****Valley First Community Endowment

**$113,700 and 12 grants distributed through Impact, Capacity and SOAR grant streams.**

* $92,200 in Impact grants awarded to nine charities
* $19,000 in Capacity grants awarded to two charities
* $2,500 SOAR grant awarded to one charity

## **IMPACT GRANTS**

**Impact Grants** are unrestricted grants, investing in an organization’s operations, programs, projects, or services.

### Multi-year commitments:

**Kelowna Community Resources (KCR),** Kelowna, $15,000

The Family Hub is 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 same time, parents and/or caregivers can participate in a self-care program.



**Mothers Against Drunk Drivers,** Valley First Region, $5,000

School Assembly Programs teach youth in grades 7–12 new skills and information including the consequences of impaired driving, alternatives to driving impaired, to plan, and call 911 if they see a suspected impaired driver. The presentations will be at five schools in the Valley First region.

**Take a Hike Foundation,** Valley First Region, $10,000

Supports vulnerable youth including intensive clinical counselling, outdoor wilderness trips and community engagement activities.

### 2024 recipients:

**Penticton Community Soupateria Society,** Penticton, $10,000

Kitchen supplies and additional ingredients needed for daily operations. Funding will ensure the continued delivery of its mission and provide nutritious meals to those in need in the community. In 2023 Soupateria experienced a 10% increase of daily meals.

**Desert Valley Hospice Society,** Oliver, $2,500

Garden Boxes for vegetables. This grant will enable the Society to grow vegetables in unused space outside their office and share with the community food banks. This space currently harbours many weeds so the garden boxes will replace weeds with food source.



**The Centre for Epilepsy and Seizure Education in BC,** Valley First Region, $9,700

Supports the delivery of a virtual outreach program through on-line community hubs. These are private groups, hosted on Facebook, moderated by volunteers with lived experience of epilepsy, and supported by our education coordinator and advisory panel.

**South Okanagan Similkameen Volunteer Centre Society,** Valley First Region, $15,000

Emergency Response on-site trailer for the Valley First Region - SOSCCVC will purchase a cargo trailer to store donations as well as transport them to the community in need. This will allow evacuees to register with ESS and get donations that are critical along with information from their local government about the emergent situation.



**Project Literacy Central Okanagan** Kelowna, $10,000

Provide support to continue to deliver free community literacy programs which include one to one adult tutoring for immigrants, refugees, and low-income Canadians.  100 active community volunteers support this program.

**Launch Financial Education Society,** Kelowna, $15,000

Matched Savings program is a year-long project that combines monthly financial education classes with financial grant incentives. Each program has 8-10 approved participants (determined by completing an 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.

## **CAPACITY GRANTS**

**Capacity grants** are restricted grants toprovide organizations with financial resources to pursue education, professional development, training, and infrastructure enhancements**.**



**Senior Outreach Services Society,**Kelowna, $10,000

Impact and Strategic Clarity Project– Engage with a qualified consultant to take our Leadership team through a planning process to clarify strategy for impactful senior's services. Also, conduct an in-depth analysis of our programs and focus areas.

**Ozanam Recovery House,** Kelowna, $9,000

Community Relationship Management (CRM) Software - This funding will be used to purchase the software, upgrade hardware, and train our staff in the new system. Our organisation has already earmarked some funding for this process, and this grant will give us the extra funds we need to make it a reality.

## **SOAR GRANTS**

SOAR launched in 2023 to support and partner with those committed to equity deserving organizations, and racialized groups, including and not limited to people who identify as Black, Brown, Indigenous and/or as a person of colour in communities served by First West Credit Union.



**Impact Toolbox** Kelowna, $2,500

Food System Innovation – Participants receive training and support to refine their ideas and transform them into viable social enterprises. The program encompasses a range of activities, including workshops, team coaching sessions, technical assistance, and access to a network of industry experts and collaborators.