



# 2023-2024 Annual Report

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Morden Area Foundation Inc.

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**MORDEN AREA  
FOUNDATION**  
Invest. Partner. Build.

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## Board of Directors

Chair	Sue Nelson
Vice Chair	Brad Ritchie
Treasurer	Robert Friesen
Secretary	Tio Bellisario
Director	Oleksandra (Sasha) Pashchenko
Director	Phyllis Loewen
Director	Bob McCulloch
Director	Lenore Laverty
Director	Zainab Zubair
Staff	Maia Vicente

### Welcome to the Board!



**Yvonne Stoesz** and her family have lived in the Morden area for almost 30 years. She has been a social worker in various health settings in the area. Yvonne has volunteered with various organizations such as Mennonite Central Committee Manitoba, Habitat for Humanity, Many Hands, Douglas Kuhl School of Music, teaching English with newcomers, riding in bike-a-thons as well as other efforts.

Yvonne enjoys volunteering in the community and is pleased to be part of the Morden Area Foundation board.

**Elmhar Castillo** moved to Morden, Canada, from the Philippines in 2019. A dedicated family man, he enjoys camping and other outdoor activities with his wife, Cherry, and their three sons: Nathan, Noah, and Nicko. Before moving to Canada, Elmhar worked as a swine specialist and integrated farm manager in the Philippines, gaining extensive experience in agriculture and livestock management. He is also a passionate community leader, serving as the head of the Filipino group for the sixteen13 ministry, where he plays an active role in organizing outreach programs and humanitarian missions. Known for his strong commitment to helping those in need, Elmhar is deeply involved in serving the community, always striving to make a positive impact in the lives of others.



# Chairperson's Message

This has been my first year as the Morden Area Foundation (MAF) Chairperson. It has been an incredible experience, and I feel very privileged to be part of the great things a community foundation can accomplish. It has been a steep learning curve, but the MAF Board has accomplished a lot this year.

Thank you first and foremost to our donors. Your gifts to the Morden Area Foundation show your commitment to Morden's ongoing improvement. When you make a gift to a community foundation, not only are you saying that you believe Morden is worth investing in, but you're also putting your trust in the MAF. Community foundations respond to community needs, and while those needs may change, the dependability of your support does not.

All of our funds are invested with the Winnipeg Foundation and follow a sustainable fund strategy. Gifts made to the Foundation are pooled and permanently invested, and the interest earned is granted to local initiatives each year. Since the capital is never spent, your gift supports the community **forever**.

This year our funds have grown to over \$6.4 Million. In 2023-2024, the Morden Area Foundation has granted \$226,214.39. This annual report is full of the stories of those grants, scholarships and bursaries. I hope that you see that these grants enhance the well-being of Morden and area residents. Of special note are the creation of four new funds: Thomas Sill Fund, Royal Canadian Legion Branch #11 Fund, the Fehr Family Fund and the Learn and Return Healthcare Bursary Fund.

Thank you to the Board members who volunteer their time and talents to enhance the well-being of Morden.

Enjoy the stories in our annual report.

**Sue Nelson**

Directors are chosen for their skills, experience, and community passion to cover the widest spectrum possible to represent the City of Morden and area. Directors are asked to commit to one term of 3 years, and if possible, renew for two 3-year terms for a total of 9 years. Directors are asked to join a committee relating to their specific skills and passion. Soon new relationships form to build a better Foundation, which in turn builds a stronger community.

For more information on becoming a volunteer and/or board member, please contact MAF.

# Grant Recipients

## Scholarship Funds Recipients:

MCI Student Council – Dylan Stemkoski	\$ 198
Victoria Rebekah Lodge – Alex Larrauri	\$ 142
Diane McAndrew Scholarship – Ashley Sawatzky	\$ 400
Doug Cram Memorial Scholarship – Rylee Olafson	\$ 800
Isaac & Dorothy Kroeker Memorial – Erica Plett	\$ 850
Joe & Annie Olafson Scholarship - Rylee Olafson	\$ 400
John & Isabel Reichert Scholarship-Marjorie Bonagua	\$1180
Jake Ken Warkentin Scholarship – Grayson Brimson	\$ 450
Morden Area Foundation MCI – Erica Plett	\$1500
Morden Area Foundation Adult Ed – Ashley Peters	\$1500
Morden Festival of the Arts - Naomi Wiens	\$ 350
YIP & HASTA – Jack Goertzen	\$ 750
Bill & Linda Fehr Scholarship – Julie Geake	\$ 550
Bill & Colleen Lyne Scholarship – David Schulz	\$2500
Bill & Colleen Lyne Scholarship – Mykhailo Vasylov	\$2500
<b>TOTAL: \$14,070.00</b>	

## Learn & Return Healthcare Bursary Fund Recipients:

*(with Masonic Lodge & Krueger Scholarship Funds)*

Beckman, Danielle - LPN	\$1500
Betke, Regina Emma - LPN	\$1000
Bezte, Amber – Doctor of Medicine	\$2250
Dyck, Susie – Medical Terminology Micro-Course	\$ 500
Geake, Julie - LPN	\$1000
Harder, Gwendelyn Irene - LPN	\$1000
Just, Willi - LPN	\$1500
Krainert, Jonas – Practical Nursing Diploma	\$1000
Kwast, Johanna - LPN	\$1500
Morgan, Alicia - LPN	\$1500
Neufeld, Ladawn Kimberly - LPN	\$1000
Odlum, Jamie-Master in Speech Language Pathology	\$1500
Peters, Vienna June – Doctor of Medicine	\$2250
Schaefer, Noah – Bachelor of Nursing	\$1500
Tesoro, Hanah – Health Unit Clerk	\$1500
Wiebe, Taya – Master of Occupational Therapy	\$1500
<b>TOTAL: \$22,000.00</b>	

## Power of the Purse Grants:

Morden Family Resource Centre-Lending Library for Families	\$2253
Youth for Christ – Community Garden for Youth	\$2462
Learn & Return Healthcare Fund – Bursary 2024	\$7885
<b>TOTAL: \$12,600.00</b>	

## Citizen of Distinction Charity of Choice Grant:

South Central Cancer Resource Inc.	\$1,000
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## Matching Funds/Grants

Western School Division – Discovery Track Grant	\$25,000.00
PAC Maple Leaf School - Children's Business Market	\$ 621.80

## General Community Grants (City of Morden Fund, Midge & Lorne Kyle Memorial Fund, Loreena McKennitt Fund, Linda Wilson Memorial Fund, Recreation & Sports Fund):

Child & Family Services of Central MB - Chance2Camp	\$ 4000
Many Hands Resource Centre – Reviving Wheels of Hope	\$10000
Pembina Valley Humane Society – Snowblower	\$ 2000
1-6 Community Club–Conversion to Electric Heating	\$10000
Minnewasta Golf & Country Club– golf simulators	\$ 7500
Boundary Trails Health Centre – BTHC Crash Cart	\$ 3822
South Central Regional Library -Morden Circulation Desk	\$ 1500
Ecole Morden Middle School (EMMS)-Playground Rehab	\$10000
Morden Activity Centre – Floor Washing Machine	\$8174.59
<b>TOTAL: \$56,996.59</b>	

## Agency Fund and Donor Directed Fund Grants:

Arts Stabilization MB Fund – Paid to PHAC	\$ 321
Canadian Fossil Discovery Development Fund	\$ 1,591
Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre Signature Fund	\$68,396
Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre Heritage Fund	\$ 3,701
Caring and Sharing Fund	\$ 2,210
Clark Elder Memorial Fund	\$ 1,640
Lautenschlager Family Fund	\$ 617
Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame Heritage Fund	\$ 4,652
Morden Activity Centre Fund	\$ 1,182
Morden Corn & Apple Festival Fund	\$ 2,024
Morden and District United Way Scholarship	\$ 2,018
South Central Cancer Resource Fund	\$ 2,407
South Central Regional Library Fund	\$ 985
Pembina Threshermen's Museum Fund	\$ 1,182
<b>TOTAL: \$92,926.00</b>	

**GRAND TOTAL: \$217,329.39**

# Scholarship Grant Recipients



### Learn & Return Healthcare Bursary Recipients



### SCRL Morden Desk Project



### Morden Activity Centre Floor Washing Machine



### Many Hands RC Wheels of Hope (Van)



### Morden Family RC Laminator Machine



### BTHC Crash Cart



## Ways to Donate

### Cash Donation

This is the simplest type of donation. But before dropping that cheque in the mail, you may wish to consider alternative giving strategies that can increase the benefits of the donation for you, your charity, and your estate.

### Donate Online

Online donations are processed without charge by The Winnipeg Foundation through the Endow Manitoba website. <https://www.endowmanitoba.ca/make-a-gift/> Select the Morden Area Foundation, and follow the prompts.

### Gifts in Kind

These are donations of property including artwork, securities and real estate. Tax credits for 'gifts in kind' donations are determined by the fair market value of the gift at the time of the donation. However, you must also report any resulting capital gain or loss on the disposition of that property.

### Publicly listed securities.

To get an added tax advantage, you may donate securities listed on specific stock exchanges, mutual funds and segregated funds instead of cash. Under a recent change to the Income Tax Act, the effective taxable capital gain from the disposal of the security will be zero instead of one-half.

### Bequests of life insurance or registered plans

You can donate the proceeds upon death from a life insurance policy, RRSP, RRIF or TFSA by naming the charity as the beneficiary, or by naming the estate as the beneficiary and naming the charity in the will to receive the proceeds. Such charitable gifts are treated as if they were made in the year of your death and are eligible in determining the charitable donation tax credit on your final tax return or the immediately preceding return.

### Charitable Remainder Trusts

You make a gift to a charity during your lifetime yet continue to receive the income generated by the investments. Through an irrevocable inter vivos trust (known as a Charitable Remainder Trust), the charity you name is established as the capital beneficiary. However, the capital is not accessible to the charity during your lifetime. All interest and dividends earned by the trust are paid to you as taxable income. You receive a charitable receipt equal to the present value of the capital which the charity is expected to receive at the time of your death. The donation is removed from your estate and would not be subject to probate fees or claims by creditors.

## Legacy Estate Planning

Plan now to create a legacy that reflects your life and help our community For Good. Forever. A legacy gift can support the cause you are passionate about. Choose your cause, how you want to help, and a legacy gift will fulfill your future wishes.

**What is a legacy gift?** A legacy gift is a future charitable gift through one or more of the following:

- Will
- Listed appreciated securities
- Life insurance
- Retirement assets (RRSP, RRIF)
- Charitable remainder trusts
- Residual interest

Legacy gifts to the Morden Area Foundation can be directed to an existing fund, or you can create your own endowment fund.

**What is an endowment fund?** An endowment fund is like an investment account for our community. Gifts are permanently invested and a portion of the income earned (the spending policy) is distributed every year to local registered charities as grants.

**Why make a legacy gift to the Morden Area Foundation?** There are a lot of great reasons. You can...

- Make an impact in your community.
- Honour your values while supporting others.
- Support a cause you care about.

Since endowment funds are permanent, you will help our community For Good. Forever.

**How to make a legacy gift to the Morden Area Foundation.** The most common legacy gift is a charitable gift through a Will (bequest). We are here to help you make sure that your gift supports what you care about...because we care about it too!

We will document your instructions carefully to ensure that we use your gift as you intend. You or your lawyer may also wish to have us review any Will wording naming the Morden Area Foundation to ensure we fully understand your wishes and to confirm that we can administer your gift as you prefer. It is essential to remember to provide the lawyer drawing up your Will with the correct name and charitable registration of any organizations named in your Will. The Morden Area Foundation's charitable registration number is 139636914 RR0001.

**Tax Benefits of All Bequests.** Charitable bequests provide for your favorite cause with the potential of greatly reducing taxes owing and helping preserve the value of your estate.

**Join us for Creating your Legacy. Want to learn more about including a charitable gift in your Will or estate? We hope you can join us for more information at Creating your Legacy session.**

These presentations are a great introduction on how you can plan now to create a legacy that reflects your life and helps our community. Learn how easy it is to:

- Leave a bequest for a cause close to your heart
- Create a personal or family legacy
- Give as part of your estate plan (there are tax benefits!)

*\* The following is provided for information only; the Morden Area Foundation encourages you to seek guidance from a professional lawyer.*

## Scholarship Funds

Please check out the Morden Area Foundation website [www.mordenfoundation.ca](http://www.mordenfoundation.ca) to learn more about the current scholarships listed below:

Bill & Linda Fehr Scholarship	\$ 550
Doug Cram Memorial Bursary	\$ 800
Diane McAndrew Scholarship	\$ 400
Isaac & Dorothy Kroeker Memorial Scholarship	\$ 850
Jake Kenneth Warkentin Scholarship	\$ 450
Joe (Johannes) & Annie Olafson Scholarship	\$ 400
John & Isabel Reichert Scholarship	\$ 1180
Learn & Return Healthcare Bursary	\$22000
Morden Area Foundation MCI Scholarship	\$ 1500
Morden Area Foundation Adult Ed Scholarship	\$ 1500
Morden Collegiate Student Council Bursary	\$ 198
Morden Festival of the Arts Scholarship	\$ 350
Morden Masonic Lodge Scholarship	\$ 894
Victoria Rebekah Lodge Scholarship	\$ 142
Richard, Emma & Leonard Krueger Scholarship	\$ 292
William (Bill) & Colleen Lyne Scholarship	\$ 2500
William (Bill) & Colleen Lyne Scholarship	\$ 2500
Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) and Hopeful Aware Students Taking Action (HASTA) Scholarship	\$ 750



**2023 proved to be another very successful Giving Challenge raising a total of \$35,221.18. Congratulations!**

This is a magnificent opportunity offered by The Winnipeg Foundation (TWF). Upon raising \$10,000, TWF and the Government of Manitoba matched funds by \$2,000 each and \$6,000 from Décor Cabinet. Thus, \$10,000 was quickly became doubled. Who doesn't get excited by an opportunity like that? This is an excellent way to grow the MAF general endowment fund quickly. Thank you, Décor Cabinet, for the matching grant. ***Congratulations to Morden and area!***



## Other Funds

**Arts Stabilization Manitoba Fund** – supports the Pembina Hills Arts Council with capital projects.

**Canadian Fossil Discovery Development Fund** - created by a CFDC Board member to support CFDC's administration and programming.

**Canadian Fossil Discovery Heritage Museum Fund** - created by the Government of Manitoba as a matching grant program to support CFDC.

**Canadian Fossil Discovery Signature Museum Fund**, created by the Government of Manitoba in acknowledgement of 7 signature museums in MB and internal support of CFDC.

**Caring and Sharing Fund** – supports general activities of the Caring and Sharing organization.

**Clark Elder Memorial Fund** – supports youth athletes with sport training costs as well as equipment for youth sports.

**General Community Fund** – supports general projects for the community of Morden and area. Applications are received and the Board awards grants to qualifying recipients.

**Lautenschlager Family Fund** – supports projects for the community of Morden and area.

**Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame Museum Fund** – supports the general activities of the center.

**Morden Activity Centre Fund** – supports the administration expenses of the Centre.

**Morden Corn & Apple Festival Fund** – supports the annual local Festival administration activities.

**Morden and District United Way** – supports annual scholarship.

**Pembina Threshermen's Museum Fund** – supports administration expenses for the Museum.

**Power of the Purse Fund** – created by MAF Board members and supports projects relating to women and children.

**Recreation and Sport Fund** – supports activities in relation to sport and recreation for programming, capital projects, training.

**Royal Canadian Legion Branch 11 Fund** - supports the administration expenses of the Legion.

**South Central Cancer Resource Fund** – supports the general activities of the center.

**South Central Regional Library** – supports the general activities of the Morden Library.

**Support Fund** – supports the administration activities of the Morden Area Foundation.

**Thomas Sill Fund** – supports general projects for the community of Morden and area. Applications are received and the Board awards grants to qualifying recipients.

**Any individual, business, or organization may make a gift to any of the above funds or scholarships at any time.**

Monetary gifts may be made by cash or cheque, dropped off or mailed to the MAF at 13 – 379 Stephen Street, Morden, MB, R6M 0G8.

Gifts made by credit card through the Endow Manitoba website <https://www.endowmanitoba.ca/make-a-gift/> Search for the Morden Area Foundation, then follow the prompts.

## NEW FUNDS:

**Frederick  
William (Bill)  
Lyne**



### Royal Canadian Legion Branch #11 Fund

This fund was established by Colleen Lyne to honour her husband Bill, who passed away on Dec. 14, 2021. Bill received his 40-year Legion Pin that year for attending the Morden Canadian Legion.

In November 1961, Bill enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy. He was trained as an "Able Seaman Engineer Mechanic" 53593-H. Bill's home base was Halifax, he served on four (4) H.M.C. Ships (Nipigon, Stadacona, Athabaskan, & Micmac). He was Honourable Released on October 31, 1964 from H.M.C.S. Stadacona.

### Thomas Sill Fund

Morden Area Foundation was very blessed to be gifted \$1,188,000.00 from the Thomas Sill Foundation Inc. last December 2023.

The gift shall establish the Thomas Sill Fund for the purpose of generating annual income to be used for grant making purposes at the discretion of Morden Area Foundation in accordance with its usual policies and practices.

### Learn & Return Healthcare Bursary Fund

This bursary will provide a financial award to a person entering or continuing post-secondary studies leading to employment within the healthcare field at BTHC or within the City of Morden.

### Fehr Family Fund

This donor-directed fund was established by Janie Fehr. Its purpose is to specifically support the food security, health and wellness sectors of the community.

## 2023 Citizen of Distinction

Morden's 2023 Citizens of Distinction are Fred and Myrna Mayor. Fred and Myrna are being recognized for their outstanding record of volunteer service spanning over five decades.

Nominators Sharon Deveson and Rick Britton stated, "One would be hard pressed to find a corner of the community that has not been impacted by Fred and/or Myrna's volunteer efforts, as giving back is at the core of who they are."

Their nomination provided a summary of Fred and Myrna's activities. Here is a sample – "Fred has been an active member of the Elks since joining in 1968, holding executive positions and sharing his time and talent in the organization of many special events. He is currently Club treasurer. As a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Fred has chaired the Sick & Visiting Committee, and together with Myrna, volunteered at community bingos and continues to work the meat and card draws every three months. Fred sat on the Board of Directors of Tabor home for 12 years. He was an active member of the Lion's Club in the 80s and 90s. He currently holds a seat on the Morden Activity Centre board."

Both Fred and Myrna are Corn and Apple Festival volunteers, working at various booths over the years and most recently helping at the Activity Centre's lunch. Myrna served as Queen Mom in the early 90's.

Myrna managed the Morden Medical Centre until her retirement. She remained active as a founding member of the Agassiz Medical Community, now Menzies Medical Centre, serving as the Community Board Chair in 2019. Myrna was an active member of the Royal Purple, until the organization ceased operation. She has lent her voice to the St. Paul's United Church choir since the 60s. More recently, she was on the Morden Area Foundation's Power of the Purse committee from 2021 – 2023. She can also be found working volunteer shifts at the Morden Thrift Shop and currently sits on the board.

Both have logged in many miles driving cancer patients to Winnipeg appointments through South Central Cancer Resource.

The Citizen of Distinction Award traditionally recognizes an individual who has made a strong commitment to making the City of Morden a better place to live, visit and play through their long-term commitment by service and excellence in leadership. This is the first time a couple has been named for the award. But when you read their resumes, you realize that they are equally deserving.



*Thanks to CO-OP for  
their sponsorship*



South Central Cancer Resource was this year's Charity of Choice receiving \$1,000.

The couple awardees join the Corn & Apple Parade (August 24, 2024).

# 9th Annual Power of the Purse

*Morden Area Foundation hosted another successful Power of the Purse Brunch*



It was amazing to experience women gathered in person on Saturday, April 6, 2024. 126 women participated, granting \$12,600 in total to three presenting organizations.

According to the Charity of Choice cards submitted by participating ladies, the donor directed grants were made as follows:

- Youth for Christ – \$2,462 (Community Garden Plots)**
- Morden Family Resource Centre - \$2,253 (Lending Library for Families)**
- Learn & Return Healthcare Bursary - \$7,885 (Bursary 2024)**

*Congratulations* to these three excellent charities for their hard work within the community.

In nine years, the Power of the Purse Brunch event has granted out \$97,449 to twenty six registered charities addressing various needs relating to women and children.

This brunch not only grants out a minimum of \$10,000 each year to the community, but it also assists with building the Power of the Purse Endowment Fund with matching grant monies of \$5,000 from the Morden Area Foundation. The Foundation also accepts gifts to this fund at any time during the year. The Fund's current market value is \$131,094.51. This fund will be able to continue to provide grants to projects for women and children should the brunch ever come to an end.

This year's Planning Committee was composed of Sue Nelson, Monique Rampton, Nicole Walske, Tara Ritchie, Linda Knight, Zainab Zubair, Oleksandra (Sasha) Pashchenko and Lenore Laverty.

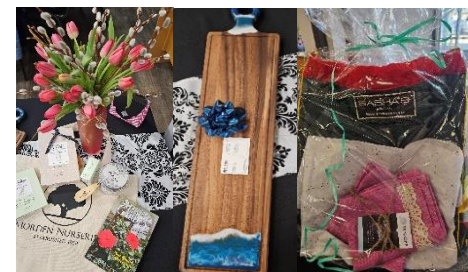
Without community sponsorship and without your caring & thoughtful \$100 gifts, the MAF and Power of the Purse Brunch committee would not have been able to raise and grant this amount of money to address various needs in Morden and area.

## Thank you to the 2024 Power of the Purse Brunch event sponsors:

**Access Credit Union, Menzies Medical Clinic, Dr. Randall & Karla Warkentin, Gislason Targownik Peters Chartered Professional Accountants, RBC, Focal Point Comprehensive Vision Care, MMJS Law Office, TruPath Financial Solutions, Morden Nurseries, Party on Rentals, and Linda & Sheri-Lynn Duncan.**

## Thank you also to the door prizes sponsors:

**Floral arrangement donated by Morden Nurseries; Charcuterie board - by TruPath Financial Solutions; A gift pack from Sasha's Atelier**



**Thank you to our wonderful MC Jayme Giesbrecht and to Dave Destoop of Total Sound.**

**Thank you very much for your participation this year and we hope to see you again at next year's Power of the Purse 10<sup>th</sup> year.**



## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Crafting the Mission & Values Statements

The MAF Board of Directors has diligently worked on the crafting of Vision, Mission and Values statements last February 7 and March 13 of 2024. After a thorough review, the following was adopted and approved on March 13, 2024 board meeting:

#### MAF Mission:

To enhance the quality of life of Morden area residents by managing a permanent endowment; making strategic grants that enable community organizations to respond to emerging and changing needs, and acting as a catalyst in identifying community issues.

#### MAF Values:

##### Transparency

We are accountable to our donors and the community.

##### Collaboration

We foster partnerships in the community to ensure that we are working together toward the same goals.

##### Financial stewardship

We are responsible for managing our financial resources wisely and executing these duties with integrity and ethical conduct.

##### Diversity/Equity

We aspire to a safe and inclusive community where diversity is celebrated and individuals are respected and valued.

##### Innovation

We value creative solutions and continuous learning and improvement in addressing community needs.

#### MAF Areas of Interest:

- Education
- Health
- Food security
- Arts and culture
- Environmental conservation/sustainability
- Sports and recreation
- Diversity/equity/equality

### Endow Manitoba Provincial Conference

Last April 19-21, 2024, representatives of the foundation, namely: Sue, Brad, Lenore, Sasha, Bob and Zainab joined hundreds of community foundation (CF) volunteers at the Endow Manitoba Community Foundations Conference held at Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites.

This was a great learning and networking opportunities of the board. Concurrent sessions were conducted each day covering the five core functions of the CF operations such as Governance, Finance & Administration, Fund Development, Grant Making and Strategic Initiatives. The Morden Area Foundation was well represented, thus, MAF was able to attend each session.

### Donation from David Lumgair



On May 14, 2024 at St. Paul's United Church, longtime Thornhill resident David Lumgair gifted \$500,000 to the Learn and Return Healthcare Bursary Fund.

Lumgair made the donation in memory of his late wife and former nurse, Donna, after he sold a parcel of land. They met in 1958 and were married in 1959 and farmed for over 40 years. He wanted to make sure her legacy lives on through this donation, which when it reaches full maturity in 2026 will grant \$25,000 every year after that.

This bursary will provide a financial award to a person entering or continuing post-secondary studies leading to employment within the health care field and with subsequent employment at Boundary Trails Health Centre (BTHC) or Morden Menzies Medical Centre (MMC). The recipient agrees to return to the area to provide service for a minimum of one year.

### Morden Children's Business Market



The first annual Morden Children's Business Market (CBM) was held at Maple Leaf Elementary School (MLES) last June 3, 2024. This unique market was initiated by the MLES Parent Advisory Council for the purpose of helping the children develop their entrepreneurial skills by creating a brand and products to sell to customers at our one-day marketplace, which is open to the public.

Morden Area Foundation was able to match the donation amount towards Many Hands Resource Centre (\$287.80) and Boundary Trails Health Hospital (\$334.00).

## Most Cherished Story of the Year

According to Sue Nelson, the MAF Board Chairperson, her most cherished story about the Morden Area Foundation (MAF) this year is about the creation of the Learn and Return Healthcare Bursary Fund and the first presentation of \$23,000 to 17 local learners in the healthcare field in July 2024.



In January 2023, Pat Gibson and Marilyn Skubovius came to the MAF with an idea. Their idea was to create a healthcare bursary that would be available to anyone in the Boundary Trails Health Centre (BTHC) catchment area. This bursary would encourage people to enter the healthcare field, help people upgrade their education to a more specialized field, or help a newcomer attain the proper Canadian credentials in their chosen field.

With the BTHC expansion set to open in 2025, many new specialized healthcare services will be available, but the specialized staff required are not there, yet. We are all aware of the profound shortage of doctors and nurses all over Manitoba. This bursary would also encourage recipients to stay and work in this area for a minimum of one year. Hence the Learn and Return.

After a year of talking and planning, the Learn and Return Healthcare Bursary Fund was established within the Morden Area Foundation (MAF). With the help of an incredible gift of \$500,000 by local farmer David Lumgair in recognition of his late wife Donna, a former nurse, the fund is well on its way to our 1 million dollar goal.

On July 30, 2024, the Morden Area Foundation presented the first Learn and Return Healthcare bursaries to 17 individuals - from Morden, Miami, Altona, Winkler and the R.M. of Stanley - to support their studies in various healthcare fields.

At the presentation Pat Gibson said "Health care staffing is an issue across Canada; this bursary is part of addressing the need in our area. Morden was the first community in rural Manitoba to build a hospital and train nurses.

The cornerstone of the Freemason's hospital was part of the Morden Hospital and is now found at BTHC. We want to extend this legacy of excellent healthcare into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, ensuring adequate numbers of trained nurses, lab and X-ray technicians, therapists, and other service providers to meet the needs of BTHC, Menzies Medical Centre and other healthcare providers in Morden."

The Learn and Return Healthcare Bursary will provide at least \$25,000 a year available to help educate and retain healthcare professionals in our area. We are still looking to grow this fund even further.

It is a good news story on so many levels. A local idea was realized by working with a community foundation, generous gifts from the community are supporting the idea, and local learners are supported in their learning and encouraged to remain in the area when they are employed.

To donate:

- Send a cheque to Morden Area Foundation, 13 – 379 Stephen Street, Morden, MB R6M 0G3 **indicating the Learn and Return Healthcare Bursary**
- Online credit card donations are processed without charge by The Winnipeg Foundation through <https://www.endowmanitoba.ca/make-a-gift> Select the Morden Area Foundation, follow the prompts and specify the Learn and Return Healthcare Bursary Fund.
- E-transfer [info@mordenfoundation.ca](mailto:info@mordenfoundation.ca), note: **Learn and Return Healthcare Bursary**



## 2023 - 2024 Donors

All gifts, small or large add up to a strong, vibrant, and caring community. Thank you, donors, for your partnership and investment in Morden and area. (Sept. 1, 2023 – Aug. 31, 2024)

Access Credit Union  
Alan Goddard Charitable Contribution  
Andrew, Brian & Lesley  
Andrew, Sam & Merle  
Annamuradova, Sasha (Oleksandra)  
Anonymous (3)  
Anonymous Fund No. 43  
Barnet, Donna  
Barron, Joyce  
Beach, Allan  
Bellisario, Dr. Tio  
Bissett, Scott  
Black, Grace  
Blaich, Tim  
Braun, Allison  
Braun, William (Bill) B.  
Burton, Carol  
Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre  
Customer  
Canadian Online Giving  
Community Foundations of Canada  
Chubey, Sally  
City of Morden  
Courtney Feldman Charitable Cont'n Fund  
Cowan, Beverly  
Crossman, Cheryl  
Currie, Evelyn  
Curry, Trudy  
Cuthbert, Rosalyn  
Daher, Karl & Tanya  
Davidson, Heather  
Deceuninck, Sharon  
Decor Cabinet Company  
Dell, Marilyn  
Deveson, Richard & Sharon  
Dr R K Warkentin Dental Corporation  
Dudgeon, Cathy  
Dudgeon, Lois  
Duguid, Janice  
Duncan, Della  
Duncan, Linda  
Dyck, Eleanor  
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