



2024 Impact Report





Our Vision

A vibrant Saskatoon community where everyone belongs.

Our Mission

We inspire philanthropy, build community and lead change in Saskatoon.

We are passionate stewards of philanthropy, helping every donor create their enduring legacy through charitable giving.

Rising to the Challenge: *Community in Action*



This past year, our community has faced extraordinary pressures—from homelessness and addiction to increasing challenges around mental health, inclusion, and belonging. The Saskatoon Community Foundation (SCF) confronts these realities with resolve and purpose. We rise to meet them.

We know that change doesn't happen by chance. It happens when people come together—with clarity, courage, and in collaboration. In 2024, our Foundation moved boldly ahead—grounded in purpose and driven by a deeper commitment to impact. As always, we continued to listen and learn from community-based organizations and lived experience leaders, building partnerships that reflect the richness and diversity of Saskatoon.

Together with our donors and fundholders, we granted more than \$637,000 through our Community Granting Programs—Youth Endowment Saskatoon, Quality of Life, and our multi-year Vital Focus Community Investment Program. These grants supported bold, community-driven work across the city.

Our ten-year average investment return remains strong at 6.44%, sustaining long-term community impact with funds entrusted with the Foundation. But this is not the time to rest. We know there is much more to do—and we're ready.

This year, we welcomed Rachael Steinke as our new Chief Executive Officer. With a background in human rights, community-based work, human services, intersectoral initiatives, and government, Rachael brings energy and experience that is already shaping a fresh chapter for our Foundation.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to launch a new Strategic Plan in 2025—one that will sharpen our focus and scale our impact as we confront Saskatoon's most pressing social issues. Our board and staff team are committed to collaborative, innovative solutions, rooted in trust and built in partnership with our community.

Whether you're planning a personal legacy or seeking financial stewardship for your organization, we invite you to contact our team—we're here to help.

Thank you for walking with us. Together, we are more than a foundation—we are a collective force for social good.

In partnership and with profound gratitude,

Wanda Hunchak, CFA, CPA (CMA)

Chair of the Board of Directors

Rachael Steinke, MA, BA

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Strategic Progress

2024

"The Saskatoon Community Foundation has a profound ability to understand the needs of our community. This is essential to me when I choose how to make community gifts."

- Foundation Donor





425

Community-Based
Organizations and
Charities Supported

\$108.7M

Total asset base

\$8.3M

In new donations
in 2024

Focus

Outcome

Valuing Our Community

- **Granted to more than 425 Community-Based Organizations and Registered Charities**, empowering impactful initiatives that address key community needs.
- Launched the **multi-year Vital Focus Community Granting Program**, focused on tackling long-term community challenges in Saskatoon, with a strategic emphasis on sustainability.
- Developed and launched our **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Strategy**, guiding our work to be more inclusive, equitable, and reflective of the diverse voices in our community.

Valuing Our Donors

- Strengthened our Donor-Advised Spendable Funds, securing **3 agreements** that enable donors to make a direct and lasting impact on the community during their lifetime.
- Grew the **Saskatoon Circle Legacy Society**, honoring donors who have committed to future gifts through their wills, ensuring lasting change for generations to come.

Building a Sustainable Financial Foundation

- **Grew our asset base to approximately \$110M**, strengthening our ability to fund long-term, impactful community initiatives.
- Received **\$8,275,368 in new donations**, fueling critical work in key areas.
- Initiated Strategic Planning, laying the groundwork for a focused, visionary path forward that will drive greater impact in the years ahead.

Valuing Our Human Foundation

- **Welcomed a new CEO, Rachael Steinke**, who brings extensive expertise in intersectoral collaboration, human services, leadership, and community development, positioning our Foundation for bold, new directions.

Connecting Donors to Community

- **Mentored local agencies** in growing their legacy giving programs through the national Will Power campaign, helping them build enduring funding streams.
- **Reached ~12,000 addresses and thousands more online readers with our Promise Magazine**, sharing stories of hope and progress and connecting donors to the causes that matter.

The value of a community foundation

While many organizations are working for better communities, a few important factors make the community foundation approach different from others:

A long-term view: Because community foundations focus on building permanent endowments (investments that leave the principle and grant the interest), they ensure the funds will be granted indefinitely.

Community-based, personalized donor service: Community foundations are uniquely equipped to help individual donors meet their particular philanthropic goals by providing in-depth knowledge of their community along with expertise in a wide range of flexible charitable giving options.

A broad perspective: Community foundations make effective grants and develop networks across the whole community. With this in-depth community knowledge, they can identify opportunities in many fields, build on existing community strengths, and create powerful connections.

Commitment to community service: Because their view of community issues and priorities is independent and crosses many sectors, community foundations offer collaborative leadership that transcends "special interests" and reflects the interests of the community at large.

Accountability: Community foundations believe that their values and way of working, not just their work, can be a powerful tool for building social capital. Community foundations strive for flexible, transparent governance and leadership practices that inspire commitment to philanthropy.

Principles



**Building
Community
Vitality**



**Tackle
Pressing
Issues**



**Learn
& Share**



**Understanding
Our Community**



**Embrace Diversity
and Foster
Renewal**



**Responsive
& Accountable**



**Creating
Opportunities for
Dialogue & Inclusion**



**Granting for
Breadth & Impact**



**Embracing
Partnerships**



**Build Community Assets
& Champion Philanthropy**

Saskatoon Community Foundation
is a proud member of:



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA
all for community

We Were Out of Time - And Then the Community Stepped Up

How Mayor Charlie Clark, the Saskatoon Community Foundation, and a city-wide coalition mobilized to keep people safe during a winter shelter crisis

- By Michelle Berg

As winter approached in late 2024, Saskatoon was running out of time. The previous year, a temporary warm-up shelter had saved lives during dangerously cold weather. But this time, emergency federal funding had dried up, and months of planning had yet to secure a location, operator, or funding. With temperatures dropping, Mayor Charlie Clark says the urgency became impossible to ignore.

"We knew people would be at serious risk if we didn't act," Clark said. "The cold doesn't wait."

Though emergency shelters fall outside the City's jurisdiction, Clark set protocol aside and began calling key partners. One of the first was the Saskatoon Community Foundation (SCF), newly led by CEO Rachael Steinke. While SCF had shifted its focus to long-term solutions around poverty and housing, Clark believed early financial support could trigger broader collaboration.

He also approached philanthropists David Dube and Greg Yuel, who each pledged \$75,000. With \$150,000 in private support secured, SCF quickly followed with a \$100,000 commitment — a contribution Clark called the turning point.

"It showed everyone that this could happen — and it inspired others to step in,"

From there, a coordinated effort came together quickly. The city worked with the Salvation Army and the Saskatoon Tribal Council's Sawēyihotân project to mobilize a shelter response. Hosting sites were secured at St. Mary's Parish and the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre — spaces made available by community partners willing to step up.

Sawēyihotân provided outreach and front-line support. City departments helped with transit access and public washrooms, while Emergency Management coordinated operations. The Friendship Inn served meals, and the Saskatoon Fire Department ensured safety protocols were met.

"This wasn't about whose job it was," said Clark. "It was about doing the right thing. And the Saskatoon Community Foundation helped make that happen." The shelters opened in time for the coldest part of the season, offering warmth, safety, and dignity to Saskatoon's most vulnerable residents.

Clark says the experience reaffirmed the value of responsive philanthropy and trust-based collaboration. "The Foundation's leadership didn't just prevent a crisis," he said. "It helped lay the groundwork for deeper collaboration and more lasting solutions."

For Clark, it was proof of what's possible when a city acts together — quickly, decisively, and with shared purpose.



In the community



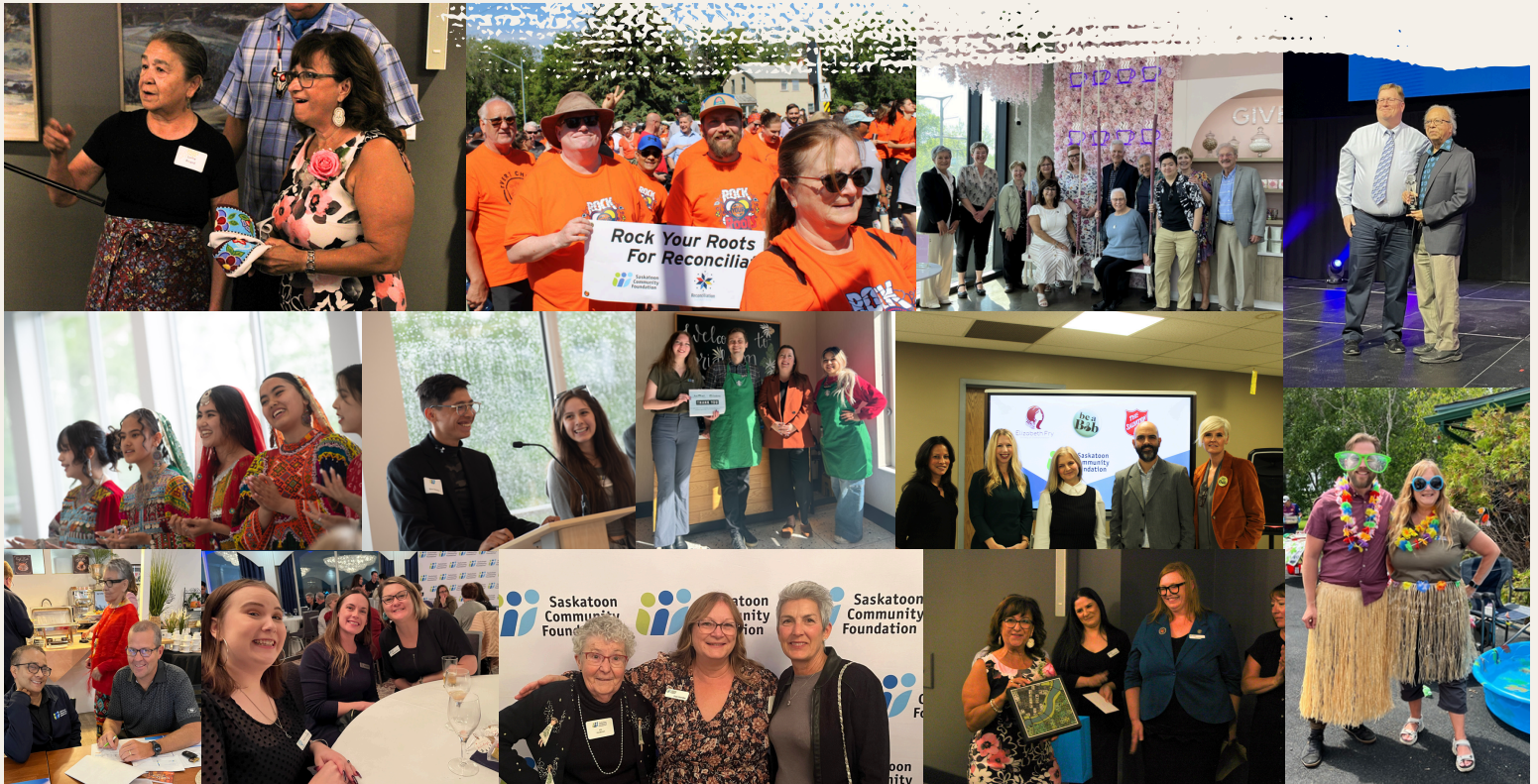
The best way to deeply understand Saskatoon, is to be involved in the community.

In 2024, our team was present across the city and surrounding area—participating in events, joining celebrations, listening at consultations, and forging strong, lasting relationships.

Our ongoing presence in the community is more than just participation; it's how we stay grounded in the realities people face.

By showing up, listening, researching and learning, we gain the insights and trust needed to support meaningful and lasting change.

Because of this commitment, donors, businesses, and government partners continue to turn to the Saskatoon Community Foundation as a trusted advisor in philanthropy. Our work in the community is not just something we do—it's at the heart of how we lead, advise, and serve with integrity and impact.





From Lived Experience to Lasting Change

How SCF's Support is Transforming Elizabeth Fry Saskatchewan

- By Michelle Berg

When Nicole Obrigavitch stepped into the role of executive director at the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan in early 2023, the organization was at a turning point.

"We had great programs, but we didn't have structure," she said. "Since then, we've tripled our staff, expanded to Regina, launched new housing programs, and built capacity across the board. SCF has been with us every step of the way."

Obrigavitch brought not only professional credentials and legal training to the role, but also lived experience. After surviving an abusive relationship, navigating addiction, and serving time in custody in 2015, she returned with a commitment to transform the very systems she once had to survive.

"I've sat on both sides of this table," she said. "That changes how you lead. It changes how you listen."

She said women exiting incarceration need more than services — they need stability, dignity and hope.

The Saskatoon Community Foundation (SCF) has played a critical role in that mission. Its early support came in the form of a \$10,000 institutional in-reach grant for programming at Pine Grove Correctional Centre, providing face-to-face support for reintegration planning.

"That \$10,000 grant may sound small, but it was everything at the time," said Obrigavitch. "It helped us rebuild trust with women inside."

As the organization's needs grew, so did SCF's investment. Multi-year funding allowed for the hiring of a housing manager to launch a transitional home, now operating with additional provincial support. SCF has also helped fund the Pathways to Serenity mental health program and currently supports a part-time community housing navigator through the Robert Steane Fund to Alleviate Homelessness.

"Annual grants are exhausting for small organizations, SCF's multi-year support helped us build something sustainable."

To her, the value of SCF's support goes beyond financial backing.





"This isn't just about funding," she said. "It's about a relationship. I can call Don or Rachael at SCF when I need advice, direction or just someone who understands what we're trying to do."

She was referring to Don Ewles, SCF's grants manager and Rachael Steinke, SCF's Chief Executive Officer.

"I've called Don three times in a day just to talk something through," she added. "That kind of support is rare — and empowering."

Obrigavitch said SCF's flexible, relationship-based model allows Elizabeth Fry Saskatchewan to focus on long-term impact. She envisions a housing continuum for criminalized women, from group living to independent housing, with wraparound supports at every stage.

"You can have the best programming in the world, but if someone doesn't have stable housing, it won't matter," she said. "SCF understands that. They don't just fund band-aids. They invest in solutions."

Most of the organization's current staff identify as women with lived experience, including many who are Indigenous and have faced incarceration or systemic barriers. That shared experience builds credibility, Obrigavitch said.

"Women want support from someone who's been there. That connection builds trust in ways no credential ever could." Obrigavitch said she once carried shame about her past, but no longer.

"It's given me a unique lens to understand what women in our community need — and what systems consistently fail to deliver," she said.

She is now mentoring others who may not have formal education but bring compassion and credibility to their roles.

"You don't need a law degree to lead," she said. "You need trust, empathy and opportunity. That's what we try to model."

To SCF donors, Obrigavitch offered a message of thanks.

"Your generosity is building more than programs. It's building lives. You're helping women heal, reunite with their families and become leaders in their own right."

And to other community organizations: "It starts with relationship. With SCF, we don't just share our wins — we share our vision. And they listen."

As Elizabeth Fry Saskatchewan continues to grow, Obrigavitch is clear about what makes the difference. "This work is hard," she said. "But when you're walking alongside people who believe in what you're doing — it makes all the difference."



**WILL
POWER™**
Support a charity in your Will

You have more power to make a difference than you realize. By giving even a small portion of your estate to charity, you can make a significant impact on the causes you care about, and still support those you love. In short, you can do both.

If enough Canadians got on board and donated just a small percentage of their estate to charity, it could mean as much as \$58 billion for social good in this country.

What story will your gift tell?

Support a charity in your Will

Writing a bequest? Talk to your lawyer and check out this easy guide to help:



Empowering Youth, Shaping Saskatoon's Future

Youth Council Offers Saskatoon Teens a Front-Row Seat to Change

– Michelle Berg

When the Saskatoon Community Foundation launched the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), the goal was simple but ambitious: to give young people a real voice in shaping their community. Years later, it's clear that the experience has given far more than a voice. It's created leaders. Each year, Dave Shanks mentors Saskatoon youth, **aged 13 to 25, who direct \$100,000 in funding through the Youth Endowment Saskatoon (YES) Grants. This spring, the panel reviewed 57 applications and selected 15 projects to fund.**

Through hands-on learning in philanthropy and grant-making, participants gain leadership skills and civic responsibility. For Shanks, it's about more than grants — it's about building compassionate change-makers.

"When we think of change... one of the ways that you benefit youth in our community is just by contributing our voices," said Grade 11 student Shruti Chhetry, "to fund organizations in Saskatoon that are actually doing the work."

Shanks returns year after year because of what he sees in the participants — their growth, insights, and willingness to challenge assumptions. "Sometimes I think these are the conversations we want adults to have," he said. "They're not afraid to change their minds. That's how transformation happens."

Many youth came in with specific interests and left with a broader view. "I care about issues that I didn't expect to care about," said Grade 10 student Archie McGrath. "I think I have a better understanding of what's out there and what's important." For McGrath, grant writing was a turning point. "With the knowledge, I've been able to get a grant from another organization approved myself... and make me aware of what's happening in our community."

Because youth make the decisions, Shanks said, the outcomes are often surprising. "They choose things adults might not have." Over 15 rounds, the council has funded a wide range of initiatives, including programs on sexual health and access to food. "I didn't know food insecurity was such a big issue in Saskatoon," said Grade 11 student Kenzi Gerein.

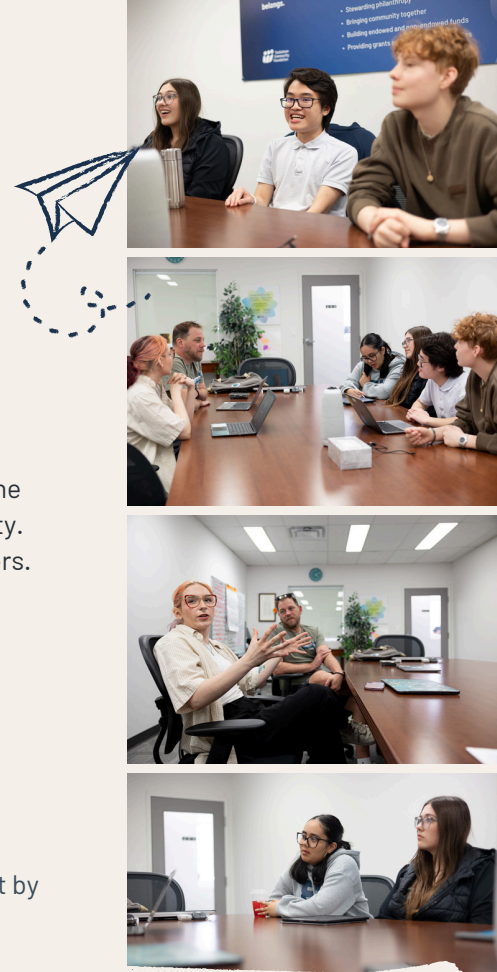
For many, YAC was their first real look at charitable governance and budgeting. Several said it shifted their view of nonprofits — and their own futures. "I never saw this at my high school career fair," said U of S student Olivia Johnston. "It's the kind of thing no one tells you exists." Grade 11 student Le Hieu Thong Quach said the program bridged his scientific thinking with local needs. "Something might be a cool idea — but it won't work in Saskatoon. You have to understand our infrastructure." Others found themselves pulled into an ecosystem of issues. "I came in with certain passions, but now I care about so much more," said Chhetry. "And I feel equipped to do something."

Disagreement was part of the learning. "We had great discussions," Johnston said. "One person explained their view, and it changed how we all thought."

Still, the program wasn't all serious. Laughter punctuated the reflection session, with students describing how rewarding it was to be taken seriously while staying true to themselves. Even lighter moments — awkward silences, jokes, snacks — built camaraderie. "It's a blast," said Shanks.

As final grant decisions loomed, Shanks emphasized flexibility. "We're building a space where youth want to contribute — not where they feel obligated... These youth show up after school, on weekends — they want to make a difference," he said.

And each year, they do make a difference.





The Evermore Centre's Reconciliation Feast & Round Dance Project

Building resilient families and a strong future generation

- By Don Ewles

The Evermore Centre offers programs and services for families grown thru adoption, kinship, guardianship, foster care, anywhere where the children are no longer with their biological parents, helping families to flourish and engaging culture to strengthen family bonds.

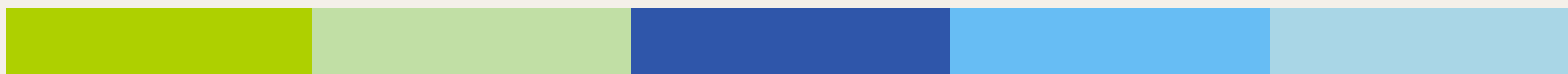
The 6-month project brings together Indigenous & non-Indigenous organizations to work together, develop relationships and learn from each other, culminating in an event that highlights families that are multi-cultural & built in non-traditional ways.

The project engages several Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, addressing cultural connections for children in care, culturally appropriate parenting (Indigenous representatives to ensure protocols are followed) and improving intercultural competency. Partnerships with The Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre, White Buffalo Youth Lodge, Saskatchewan Foster Families Association, and Sask Youth in Care & Custody Network ensure a strong network for families.

The Reconciliation Round Dance provides Indigenous culture in a safe environment where differences are celebrated and an opportunity for the youth to increase pride of culture and a strengthened sense of self and for families to learn, understand and respect ceremonial rituals of the Feast and Round Dance.

Parents/caregivers who are non-Indigenous honour the history of their Indigenous children which makes them feel valued and loved. Evermore consults an Elder to help explain the significance of the traditions and ceremony to both those who are organizing the event and the attendees.

"Sharing our child's culture brings us closer as one big family." - Family Member



Financial Highlights

NET ASSETS

Endowed Funds \$61,753,886

Non Endowed Funds \$19,649,054

Operations \$1,333,058

REVENUES

Investment Income \$8,034,975

Donations \$8,295,727

EXPENDITURES

Grants \$7,533,847

Operating Expenses \$1,578,519



472

Number of Funds

11% 2024 Investment Return

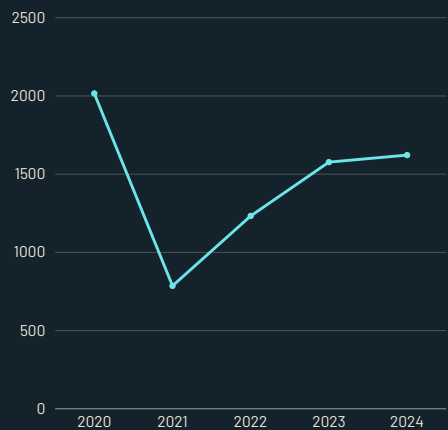
\$68,986,442

Total Grants since establishment

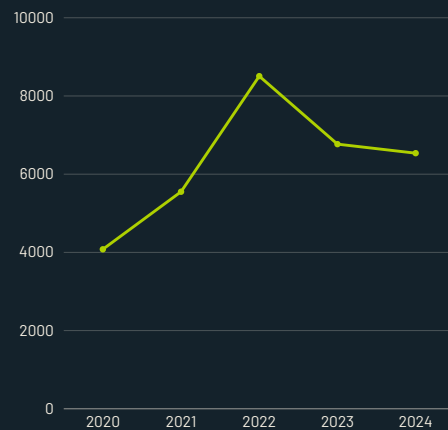


See detailed financials and audited statements on our website.

Endowed Donations \$('000s)

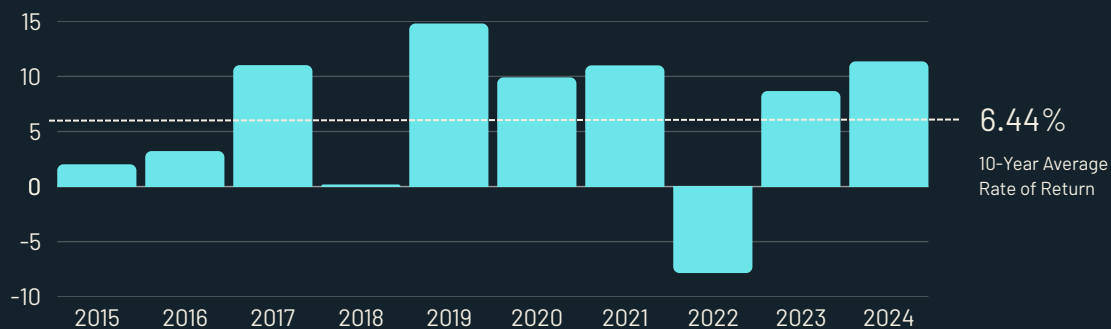


Non Endowed Donations \$('000s)



Total Managed Funds: 25,723,426

Annual Investment Returns (Net)

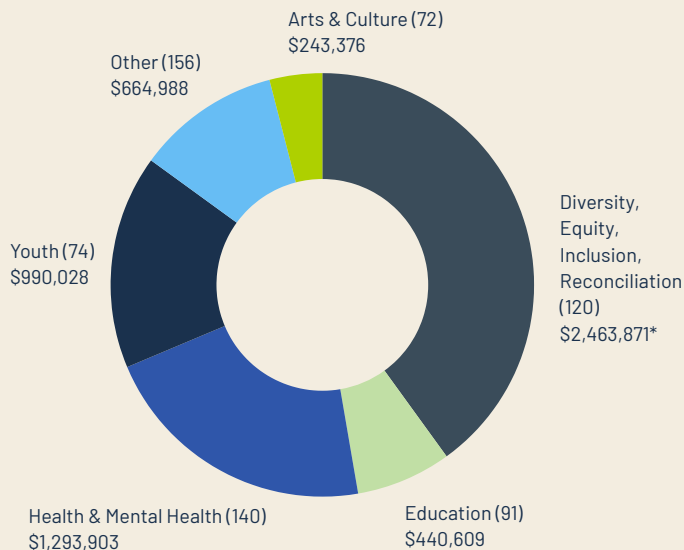


FOR A LIST OF
DONORS, VISIT;



Grants by Focus Area

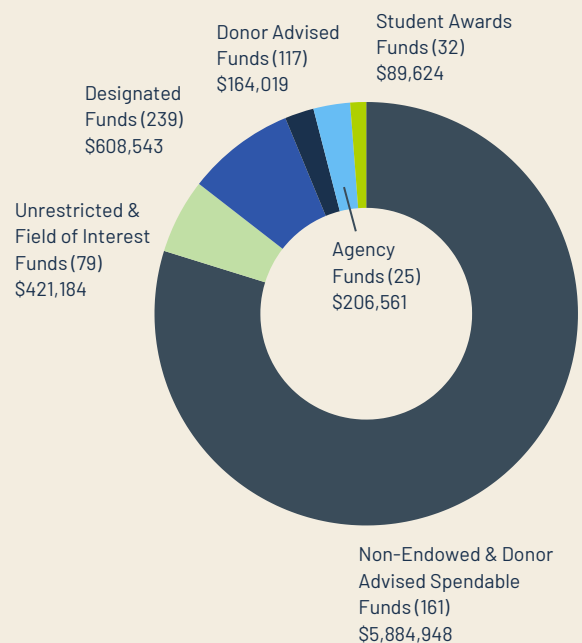
(# of grants)



*Including homelessness

Grants by Fund Type

(# of grants)



Saskatonians

We believe that deep down, we all have very similar hopes and dreams for our community. Armed with a camera and a simple question: ***"Why is community important to you?"***, we've started an exciting project to prove this in our city.

Stay tuned to our social media as we share these stories! Contact us if you would like to be a featured Saskatonian!



@saskatonians





Do you feel compelled to give back to Saskatoon? Do you want your donation to go where it can really make an impact on the root challenges that face our community? GiveYXE was designed to use the power of collective impact to create a vibrant community.

Saskatoon Community Foundation works alongside community organizations to understand the most pressing challenges and where investment can be made. All the money that is donated through the GiveYXE fund is pooled to tap into leverage economies of scale. Each year, the funds are dispersed with the diligence of the Community Foundation and the guidance of community-service advisors. The donations themselves are never granted directly, instead, the interest on the pooled donations is granted, ensuring your gift keeps giving indefinitely! Join us in giving to make YXE the best community it can be!

*Learn
more
here:*



Forward Momentum

What's next for 2025?



As we look ahead to 2025, the Saskatoon Community Foundation is poised for a year of transformation and growth. We're building on the solid foundation we've established, with a sharpened focus on maximizing impact and engaging even more deeply with the community.

Here's what's on the horizon:

- **2026-2031 Strategic Plan:** charting a clear path forward for the Foundation's work, setting the stage to make a lasting impact in the years ahead.
- **Amplifying Impact Stories:** highlighting the tangible difference funds make in the community and showcasing the people and organizations driving change.
- **Vital Signs 2025:** offering a comprehensive, data-driven snapshot of Saskatoon's most urgent needs and helping align efforts where they matter most.
- **Piloting Impact Investing** in Saskatoon: exploring innovative ways to generate both financial returns and measurable community benefits, while aligning investments with the values of Saskatoon.
- **Refreshed website** to offer a more engaging, user-friendly experience, making it easier for our community, donors, and partners to connect and contribute.

These initiatives represent just a glimpse of the exciting work ahead. We remain committed to strengthening our Foundation's role as a catalyst for positive change in Saskatoon.



Staff

Back Row: Don Ewles, Grants Manager; Rachael Steinke, CEO; Krys Hertzke, Donor Services and Grant Coordinator; Joanne McGrath, Philanthropic Advisor; Sandra Isteevan, Financial Administrator

Front Row: Jen Pederson, Director of Philanthropy; Masooma Nasiri, Summer Marketing Coordinator; Kyle Brewer, Summer Marketing Coordinator; Sameer Chhetry, Director of Finance and Operations; Yasmin Chick, Executive Assistant; Fred Reibin, Marketing and Communications Manager

Board of Directors



Wanda Hunchak
Chair, Board of Directors



Danielle Favreau
Past Chair



Jay Stark
Incoming Chair



Bev Lafond
Director



John Agioritis
Director



Heather Sully
Director



Darlene Bessey
Director



Shirley Greyeyes
Director



Shreya Pahwa
Director



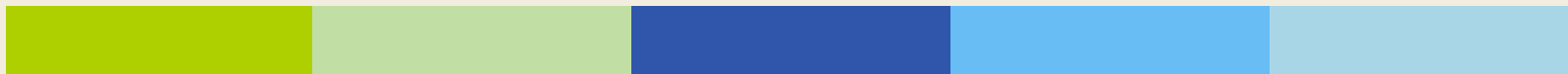
Cara Petrovicz
Director



Gary Gelinas
Director



Jonathan Abrametz
Director





What do you
want your
gift to do?

saskatooncommunityfoundation.ca