

# Morris Area Foundation 2025 Grant Summary

Applicant	Location	Project	2025 Grant Amount
Rosenort School Parent Advisory Council	Rosenort	Accessible playground swing set	\$2,500.00
Lowe Farm Friendship Center	Lowe Farm	Kitchen renovation	\$1,000.00
Morris School	Morris	Bassoon instrument purchase	\$2,000.00
Blue Sky Opportunities	Altona	Work station chairs	\$2,000.00
Valley Agricultural Society	Morris	Poersch Patio decking repair & extension	\$5,000.00
Lowe Farm School	Lowe Farm	Library furniture	\$4,000.00
Morris Area Recreation	Morris	Automatic door opener for Davidson Memorial Pool	\$2,000.00
Morris School	Morris	Volleyball referee stand	\$1,200.00
Katie Cares	Winkler	Beanie baby program.	\$1,000.00
Valley Regional Library	Morris	Library awareness & outreach banner	\$450.00
Small Town Kids Daycare Inc	Rosenort	Storage shed	\$2,800.00
Morris Early Learning Center	Morris	Playground landscaping	\$2,500.00
Morris Wellness Centre	Morris	Gym equipment improvements	\$4,000.00
Rosenort School	Rosenort	R360 Broadcasting program - laptop able to operate editing software	\$2,000.00
Morris Multiplex	Morris	Accessible seating around ice surface at Morris Multiplex	\$1,500.00
Sperling Community Centre	Sperling	New adjustable basketball hoops	\$3,000.00
Morris & District Centennial Museum	Morris	Upgrade & convert fluorescenet lights to LED lighting system	\$3,000.00
Lowe Farm School Parent Teacher Association	Lowe Farm	Multi-sport Court Resurfacing & Expansion	\$5,000.00
			\$44,950.00

## 2025 Donor List

Our heartfelt thanks to all our donors and sponsors as listed:

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### Supporters of The MAF

Morris Bigway  
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The Winnipeg Foundation

### In Memory of

Annie & Bronson Stevenson  
Dave Buhler  
Herman Wiebe JR  
Jane & Jim Stevenson  
John & Myrtle Christison  
Josephine & Ingvar Kristjanson  
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Sharoo & Raj Modha

### In Honour or Celebration of

Bill and Betty Jennings  
Edward & Genevieve Manikel  
Ian Anderson  
Irene Schwark  
Jean Lewis  
Turid Milton  
Yvonne Searle

Donors who wish to remain Anonymous

Your contribution is a Gift That Lasts Forever in the RM of Morris and the Town of Morris



## Current Board of Morris Area Foundation

### Morris & District Centennial Museum

"The 40th Anniversary Landmark Project ensures that the legacy of our Museum leadership is never forgotten!"

In celebration of our 40th anniversary, the Museum is proud to feature the Honour Arbour, Bench & Commemorative Plaque.

With the inclusion of QR codes the Honour Bench Plaque serves as a permanent tribute to those who steered this institution from its inception in 1982.

"It's nice to have such a spot at the Museum to honour the people who cared and worked hard to get the Museum to where it is now! It's valuable for the Community and area!"  
- Egon Grossman.

"We are all connected to the people who made this happen, and I am proud and happy to recognize them and to appreciate them!"  
- Linda Sommer.



# 2025 Annual Report

106 donors and \$105,575 donated

18 grants approved, and \$45,950 gifted

Endow MB challenge donor count: 92

Stretch from Manitoba Government: \$2000.

Stretch from the Winnipeg Foundation: \$2000.

Generous donations and support from Morris

Bigway and Rempel Insurance Brokers

Total value: \$72,283.45

## Chairman's Message: "

"The MAF Board is working to make a difference for our area: the Town of Morris and the entire Rural Municipality of Morris, including the communities of Rosenort, Lowe Farm, Aubigny and Sperling. It is humbling to acknowledge total gifts to the MAF in 2025 were over \$100,000.

The support from the entire area and beyond continues to be exceptional. With the investment of gifts, and from the support of the Thomas Sill Foundation we have been able to greatly increase the level of grants we can return to the entire area. Now granting approximately \$45,000 to area projects- a significant increase.

As always, we cannot grant the total amount requested by all applicants. The Board strives to make a difference for the area with every grant. You will read about a few in this report.

The MAF has a major core of consistent donors which donate frequently over the years. The MAF is attempting to reach out to new potential donors. We do have approximately 10 new donors each year. Every level of donation makes a difference. Thank you.

The MAF strives to increase the linkages between our fabulous donors and the excellent organizations in this area that do the work on the ground to make our area better every day. Forever - for good! We remain committed to our mission to identify and understand our area needs, create and maintain partnerships, engage and steward the caring investors who fund our endowments and grants."

Thank you and all the best in 2026.  
MAF Chair Curtis Evenson



## Morris School Bleachers

What began as a plan to purchase new gym bleachers turned into an even more meaningful project for Morris School. With support from the Morris Area Foundation and a generous \$1,500 grant, we were able to pivot and have our own welding students build the bleachers right here at school. The timing could not have been better. The bleachers were completed just in time to host the MHSAA 'AA' Varsity Boys Volleyball Championships.

*"This project shows what can happen when a community invests in students and practical learning,"* said Principal Mike Watson.  
*"The Morris Area Foundation's support helped turn an idea into a real-world experience for our students, and the results speak for themselves."*

## MAF Supports Local Food Bank

The Red River Valley Food Bank held a "Bag of Fresh Corn" donation event in August at the Show & Shine car show in the Morris Bigway Parking lot. The MAF was one of eight sponsors that funded the promotional bags.



Before

## Sod to Court Multicourt Sports Grant

MAF awarded \$5,000 to the Red River Wellness Committee for the multicourt project located at Morris School. This was a multi-year granting project.

We are thrilled to have these courts for use for all ages. Morris School community is able to engage the whole student body in outside healthy activities. The Morris and surrounding community has access to the pickleball, basketball and tennis courts and have partnered with Morris Area Recreation for "free" use of their equipment.

*"It's a one of a kind addition to our community promoting healthy living for all. We are so grateful for the support of MAF to make this dream come true."*  
 - Susan Chartier

After



## Valley Regional Library Tax Clinic Computer

*As with all modern libraries, we aim to be much more than just a repository of books (though that is important). In view of that aim we sponsor and facilitate a number of outreach programs in the communities we serve.*

*One such program is a CVITP (Community Volunteer Income Tax Program). We do income taxes for low income earners. To say this program has been, and continues to be a success is most definitely an understatement.*

*The number of users has doubled, tripled and quadrupled in the few years the program has been operated.*

*Many also qualify for other forms of government assistance they weren't aware of in the past such as Low Income Supplements, GST rebates, Disability Status, etc.*

*"With MAF's support we are hoping to grow this program and reach even more. We have been able to purchase a dedicated computer and software thanks to the generosity of the MAF."*

- Claudia Schmidt for VRL



## Rosenort School Volleyball Referee Stand

The new stand is much safer.

*"The referee stand that we were able to purchase thanks to the Morris Area Foundation was a much needed improvement over our previous stand. We are very thankful for this support from MAF and it will be appreciated for years to come"*

- Tyler Kornelsen, Volleyball Coach & Vice Principal



## Palliative Care TV

The MAF grant was timely, as it was received as the TV in the palliative care room stopped working.

*Shortly after receiving our grant from MAF, we were told the TV in the palliative room was no longer working.*

*Fred Kelesnik from the Advisory team made short work of finding a new one so that palliative patients and families would soon have a small measure of entertainment again.*

Special Thanks to:

THE THOMAS SILL FOUNDATION INC

Endow Manitoba  
YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NETWORK

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA