



2023

Annual Report

BUILDING A LEGACY FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

The earnings from the general community fund are used to provide grants to a wide range of organizations.

OUR VISION

That our entire community, our people and our prosperity, continue to grow in healthy ways.

OUR MISSION

By identifying and understanding our community's needs, creating and maintaining partnerships that support effective solutions, and engaging and stewarding caring investors who fund our endowments and our grants, we are growing our entire community.



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OUR VALUES

Commitment

We give our time and energy to support the growth of our community foundation and our entire community.

Thoughtfulness

We place effort into understanding our community's needs before deciding and taking action.

Support

We help the local charities and organizations that are helping our community grow.

Integrity

We follow a code of especially moral values, of honesty, and of accountability.

Courage

We persevere faced with challenges, as we undertake our work as a community foundation.

Inclusiveness

We invite participation by all members of our community and actively seek their input and perspective in helping us achieve our goals.

Board of Directors

The Morris Area Foundation Inc. Board of Directors is a broad based volunteer-driven organization that brings local knowledge and experience and a network of area relationships to its board.

Curtis Evenson—Chair

Shelley Stupnisky—Secretary

Del Stevenson—Director

Bruce D. Gregory—Director

Chris Hamblin—Town of Morris Representative

Cory Friesen—RM of Morris Representative

Dennis Mathies—Vice Chair

Midge Anderson—Treasurer

Brendan Heppner—Director

Jackie Murray—Director

New board members for 2023.

Cindy Janzen—Director



Cindy was born and raised in Morris. After graduating high school, she took a summer job with the Morris Credit Union, which eventually turned into a 44-year career. She continues to be employed at the Access Credit Union in Morris.

She and her husband have a grain and laying hen operation east of Morris in the Ste. Elizabeth area and their children are fourth generation Janzen's working on the family farm.

Darcie Edel—Granting Committee Chair



Darcie Edel was born and raised in Morris. She has a BA in History from the University of Manitoba and was involved in the family agriculture business for several years in Morris. She has worked for Royal Bank of Canada for the past 23 years in customer service, small business banking, and is currently a commercial services advisor. Darcie has serviced in her local church as a volunteer and the past 10 years as a board member. She has joined the MAF Board this year and looks forward to helping the Board be an asset to improving the life of our community. She's an avid reader, loves gardening, the outdoors and a variety of sports.

LEGACY ESTATE PLANNING

You can 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.

A legacy gift is a future charitable gift using one or more of the following:

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

The most common—through a will bequest. Legacy gifts to the Morris Area Foundation can be directed to an existing fund, or you can create your own endowment fund.

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Endow Manitoba Shared Staff



In July we welcomed Maia Vicente as our new shared staff person. Maia lives in Morden with her family since arriving in Canada in May 2023 from the Philippines. She brings nearly two decades worth of experience in municipal relations, rural development, and youth programming from her home country. Maia is the Community Foundations Regional Coordinator for the foundations of Morden, Pembina-Manitou and Morris. Maia has already shown great commitment to the role of community foundations. She is a friendly, smiling, helpful addition to our meetings, willing to take on extra responsibilities and eager to see the Morris Area Foundation succeed. Welcome Maia.



Over the last 3 years, the MAF has been fortunate to have Lynda Lambert as our MAF shared staff member under the Endow Manitoba's South Central Regional Staff Program. Lynda has moved on to accept the Executive Director position with the Steinbach Community Foundation. We thank her for her involvement and will miss her abundant knowledge of community foundations, her enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to The Morris Area Foundation. We wish her well and will keep in contact.

**Endow
Manitoba**
YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NETWORK



LEGACY ESTATE PLANNING

The endowment fund permanently invests gifts and local registered charities receive grants from a portion of the income earned through the spending policy every year. 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.

Charitable bequests provide for your favourite cause with the potential of reducing taxes owing and helping preserve the value of your estate.

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

Curtis Evenson Chair Report



It has been a pleasure to serve as Morris Area Foundation Chair this past year. I would like to thank all our board members for their continuing support and contributions to MAF over the last year and previously.

Everyone has offered their skills to the running of the organization. It certainly takes us all.

Again this year, the MAF Board is overwhelmed by the support the foundation has received. In 2023, donors contributed over \$80,000 to the General Endowment Fund, our Administration Fund, Health and Wellness Fund, The Mike Hesford Music Fund and the Youth in Philanthropy Fund.

Our total endowment funds are now reaching approximately \$600,000, after 10 years of operation. Thank you to all that have given your support this year and previous. Gifts become a legacy to our area. Initial gift remains with the foundation in perpetuity, while the interest earned on your investment is used to partner in funding worthwhile projects in our area. Your gift will last forever—for good! A great investment in your area.

As we look into the future, The MAF is striving to become a trusted and predictable source of funding. 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. In addition, we intend to keep exploring new avenues for funding to ensure sustainable support for our area projects. Together, we can make a difference. Thank you and all the best in 2024.

WAYS TO DONATE

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. The government treats such charitable gifts as if you made them in the year of your death, making them eligible to determine the charitable donation tax credit on your last tax return or the immediately preceding return.

Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge

Once again, in 2023, the Morris Area Foundation (MAF) received an overwhelming amount of support, leaving us amazed and humbled. Although the MAF receives gifts throughout the year, The Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge is truly the highlight. Endow Manitoba is the arm of The Winnipeg Foundation that supports the work of the Manitoba community's foundations through research, programming, and grants.



The Giving Challenge is an opportunity offered by Endow Manitoba and local business. Upon raising \$10,000, The Winnipeg Foundation, Manitoba government, and area businesses, Access Credit Union and Rempel Insurance Brokers each contributed \$2,000. That's a great way to boost MAF's General Fund. Who doesn't get excited by an opportunity like that?

For the last several years, Morris Bigway has offered a "Round it Up" event during the Giving Challenge. The Bigway checkout staff invites customers to "round up" to the next dollar for the MAF. Morris Bigway has generously matched this amount. Thank you to Pat and the staff for this support over the many years. In 2023, this event added \$2,265.74 to the Endow Manitoba Challenge.



This year, the Morris Area Foundation received gifts during the Giving Challenge to our General Endowment Fund of \$42,531.

The Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge does not stop there. Because of the interest it attracts, the MAF receives gifts before the actual term of the Giving Challenge and up to the end of the year.

WAYS TO DONATE

Cash Gift

This is the simplest type of monetary gift. 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

The Winnipeg Foundation processes without charge online gifts through the Endow Manitoba website. <https://www.endowmanitoba.ca/make-a-gift/> Select the Morris Area Foundation, and follow the prompts.

Gifts in Kind

These are gifts 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.

Smith Park Bell Tower Project

On August 2, 2023, they lowered the Lutheran Church of the Cross Bell Tower into position at Smith Park in Morris. The Tower has a long and interesting history.

Rumsey Mfg. made the Anglican Bell in St. Louis Missouri in 1883. According to the Morris Journal (1967), they constructed the All Saints Anglican Church in 1875. However, in the King Solomon Lodge Records, the cornerstone for the All Saints Anglican Church in Morris said to be laid on July 7, 1880. They originally built the Church on the north side of the Morris River, but later moved it to the corner of Main Street and Mulvey Avenue in 1898. People remember that the bell tolled on the day of Queen Victoria's death – January 22, 1901. The Anglican congregation joined with the Methodists and Presbyterian congregations and the Anglican diocese then sold the building to the Lutheran congregation in 1920. The congregation used this church until the year 1968, and then they tore it down. In 1969, they completed the new church building, but it didn't have a bell tower. Therefore, for the next 10 years, the 400 pound historic brass bell sat idle in the Lutheran Church of the Cross parsonage garage. In 1977, Egon Grossman took charge of organizing the Bell Tower Committee. Over the next two years, the committee spent many hours researching and finding qualified people to complete the project. Mr. Steve Herbst from Winnipeg was the drafter. Mr. Cliff McPherson, the owner of a machine shop in Roseisle, devised an electrical mechanism to ring the bell. Alta Steel of Winnipeg provided the steel. Mr. Milton Kelm and Mr. George Smith of Morris did construction and were in charge of electrical wiring. They erected the tower in the beginning of December 1978 and after 10 years of silence; the bell rang again on Sunday, December 24, 1978. In 2016, the church building had to be sold because of high costs of maintenance and small membership. The Town of



Morris received a donation of the Bell Tower and moved it to Smith Park.

In 2022, the Morris Area Foundation, with the help of the Province of Manitoba Build 150 Program awarded the Lutheran Church of the Cross "Smith Park Bell Tower" project \$750 to assist in the relocation of the bell tower to Smith Park in Morris.



WAYS TO DONATE

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 vivo 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. You receive all interest and dividends earned by the trust as taxable income. The charity expects to receive the capital at the time of your death, and you receive a charitable receipt equal to its present value. When you remove the donation from your estate, you avoid probate fees or claims by creditors.

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Mike Hesford Music Fund

Michael (Mike) Wallace Hesford was born on August 29, 1969, and passed away on November 28, 2011. Born in Regina, Mike spent his early years in Edmonton, Peace River, Terrace BC and Winnipeg. However, Mike found his true home when he moved to his beloved town of Morris. As someone who truly embraced his community, Mike was visible through his volunteer work, his mentorship of young people, and his commentary work as the public address announcer for the Pembina Valley Twisters and the Morris Mavericks High School hockey teams. Mike also gained recognition for playing in bands, such as Highway 59, Lost Highway, and Tequila South. He reflected his great love of music throughout his life. For the many people who were fortunate to share his life, Mike was truly a blessing. One could not ask for a truer friend, partner, or father. An honest, positive person, Mike saw the best in those around him and embraced everyone with a wonderful balance of humour, loyalty, and respect. Mike worked for Manitoba Lotteries – Video Lotto office in Morris for 20 years and enjoyed every day. As a hard worker and jack of all trades, Mike was always there to support friends in whatever they needed.



The Morris Area Foundation is pleased to announce the Formation of The Mike Hesford Music Fund. When Mike Hesford passed away in 2011, the Access Credit Union in Morris set up a fund in his memory. In early 2023, the Access Credit Union in Morris moved these funds to the Morris Area Foundation.

The Morris Area Foundation establishes the Mike Hesford Music Fund as an endowment fund. The Morris Area Foundation will grant the interest earned on the invested funds annually and in perpetuity to organizations supporting music in our area.

Donations to The Mike Hesford Music Fund are eligible for Tax Donation receipts and are welcome anytime.

FUNDS

Administration Fund

This new fund was set up by the MAF Board of Directors to assist in the sustainability of the MAF's future operations. This is a responsible and effective avenue for the MAF to support itself in any and all administration costs and expenses whether budgeted or incurred. All are welcome to contribute to this fund.

Morris Area Foundation General Fund

supports various project applications submitted by registered charities wherein the MAF Board grants monies where possible to enable the good work to continue in the Town of Morris and surrounding area within the Rural Municipality of Morris.

Morris Area Health and Wellness Fund

supports initiatives of health and wellness benefiting the area served by the Morris Area Foundation.

Endow Manitoba Board Learning

The Morris Area Foundation hosted a regional meeting for local community foundations led by Endow Manitoba on April 12th. The topic of the session was "Granting for Impact" with speaker Brian Cottom, a past board member of the Brandon Area Community Foundation. Brian presented several examples of larger grants from community foundations to local organizations, which made an important difference to their communities. In several cases, the grant got the project underway or allowed the project to be completed while engaging and enticing donors to add to the grant. Picture attached shows the attendees. From L to R Del Stevenson, Dennis Matthies (Morris), Sasha Annamuradova, Sue Nelson (Morden), Brian Cottom (Brandon) Moira Porte (Plum Coulee), Darcie Edel, Midge Anderson, Shelley Stupnisky (Morris), Stacy Cardigan-Smith (Endow MB), Curtis Evenson, Chris Hamblin (Morris), Lynda Lambert (Endow MB), June Letkeman (Plum Coulee), Cory Friesen (Morris). The Morris Area Foundation certainly appreciates all the efforts of Endow Manitoba to assist rural community foundations.



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATIONS
OF CANADA

FUNDS

Morris Rosenort School Youth in Philanthropy Fund

Supports initiatives of the Youth in Philanthropy organizations within the Morris and Rosenort school. This organization serves as an opportunity for youth to learn about local service organizations and take part in philanthropic work within the Town of Morris and the Rural Municipality of Morris.

Mike Hesford Music Fund
The Morris Area Foundation establishes the Mike Hesford Music Fund as an endowment fund. The Morris Area Foundation will grant the interest earned on the invested funds annually and in perpetuity to organizations supporting music in our area.



Youth in Philanthropy

In 2017, the Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) Morris/Rosenort Schools group began with a three-year supporting grant from the Thomas Sill Foundation. Every year, the groups disbursed \$2500 to community groups within the Morris and Rosenort area following the guidelines of the Morris Area Foundation. The Morris Area Foundation has continued to provide funding for the last three years. The YIP groups contributed to funding for many diverse projects, which are listed below. The grade 7 to 9 students in Rosenort and grade 10 to 12 students in Morris have experienced the impact philanthropy can have on their communities.

Although the Morris/Rosenort Schools YIP program has been concluded it is the hope of the MAF board that there may be a group of students become interested in participating in this program once again.

Summary of YIP grants approved

2017	Rosenort Community Centre	Baseball tarp
	Soft Bones Canada	Local Research
2018	Valley Regional Library	Signage
	Davidson Memorial Centre	Stovetop
	Morris School	Sand volleyball net
	Morris Museum	Flag design
2019	Morris Museum	Flag production
	Morris minor Ball	Equipment
	Rosenort School	Broadcast Club
	Small Town Kids Daycare	Architect drawings
	Youth for Christ	Handicap Toilet
2020	Valley Regional Library	Outdoor ramp
	Youth for Christ	Wheelchair ramp
2021	Morris Museum	Stained glass window
	Morris Wellness Tennis Court	Court renovation
2022	Valley Regional Library	Lower counter
	Habitat for Humanity	Rosenort home build
	Rosenort Minor ball	Baseball L screen
	Morris Museum	Window repair
	Morris Swimming pool	Aquafit equipment
2023	Rosenort Minor Ball	Pitching machine
	Rosenort School Parent Board	Artist in the School
	RRWellness	Court Renovation
	Morris Museum	Anniversary Bench
	Youth for Christ	Basketball hoops

Grant Committee Report



Principal Mike Watson of the Morris School spoke of a major project at the Morris School involving a complete revamp of the original Senior Years Kitchen. The staff are seeing an increase in demand. He noted that the current area size and equipment limited the current breakfast club and snack programs. Watson envisioned expanding the

The MAF area covers the Town of Morris, the entire RM of Morris—including the communities of Rosenort, Lowe Farm, Aubigny and Sperling. The MAF is happy to receive donations from all these areas and pleased to receive applications and to grant back to projects over the entire area!

Since offering grants in 2015, the MAF through partnerships with Thomas Sill Foundation, Wpg. Fdn., Endow MB., Prov of MB., Community Foundations of Canada area businesses and individuals has returned over \$170,000 to our area.

The Morris Area Foundation held its second annual granting awards celebration on December 5 at the Morris Multiplex.. The foundation was pleased to announce 10 awards totalling \$26,500.

offering at lunch and being able to provide hot food at events served by volunteers, students and staff. Fund raising is underway.

The granting committee allocated a grant of \$10,000 over 2 years to The Morris School for the Senior Years Kitchen Upgrade.

Second guest Janice Graydon, co-chair of the Willow Park Committee in Morris, showed pictures of the very successful and busy completed Phase 1 of the Willow Park re-development.

In 2022, the Willow Park Committee received a grant of \$5,000 from the Morris Area Foundation to assist in the revitalization of the existing Willow Park. The objective being to create a unique and significant

attraction destination park for new events for community members and others from the surrounding area.

On July 13th, 2023, they officially opened the new Phase I of Willow Park. Committee members Janice Graydon and Melissa Lamotte posted the following on Facebook. "This project was inspired by families to be able to engage and play with one another as well as with other families in the community. We are humbled by the excitement, positivity, and gratitude that we have received with our vision becoming a reality." Congratulations to the Willow Park Committee. On to Phase 2!



Graydon also showed plans for Phase 2 development, including a picnic shelter, canteen, storage facilities, BBQ rentals, and two-family washrooms. The committee currently expects Phase 2 to cost approximately \$375,000 when we complete it in 2025. Fund raising is underway.

The Willow Park Committee received \$5,000 over 2 years to go towards the Willow Park Project–Phase 2.

The Morris Community Gardens received \$1,000 to be used to frame the 16 new galvanized steel raised metal beds, as the edges are sharp and could cause injury.

The Valley Agricultural Society–host of the Manitoba Stampede and Rumble in the Valley Tractor Pull received a grant of \$3,000 to be used to help widen the grandstand steps and replacement of handrails on the grandstand.

The Sperling Community Centre received a grant of \$1,300 to assist in the upgrade to new fire alarms and security lights at the Sperling Arena.

The Morris School Band Camp; Music Program received a grant of \$700 to be used for purchasing an upright bass–pickup and additional concert band instrument upgrades.

The Morris Wellness Centre received a grant of \$1,000 from the grant committee to assist in the purchase of a new "Hip Thrust Machine".



The Rosenort Community Centre received a grant of \$2,000 for additional tree planting in Westfield Park, Spruce Crescent Park, Riverside Park and River Trail Park in the Rosenort and Riverside areas.

The Morris Multiplex Inc. received \$1,500 to be used to assist in an automatic door opener installation providing access to the arena.

The Morris & District Centennial Museum received a \$1,000 grant for a 40th Anniversary Honour Bench and Arbour, honouring Board members and the super volunteers of the past 40 years.

2023 Investment Donors

All gifts, small or large, add up to a strong, vibrant, and caring community. Thank you to all donors for your partnership and investment in Morris and the area.

Anderson, M
Barker, J
Baxter, M
Bruce Gregory Law Office
Buhler, M
Buhr, E & C
Cadieux, G
Chalmers, W
Coates, B & C
Canada Helps.Org
Cornelson, K
Dale & Lynn Rempel Foundation
Demarcke, C
Denby, B
Dickson, J & A
Dickson, W & S
Dueck, M
Eadie, S & D
Edel, D
Edel, E
Edel, G
Edel, M & E
Erickson, L
Evenson, C
Evenson, C & P
Feldman, C
Fitchett, M
Fulford, R
Fyfe, R
Geisbrecht, R & L
Goddard, A
Godkin, R & S
Groening, P
Groening, R
Grossman, E
Hamblin, C & J
Hamblin, L & C
Hamblin, R
Harder, W & J
Heppner, B
Hildebrand, R & S
Hunter, F
Jennings, W
Kelesnik, F & S
Klassen, D
Klippenstein, B & C
Lambert, L
Mackay, J & R

Manikel, D & L
Martin, M
Mazinke, I
McCrary, L & A
Morris Legion Ladies Auxilliary 111
Morris & Rosenort YIP
Murko, M
Murray, R
Penner, W A
Peters, J
Poulin, L
Robert, L
Roy, JP
Rural Municipality of Morris
Schwark, H
Stevenson, D & B
Stevenson, N & I
Stupnisky, B & S
Tynan, N
United Way, Winnipeg
Vermette, R
Vicente, M
Voigt, H
Watt, B
Anonymous 27

Supporters of The Morris Area Foundation

Access Credit Union
Rempel Insurance Brokers
Town of Morris
Rural Municipality of Morris
Morris Bigway
Community Foundations of Canada
The Winnipeg Foundation

In Memory of

Bill & Mildred Dickson
Kathleen & Ed Jorgenson
Herman Wiebe
Lloyd & Louise Janke
Annie & Bronson Stevenson

In Honour or Celebration of

Ian Anderson
Isla & Liam Eadie
Bill and Betty Jennings