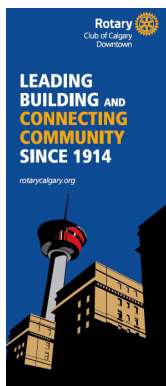




SMALL DONATIONS REPORT

2025 – 2026

Prepared by Small Donations: September 15, 2026



Small Donations & the Lou MacEachern Fund

In 2024, at the request of Lou MacEachern, Small Donations assumed responsibility for the Lou MacEachern Fund. Our Report this year includes two parts: Small Donations up to \$10,000, and the Lou MacEachern Fund – Helping Youth..

Small Donations Up to \$10,000

Small Donations receives and reviews small donation funding requests, up to \$10,000, from registered charitable organizations. Funds are provided for projects and programs that support children, youth at risk, seniors, literacy, mental health, poverty reduction and other needs that are identified from time to time. The Committee prioritizes proposals that provide ongoing benefit to the community and do not require on-going financial support from the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown.

Small Donations 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 **\$561,075** in funding to **140 organizations**. This year Small Donations added to that total by providing **\$37,000** in small donations to the following **8 organizations**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Since 2009 Small Donations has provided

\$561,075
in funding to **140** organizations.

This year Small Donations added to that total with

\$37,000
in funding to an additional **8** organizations



Ability Workshop Society - \$4,000

The Ability Workshop Society creates custom solutions that help people with disabilities live more independently, stay active, and enjoy inclusive play. Our Club's donation will replace an ageing milling machine in their metalworking shop, restoring the precision needed for these life-enhancing projects. One of the first uses will be finishing a four-motor wheeled bed frame that lets a client move himself around his room with a simple joystick. Thanks to a skilled team of volunteers, this equipment will keep turning ideas into greater freedom and dignity for people with special needs.



) Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support Centre - \$5,000

The Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support Centre provides gentle, free, trauma-informed support to families experiencing pregnancy loss, infant loss, and infertility. Our Rotary Club contributed by funding and assembling 100 infant comfort boxes providing carefully chosen items to help families through the overwhelming early days of grief. The Centre provides compassionate support, fosters healing and connection, and contributes to a more resilient community for families facing reproductive loss..

) Marion Carson Elementary School - \$5,000

Our \$5,000 contribution is helping to create a new, inclusive playground at Marion Carson Elementary School. This will replace an old playground that has reached the end of its life. The new playground will have a barrier-free design welcoming children of all abilities with particular attention to physical, sensory, visual, hearing, and neurodiverse needs. This will include accessible routes, inclusive play structures, soft rubber surfacing, sensory elements, and areas for both social and independent play. It will be used by both students and the community for years to come.

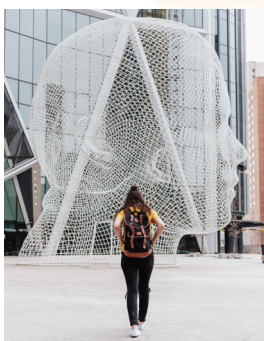


) Autism Aspergers Friendship Society of Calgary - \$2,000

The Autism Aspergers Friendship Society of Calgary provides social and recreational activities seven days a week for children, youth, and young adults on the autism spectrum - supporting more than 900 families. Rotary's donation will purchase drums and equipment for Drum Jam, a new six-week program for 15 participants at a time. Through rhythm, movement, and shared music, Drum Jam offers an accessible, joyful way for participants to connect, have fun, and build lasting friendships.

) Janus Academy - \$5,000

The Janus Academy builds brighter futures for children and youth with autism. Our donation will create enhanced inclusive sensory spaces throughout the school. These upgraded areas, featuring tactile wall panels, adaptive seating, and movement-based visuals will help students better regulate emotions and stay engaged in learning. A calmer and more responsive environment strengthens communication, social development, and independence. Rotary's support will help students for many years to come.



) The Doorway - \$3,000

Since 1988, The Doorway has helped young adults aged 17–30 leave street life behind and build independent, sustainable futures through self-determination. These youth face tough challenges—including addiction, mental health struggles, homelessness, and isolation—often rooted in disconnection and low self-worth. At The Doorway, they find compassion, respect, and a supportive community that nurtures confidence and connection. One participant shared: "I focus on small, manageable steps that build momentum... allowing for sustainable transformation". Our donation is helping young people re-claim their lives.

) Wheels for Kids - \$3,000

Wheels for Kids is a community initiative run by retired AMOCO/BP employees who rescue and refurbish used bicycles for children from low-income families. Each year, the group salvages 200–300 bikes that would otherwise end up in landfills, restoring them to safe, reliable condition. With free workshop space provided by the Barbara Mitchell Salvation Army and family referrals from Calgary Social Services, the program delivers both mobility and joy to local children. Through collaboration with Calgary Rotary West, our two Rotary clubs are funding approximately 400 brand-new helmets plus essential repair parts with our donations.



Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing - \$10,000

The Canadian Association for Disabled Skiing is a volunteer-driven organization that gives children and youth with disabilities the opportunity to experience the freedom and joy of alpine skiing and snowboarding. Using specialized adaptive equipment and supported by 350 dedicated volunteers, the program welcomes 150 participants each winter at WinSport. Our Club's donation will fund the replacement of an aging sit-ski with outriggers, and provide young athletes with safe, independent access to the slopes for many years ahead.



Lou MacEachern Fund – Helping Youth

Small Donations seeks out organizations that can make a difference in fulfilling the Lou MacEachern Fund's mission to support the education and development of youth and young adults. Lou's mandate to Small Donations is that student funding should not always be focused on the "best" student; it should be focused on the student with financial need who has the intangible grit and determination that is so necessary in life.

The Fund's purpose is rooted in a memory Grant MacEachern has shared, of his father as a boy on Prince Edward Island, missing a summer at camp because his family could not afford it. That early experience became a lifelong conviction that young people should be able to pursue, in Grant's words, "opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach".

Through the generosity of Lou MacEachern and entrusted to the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown, the Fund has continued to grow, allowing it to reach more youth and young adults with each passing year. Since its establishment in 2006 with an initial endowment of **\$1,000,000**, the Fund has now distributed **25** grants valued at **\$947,792**. This year, the Fund supported the following **5** organizations.

BY THE NUMBERS

Since 2006, with an initial endowment of \$1,000,000, the Lou MacEachern Fund has distributed:

25
Grants

Valued at
\$947,792



Bow Valley College - \$12,000

The MacEachern - Rotary Pathway to Success Award provides bursaries to students in the Chiu School of Business at Bow Valley College who are pursuing careers in business or the trades, have demonstrated financial need, and have shown the determination to complete their studies. This year the award supported nine students across the Business Administration, Legal Assistant, and Medical Office Assistant and Unit Clerk programs. Many are parents or newcomers balancing family responsibilities with a return to school. For them, the award lifts a financial barrier at a decisive moment. As one recipient, a single mother in the program, put it: "This means more to me than anything you could imagine and helps me and my family exponentially".

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) - \$12,000

The Lou MacEachern Rotary Scholarship Awards support SAIT students who show determination, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to completing their studies despite financial or personal obstacles. This year six students each received a scholarship, easing the financial pressure that can pull a capable student away from a program and letting them focus on the skills Alberta's workforce needs. Since 2006, the award has reached 86 SAIT students with \$132,000 in support. As one Business Administration recipient put it: "My goal is to build a strong career in my field and, one day, be in a position to give back to others the way donors like you give back to students".





YMCA Achievement Program (YMAP) - \$12,000

YMAP is a free program for high-school newcomers to Canada, drawing young people from more than fifty countries into weekly sessions that build leadership, confidence, financial literacy, and a healthy start in a new home. Each year the Lou MacEachern YMAP Rotary Scholarships help graduating participants carry that momentum into post-secondary study. This year eight students each received a \$1,500 scholarship, \$12,000 in all, and every recipient has been accepted to the institution of their choice for the fall. Since 2006, the scholarships have supported 122 newcomer youth with more than \$138,000 toward their education.

Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta - \$12,000

Junior Achievement's Company Program gives high-school students an immersive, hands-on experience in building and running a real business. The Lou MacEachern Fund supports access for students who might otherwise be priced out of the experience, so that financial barriers do not decide who gets to explore their potential as innovators and leaders. This year the Fund helped 296 students launch fourteen student-led companies, culminating in April's Celebration of Achievement, where \$9,000 in post-secondary scholarships was awarded. One participant captured what the experience gives students: "I am more likely to have success in business. I am now more confident in my communication, speech, and leadership skills".



CAREERS: The Next Generation - \$10,000

This past year, CAREERS produced the first three videos in its "A Day-in-the-Life of a Journey person" series for the new Lou MacEachern Library. These two-minute profiles introduce real Calgary tradespeople and their career journeys, sparking interest in the skilled trades among young people. In the year ahead, three more videos will be added and CAREERS will launch a dedicated webpage connecting visitors to the collection, further integrating the Library into its career-exploration programs and school outreach. What sets CAREERS apart is its deep industry partnerships, which provide real internships, and its strong ties to schools across Alberta. By bridging industry and education, it carries forward Lou's legacy of opening doors for the next generation.

Andrew Schwengler
Welder - Precision Drilling, Rostel Industries



**Prepared by the Small Donations Committee
for the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown**

Gene Wasylchuk – Chair
Murray Young
Michael Pierson
Farai Tonzani
Tyson Schmidt

Diane Macdonald
Allan McMillan
Bob Ermter
Chris Ward
Angeline Hayes

Daudi Kawooya

T: 403.398.9969

E: admin@rotaryclubofcalgary.ca