

Valley First Community Endowment
2022 Grant Awards



Organization Name	Community	Grant
Vermilion Forks Elementary School**	Princeton	\$10,000
<p>After School Tutor Program - Provides students with free tutoring by qualified Educational Assistants and Teachers, in structural recreational time, and cooking/baking healthy snacks. The program focuses on character building as well as peer and mentoring relationships.</p>		
Kelowna Visual and Performing Arts Society	Kelowna	\$2,000
<p>Art's Music Therapy Program - Supports individuals with diverse abilities in a welcoming space to connect, share and express themselves in creative modalities. Music therapy allows an individual to express themselves in a safe, normalized, structured, and controlled environment.</p>		
Canadian Mental Health Association SOS	Penticton	\$10,000
<p>Commercial Kitchen – Serves clients diagnosed with a mental illness. Clients will develop culinary skills that can be used in their personal lives or to become gainfully employed. Training will include meal planning, nutrition basics, portion sizes and food safe practices.</p>		
The Bridge Youth and Family Services**	Kelowna	\$10,000
<p>Etcetera – A weekly, community-based group program for young people aged 11-18 who identify as Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual (25LGBTQIA+) and their allies. Etcetera provides opportunities for belonging and inclusion, pride, and social justice projects.</p>		
Westside Senior Centre**	Wet Kelowna	\$3,320
<p>Replace Chairs and Tables at the Centre - Safety first for our Seniors is always the focus within the organization. This will be the start of replacing outdated equipment used daily. A healthy, safe, inviting Centre aiding with prevention of the often-felt sense of isolation for seniors.</p>		
Okanagan Fruit Tree Society**	Kelowna	\$10,000
<p>2022 Fruit Gleaning Program - Rescues produce that would otherwise go to waste from backyard farms and orchards. Supporting local social service agencies and the clients they serve with produce donations, thus increasing access to local fruits and vegetables.</p>		
O'Keefe Ranch Interior Heritage Society	Vernon	\$2,000
<p>RE-chinking Balmoral School House - Balmoral Schoolhouse is one of the few existing one room log schoolhouses that were the norm for educating the local children in the North Okanagan in the early days of the 1900. In order to maintain the structural integrity, it is essential that the logs be re-chinked to protect them from rot and insects that can cause deterioration over time. Completing this work will ensure preservation continues so it is a valuable part of the Ranch for generations to come.</p>		

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One Sky**	Penticton	\$7,000
Caring Kitchen Program –Supports the development of life skills such as choosing fresh food, budgeting, meal planning, cooking skills and social skills. All the participants have an active role with planning, preparation, cooking and/or cleaning.		
Hopewell Clinic and Pregnancy Centre**	Kamloops	\$10,000
Holistic Wellness Initiative – Moving forward from surviving to thriving works with moms identifying areas for growth by completing personal assessments. Peer Mentors guide the moms so they can set goals and develop action plans for their family’s future.		
Kelowna Community Resources (KCR)**	Kelowna	\$10,000
The Family Hub – A safe welcoming space for vulnerable families that offers a holistic approach to strengthening those at risk. This program fosters independence and pride, teaching basic skills to children aged 7 -12 at the same time as parents/caregivers can participate in a self-care program.		
Upper Room Mission Society**	Kelowna	10,000
Food Security Program – Provides healthy and nutritious meals to those that do not have the resources to provide for themselves or their families. Upper Room offers two meals per day from Monday through Friday and one meal on Saturday and Sunday.		
MADD**	Valley First Region	\$5,000
2021-2022 School Assembly Program, MADD Canada - School Assembly Program teaches youth in grades 7-12 new skills and information including the consequences of impaired driving, alternatives to driving impaired and to plan ahead and call 911 if they see a suspected impaired driver. In 2021-2022 approximately 1,000,000 students will see the presentation at 9 schools in the Valley First region including Armstrong, Lumby, Oliver, Penticton, Princeton, Vernon, Kamloops, and Kelowna.		
BeaYOUtiful Foundation**	Valley First Region	\$9,000
Digital Six-week Confidence Program for girls 8 to 14 in Armstrong, Kamloops, Kelowna, Oliver, Penticton, Vernon, and West Kelowna. The program focuses on body positivity, confidence, goal setting, and media literacy, taught by inspirational female leaders.		
Launch Financial Education Society	Valley First Region	\$10,000
Matched Savings Program – Matched Savings is a year-long program that combines monthly financial education classes with financial grant incentives. Each program has 8-10 approved participants (determined by completing the application process, interview, reference checks and providing income verification to ensure they are below the income requirements for the program) each of which save \$25-\$50 a month.		
OCCA Communities Association	Kelowna	\$2,500
Golden Age Program – Outreach Support Services for Seniors A safe welcoming space for vulnerable families that offers an integrated approach to strengthening those at risk. This program fosters independence and pride, teaching basic skills to children aged 7 -12 at the same time as parents/caregivers can participate in a self-care program.		

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YMCA of Okanagan - Multi Year Funding** (Year two of three)	Kelowna	\$31,500
<p>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) 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 goal of the program is to provide comprehensive childcare while supporting the young parents in their education and future goals.</p> <p>In 2020, First West Foundation extended its partnership providing a full-time program facilitator to support program participants.</p>		
South Okanagan Loss Society**	Penticton	\$4,950
<p>Drop-in Grief Support Program – Supports a weekly in person drop-in grief support group for community members with losses due to overdose, suicide and Covid. Funding will support a facilitatory as well as meeting location rental cost.</p>		

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

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Take a Hike Foundation**	Valley First Region	\$10,000
<p>Stakeholder Engagement - Take a Hike’s vision is to scale its proven and successful approach to youth mental health & well-being to every school district in BC with a need, desire, and capacity. The current goal is to double Take a Hike’s capacity from eight programs to 16 programs in 3-5 years focusing the next grouping of programs in the Thompson/Okanagan Region.</p>		
Central Okanagan Emergency Shelter Society**	Kelowna	\$10,000
<p>Organizational Development Training Consultant – Provides leadership training, management training, safety-planning training, and key governance consulting to meet the needs of the organization’s growth.</p>		
Third Space Charity	Kelowna	\$10,000
<p>Counseling Support Training for Front Line Workers - providing practicum training to students who are working to become clinical counselors. Through training, Third Space can offer free supportive care counseling services to young adults in our community who might not otherwise be able to afford it.</p>		

**Organization is a prior recipient of a Foundation grant