

First West Credit Union Leaders' Fund

2025 Grants



- \$49,500 in grants awarded to six charities across British Columbia

The First West Credit Union Leaders' Fund provides grants to registered charities, investing in their capacity and knowledge building programs. Recipients for these awards are selected from the Foundation's four regional community endowment grant programs.

Discovery House Penticton, \$10,000**

Discovery House provides a safe, supportive, structured and peer-based environment for men seeking recovery from addiction. Residents are empowered to overcome substance use, develop essential life skills, and reintegrate into their families and communities as healthy, self-sufficient members of society. Serving 160 individuals each year, the grant will focus on strengthening several areas of governance: strategic and organizational planning, staff training and leadership development, and the expansion of recovery support services. With over 300 men served since 2007 and a 79% treatment completion rate, Discovery House has a proven track record of helping individuals achieve long-term sobriety, employment, and family reunification.

Ladysmith Family and Friends Ladysmith, \$10,000**

Each year LAFF's family-focused resource programs serve more than 530 families across the region, building resiliency in children and their families through play-based learning, opportunities for social and emotional development, literacy, physical literacy and numeracy development, and with intergenerational connection and community engagement. This grant will help LAFF create new structures and systems to advance their Strategic Plan and Volunteer training including the creation of a new Senior Facilitator position, an expansion of the Volunteer Coordinator position, leadership training and food safe certification for staff and volunteers.

Mission Hospice Society Mission, \$5,000**

Mission Hospice will grow its volunteers by 30 individuals, providing each with a 40-hour training course delivered by Mission Hospice staff, professional team members, and experienced volunteers. Training includes the philosophy of hospice, palliative care, listening and communication skills, death and dying, comfort measures, grief and loss, community resources, and the role of the Hospice volunteer and other team members.

Saanich Neighbourhood Place Victoria, \$10,000**

Maintaining its commitment to fostering a healthy, engaged and committed team, SNP will review and formalize their staff practices, policies, procedures and structures to better welcome, orientate and support staff to work together. This effort will foster alignment with organizational values and processes, support a more effective and supportive workplace, and increase capacity for excellent service delivery. Professional development training will be introduced to enhance the skills and capacity of SNP staff to effectively support their own wellness, mental health and workplace well being to reduce compassion fatigue, burnout, and increase retention. In 2024, approximately 18,000 visits to offered programs were recorded with almost 5,000 individuals accessing various services.

Sardis Doorway for Mothers and Children Society Chilliwack, \$4,500**

Sardis Doorway for Mothers & Children Society provides essential programs to women, focusing on single parents or as an under-supported parent, women who have experienced abuse, and young mothers under 21 years old. In 2024, Sardis Doorway served 40 families, including eight young moms under the age of 21. The grant will support the advancement of workshops and learning opportunities for volunteers, staff and facilitators to increase and best support women who have experienced trauma and abuse. Ongoing learning opportunities are important and essential for better outcomes for the families served.

Surrey Hospitals Foundation Surrey, \$10,000**

The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program is the first of its kind in BC. To work as a Forensic Nurse Examiner specialized training and courses are required. With the growing population in Surrey and south of the Fraser River, comes an increased demand on all healthcare resources, including Forensic Nursing. Education, training and professional development is essential to ensure supports and services are available for the most at risk and vulnerable patients. The total number of cases each year is approximately 500-550.