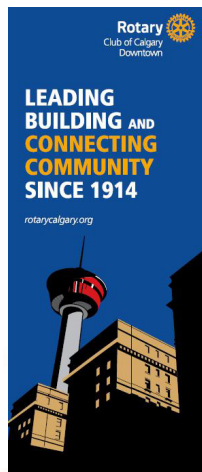




# SMALL DONATIONS REPORT

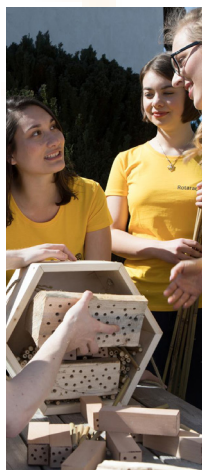
2022 – 2023

*Prepared by the Small Donations Committee:  
October 14, 2023*



## Our Mission

The Small Donations Committee receives and reviews funding requests, up to \$10,000, from registered charitable organizations in Calgary and area. Any request over \$5,000 requires approval of the Board. Funds are primarily provided for projects and programs that support children, youth at risk, seniors, literacy, mental health, poverty reduction and other needs that may be identified from time to time. The Committee prefers proposals that, over time, will provide ongoing benefit to the community and not require on-going financial support from the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown.



## Funding Requests

The Small Donations Committee was formed well before the turn of the century with a mandate to focus on smaller community-based projects. Early records are not easily available but we know that since 2009, Small Donations has provided \$445,542 in funding to 128 organizations. This year Small Donations added to that total by providing \$27,807 to an additional 9 organizations.

## › ARK - Accessibility Renovations for Kids - \$5,000

Accessibility Renovations for Kids helps children with mobility challenges by transforming their family home into a safe, vibrant, and accessible space. ARK relies on volunteers and donations to make their projects possible. These volunteers and supporters work together as a community to make a huge difference in the lives of ARK Kids. Rotary's financial assistance supports ARK's mission of creating a home where every child can live with ease.



## › Arthritis Society - \$1,640

Small Donations is providing support to the Arthritis Society for their Childhood Arthritis Backpack Program. The backpacks provide comfort and special adaptations for newly diagnosed children to make their lives a little easier. The program is designed to help these children and their families learn to manage arthritis.

## › Calgary Public Library - \$5,000

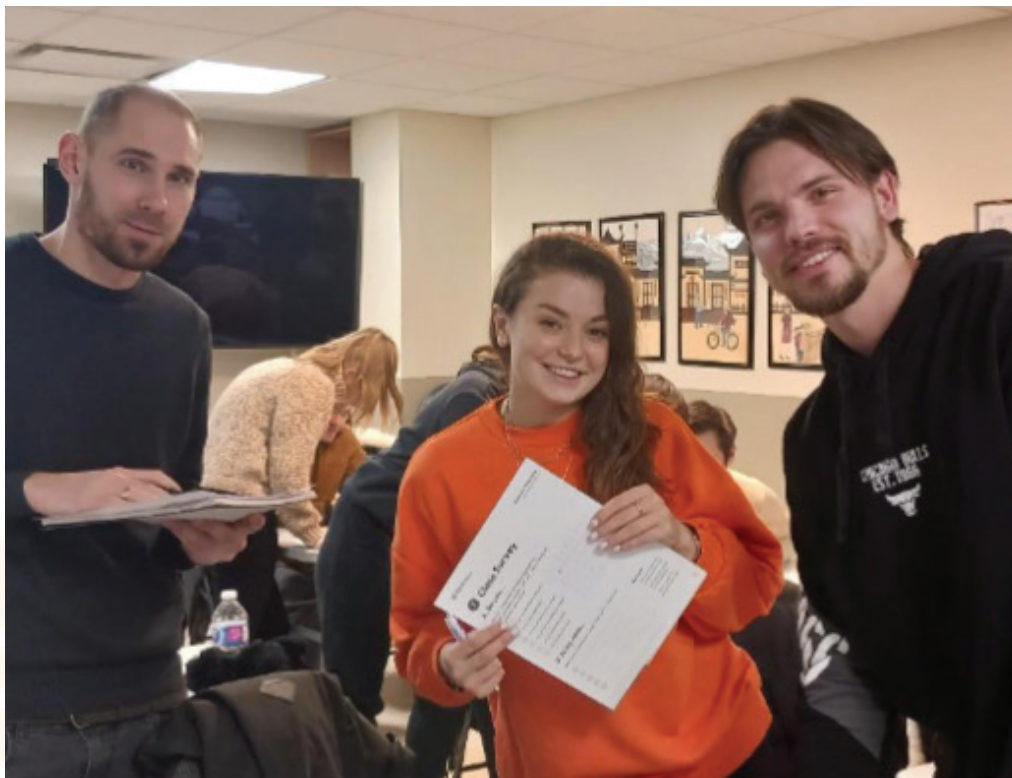
Small Donations funded two 3D Printers for Calgary Public Library's Teen Tech Labs. These Labs are creative technology spaces for teens. Guided by Library staff and volunteers, teens access a wide range of tools, including 3D printers, which they can use in discovery and problem-solving. The programs provide an environment for new modes of creative expression and development of digital literacy.





### › Diversities - \$2,000

Diversities helps new immigrants integrate into Canadian life, in part by teaching English language skills built around practical situations such as riding transit or applying for a job. To support the unexpected arrival of immigrants from Ukraine, Small Donations provided \$2,000 of short-term funding to pay the salary of an ESL instructor for a group of 27 newcomers. 25 students completed the program. Next year, Diversities will utilize longer term funding sources to continue this program.



### › KidSport Calgary (Project REF) - 3,000

KidSport Calgary provides qualified low-income families with access to sports by providing their children with uniforms and equipment. Project REF (2023) aims to provide these same kids (age 16-18) with access to funding to pursue certification as a referee in their sport. This will provide income earning potential in the form of flexible part-time jobs. Rotary's donation will fund the Initial program which will be carried out in conjunction with Hockey Calgary and the Calgary Minor Soccer Association.



### › Salvation Army - \$3,000

The Salvation Army Centre of Hope in Downtown Calgary offers shelter, transitional housing, and support for homeless men. Their first job after arrival at the Centre is often with a temp agency that requires the employee to have a pair of certified work boots. Small Donations provided funding for work boots in various sizes (including a size 12) to help these men get that first job with the hope that it will eventually lead to full time employment.



### › The Alex Foot Care Program - \$5,000

Rotary supported The Alex Seniors Foot Care Program to help Calgary's most vulnerable by providing foot care to seniors at the Seniors Health Centre in the East Village. Seniors who face mobility or vision loss, are diabetic, or do not have feeling in their extremities are at risk of cutting their foot with a risk of infection when providing their own foot care. Funds are used to buy new tools and sterilize existing equipment. Foot care keeps clients mobile, cared for, and out of urgent care.





## › West Dover School - \$2,500

West Dover Elementary School is one of the schools in our Carl Smith Stay-in-School Program. Small Donations provided West Dover with funds to replace 96 books for their general book collection and to add significantly more resources to their UFLI Foundations Program. The Foundations Program is an explicit and systematic phonics program that introduces students to the foundational skills necessary for proficient reading. The Parent Association joined in this effort by providing an additional commitment of \$500.



## › Wheels for Kids - \$667

Wheels for Kids is a group of eight retired Amoco/BP employees who get together every week to refurbish bicycles recovered from landfills or donated by individuals. This year, about 325 refurbished bikes will be provided to children of needy families (ages 3 to 18) who are identified by case workers at community agencies in Calgary. Small Donations is collaborating with two other Rotary Clubs to purchase new certified helmets to go with the refurbished bikes.