FIRSTWEST FOUNDATION 25 years of reciping our complete thrive

Island Savings Community Endowment

2022 Grant Awards

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School District and is having a profound impact on students through school-based learning and summer

mentorship programs.

Organization Name	Community	Grant
The Men's Resource Centre**	Nanaimo	\$7,000

Boots to Suits Program -Offers free counseling and peer to peer support, through the Men's Centre counsellor and workshops. The program also provides steel toed work boots, outer work wear and other work wear such as work gloves, rain gear, hard hats, etc. all free of charge to its clients.

Edward Milne Community School Society	Langford	\$8,588
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Planting Pathways – Inspiring youth to design, create and grow vegetable gardens at three high-schools in partnership with School District #62. Students will learn, participate and design future agricultural and horticultural solutions that will be essential to overcoming the twin catastrophes of climate change and ecological collapse.

Parkinson Wellness Projects	Victoria	\$10,000
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Fundamentals of Functional Movement classes – Exercise plays a significant role in keeping a person with Parkinson's disease healthy and able to participate in activities of daily living. To reduce the risk of falls, exercises that specifically challenge and strengthen a person's balance, address axial rigidity, and improve flexibility help maintain postural stability and mobility.

Gulf Island Marine Rescue Society	Salt Spring Island	\$9,025
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RCMSAR25 On-Board Crew Communications Equipment - The Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Station 25 (RCMSAR25) is a volunteer organization operated by the Gulf Island Marine Rescue Society (GIMRS) that maintains a permanent 24/7 marine search and rescue capability in the vicinity of Salt Spring Island BC. Funding will assist in replacing the existing on-board communications equipment which is "on life support".

Victoria Compost and Conservation Education Centre**	Victoria	\$10,000
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The Ground Beneath our Feet - Pilot project – Grows from the success of Healing City Soils and is a collaboration between HCS team, the PEPAKEN HAUTW Foundation. Goals include restoring degraded lands, and encouraging local food security.

Gulf Islands School Gardens - The school gardens program provides weekly garden activities for 200 students at Salt Spring Elementary and supports gardens for approximately 600 K-7 students across the Southern Gulf Islands with tools, seeds, professional development workshops for teachers, learning circles for school gardens champions, and fundraising assistance.

Burnside Gorge Community Association** (year two of three)	Victoria	\$25,000
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Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) - Provides financial literacy coaching and budgeting support for up to 75 families in FSS through its three-year asset building program for low-income families receiving housing subsidy.

Nanaimo Community Kitchen Society**	Nanaimo	\$10,000
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Cooking Out of The Box - Connects people with resources related to healthy food and nutrition through virtual and in-person cooking workshops. These Health Cooking Kits are also educational and provide an opportunity for capacity building and food literacy at home and in our local schools.

Organization Name	Community	Grant
Balfour's Friends Foundation	Island Savings Region	\$5,000

Pet Owner Assistance Program – Compassion for Companions assists low-income persons with veterinary costs for sick and injured pets. Funding recipients are seniors, disabled, or single parent households that household income is below \$30,000. A small all volunteer organization, funds raised annual through calendar and plant sales.

South Island Centre for Counseling and Training	Victoria	\$10,000
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Bridging The Gap to Affordable Mental Health Care Program - Reduces the record number of community members who are waiting to receive professional and affordable counselling. The South Island Centre for Counselling & Training's (SICCT) waitlist has increased by 300%. There is no doubt that action needs to be taken now to support these people before their mental state intensifies to crisis levels.

The Circle Salt Spring Island Education Society**	Salt Spring Island	\$10,000
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Pass it on Girls – Promotes a cross-peer group mentoring program with the purpose of supporting self-awareness and healthy relationships, creating a safe and trusted space for sharing, learning, and practicing of important skills.

Victoria Native Friendship Centre	Victoria	\$10,000
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Homeless Outreach Program - Indigenous youth are the fastest growing demographic in Canada. Despite being only 4% of the population Indigenous children represent 48% of the children in foster care; 38% of all deaths by suicide, and 60% of Indigenous children live in poverty. The Centre provides a youth drop-in centre, youth support workers, youth mental health and addictions counselor, after school homework help, Youth Elders support, and always a free meal/food hamper.

Capacity grants provide organizations with financial resources to pursue education, professional development, training, and infrastructure enhancements.

Clements Centre Society**	Duncan	\$10,000	
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Building Bridges, Shifting Perspectives - Clements Centre for Families is deeply committed to ongoing efforts to increase cultural humility for cultural safety among its internal and external stakeholders - advocacy is an important part of its work. These commitments are outlined in their annual Diversity Plan, ongoing Strategic Planning, and their Statement of Reconciliation.

Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding Association	Salt Spring Island	\$10,000
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Let There be Light - Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding Association (SSTRA) has been offering a comprehensive therapeutic riding program for Salt Spring residents facing physical, intellectual/cognitive, and developmental disabilities as well as emotional/mental health challenges. Benefits to improving the facility with lighting includes overall improved riding conditions and increased time available to support the growth of our programs.

^{**}Funded in previous years

^{**}Organization has received a grant in a previous funding year