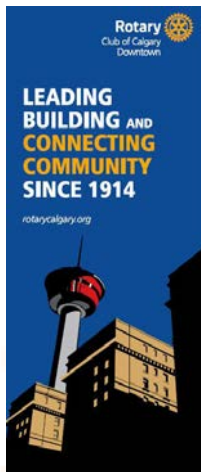




SMALL DONATIONS REPORT

2023 – 2024

*Prepared by the Small Donations Committee:
September 22, 2024*



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 \$473,349 in funding to 137 organizations. This year Small Donations added to that total by providing \$54,410 to an additional 9 organizations.

BY THE NUMBERS

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› Alex Community Health Centre - \$4,000



Our Rotary Club funded the purchase of two specialized ultra sound components to augment the Alex’s portable ultrasound machine. The new deep vein thrombosis wand and a new internal wand will be used at the Alex’s two Health Centres as well as by the Community Health Bus. This “mobile doctors office” served over 3,000 youth including 250 patients in pre-natal and post-natal programs. The Bus travels to high schools throughout the school year and is staffed with a doctor, a nurse and a mobile resource specialist.

› Bow Valley College - Rotary Adult Literacy Bursaries - \$10,000



Last year Small Donations assumed responsibility for carrying out our adult literacy initiatives on behalf of the Club. During the past year, Rotary Adult Literacy Bursaries were awarded to 20 students registered in Basic Education Literacy Programs at the Calgary campus of Bow Valley College. These are 19 specialized Programs in reading, writing, math and science that target 1,300 students for the academic year. The awards of \$500 each are based on financial

need, a strong commitment to continuing education, and referral letters from instructors. Since 1999 we have provided \$185,000 in Adult Literacy Bursaries to support over 600 Bow Valley College students. Our Club’s support of foundational learning changes the lives of both the adult learners and their families.

› Drop-In Centre - \$6,500



Rotary Downtown collaborated with Rotary Centennial to jointly fund the purchase of three commercial deep fryers and a new six burner commercial stove range for the Drop-In Centre’s kitchen. The Drop-In Centre serves over 600,000 meals yearly, each one served with love and care to nourish both the body and spirit of the clients they serve. The kitchen is at the heart of the community and is an integral part of the Drop-In Centre’s mission to help people on their journey to find housing, develop a support system, and regain independence.

› Inn From the Cold - \$5,000



On any given night, nearly 120 families find themselves staying at an Inn From the Cold shelter. In 2022/2023, food prices increased by an average of 10.3%, food bank usage increased by 44%, and the number of shelter beds provided by Inn From the Cold increased by 37% to 24,575. This created a huge strain on the Meal Service Program to provide healthy meals to children and families staying in their shelters. Small Donations helped meet this unexpected need by funding 200 meals for families staying in the family shelter.



) NSTEP – The Early Years Project - \$2,000

Small Donations supported NSTEP's "train the trainer" approach to healthy habits for children by funding the education of five Families Matter staff. After receiving their Level 2 Early Years Certificate, these staff members went on to impact over 250 children aged 0-5. It is during this early stage of life that 85% of the brain's overall development takes place. Our Club collaborated with Calgary East Rotary through YYC Calgary Helps to fund this project.

) Calgary Quest Children's Society - \$9,362

Calgary Quest School's new Sunalta Campus provides community-based education for high school and young adult students with significant cross-disability challenges. This includes special education, life skills training, social/emotional development, and community inclusion. Emotional regulation is key to a student's psycho-social development and over all well-being. An evidence-based learning approach to develop emotional regulation skills includes access to specialized "calm rooms" with opportunities to practice these skills and manage emotions on their own. Small Donations is funding one of two "calm rooms" to be outfitted with specialized sensory and emotional regulation equipment and supplies.



) SHARP Foundation - \$4,548

Since 1990 the SHARP Foundation has provided a continuum of care to those living with HIV or at the highest risk of contracting HIV. In the early days, this was primarily hospice care but now the Foundation supports a broader range of care in home-like settings for residents with compromised immune systems. Accommodation standards require food services and appliances to operate within specific heating and cooling parameters. Our Club provided funds to replace appliances in Beswick House. This included a new fridge/freezer as well as a new dishwasher. Meals can now be served on plates, glasses and cutlery rather than using disposable dishes.



Wheels for Kids - \$3,000



Wheels for Kids supplies bicycles to underprivileged children between the ages of 3 and 18. A group of retired Amoco employees refurbishes bicycles that are recovered from City of Calgary landfills or are donated by individuals. They then provide the “like new” bikes to children identified by their case workers at a variety of agencies in the city. The funds provided by the Small Donations Committee in collaboration with Calgary West Rotary were used to buy a new helmet to go with each donated bicycle – lids for kids!!

Wings of Hope for Africa - \$10,000



For over 10 years, Wings of Hope supported needy families in Burundi and Rwanda, and now they also assist low-income families in Calgary by providing backpacks for kids filled with school supplies. When children have the tools they need for success, they are more likely to be engaged with their studies, complete their homework and participate in classroom activities. The backpack program started in 2023 with corporate sponsors. Our Rotary funds provided the momentum needed to continue the program in the future.