



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

SERVING RESIDENTS OF POCO

## VISION, MISSION, PURPOSE

The Port Coquitlam Community Foundation (PCCF) serves the people of Port Coquitlam. Our work allows us to invest in local charities and create a community in which everyone’s needs are met.

We focus on our city’s greatest needs and opportunities through our philanthropy, grants and leadership.

Our vision is a healthy and vibrant Port Coquitlam.

Our superpower is our local Port Coquitlam knowledge and our ability to respond to immediate community needs.

### OUR PRIORITIES

- Arts, culture & heritage
- Health & well-being
- Environment
- Community safety
- Community spirit & quality of life
- Sports, fitness & recreation

### A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Guided by a commitment to philanthropy, grants, and community leadership, our vision is to help create a healthy and vibrant Port Coquitlam. The Port Coquitlam Community Foundation strengthens our city by connecting generous donors with local charities making a meaningful impact in the lives of PoCo residents.

Through our annual grants program, we support a wide range of registered local charities; funding programs and projects that deliver the greatest benefit to our community.

 [pocofoundation.com](http://pocofoundation.com)

 [@pocofoundation](https://www.pocofoundation.com)

 [info@pocofoundation.com](mailto:info@pocofoundation.com)

 778.617.2111



 CRA # 84677 5088 RR0001

# Our Community Impact

## Welcome to our 2024 Annual Report



Community foundations are local organizations that demonstrate, through our actions and commitment to community service, our empathy, support and vision for a community where everyone's needs are met; lives are positively affected and changed.

2024 was a year in which we evaluated governance best practices, increased our community engagement, and continued to build our philanthropic presence. A new legacy fund was added to our funds, and for the first time, the

market value of our assets exceeded \$1 million. The foundation's funds are professionally managed by an external investment manager, Odlum Brown, in accordance with our investment policy.

We focus on our community's greatest needs and opportunities. Less visible charities and non-profits doing valuable work in our community are supported, we fill gaps in funding, and we create awareness of, and strengthen philanthropic giving.

**\$114,212** supported neighbours, delivered programs, and strengthened our community through our annual grant cycles with a total of **30** grants.

**34** graduates of local secondary schools received **\$78,860** in scholarships or bursaries – we are investing in the future of students.

**\$325,000** from the provincial governments' Community Prosperity Fund went to work in our community through **7** grants.

The board is constantly inspired by the work the foundation's grant recipients do in and for the community.

The foundation is led by a volunteer working board. These community members give unselfishly of their time, talent, and treasure. I want to acknowledge and express my deep appreciation for these dedicated and community-focused board members.

We truly care about our community, and through transforming philanthropy—pushing it to go further—we aspire to support the changes that Port Coquitlam needs to become a community where everyone feels they belong, can realize their potential, and live in a healthy and vibrant environment, now and in the future.

The foundation thanks our donors and supporters for their generosity, their foresight, and for caring about their community. Together, we continue to build, strengthen, and enrich, and make a difference in our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dawn Becker".

Dawn Becker  
Board Chair

## BOARD MEMBERS 2024

We are privileged to have a number of distinguished members of our community serve on our board.

### Executive

Dawn Becker, Chair  
Mike Schutz, Treasurer  
Angela Andersen, Secretary

### Council Liaison

Cllr. Dean Washington

### City Liaisons

Karen Grommada  
Jeffrey Lovell

### Directors

Jonathan Adams  
Sarah Arsenault  
Taura Berg  
Carly Fryer  
Candice Gibson  
Margarita Karpilovski  
Nils Lau  
Kathleen Nadalin  
Mike Reid

### Executive Director

Anna Wilczewski

We are a proud member of



# Every Grant Tells A Story

Sometimes, a grant buys equipment, sometimes it provides a recreation opportunity, and sometimes, it allows an agency to start a new program or redevelop an existing one. Each grant we make touches the lives of individuals in Port Coquitlam.

## Community Grants

Total: \$48,000

For innovative projects serving the citizens of Port Coquitlam related to youth, seniors, homelessness, health and wellness, arts and culture, and organized sports.

- **Act 2 Child and Family Services**  
Family Counseling Program
- **Athletics for Kids Financial Assistance (BC) Society**  
Sports4Life Port Coquitlam Program
- **BizKids Practical Education Association**  
Resilient Kids, Future Leaders
- **Communities Embracing Restorative Action**  
Empowering Youth
- **Community First Foundation**  
Backpack Buddies
- **Food Bank on Wheels**  
Share Your Christmas
- **House of Omeed**  
Food Refuge
- **Hope Air**  
Medical Travel Arrangements for Low-Income Port Coquitlam Patients
- **Spinal Cord Injury BC**  
Peer Support for Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury in Port Coquitlam
- **The Green Thumb Players Society**  
The Shape of a Girl by Joan MacLeod
- **Tri-City Transitions Society**  
Intimate Partner Violence Victims Therapeutic Pottery Classes
- **Zajac Ranch for Children Society**  
Summer Camp 2025

## Theatre Society Legacy Fund (TSLF)

This Arts Grant is intended to encourage and support the development, enhancement, innovation or mentorship of a diverse variety of inclusive arts in the Tri-Cities region. Arts is defined as a creative activity that expresses imaginative or technical skills.

## TSLF Bursary

Total: \$2000

- **Xavier Wong**  
First recipient of the Thelka Wright Performing Arts bursary

## TSLF Grant

Total: \$5,000

- **Evergreen Cultural Centre**  
2025 Open Air Performers Series



Coquitlam Search & Rescue



POCO Minor Lacrosse



Hope Air



Diwali



House of Omeed



Poco Arts Council



Melissa Burgher



Spinal Cord Injury BC

## City of Port Coquitlam Cultural Development) Grants

Total: \$9,000

For arts, cultural, and heritage projects, programs, events, and festivals in Port Coquitlam that are primarily focused on Port Coquitlam and its residents.

## Project Grants

- **ArtsConnect Tri-Cities Art Council**  
Public Walks, Public Spaces, Public Arts, Public Cities
- **Poco Arts Council**  
Free Poco Creative Drop-in
- **Polonez Tri-City Polish Association**  
BC Polish Festival
- **Port Coquitlam Minor Lacrosse Association**  
Port Coquitlam School Program

## Community Initiative Grants

- **Diwali**  
Festival of Lights in Port Coquitlam
- **The Troupe de Poetry**  
Poetry in Poco 2024
- **Port Coquitlam Writers Group (Poco Arts Council)**  
Poco Writers Group Chapbook
- **Terra Roots Co.**  
Savour the Season: Learn How to Cook and Preserve Farm Fresh Food

## Professional Development Grant

- **Melissa Burgher**

## Community Capital Projects Matching Grants

Total: \$43,300

For projects with direct benefits to the community that involve capital assets and new construction, renovation/expansion of community facilities or spaces.

- **Coquitlam River Watershed Society**  
Lions Park Demonstration Rain Garden renewal
- **Coquitlam Search and Rescue**  
HETS (Helicopter) radio communication upgrade
- **Kinsmen Club of Port Coquitlam**  
Heating system and water heater upgrade in the Kinsmen Centre
- **Poco Minor Lacrosse**  
Gates Park storage container wrap
- **Theatrix Youtheatre Society**  
To the Backrow second stage microphone replacements
- **Tri-City Minor Softball Association**  
Cedar Park outdoor fence
- **Tri-City Transitions Society**  
Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter/Transition House recreation area

For our current grant opportunities visit  
[pocofoundation.com/grants](http://pocofoundation.com/grants)

# Our Donor Funds



After 15 years of supporting the performing arts, the Port Coquitlam Theatre Society dissolved in 2015. To perpetuate its long-standing aims to educate, enrich and inspire all forms of arts in the region and well into the future, the Society has established the Theatre Society Legacy Fund – Arts Grant and the Arts Bursary.



The Wesbild LIFT Scholarship Program is a scholarship program at CABE Senior Secondary in Coquitlam, BC. The Wesbild LIFT Scholarship is an ongoing fund to support CABE graduates achieve post-secondary training and education. The Wesbild LIFT Scholarship at CABE is open to current CABE graduates, grads from up to 18 months ago can also apply, along with graduates from other schools in School District 43 who have spent 75 percent or more of their time at CABE.



LiveThenGive project was founded by Amanda and Guy Lapierre after Amanda's 10th anniversary of her life-saving liver transplant. She ventured on a journey throughout British Columbia to raise the organ donor registration rates and educate those who have yet to register their decisions. Many individuals, organizations and groups are working hard to meet the many challenges faced by individuals within the Transplant Community, the fund seeks to provide micro funding for grassroots projects designed to deliver results.

## The Moore Family Fund

The Moore Family Fund, held at the Port Coquitlam Community Foundation, was established to support community-based initiatives and projects that enhance the well-being Port Coquitlam residents. The fund backs projects developed utilizing the *Vital Signs process*, a national initiative by Community Foundations of Canada that uses data and community insights to identify key local challenges and opportunities for positive change.

To further empower grassroots efforts, the *Thrive PoCo Grant* was established offering up to \$1,000 to resident-led groups and grassroots organizations in Port Coquitlam. This funding supports projects that build social connections, encourage civic engagement, strengthen community belonging, reduce social isolation, and activate neighbourhoods.

# In the Community



Community Shredding



PoCo Car Show



PoCo May Days



COBS Bread Fundraiser

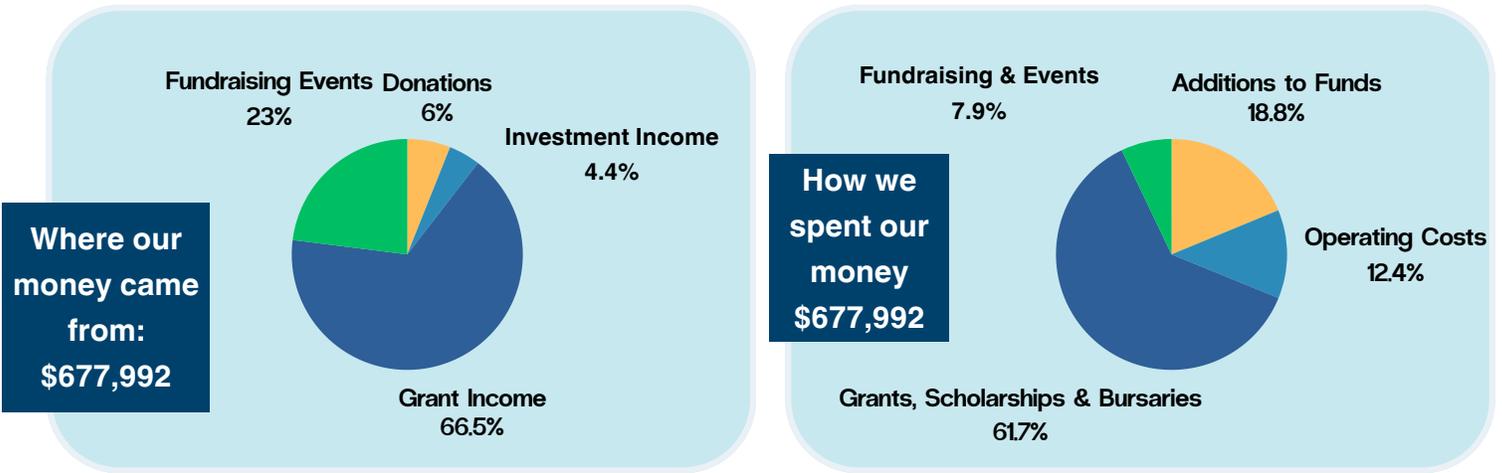


Tinhouse Run



Arms Pub NFL Pool

# 2024 Financial Overview



## Investment Strategy & Performance



Investment Capital	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception
Consolidated Returns	13%	5%	7%	7%

Odlum Brown is one of Canada's most trusted independent investment firms, providing integrated wealth management solutions for over 100 years to help clients achieve their financial goals. The genuine, longstanding relationships they build with their clients – often across generations – are the foundation of the firm. Odlum Brown's highly-regarded investment research is focused on high quality companies with sustainable competitive advantages, conservative financial leverage and strong management.

# DONOR IMPACT – A Recipe for Success



Community, collaboration, and contributions are the ingredients for success, and Access Youth Outreach Services Society is the proof in the pudding.

In 2018, the Port Coquitlam Community Foundation, through the Moore Family Fund, helped to fund a community needs assessment that resulted in the development of Youth Gour-Made through the Access Youth Outreach Services Society.

“It all began as a desire to find ways to address food insecurity among youth ages 12-23 who may be disadvantaged, marginalized or at-risk and provide barrier-free access to nutritious foods. This program has become a bridge for many to access healthy, nutritious, and affordable food services,” says Steve Kim, Executive Director of Access Youth Outreach Services Society.

“Thanks to the Moore Family Fund, we conducted an insightful community needs assessment through the Vital Signs program that inspired the creation of Youth Gour-Made. The goal was to address food insecurity, foster connection, and equip youth with essential life skills that will serve them well in the future,” added Kim.

The Youth Gour-Made Community Kitchen Program was launched in January 2020 as an on-site youth-led after-school cooking program in Port Coquitlam but soon had to pivot to a mobile virtual model and door-to-door delivery service, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than being an obstacle, this spurred the Gour-Made team, led by Program Coordinator Janet Burns and Chef Karen Curtis, to develop creative solutions.

Not only did this shift help remove barriers, but it also solved a problem that wasn't recognized at first. Many youth and their families struggled with mobility and transportation issues that prohibited them from attending the on-site program. Now, with the program going to the youth's home, the team could include more families and be more inclusive for everyone, thus addressing the stigma associated with accessing food services.

Once the Youth Gour-Made team delivers the meal kits, the youth springs into action each week, preparing the ingredients and cooking the week's recipe. The meal kits include food parcels with all the ingredients to feed their entire household and recipe cards with step-by-step cooking instructions from Chef Karen.

Participants can share their postings and photos with one another to showcase their results as they learn fundamental life skills like, pre-cutting and pre-measuring your ingredients (*mise en place*), learning what a boiling point is at Fahrenheit and Celsius, and how to cook all the ingredients together, right in the comfort of their own homes.

As an incentive, youth participants also have a chance to win a \$25 gift card each week for posting pictures and/or videos of their completed recipe of the week.

After a few bumps in the road and with the ongoing support of the Port Coquitlam Community Foundation, the School District, and business sponsorships, the Youth Gour-Made program hopes to expand its program throughout the Tri-Cities.

Now, that sounds like a recipe for success.

This project was funded by the Moore Family Community Fund and developed utilizing the *Vital Signs process*. *Vital Signs*, led by Community Foundations of Canada, is a nationally recognized program that leverages publicly available data sources and a volunteer Task Force structure to generate specific community knowledge of local issues that negatively impact the vitality of our community. *The Vital Signs process* produces a Vital Issue or Issues an actionable and measurable project or project designed to improve the quality of life for the citizens of our community.



“This is a family that absolutely loves this program. The older son did the program before, and now the younger brother participates.

They are usually waiting at the door for us to see what they are making. We often chat with mom for a bit,” Janet Burns, Youth Gour-Mmade Coordinator.

Photo: Brody, consent given by mom C.M.