



DUFFERIN
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



REPORT FROM THE CHAIR



DEBBI GOSS

Chair, Board of Directors

Gardening can be described as the ultimate expression of optimism. Every spring, we plant new seedlings among the hardy perennials. When carefully tended, gardens flourish and bring a sense of accomplishment year after year.

A well-planned garden blooms continuously, much like the funds we build. Some of our donor-advised funds have long supported the community, while others more recently began to grant. In 2024, we created a new Children & Youth Fund, which will begin disbursing in 2026. Our Refugee Resettlement Fund will produce its very first grant this year. In anticipation of that, we brought together local refugee sponsor groups to get their ideas on how best to use the money. Each of these funds is a bloom that will last forever.

New in 2024: All of our donor-advised funds provided multi-year funding to charities, enhancing our community's quality of life in

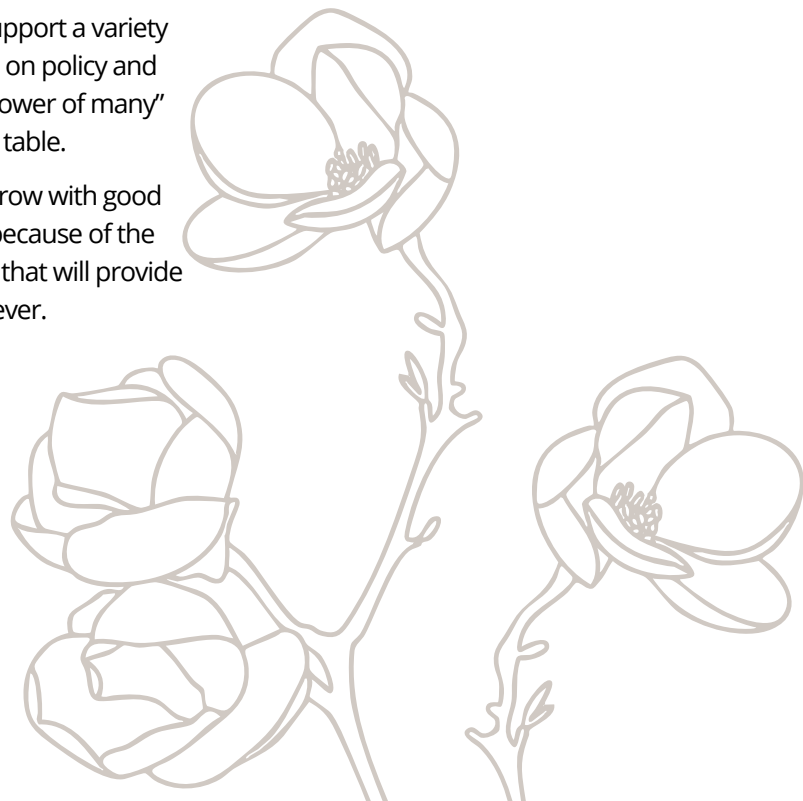
critical ways. Our first "Give Where You Live" campaign for GivingTuesday doubled the amount of donations to Dufferin County charities on December 3rd. We also awarded the first bursaries from the W. & M. Edelbrock Fund, giving deserving students support they can count on to complete their educational journey. In the words of bursary recipient Fredia Mboe: "I can't thank you enough for this opportunity. I promise you that I will put in the hard work needed to make the most of your investment in me."

In many ways 2024 could be viewed as a rather ordinary year compared with our start-up days. In fact, it was anything but, as we quietly became one of the largest public funders in Dufferin County, dispersing \$71,515 to local charities. Success is measured in many ways, never a linear assessment. After previous soft market years, and with our investments professionally managed by an independent firm, 2024 produced a bumper crop with a 16% ROI. Our summer gala, An Evening Under the Stars, attracted 200 community members – almost half were new friends – and raised \$50,000 in support of the Foundation. We are grateful to Joan & Paul Waechter for their generosity in hosting this event and look forward to seeing everyone again in 2026.

Gardeners know we must nurture and replenish soil to support a variety of plants and diversify the ecosystem. This year, our focus on policy and governance championed Board culture, harnessed the "power of many" and brought strong public member representation to the table.

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. Plants don't grow with good intentions, and much like the funds we build, they thrive because of the effort we expend. Thank you for planting the seeds today that will provide resources for our community... today, tomorrow, and forever.

debbi
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OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



7 Field of Interest Funds



6 Donor-Advised Funds



1 Organization Fund



3 Community Funds



\$4.1 Million in Invested Assets



8 Grants Streams



16 Local Charities/NFPs Supported



\$71,515 For Grants & Bursaries

BUILDING FOR FOREVER: STRONG GOVERNANCE, EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE



It has been two years since our Governance Committee (GovCom) began its work to take the Foundation from an energetic start-up to a growth organization. Much has been accomplished in that time. In 2024, GovCom led the creation of our first Risk Registry to identify and manage our top risks. Numerous policies were developed or revised, and key organizational processes were put into place, augmenting the Foundation for future growth.

"Establishing an organization that must last into perpetuity is no easy task. We are working hard to ensure we have the foundation in place to support our forecasted growth, while still remaining a lean and effective organization." -GovCom Chair Steve Wood, pictured here with Board Secretary Rhonda Gerrits.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Debbi Goss, Chair
Shirley Boxem, Vice Chair
Avery Delisle, Treasurer
Rhonda Gerrits, Secretary
Mark Bergen
Ian Gilbart
Margot Hornseth
Michèle Maycock
T. Steven Wood

PUBLIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kathryn Creelman, Grants
Steve Doney, Finance & Administration
Gord Gallagher, Fund Development
Jacqui Henry, Grants
Lori Ker, Governance¹
Diane Lawson, Grants
Ernie Lynch, Grants
Victor Paan, Fund Development
Derek Wiens, Finance & Administration

Ex-officio:

Michele Fisher, Executive Director

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS

Gord Gallagher, Chair
Steven Doney
MaryAnn Lowry
Laura Ryan
Joan Waechter

¹ Resigned during the year



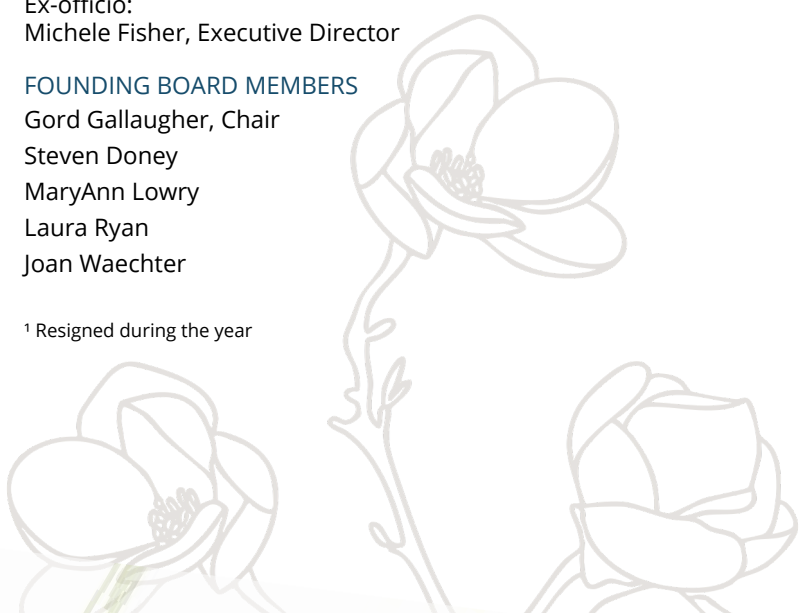
Gord Gallagher and MaryAnn Lowry, the last of our original Board members, retired from the Board in 2024. Their vision and legacy carries on, and as friends they are never far away.



Grants Chair Shirley Boxem (r) with Grants Committee member Jacquie Henry and Board Chair Debbi Goss.

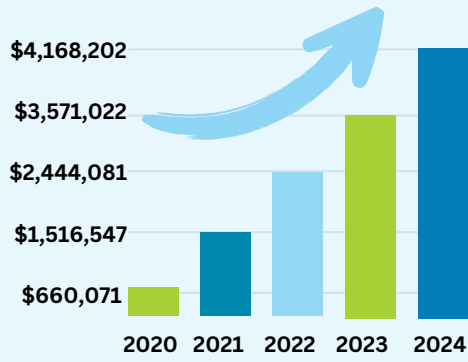


Board Director Mark Bergen with Founding Board Member and host of An Evening Under the Stars, Joan Waechter.



PEOPLE WHO CARE

GROWTH OF OUR ASSETS



DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS (DAFS) CHAMPION SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

Recognizing that multi-year funding helps charities with program continuity, all our DAF families provided grants for 2+ years to their chosen organizations. Collectively they dedicated \$65,000 to a diverse range of services, including shelter, literacy, children’s arts, mental health, addictions and food security. DAFs accounted for 90% of the Foundation’s community funding.



Kerri Greenwood and Amie Zukowski from the Greenwood Family Fund (c) present a cheque for \$7,500 to the Grand Valley Public Library as part of a two-year commitment to enrich summer programming. In the photo are Joanne Stevenson, Sarah McTaggart, Andrew Stirk and Amy Steele from GVPL and Michele Fisher.

BIG PICTURE

By year’s end, we had achieved over \$4.1 million in invested funds thanks to the many caring people in our community. They gave generously to our \$100,000 fall campaign. They attended our magical summer gala, An Evening Under the Stars. They created funds, like the Mikoliew Mach Fund and the Children & Youth Fund. Our donors make Dufferin County a truly exceptional place to live.



Willy Edelbrock, 1930-2024

Willy Edelbrock was a pillar of our community, who along with his brother Karl, created a company that was the largest local builder and major employer of its time. We met Willy in 2021 when he was 91 years young. He wanted to leave a meaningful legacy to the community that he helped to build. The W. & M. Edelbrock Fund was born.

When the fund began granting in 2024, the wingspan of its impact was felt across the county. There were disbursements for healthcare, faith, and arts and culture. The largest grants were for bursaries. Willy wanted to help people get the education they needed to contribute to our world. The impact of his fund will be far-reaching over generations, a testament to a life well-lived.



Fredia Mboe from Orangeville District Secondary School receives a W.&M. Edelbrock Fund bursary from Grants Committee member Diane Lawson.



Board Director Michèle Maycock presents the first grant from the W.&M. Edelbrock Fund to Fr. Luis Calleja of St. Timothy Parish in Orangeville.



GIVING TUESDAY INSPIRES LOCAL GENEROSITY

Mahesh and Manjiri Bhalerao heeded our call to “Give Where You Live” on December 3rd. At Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post’s GivingTuesday proclamation, they delivered flats of food to Carrie-Anne DeCaprio from the Orangeville Food Bank. Our GivingTuesday campaign connected donors to almost 30 local charities. CanadaHelps reported a 101% increase in funds raised in Dufferin County on that day and a 67% increase in the number of donors!



AN EVENING UNDER THE STARS A SUCCESS

Not even the threat of rain could dampen the spirits at An Evening Under the Stars in June. The sun ultimately prevailed to the delight of our 200 guests, who celebrated the first day of summer with fabulous food, music and fundraising. We are thankful to our incredibly generous hosts, Joan and Paul Waechter, who have raised \$170,000 through the event over the last three years.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The following donors gave generously to our Forever Fund in 2024. Each invested gift will grow over time to make a significant difference to the quality of life in Dufferin County, flowing from one generation to the next.

Bronze Donors (\$25 to \$2499)

Anonymous
 Jim Bronson
 Elizabeth Bryan
 Marlene Black
 Carters Professional Corporation
 Leslie Crawford
 Stephen and Laura Doney
 Dragonfly Arts
 Bob & Caroline Duncanson
 Bill & Melody Duron
 Michele Fisher
 James Garrow
 Jennifer Gohn
 Debbi Goss & Karen Morrison*
 Len Guchardi
 H and H Tax Management
 Harbinger Foundation
 Lawrence Harrington
 Headwaters Arts
 Lloyd Hunt
 International Plowing Match Committee
 Pat Kalapaca
 MacMaster Buick GMC
 Michèle & Warren Maycock
 Jamie & Ann McAlpine
 Jamie & Susan McCutcheon*
 Jan McCutcheon
 Mary Ruth McDonald & Doug Schaefer
 Ken & Gwynn McGhee*

Bronze Donors (\$25 to \$2499)

Lori McHenry
 Hugh Molesworth
 Victor & Margaret Paan
 Ken & Martha Pagan
 Carmine & Cheryl Preziuso
 Sonya Pritchard
 Dr. Tejus Raval
 Susan Sanderson
 Chad Soper
 Paul Sutcliffe & Shelley Doney*
 Gabriele Zbinden

Silver Donors (\$2500-\$7499)

Angela Banks
 Mark Bergen & Heidi Allen
 Gary & Carol Brown
 Keith Coulter
 MaryAnn Lowry*
 Betty Keating
 Rotary Club of Shelburne*
 The Pletch Family Foundation

Gold Donors (\$7500+)

Gord & Sandra Gallagher*
 Gayle Henkenhaf
 Trish Keachie & Darcy O'Neill*
 John Meek
 Ken Mikoliew & Caroline Mach*
 Joan & Paul Waechter*
 T. Steven & Julie Wood

Donor-Advised Funds

Carroll Family Fund
 Cedar Fund
 Greenwood Family Fund
 Mikoliew Mach Fund
 W. & M. Edelbrock Fund
 WoodLot Endowment Fund

* Founders Circle

We are grateful to these donors who championed the vision for a community foundation from the earliest days.
<https://dufferincommunityfoundation.ca/founders-circle-members>

While we have striven for accuracy, if we have made an error or omission, please let us know at info@dufferincommunityfoundation.ca.

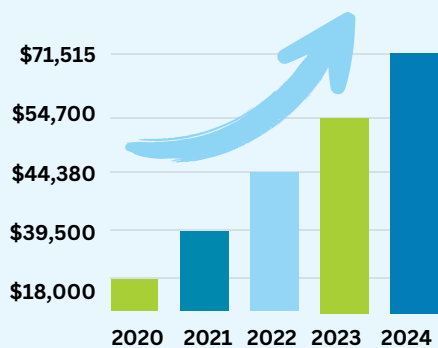


CAUSES THAT MATTER

BIG PICTURE

It was a challenging year for local charities as they strove to meet a heightened demand for service with chronically limited resources. Thanks to our fund growth, Dufferin Community Foundation increased community grants by 30%, disbursing a total of \$71,515 in 2024. We also created a Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards program with an initial focus on removing financial barriers for Dufferin County students.

GRANTS TO OUR COMMUNITY



* does not include funding from government sources

UNLOCKING STUDENT POTENTIAL

We took up the challenge from the W. & M. Edelbrock Fund to develop a Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards program that would provide significant support to local students. The program needed to be scalable as the fund grew. It could help different types of students at different life stages. Though we began with renewable bursaries for graduating high school students, the program will broaden out and innovate to help more people access a future-building education.



"What helped me stay motivated throughout the year was knowing I had people in my community who supported me and believed in my potential." -Yamaan Awa, W. & M. Edelbrock Fund bursary recipient, pictured here as he graduated from Westside Secondary School.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF NONPROFIT STAFF

On a frosty February morning, 120 community leaders and nonprofit staff gathered for Morning Glory, a sold-out breakfast for Nonprofit Appreciation Week. More than 30 local organizations were represented at the event, which aimed to build connection and boost morale. The spirit was infectious as musician Noni Thomas led the room in song and a not-soon-to-be-forgotten kazoo contest.



Noni Thomas from Streams Community Hub uplifted the room with her music.



Local nonprofit sector leaders (l-r) Jennifer Payne, Anita MacFarlane and Sheralyn Roman.



Salma Umme (f) and Sakirat Hussein (b) from Polycultural Immigrant & Community Services.



BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTS & CULTURE

From 2SLGBTQ+ poetry to Indigenous teachings, from seniors' cultural journeys to new mics for a youth drama club, the 2024 Arts & Culture grants had a wide-ranging impact. If the four recipient projects shared a common thread, it was a vision for building community around diverse and authentic voices. The \$2,000 grants were made possible by the W. & M. Edelbrock Fund and the Dufferin Vision Fund.

The Brave Canoe, in partnership with Orangeville Food Bank, received an Arts & Culture grant for All My Relations, an Indigenous-led workshop series open to the whole community. Heather Hayes (l), Sharon Rigby (c-l) and Julie Eldson-Height (c-r) accept the cheque from (l-r remaining) Shirley Boxem, Michele Fisher and Gayle Henkenhaf of Dufferin Community Foundation.



RESTORING THE HEALTH OF LOCAL WILDLIFE

Our second annual Environment Fund grant was awarded to the National Wildlife Centre for its Wildlife Wellness program. The \$2,500 grant will be used to provide medical and surgical support, with the hope of restoring the animals to good health and releasing them back to the area. The Centre recently opened a new building to provide wildlife care in Dufferin-Caledon.

A veterinarian at the National Wildlife Centre mends the leg of a young deer.

GRANTS AT A GLANCE

An overview of the local charities and graduating students that received funding in 2024:

DONOR-ADVISED FUND GRANTS

Choices Shelter & Support Services, \$5,000
 Dufferin Child & Family Services, \$3,500
 Family Transition Place, \$5,000
 Grand Valley Public Library, \$7,500
 Headwaters Health Care Foundation, \$1,765
 Knights of Columbus Council 8851, \$1,765
 Orangeville Food Bank, \$2,500
 Pine River Institute, \$3,500
 St. Timothy's Parish, Orangeville, \$1,765
 Streams Community Hub, \$18,000

ENVIRONMENT FUND GRANT

National Wildlife Centre, \$2,500

W. & M. EDELBROCK FUND BURSARIES

Yamaan Awa, Westside Secondary School, \$3,125
 Fredia (Faith) Mboe, Orangeville District Secondary School, \$3,125
 Jessica Skiffington, Centre Dufferin District High School, \$3,125

ARTS & CULTURE GRANTS

Caledon Meals on Wheels, \$2,000
 Dufferin Child & Family Services, \$2,000
 Orangeville Food Bank/The Brave Canoe, \$2,000
 Streams Community Hub, \$2,000

ORGANIZATION FUND GRANT

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dufferin & District, \$875

OTHER GRANT

Township of Mulmur, \$470

OUR GRANTS REVIEWERS

It takes diligence and passion to be a grants reviewer for Dufferin Community Foundation. In 2024, Rhonda Gerrits, Gayle Henkenhaf, Jacqui Henry, Robert Hunt, Diana Morris and Karen Murphy Fritz took on the task of scoring the Fall Grants applications and deciding which of the worthy projects would receive funding. A heartfelt thank-you to the team!



OUR MISSION

Connecting people who care with causes that matter.



OUR VISION

To give every generation the resources it needs to impact community change.



OUR VALUES

Integrity. Excellence. Optimism.

WHY WE'RE CALLED THE "FOREVER FUND" FOR DUFFERIN COUNTY

When you give to Dufferin Community Foundation, your donations are invested in permanent charitable funds. We use the annual income from these investments to provide urgently-needed support to local charities, preserving the principal as much as possible. This model is designed to be sustainable, secure and forever. It's the best way to help our community today and for every generation to come.

TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE

We believe in full transparency and accountability to our donors and the community. To view our full financial statements, visit <https://dufferincommunityfoundation.ca/publications-financials/>.

Contact us any time at:



DUFFERIN
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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Proud member of:



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA
all for community

Design by Kelly McConnell & Sheila Britton
Photos by Deb Sanderson, Doug Schaefer,
Michele Fisher, Fatima Medeiros

For more information about our Forever Funds, please visit:
dufferincommunityfoundation.ca

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