Valley First Community Endowment

2019 Grants

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| **Organization Name** | **Community** | | | **2019 Grant** |
| Elizabeth Fry Society | Kamloops | | | $10,000 |
| ***Girls United, Tough Guise* Empowering Change** are primary prevention and intervention programs, specially designed to meet the unique needs of “at risk” adolescents. The module is one of partnership, in which the students, schools, and the community support teens to develop healthy boundaries, relationships and skills to prevent sexual exploitation. These 10-session group series are held at participating middle schools. Most of the “at risk” youth are participants because of family violence or sexual abuse and are in jeopardy of leaving school, running away from home and sexual exploitation. | | | | |
| Mental Illness Family Support Centre – CMHA | Vernon | | | $8,673 |
| ***Farm Friend Program*** serves those living with mental illness and/or addictions and their family members. Farm Friends reduces stigma, allowing participants to become more empowered, resourceful and involved in their own care while encouraging the involvement of family in the process. The program also educates participants about mental illness and about food security, sustainability, and growing food. | | | | |
| Penticton Recovery Resource Society | | Penticton | $5,000 | |
| ***Discovery Healthy Living – Food, Garden and Nutritional Program*** serves between 40-68 men per year. The participants are in long term supportive housing and are receiving addiction recovery support at Discovery House. Funds will be used to provide equipment, training, and supplies necessary for clients to participate in gardening and nutritious food preparation over the course of one year. The program highlights innovative solutions to food security and enhances employment opportunities by providing training in Food Safe, Food preparation, gardening, budgeting and inventory control. | | | | |
| Okanagan Fruit Tree Project Society | | Kelowna, Oliver | $10,000 | |
| ***Okanagan Gleaning—****Expansion of program into South Okanagan (Oliver).* Demand for fresh fruits and vegetables from partner organizations grows each season as each works to support their food insecure clients with nutritious food. This program offers a fun, inclusive, healthy, educational, flexible, community building volunteer experience. The diversity of people who harvest with the Fruit Tree Project Society is truly remarkable. We find a way for all to be involved if they want to be, including incorporating ways for people with diverse abilities to participate (even wheelchairs!). | | | | |
| Pregnancy Care Centre Society | | Kamloops | $10,000 | |
| **Holistic Wellness Initiative: Moving from Surviving to Thriving** provides supports and services to mothers often on their own or facing extreme poverty. The program helps mothers identify areas for growth by completing personal assessments. Client advocates guide the moms as they set goals and develop action plans for their families’ future. Workshops teach and promote parenting and life skills. | | | | |
| YMCA of Okanagan | | Kelowna | $13,500 | |
| ***YMCA Young Parents Program – KSS Childcare*** provides support, food and incidentals for up to 25 At-Risk Young Parents (and up to 30 of their infants) aged who are returning to Kelowna Secondary School with children as young as 6 weeks old. These parents (15-18 years) face housing, mental health, life management and educational concerns and have often experienced drug and alcohol issues, sexual exploitation, and/or abuse. The program provides free food, counselling, parenting training, employment preparation, certifications, and childcare for their children who also receive developmental and nutritional support. The goal of the program is to provide comprehensive childcare while supporting the young parents in their education and future goals. | | | | |
| One Sky Community Resources | | Penticton | $20,000 | |
| ***Foundry Penticton (Youth Navigator and Peer Support Services)*** *is a*n exciting new initiative bringing together almost 20 services for youth and their families under one friendly roof. Opening in June 2019, the youth resource centre will have a team of doctors, therapists, mental health and substance use counsellors, social workers and peer listeners coordinating their services at no cost for youth aged 12 to 24 years old. | | | | |
| South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation | | Penticton | $20,000 | |
| ***Patient Care Tower at Penticton Regional Hospital***  Fourth installment of five towards a $100,000 commitment from the Valley First Community Endowment. An additional $50,000 was committed from the credit union’s community investment funding for a total of $150,000 from Valley First.  Funding towards a large capital campaign for the Patient Care Tower at Penticton Regional Hospital (PRH). The new Patient Care Tower includes new ambulatory care clinics, 84 single-bed rooms, five operating rooms, new digital imaging equipment, MRI, helipad and UBCO Medical School. Phase 1 of the construction began in 2016 and is now completed. | | | | |
| **Total** | | | **$97,173** | |