob Steane's legacy gift for the arts:

- Loyal theatre goers were delighted when **25th Street Theatre's** much loved Fringe Festival morphed into a virtual summer festival called This Is Not That.
- **Gordon Tootoosis Nîkānîwin Theatre** is developing their Circle of Voices program for youth in the far north.
- **Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra** was able to invest in equipment to carry out digital performances during the pandemic, which reached audiences as far away as Australia.
- **Saskatoon Summer Players** produced a well-attended Addams Family musical at Halloween.
- The fundraising campaigns for **Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, SUM Theatre, and Broadway Theatre** were infused with success, and they were able to leverage additional charitable giving.
- **Persephone Theatre** received much-needed operational funding at a time of transition.

Everyone can be a Bob. Ask us how you too can give back and create your own legacy gift that reflects the unique life you lived.

Investing with Saskatoon Community Foundation to build charitable funds for animal welfare and Parkinson's treatments made sense for Bill and Paul, providing them with reliable service and expertise in charitable giving.



Photos submitted.

"We appreciate the values of Saskatoon [Community] Foundation, the responsible governance and stewardship. For accountability and transparency, the Saskatoon [Community] Foundation treats you like a shareholder. You get various annual and fund reports, you get respect, and your donation stays local. You see where your money is going," said Bill.

**You get the best mileage with  
Saskatoon Community Foundation.**

As Bill and Paul began estate planning with financial/legal professionals, they decided to use the Foundation as a reliable vehicle but didn't want to deal with details. "This is one way of stripping away the complexity and just saying... you guys at the Foundation are experts in charitable giving. Here are the broad sectors we want to support. We leave the details to you," explained Bill.

"Where do you get the best mileage? I'm saying with the Foundation." ●



Photo submitted: Steven, Noah, Adam, and Rebecca Simpson; Arnie and Linda Shaw; Clarice, Bryce, Gavin, Robin, and Arden Sasko; Eleni Kosmas, Jimmy Shaw (held by Eleni), Lev, Michael, and Eli Shaw.

## Giving to Their Community is in the Shaw Family DNA

Arnie and Linda Shaw met with us for a good talk this past year. As we spoke, you could hear in their voices those young newlyweds who chose Saskatoon years ago as an ideal home to raise their family, run their business, and volunteer their time.

While both Arnie and Linda love to see the world and experience different cultures, Saskatoon is their home by choice. "When we came back to Canada in 1973 after travelling out of country, we had a choice of anywhere to live and chose Saskatoon. We have per capita more amenities here—the art gallery, auditorium, university. It's really an ideal city," said Linda, "I'm really proud to be from Saskatoon. I love travelling, meeting new people, seeing new cultures, and coming home."

For Arnie and Linda, giving to create a more equitable community is important: "Saskatoon has been so good to us and we need to realize there are people not quite as fortunate."

They have been committed volunteers in many roles for their entire lives. Arnie has served local, national, and international organizations such as the B'nai Brith Silver Plate Dinner, Centennial Auditorium (now TCU Place), Blue Cross, Lakeview

Community, Saskatoon Jewish Community, Saskatoon Home Builders, Junior Achievement, Persephone Theatre, Raj Manek Mentorship, SaskEnergy Network, 3sHealth, two First Nations businesses, UIA Federations Canada, Nexstar Network and others, as well as several coaching and mentorship roles.

*Saskatoon has been so good to us and we need to realize there are people not quite as fortunate.*

Linda has been hugely involved with the Saskatoon Jewish Community. During its 30-year history, she led the Silver Spoon Dinner as it evolved from the Hadassah-WIZO Bazaar of previous generations. Linda recalls influential guest speakers such as Dr. Ruth, Jann Arden and Rick Mercer and what an amazing fundraising event it is for the women of Saskatoon.

*I'm proud to say that our kids are involved in our community...and work hard at it.*

Both Arnie and Linda credit their drive to give back to the example set by Linda's father, former Mayor—and founding member of Saskatoon Community Foundation—Sid Buckwold. "Dad wanted to make a difference, not be a politician. The giving back was always very important. He had a vision and went ahead with it. It wasn't a matter of whether they could do it, it was how. That's why the city has the amenities it has," said Linda.

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*We liked how the foundation makes decisions and manages the designated funds. It's run very professionally.*

Giving back is part of the Shaw family's DNA. "I'm proud to say that our kids are involved in community too... and work hard at it," said Arnie. Son Michael and son-in-law Steven continue to run the family business, Centennial Plumbing, Heating & Electrical, and their generation is beginning to transform the B'nai Brith Silver Plate event. Michael's partner Eleni is very involved in the Greek Community. Daughter Rebecca owns The Barn at Wind's Edge and is involved in the fundraising for the Silver Spoon silent auction event. Daughter Robin teaches preschool at Lakewood School and co-chairs the Silver Spoon Dinner with Linda, and son-in-law Bryce is President of the Lakeview Community Association.

Linda and Arnie began giving through the Saskatoon Community Foundation when Linda, following in her father's footsteps, served on the Saskatoon Community Foundation Board from 1994 to 2001. They saw others who also gave, watched how the foundation was managed, and understood how gifts made a difference for the community.

"We liked how the foundation makes decisions and manages the designated funds. It's run very professionally. The investment portfolio has been managed very well," said Arnie, "Instead of giving to a single organization, or naming a person to be in charge, you can give through the community foundation, designate your funds, and be assured that it's going to happen." ●

## B'nai Brith: A Tradition of Giving Back to Community



Photo submitted: Michael Shaw and Steven Simpson volunteering at Silver Spoon Dinner.

Saskatoon B'nai Brith, chartered in 1913, has a long tradition of recognizing those who have provided exemplary volunteer service. Its mandate has long been youth related. The organization often steps forward with an early donation to lead the way for initiatives such as the Children's Hospital Foundation and Kinsmen Park.

"We want to be seed funders, so that we can set an example and then other people can follow," said Arnie Shaw, B'nai Brith lodge member.

Funds raised at the B'nai Brith Silver Plate Dinner provide funding to multiple community organizations. Over the years,

it has funded youth, multicultural, anti-racism, health, and mental health programs. Saskatoon Community Foundation continues to partner with B'nai Brith in administering funds raised for community.

The B'nai Brith "We're Proud of You" Awards show appreciation for volunteer leaders and encourage others to follow in those important footsteps. Each year, a tribute fund is established in honour of the award recipient, and community members are invited to donate to the tribute fund in recognition of the individual or group.

### Recipients of the B'nai Brith "We're Proud of You" Award:

Saskatchewan health care workers 2020

Arnie Shaw 2019

Bruce Rempel 2018

Synergy 8 2017

Murray Scharf 2016

Milton Taylor 2015

Paul Jaspar 2014

Ian Buckwold 2013

Orest Chorneyko 2012

Bob Fawcett 2011



Photo by Terri Feltham Photography, courtesy of Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation.



# Les and Irene Dubé: Faith-Filled Philanthropy

Irene and Leslie (Les) Dubé are known in Saskatoon for their legacy of compassion through transformative charitable gifts that save lives and change our community forever.

Born in Wynyard, they married early in life and made their family home in Saskatoon, building their family grocery distribution business. Over the years, they continued to invest and diversify, establishing The Concorde Group of Companies as one of the most successful diversified ventures in Western Canada.

Since 1993, they have donated millions to charity. Irene says simply, "We're trying to be good stewards. We'd like to leave the world a little better than when we came in."

*We're trying to be good stewards. We'd like to leave the world a little better than when we came in.*

Now Les and Irene have established six endowed funds with Saskatoon Community Foundation of one million dollars each, funded 50% now and 50% in the future through life insurance. Both strategic and compassionate in philanthropy, they have determined the best way to respond to community needs in the present while ensuring significant long-term support for the future.

"Philanthropy feeds the soul," says Les. Their faith inspires Irene and Les to address the suffering of the most vulnerable, and this is evident in every principled charitable gift they make.

**Les and Irene have created six endowed funds with Saskatoon Community Foundation of one million dollars each.**

Les and Irene continue to have a special relationship with the **Lighthouse**, which serves some of Saskatoon's most vulnerable community members trapped in extreme poverty, chronic homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse. When they came to Saskatoon Community Foundation

looking to establish a source of long-term, permanent financial support for the Lighthouse operations, the foundation helped them achieve this goal in creating their fund.

Irene has been a firm advocate for mental health. Now, the couple's targeted fund for mental health family support enables the **Canadian Mental Health Association of Saskatoon** to assist caregivers as they care for family members experiencing mental illness.

Likewise, the **Sherbrooke Community Centre's** Eden Philosophy spoke to Les and Irene, who were drawn to its unique approach to elder care. Their fund for elder care will enhance day programming, dementia care, and the centre's physical environment.

Les and Irene felt a calling to provide aid for disaster relief targeted expressly for their home province. Through their fund, the **Canadian Red Cross** will provide emergency support, food, and shelter for 72 hours after events like a house fire or flood, an important safety net for Saskatchewan people who have lost everything.

Their funds supporting the mission work of **Food for the Hungry Canada** and **Hope for Malawi** created by Peter and Elaine Zakreski will provide life-saving nutrition, reliable clean water, education, and opportunity for communities to become self sustaining, dramatically improving the quality of life in some of the world's poorest communities.

As Les and Irene seek out charitable organizations working "where the need is greatest," they lead by example, inspiring their charitable partners to do their utmost in delivering programs and services.

Locked down through 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, life has been very quiet for the Dubés. Like the knitted blankets Irene creates for hospitals and charitable organizations, their faith-filled philanthropy has blanketed people right across our extended community, giving comfort to those who need it most. ●

# Saskatoon Responds to the Pandemic

Since March 2020, COVID-19 has profoundly impacted our world. Illness, death, isolation, limited services, and business closures have touched everyone. In crisis, existing inequities have worsened.

The closure of community services in Saskatoon during the crisis made it difficult for many people to access basic needs, food, shelter, and safety. Even self-isolation was a challenge for some people. Services normally provided by charitable organizations, civic facilities, and businesses were unavailable or limited. The most vulnerable people in Saskatoon had no place to sleep, no place to get warm, and no access to washroom facilities.

Failing to protect every person in Saskatoon causes severe consequences for the most vulnerable, but everyone is affected.

**\$2.23M**

*in total funding for  
COVID-19 community  
response*

## A Rapid Response



SASKATOON  
**COMMUNITY  
RESPONSE**  
TO COVID-19

When the COVID-19 crisis hit, organizations and individuals working with the most vulnerable braced for a devastating impact. The community of help and expertise coalesced rapidly. In only two weeks, 60+ organizations came together to form the Saskatoon Inter-Agency Response to COVID-19 (SIRC).

The group worked together to ensure needs would be met. A command structure and working groups were formed for key areas of need, plus communications, allocations, logistics, and finance. Among other tasks, the group's work involved purchasing and distributing personal protective equipment, maintaining access to shelter and food, communicating safety guidelines to community organizations still operating, providing technology and connectivity, and advocating with the provincial and federal government for resources needed in Saskatoon.

SIRC showed Saskatoon what can be accomplished with the will to make it happen.



## COVID-19 Timeline

### March 2020

- COVID-19 is declared a world-wide pandemic.
- A coalition of agencies is created: the Saskatoon Inter-Agency Response to COVID-19.
- The Saskatoon COVID-19 Community Response Fund is created to accept donations, and is supported by the city, corporations, foundations, and individuals.
- Saskatoon Community Foundation commits \$100,000 to the Community Response Fund.

### April 2020

- Saskatoon Community Foundation fast-tracks Quality of Life funding for the community response, disbursing 27 grants totaling over \$328,000.
- The foundation's Youth Advisory Council allocates Youth Endowment Saskatoon funding for the community response, disbursing 19 grants totaling over \$68,000.

### April 2020 and ongoing

- Since the fund's creation, more than \$800,000 has been raised for the Saskatoon COVID-19 Community Response Fund.



## Community Response Fund

Saskatoon Community Foundation worked in partnership with the United Way of Saskatoon and Area to raise funds for relief work, creating the response fund to accept donations.

The Foundation committed \$100,000 in unrestricted funds, and received major funding from the **City of Saskatoon**, **Nutrien**, the **Stephen and Michelene Worobetz Foundation**, the **Lawson Foundation**, and other supporters.

More than \$800,000 has been raised in the community for water, containers, cleaning supplies, PPE, emergency staffing, cultural supports, connectivity supports, and other urgent needs.

A generous anonymous donor provided \$385,000 to address unmet community needs for the COVID-19 response.

**\$800K**

*total raised for community  
COVID-19 response*

## Youth Endowment Saskatoon (YES) Grants

- \$68K granted for COVID-19 with funds from YES

## Quality of Life Grants

- \$328K granted for COVID-19 with unrestricted funds from Quality of Life

## We Got This! #YXE

Radio host Derek Watson organized the local We Got This! YXE campaign, selling custom T-shirts to raise over \$15,000 and bring the community together.

"This whole experience was fantastic! Not only did we raise these funds, we also brought to the forefront the strong sense of unity and pride that lives in this community."

—Watty



Photo submitted.

### May 2020

- The Federal government partners with Community Foundations of Canada, United Way Centraide and the Canadian Red Cross to administer the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF).
- In ECSF Round 1, Saskatoon Community Foundation disburses 18 grants totaling over \$629,000.

### November 2020

- In ECSF Round 2, Saskatoon Community Foundation disburses 11 grants totaling over \$230,000.

### February 2021

- The federal government partners with Community Foundations of Canada to administer the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative (CHCI).



# Prairie Harm Reduction Offers Safety and Dignity without Stigma

In October 2020, Jason Mercredi of Prairie Harm Reduction spoke with Don Ewles, Grants Manager, about his organization's outreach and support.

DE: For many years, your organization was called AIDS Saskatoon and now it has become Prairie Harm Reduction. What was behind that change?

JM: We do HIV prevention still, but we do a lot of harm reduction...outreach programming that works with families and kids, social services, health and justice. So harm reduction really captured the heart of what we do. We wanted to have something in the name that highlighted we are from the prairies. We are doing progressive social policy work and so Prairie Harm Reduction is a name we are very proud of.

DE: Do people with HIV still know this is the organization that can help them?

JM: Yes, we have between 350 and 400 clients with HIV and they still feel comfortable coming to us. A lot of times they are even more comfortable. They will bring their friends or family now because that stigma is not attached. They can just say, "This is Prairie Harm Reduction, and they do all these things." We work with over 1,200 people in the community on an intensive case management basis. Only a third of our clientele have HIV. It's a big portion of what we do, but it's not all we do.

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**DE: What are you doing for the other two thirds who don't have HIV?**

JM: Over half of our funding is for family support programs, working with families that are at risk of having their children apprehended, dealing with various issues—domestic violence, poverty, food insecurity, housing insecurity, mental health issues, addictions. We work very closely with the families to ensure that kids are safe, but also to ensure that kids can stay in their homes and don't need ministry involvement. That program goes up until midnight seven days a week. We often go into the homes that nobody wants to go into. We build up relationships with those families, and we are able to get them into a safer situation.

**DE: You recently moved to 20th Street from 33rd Street. What prompted the location change?**

JM: We knew we needed to build a safe consumption site because the overdose crisis was really starting to spiral underground but people weren't talking about it publicly. The health authority has these maps of the city that show where the most overdoses happen and where the most HIV infections happen and they were all in Pleasant Hill within 150 metres of our (current) building.

We really push HIV education, harm reduction supplies, and needle safety. We have picked up well over 60,000 needles in just under a year. Our needle disposal bin, which holds 72 litres of needles, is emptied every three weeks. On top of that, we have a full-time staff person who goes out and picks up needles. When people come into our consumption site, they get a needle, but they dispose of it before they leave the building. No harm reduction paraphernalia ever leaves our facility.

**DE: Why was receiving the Emergency Community Support Fund grant for the public washroom in Pleasant Hill so important?**

JM: When COVID first hit, we really shifted our services. We had to shut down to flatten the curve as everyone did. So, we were still providing services, but we provided them at the isolation hotels and the service delivery hub at White Buffalo Youth Lodge. Because there were no public washrooms for the people we serve... there was no way for people to have dignity. It was really sad. Since we got the grant to operate the washroom, we've been steadily

busy. We hired a local youth who graduated from Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op. That position has allowed us to provide a safe space where people can have dignity and respect and feel like a human.

It's been amazing working with Saskatoon Community Foundation during the pandemic. This is the first time in my career where we talk to a funder and they go make it happen for us, so we can focus on keeping the community safe.

**DE: What is unique about Saskatoon Inter-Agency Response to COVID-19?**

JM: I think it's about relationships. We have very good relationships between organizations. However, we can't overstate that when Saskatoon Community Foundation and United Way pooled resources, it allowed us to focus on our work.

We asked, "What needs to get done, and who are the best people to do each task?"

Literally, everyone just said, "Where do you need me? Plug me in there."

That doesn't exist in other cities, and you see the results. We've been able to keep COVID out of this vulnerable population for longer than other provinces and other cities.

**DE: Do you think that we can keep this model going to address other community issues?**

JM: I think so. People are saying that this is the new way of doing things. Because we've had so much success, we realize that we need to be way more collaborative. We need to be way more inclusive. We've seen leadership from government to health to community-based organizations to even clientele. That collaborative nature from the top can allow us to solve systemic issues.

I think the biggest success we had was when Northwoods City Centre Motel closed down. We re-housed a lot of people in a very short time, and it was all because of the relationships. We now know how to build up infrastructure quickly and collaboratively in a tense environment, still be effective, and still be looking out for the community. ●

(Note: this interview was conducted during a time when the above activities were permitted. PHR follows all public health recommendations.)



# Reconciliation: The Winds of Change

Special thanks to all supporters for their generosity during the turbulence of 2020, and for continuing to support the Community Fund for Reconciliation, even though we were not able to hold the 2020 Nutrien Saskatoon Community Foundation Cultural Gala as planned.

Thanks to **Nutrien, Graham Construction, PCL Construction Management Inc., Amberlea & Derek Chabot, Kelly Panteluk Construction Ltd., Ernst & Young, Orano Canada, Dr. Dean Kolbinson, David Edney, Laurel Kreuger, Iris Nicholaichuk, and Ms. Middleton's Class at Buena Vista School.**

Because of these generous individual and corporate supporters, the Community Fund for Reconciliation has continued providing funding for projects and partnerships responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

The 2020 Community Fund for Reconciliation grant recipients demonstrated strong partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations. They showed innovative ways of building bridges in local communities, despite the realities of a global pandemic. Projects included the documentation of the return of the bison to Wanuskewin, Cree language programming, youth outreach, and more.

Watch for updates on the next Nutrien Saskatoon Community Foundation Cultural Gala, Walk with the Wind. ●



Photo courtesy of Nutrien Saskatoon Community Foundation Cultural Gala.

Thanks to these supporters, we are granting over \$100,000 in 2021.







Photo submitted.



## Gladys Hall's Carefully Planned Gift

**Giving like Gladys is achievable, with good financial advice and smart saving.**

Gladys Hall cherished the Meewasin river valley in her beloved Saskatoon, with its rich foliage, majestic elms, wide lawns, and sense of community.

During her lifetime, the **Meewasin Valley Authority** was one of seven charities close to her heart. These seven comprise the group of beneficiaries of the Gladys Hall Fund established with the Saskatoon Community Foundation, which was inspired by her wish to give back both during her lifetime and after her death.

***She made a point of regularly setting aside a small amount of money for investment, ensuring she could continue to live comfortably in her retirement.***

Gladys was born near Landis, Saskatchewan in 1920, the second child of Evan and Paula Hall. Her Canadian father fought overseas in World War I where he met her mother, a Belgian governess. The family set up their homestead

and began farming in the Landis area, because Evan had received a quarter section of land as a war veteran. From her mother, Paula, Gladys received some education in French as she grew up, and she recalled listening to her mother hold conversations in French on the telephone party line.

Gladys attended a rural school in Needwood, southwest of Landis, and then continued her education in the city, graduating in 1941 from Success Secretarial College, now the Saskatoon Business College.

During her working life, she worked for her entire 43-year career with the Agriculture Canada Research Station on the University of Saskatchewan campus, after brief positions with a hatchery, McGavin's bakery, and the Department of Entomology.

***Bit by bit her investment grew, and she relied on professional financial planners for sound advice to manage her nest egg.***

An independent woman, Gladys was determined to save and invest her earnings wisely, providing for herself without family for support. She made a point of regularly setting aside a small amount of money for investment, ensuring she could continue to live comfortably in her retirement. Bit by bit her investment grew, and she relied on professional financial planners for sound advice to manage her nest egg. With her sensible and community-minded outlook, it was only natural for Gladys to look outward to community needs once she had achieved her personal goal of financial independence.

The **CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind)** was a beneficiary of her volunteer efforts for 22 years. She spent hours reading aloud with her modulated, gentle voice so that visually impaired people could also enjoy the literature she enjoyed. And when she thought of giving back to community, she named the CNIB as one of the seven charities designated in her endowed fund.

Trusting the Saskatoon Community Foundation with her endowed fund proved to be a worthwhile investment strategy for Gladys that enabled her to provide financially for multiple charitable organizations that were personally significant to her. It was the perfect solution for the community-minded career woman to create the personal legacy of impact she desired.

Gladys was recognized with the Centennial Medal for her lifetime of service to the volunteer sector and the government of Canada.

In addition to the CNIB and the Meewasin Valley Authority, the other charities Gladys Hall designated in her fund included **Autism Services, Ronald McDonald House, Saskatoon Interval House, the Western Development Museum, and YWCA Saskatoon.**

*With sound advice from her financial advisors, Gladys combined gifts during her lifetime, a gift in her will, life insurance, and registered investments, making Saskatoon Community Foundation the beneficiary.*

Gladys Hall passed away on October 10, 2017, but her legacy of giving has already made an impact in Saskatoon. Since 2001, the Gladys Hall Fund has granted over \$99,000 to Saskatoon charitable work, providing the charities she selected with a

sustained source of income that continues forever.

Thanks to this ongoing multi-year support through the Gladys Hall Fund, Saskatoon Interval House has housed countless women and children who were forced to leave their homes fleeing family violence.

The fund has allowed the YWCA to “provide advocacy, programs and services to positively impact the lives of women, their families, and the community,” wrote former director of housing Heather Pocock.

*Gladys Hall’s planned gift created a charitable legacy of nearly \$1M, providing the charities she selected with a sustained source of income forever.*

Autism Services of Saskatoon has been able “to increase and enhance the level and range of services provided to address the needs of children and adults with autism,” said the organization.

Ronald McDonald House has continued to provide a home-like environment for families in both Saskatoon and Prince Albert, offering invaluable support while children received medical care.

The Western Development Museum has provided many Saskatoon residents and visitors to the city with a sense of the past. Her donations have improved exhibits and provided opportunities for interaction.

And the CNIB has helped many Saskatchewan people living with vision loss continue to work, play, and enjoy the things that matter most, including services for the visually impaired, adaptive consumer products, and a large library. A woman who believed in the importance of quality of life and was a frequent visitor to the Saskatoon Public Library, Gladys would have been delighted. ●





# Grief, Legacy and Advance Care Plans



Connecting what donors want their gifts to do and what they want their legacy to be is at the heart of what Saskatoon Community Foundation does every day. We are trusted to carry out these plans on behalf of our donors.

The uncertainty, illness, and loss of life we have seen during the pandemic

have made us pause and think about death and dying, what is most important in life, and how we would like to be remembered. In my role as philanthropic advisor, I bring together the philosophical and the pragmatic.

For me, this excerpt from a Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP) blog post by Leigh Naturkach, Senior Director of Philanthropy and Legacy Giving, Women's College Hospital Foundation\*, struck a chord. Her article caused me to think. After a year of having so much to think about, I hope these thoughts on grief, legacy, connection, and sharing with loved ones resonate with you, too.

– Jen Pederson, CFRE, Philanthropic Advisor

## Being present in grief

The past year has taught us to be more grounded and less rushed. As we grieve, we receive and give comfort through practicing mindfulness, connecting with our environment, and observing our emotions.

## Just listening

By practicing active listening, we make others feel understood. Instead of offering solutions, we are simply acknowledging someone's grief or suffering and holding space for them.

## Grief is part of being alive

Emotions are complex, normal, and necessary for humans, and for animals too: fear, shock, anxiety, sadness, and more. By learning about the many forms and types of grief and loss, we can validate these feelings. However, we must understand when prolonged shock or paralyzing grief requires professional counselling.

## Open conversations

You can have conversations with your loved ones about what matters most in life and death. By approaching conversations while doing shared activities, by asking positive questions, or by trying various times, we can learn each other's wishes. This includes requests, fears, quality of life decisions, and who is best to speak on our behalf. Open conversations now can mean better informed decisions later.

## The benefit of ritual

Ritual and tradition are part of our individual and collective spiritual experiences and give us ways to understand significant transitions in life. These may include food, music, candles, verse, or other cultural practices.

## Humour and grief

As we go through the grieving process, humour can allow us to remember more fully the whole person we are missing. Eulogies sometimes include sweet and funny memories that paint a picture of who they were during their lifetime.

## What's your legacy?

Our legacy is simply who we are, every day, through our contributions, our values, and our relationships.

Legacy can also be described in a formal way through advance care plans that ensure our values are realized. These plans include wills, medical directives, substitute decision makers, personal care, end of life and post death preferences. The process of creating advance care plans gives great help and comfort to our loved ones for the future. ●

\*Excerpt from CAGP blog post by Leigh Naturkach.

## Getting Started

Contact our **Philanthropic Advisor Jen Pederson** at **306-665-9880** to find out how Saskatoon Community Foundation can help you create your legacy.



## Your gift keeps giving. Your story never ends.

With Saskatoon Community Foundation, you can support the causes closest to your heart, knowing that your gift will be invested forever.

[Ask us how to get started today.](#)

[saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca](http://saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca) | 306.665.1766

