



Community  
Foundation  
of Nova Scotia

*For our communities.  
Forever.*

**Kenneth MacKenzie**  
Vice-President  
The Gaelic College

2025  
Annual  
Report

# A Message from our *Board Chair & CEO*



**Frank Lockington**  
Board Chair

It is our pleasure to share the 2025 Annual Report and celebrate the generosity that continues to shape communities across our province.

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia empowers Nova Scotians to invest in *their* vision of community impact. In 2025, CFNS welcomed 21 new Funds, and our collective 181 Funds granted \$3.9 million to support charitable initiatives from Yarmouth to Cape Breton. With more than \$43 million in assets under management and more than \$20 million granted to community organizations since 2008, our collective impact continues to grow.

Looking back on an extraordinary year for our organization, we are proud to say that more than 400 beneficiaries received grants from CFNS. The following examples offer just a snapshot of that impact.

Newly established Funds are supporting initiatives such as:

- Scholarships for Annapolis Valley students who are the first in their families to attend post-secondary education
- Access to rural music lessons across the Maritimes
- Community priorities on Brier Island

Our Funds supported initiatives ranging from food security and animal welfare to accessibility support, community well-being, and health care, among many others. Examples of supported initiatives include:

- Multi-year core funding for a community garden in Digby
- Expanded access to youth sports in Tatamagouche
- Collaborative poverty reduction efforts in Cape Breton

Behind every Fund is a story of people choosing to care about the future of Nova Scotia, in ways *they* have envisioned. Together, we are building a province where opportunity, creativity, and community can thrive for generations to come.

We hope you find this report and its stories inspiring and see them as a reflection of the momentum we share. We look forward to continuing to mobilize the power of generosity that makes Nova Scotia a better place for everyone.



**Daniel Holland**  
CEO





Wedgeport

## Our Vision

Nova Scotian communities have sustainable financial and social capacity to achieve their aspirations.

## Our Purpose

We empower Nova Scotians to invest in *their* vision of community impact.

## Land Acknowledgement

The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is located on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral land and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

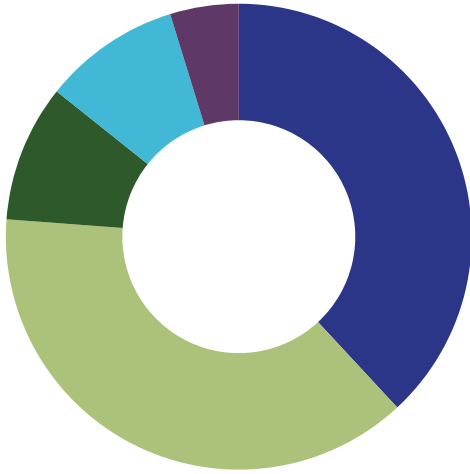
We are grateful to work and build community here. As stewards of the future and generosity, we uphold the values of collaboration and inclusivity in all that we do.

People of African descent have shared these lands, in what is now called Nova Scotia, for more than 400 years; over 50 strong and resourceful African Nova Scotian communities exist here today. Our commitment is to build relationships of understanding and mutual support with all communities in the work we do at CFNS.



# New Funds *2025*

CFNS welcomed 21 new Funds in 2025, including newly established managed, flow-through, and endowment Funds. Some were created by first-time Fundholders, while others were opened by existing Fundholders looking to expand or diversify their philanthropic impact.



## *New Funds by Type*

- Scholarship & Award: 8
- Charitable Organization: 0
- Family & Business Donor-Advised: 8
- Community: 2
- Thematic: 2
- Future Fund: 1

*181*

Total Funds in 2025

*21*

Funds Established in 2025



## A Head Start *in the Trades*

The Stephen LeBlanc Memorial Award supports students graduating from the Automotive Service and Repair program at the Nova Scotia Community College who demonstrate a passion for automobiles.

For Marie Deveau of Glace Bay, receiving the award was both an honour and a milestone.

“It is an incredible honour to be the 11th recipient and the first woman to receive the Stephen LeBlanc Memorial Award,” she says. “One of the reasons I took this course was because I wanted to gain confidence and independence to fix cars and trucks. But I gained more from the experience than I ever imagined.”

During her time at NSCC, Marie built strong friendships with two other women entering the industry. Together, they even got matching spark plug tattoos.

“This funding really did help me a lot. When you’re starting out, many people don’t have tools, and this funding gives you a head start buying them. It’s also a real confidence boost to have people believe in you.”

Marie now dreams of opening her own automotive repair business and encourages more women to consider careers in the trades.





Vernon Pothier is president of the Windmill Committee of Wedgeport/Plymouth. This committee was established to distribute community dividends from Scotian Wind windmills in the area. The Windmill Committee established a Community Fund with CFNS to provide grants to support initiatives across their community including their local Acadian festival, recreation hall, Royal Canadian Legion, school, and more.

**Vernon Pothier**  
Wedgeport Harbour





CFNS Fundholder Dr. Bob Frederickson, Halifax's pioneering AIDS doctor, flips through a commemorative zine created by RadStorm, the arts and music hub he helped secure a permanent home for with a \$450,000 donation.

**Dr. Bob Frederickson**  
RadStorm Celebration



# A home for *RadStorm*

RadStorm's cozy space on Gottingen Street buzzed with celebration in May as the beloved non-profit arts hub and gathering place for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community celebrated a rare feat in today's housing market: owning the building it calls home.

This milestone was made possible by a transformative \$450,000 gift from Dr. Bob Frederickson, a local hero within the queer community, affectionately known as Dr. Bob. Although RadStorm is not a registered charity, Dr. Bob became a Fundholder at CFNS which, under approved circumstances, allowed a charitable tax receipt to be issued for his gift.

This is one of the many benefits of working with a community foundation, and CFNS is proud to have facilitated this generosity.

## **The Space**

RadStorm members' long-held dream of ownership became possible when building owners Walter and Mary Schlech, who had charged below-market rent for years, offered to sell the property at a below-market price.

The organization secured over \$100,000 in municipal government support, solicited individual donations, and got creative with fundraising, but they were still shy of the amount they needed for purchase.

That changed when Dr. Bob heard of their need and made a donation through his Fund that enabled RadStorm not only to purchase the building but also to begin essential upgrades to the space.



Back row (L to R): Dr. Walter Schlech; Capp Larsen, RadStorm.  
Front row (L to R): Mary Schlech; Dorothy Patterson, The ARK; Dr. Bob Frederickson; Daniel MacKay, RadStorm.



## Dr. Bob's Legacy

Dr. Bob was the primary care physician for HIV/AIDS patients in Halifax during the early decades of the epidemic. He took a pay cut to serve as the AIDS doctor, since he was paid based on the number of patients rather than the complexity of their illnesses. He provided an extraordinary level of personal care and was a passionate advocate for the community he served.

Dr. Bob established a Donor Advised Fund with CFNS to support a range of initiatives he cares about, including both charities and non-profits. Through this Fund, he was able to support RadStorm's building purchase.

## Walter and Mary Schlech

Walter and Mary Schlech, the building's previous owners, were recognized at RadStorm's community celebration for their generosity and long-standing commitment to vulnerable communities.

Their generosity extends far beyond their contributions to RadStorm. Among other initiatives, the couple founded Halifax's Sunday Suppers, which provides a hot meal every Sunday for hundreds of people experiencing food insecurity.

Dr. Walter Schlech and Dr. Bob Frederickson worked together during the HIV/AIDS crisis. Dr. Schlech was involved in research and advisory committees, and later established clinics in Africa where the need remained profound.

## A Zine of Gratitude & History

To honour Dr. Bob, as well as Walter and Mary Schlech, RadStorm members created a zine (a small and non-commercial magazine) that celebrates their contributions while also commemorating the history of queer health care in Nova Scotia.

Among its stories is one of a man who was unknowingly HIV positive and donated blood

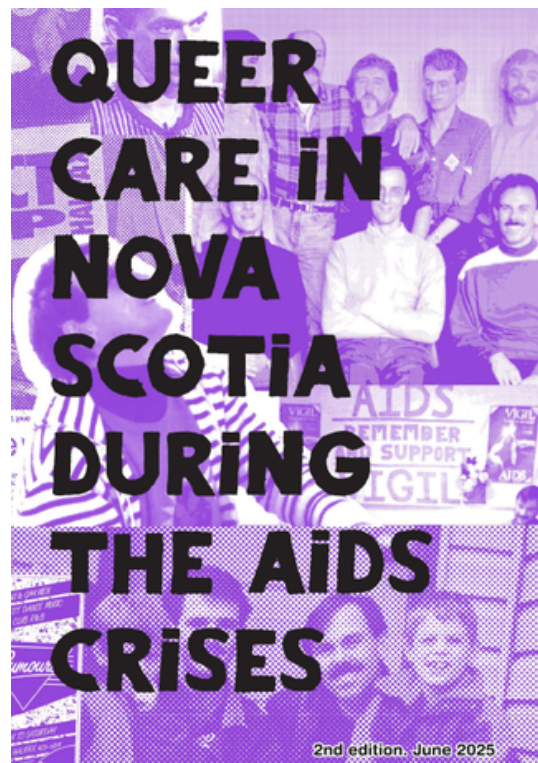
before testing was available. Dr. Bob personally paid for a lawyer to represent his patient throughout a lawsuit that lasted a year and a half before being dropped.

What began as a thank-you evolved into a collective expression of gratitude for the compassion, advocacy, and commitment of these community guardians.

## The Role of CFNS

As a public foundation, the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia can grant to Non-Qualified Donees, as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency. This means that, in certain circumstances, CFNS Fundholders can support registered non-profit organizations while receiving the same tax benefits as they would when donating to a registered charity.

Because Dr. Bob is a Fundholder, he is issued a tax receipt from CFNS for personal contributions to his Fund. From this Fund, he can make gifts to both charities and qualifying non-profit organizations.



This zine, published in 2025, is one of thousands created by RadStorm artists, and was a fitting way to commemorate the gift made possible by very generous Nova Scotians.





**Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens**  
Charitable Organization  
Endowment Fund



# Fundholder Feature

*John MacLeod*

As Manager of the Nova Scotia Archives, John MacLeod spends his days preserving objects and stories. He knows history lives not only in documents and records, but in the values passed from one generation to the next. In his own family, a legacy of kindness and generosity traces back to his grandfather, John Simon Fraser MacLeod, the inspiration for John's J.S.F. Fund at the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia. Established in 2008, it remains the Foundation's longest standing Fund.

John Simon Fraser MacLeod arrived in Halifax with his wife, Willina Murray MacKay, a few years before the Halifax Explosion. The MacLeod home quickly became a popular stopping place for those traveling to the city from Pictou and Earltown areas. This warm Maritime generosity was passed down through the MacLeod family.

John's parents, Dr. Ian and Marjorie MacLeod, gave regularly to Symphony Nova Scotia and other local charities, showing him early on the importance of giving back. Years later, after his sister Sandra passed away, scholarship funds were established in her honour at Armbrae Academy and the University of King's College. They continue to support local students each year.

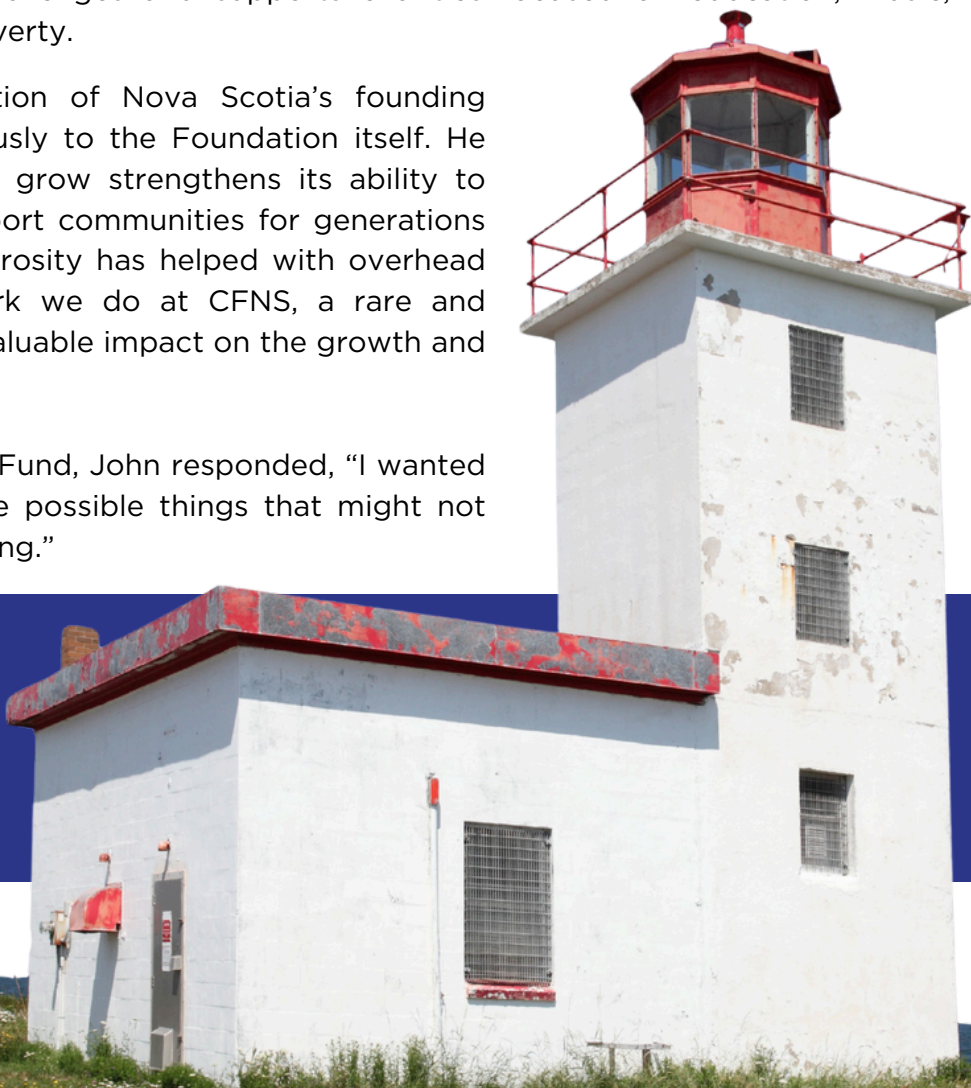
Working with history every day has also shaped how John thinks about the future. He is interested in new approaches to long standing challenges and supports charities focused on education, music, health, and the relief of hunger and poverty.

As one of the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia's founding Fundholders, John also gives generously to the Foundation itself. He believes that helping the Foundation grow strengthens its ability to respond to emerging needs and support communities for generations to come. Over the years, John's generosity has helped with overhead costs associated with charitable work we do at CFNS, a rare and essential contribution that has had invaluable impact on the growth and capacity of our organization.

When asked why he created the J.S.F Fund, John responded, "I wanted to create something that would make possible things that might not ordinarily happen if I didn't do something."

Community Foundation of Nova Scotia is a registered charity empowering Nova Scotians to invest in their vision of community impact.

A donation to CFNS helps enhance philanthropy to make Nova Scotia better now and forever. Visit [www.cfns.ca/donors/](http://www.cfns.ca/donors/).



# Colaisde na Gàidhlig

## *Gaelic College*

Colaisde na Gàidhlig, the Gaelic College, in St. Ann's, Cape Breton, is the only institution of its kind in North America. Each year, students of all ages and skill levels visit to study under some of the finest instructors in Nova Scotia Gaelic culture.

Each year, the Gaelic College awards scholarships and bursaries to students pursuing Gaelic culture, music, language, crafts, customs, and traditions. The Nancy MacLean Bursary supports youth enrolling in music and dance programs. Funded through an Endowment Fund at CFNS, the bursary ensures ongoing support to help make participation more accessible for future students.

Kenneth MacKenzie is Vice-President of the Gaelic College and a founding director of Taigh Sgoile na Drochaide, a Gaelic immersion primary school located in Mabou. Kenneth shared that his experience with the Gaelic College endowment at CFNS encouraged the establishment of a second Fund with CFNS to support Taigh Sgoile na Drochaide.

“I enjoyed working with CFNS through the Gaelic College and our Nancy McLean endowment. So, when we started Taigh Sgoile na Drochaide, it just seemed natural to work with the Community Foundation to open a Flow-through Fund for the school.”



**Kenneth MacKenzie**  
Beinn Mhàbu





Roseanna Thibeault and Amy MacKinnon of the Shelburne County Youth Health and Support Association, recipients of \$17,000 in funding from the Reciprocity Health Fund in 2025 for kitchen appliances for their “The Gathering Table” project at the Barrington Care and Recovery Centre.

# Reciprocity Health Fund

## \$7.75 Million Contribution

The anonymous donor behind the Reciprocity Health Fund made possible a further donation of \$7.75 million in May 2025, bringing total contributions to the Fund’s endowment to \$13.75 million. The Fund supports initiatives in the Tri-County area that address the social determinants of health — such as income, social connection, food security, transportation, and access to care.

The Reciprocity Health Fund made its first grant in 2022 and since then, more than \$1 million has been granted to reduce health inequalities in Yarmouth, Digby, and Shelburne counties. With this addition to the endowment, beginning in 2026, more than \$700,000 will be granted annually to provide long-term, sustainable support for the region’s well-being. Generosity at this scale doesn’t just address needs, it creates new possibilities.

## Sou’West Nova

### Transit

Kevin Curry, Executive Director of Sou’West Nova Transit Association, stands beside one of the organization’s vehicles that helps residents across Shelburne County get where they need to go.

A grant from the Reciprocity Health Fund supported free first rides to encourage use of the service and help more people feel comfortable accessing transportation in a region without public transit.

Sou’West Nova Transit drivers log more than 300,000 kilometers per year, the equivalent of seven and a half trips around the world, providing 35 to 45 rides each day so community members can attend appointments, run errands, and stay connected.





Dr. Alicia Noreiga-Mundaroy is working with a Community Health Board in Shelburne County to examine how socio-economic factors affect well-being. This study focuses on barriers that prevent some Shelburne residents from accessing essentials like nutritious food, safe housing, transportation, and mental health support. This project received funding from the Reciprocity Health Fund to support this important research.

**Dr. Alicia Noreiga-Mundaroy**

Associate Professor in the Department of  
Community Development at Acadia  
University.





## Hiren Mistry

Garden Manager of Digby & Area  
Community Garden



# Digby & Area *Community Garden*



Garden Manager Hiren Mistry tends to the Digby & Area Community Garden, where a multi-year grant allows him to expand offerings and better support the community. Mistry describes the funding as a dream come true, giving him three years to focus on growing food and building projects in collaboration with the Board.

In 2025 the garden donated more than 300 pounds of fresh food, and plans are underway for irrigation, permaculture, berries, hazelnuts, and grapes. The garden not only helps address food insecurity but also fosters togetherness, reduces social isolation, and provides mental health benefits through working with the land.

## Multi-Year Funding

In 2025, the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia issued 416 grants on behalf of our Fundholders. We work directly with many of the funded grantees, checking in to understand how we can strengthen our philanthropic practices in support of their work.

One of the most common challenges we hear is the unpredictability of annual revenue to support overhead costs. In parts of the funding landscape, support is not always able to cover core operating costs, even though those expenses are essential to sustaining impact.

Time and again, we hear about the importance of multi-year commitments. That is why we have built this approach into several of the grants we facilitate, including support for the Digby & Area Community Garden from the Reciprocity Health Fund, established by an anonymous donor.



# Community Funds

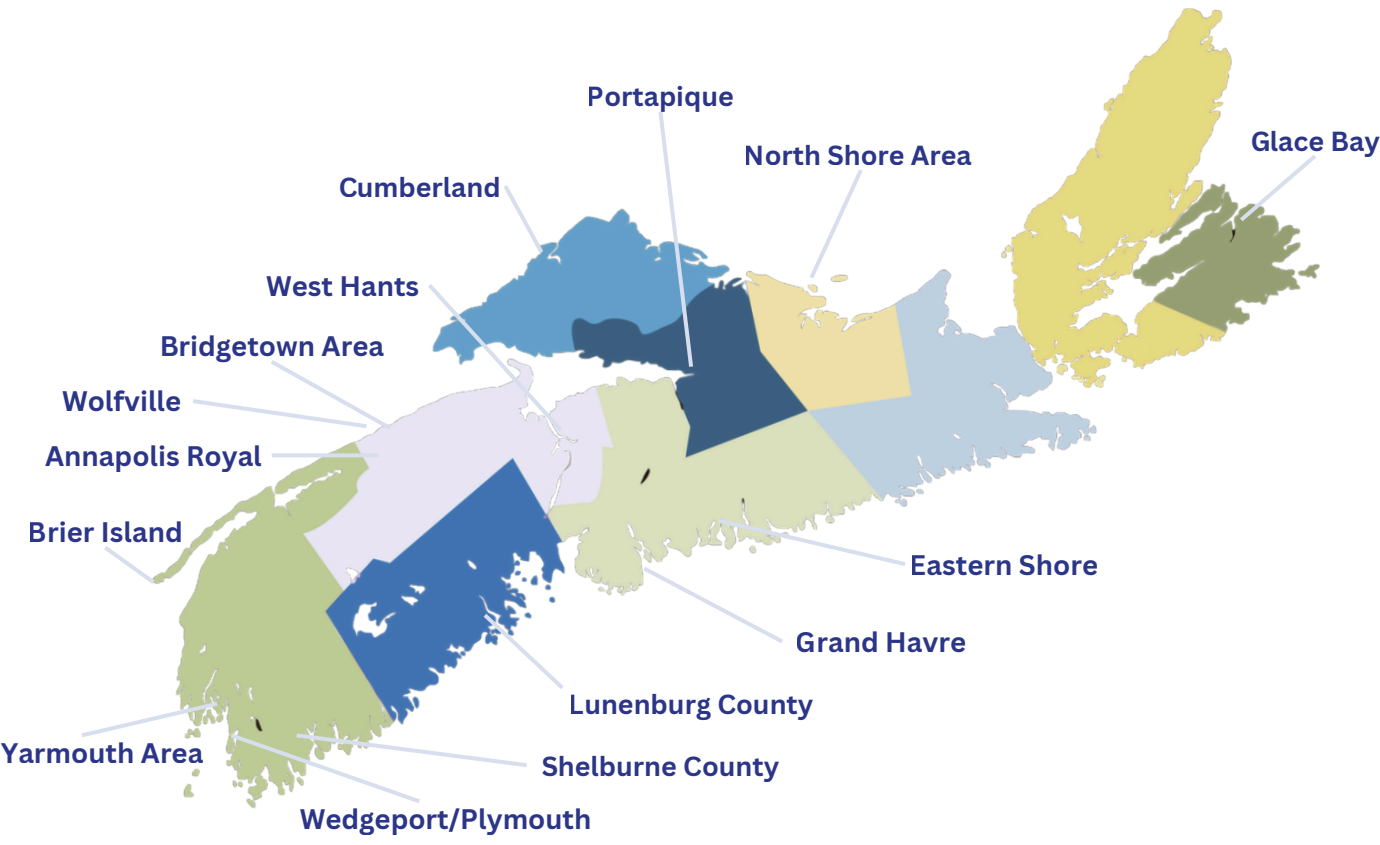
A Community Fund is a powerful tool for local resilience, rooted in the belief that the people who live and work in a community are best equipped to shape its future. Built by and for the community, these permanent Endowment Funds grow over time and provide steady, reliable support for local priorities now and for generations to come.

Whether it's helping to stock the local fire department, sustain seniors' programs, or ensure everyone has access to safe, welcoming recreation spaces, a Community Fund reflects the heart of the people who sustain it. It is local generosity transformed into lasting impact.

In 2025 the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia had 15 active Community Funds across the province, and this number continues to grow.



(L - R) Carly Levy of CFNS with Kristina Inrig of the Brier Island Community Fund (established with CFNS in 2025), and Amy Tudor of the Westport Recreation Auxiliary. An early priority of this Community Fund is to build an outdoor multi-purpose court for the children of Brier Island.





# Cumberland County *Community Fund*



Several Cumberland County Community Fund committee members with representatives from grantee organizations for their first grants made in April, 2025.



# Cumberland County *Community Fund*

The Cumberland County Community Fund was established to build positive change in Cumberland County for the long term. As the fund grows, it is intended to support a wide range of community activities and services that benefit residents, including arts and culture, health and education, sport and recreation, and poverty relief.

Donations are pooled and invested to maximize the benefits and ensure the endowment can support the community in perpetuity.

Since its launch, the Cumberland County Community Fund has raised significant support and begun granting to local initiatives that strengthen the county's social fabric. These include efforts such as community events and youth-focused activities that help bring people together and build belonging. It has also supported inclusive celebrations that enrich local culture and give residents opportunities to connect and thrive.

Community Funds like this are led by local volunteers who know the area well and guide funding priorities based on what will benefit the community most. Their work reflects the belief that when neighbours invest in one another, everyone benefits now and for generations to come.



The Cumberland Community Fund Charity Fair in Amherst brought together more than 100 attendees to learn about funding opportunities from organizations across the region.

## 2025 Grant Recipients

### **Malagash Area Heritage Association**

Community park decorating, annual Christmas Bazaar & food bank drive

### **Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education**

Pride dance for 2SLGBTQI+ students and allies

### **Lillian Allbon Animal Shelter**

Spaying and vaccinating kittens and puppies for safe adoption

### **YMCA of Cumberland (2)**

Wellness equipment for senior well-being & "Kids to Camp" program support

### **Cumberland Public Libraries**

Supporting the return of library services to Advocate

### **Tidnish Crossroads and Area Association**

Family Christmas party and skating party

### **Maggie's Place**

Essential car seat safety programs for families

### **After the School Bell Food Program**

Weekly food and grocery programs for children and families

### **A Hand Up Society**

Food bags and grocery coupon program in Springhill and Parrsboro

### **Greville Bay Citizens for Health & Fitness**

The Community Festive Dinner in Port Greville

### **The Sunset Community Incorporated**

Winter carnival of activities to promote recreation, belonging, and community spirit





Social worker Carly Cleveland and her peers in the region identified that some high school students felt uncomfortable attending traditional prom due to concerns about discrimination based on sexuality or gender identity.

In response, they created the region's first Pride Dance, bringing together seven schools for a shared celebration happening in June, 2026. The initiative has been supported by a grant from the Cumberland County Community Fund.

### **Carly Cleveland**

Youth Health Centre Coordinator  
Parrsboro Regional High School &  
River Hebert District High School



# Leaving a Legacy

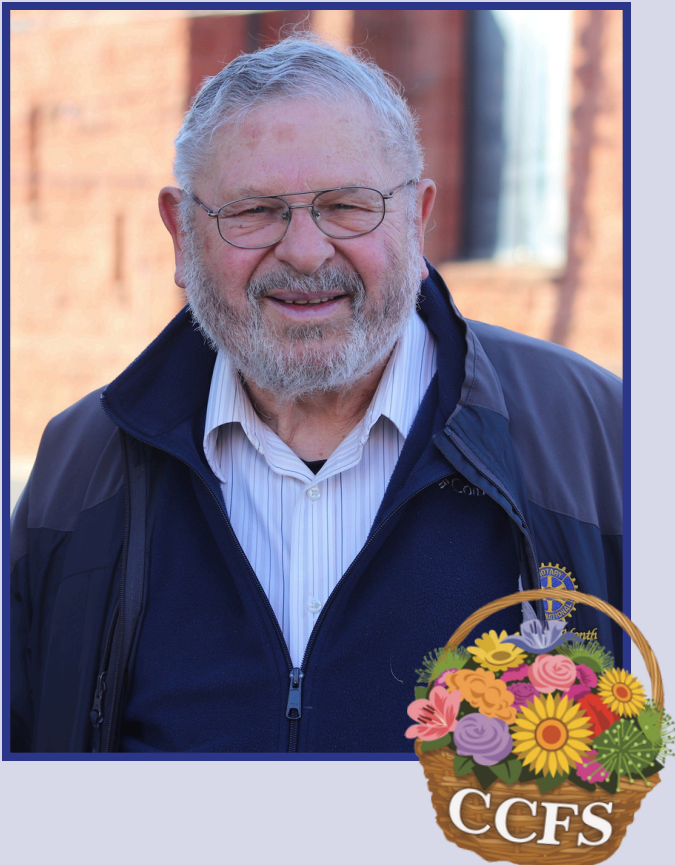
## *In Your Community*

One of the most powerful ways to support your community long into the future is by leaving a gift in your Will to your own Legacy Fund or your local Community Fund. Whether it is a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder, a bequest becomes part of a tradition of generosity that helps communities thrive for generations.

A bequest can be distributed to the causes of your choice immediately, or it can be invested permanently, and safeguarded indefinitely, forming your own personal Legacy Fund held at the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia. By pooling investments with millions of dollars from other Funds, your legacy benefits from consistent returns and minimal fees. Over time, your Legacy Fund provides predictable, sustainable grants in your honour, year after year.

When family assets leave a community, local opportunities can shrink. A gift to a Community Fund keeps resources local, reinvesting in people, programs and places that matter, from arts and culture to youth, health and education.

You can also create your own Future Fund, with arrangements made now and formalized in your Will. It offers a simple alternative to a private foundation without the administrative burden, and ensures the causes you care about feel your impact forever. Establishing a Future Fund at CFNS does not involve any setup fees.



*"Most people think of a community foundation or a community fund as a source of financial help or support. Rightly so!*

*However, as someone who practiced law for over 40 years, with an emphasis on estate planning, I have learned that they fulfill another important function: to serve as facility by which individuals, families and companies can make gifts, either lifetime or through planned giving. A donor to a community foundation or community fund can engage in philanthropy without having to decide what particular cause or charity to support. Furthermore, they provide the confidence that a gift will keep on giving forever, and be made available where the need is greatest.*

*At our Cumberland Community Fund we think of that facility or opportunity in the form of a basket. The grants we are able to award are symbolized as a bouquet of flowers. We think our logo says it all."*

- Morris J. Hugg, K.C., Founding President,  
Cumberland Community Fund Society.



# A Future Gift for Community:

## *Lynn Hennigar's Life Insurance Legacy*



Lynn and her husband, Adrian.

Lynn Hennigar-Bohach's philanthropy is far-reaching, both locally and internationally. Among her gifts is a future \$500,000 donation to her community in the form of a life insurance policy, a reflection of her lifelong commitment to giving back to the place she calls home.

Lynn's father, Ralph Hennigar, was a community-minded lawyer who believed strongly in planning ahead. Lynn often says he planned to die his whole life, so tax-efficient giving is something she grew up understanding and appreciating.

Life insurance can be an affordable and flexible way to establish a Fund or add to a Fund at CFNS. A paid-up life insurance policy can be donated in exchange for a charitable receipt based on its assessed fair market value. An existing policy with remaining premiums can also be donated, generating a tax receipt for the policy's assessed value and annual donations equivalent to premium costs. Life insurance is paid directly to the beneficiary, and the full gift goes to charity without being reduced by estate or probate fees.

Her love for community was shaped early through the family newspaper business, where Lynn worked for 32 years. In 1968, Ralph and Margaret Hennigar purchased the Lunenburg Progress Enterprise, then a small community newspaper with a printing plant. In 1972 they also purchased the Bridgewater Bulletin. LighthouseNOW, serving Lunenburg and Queens counties, remained part of the Hennigar family for 47 years, helping tell heartfelt stories of community.

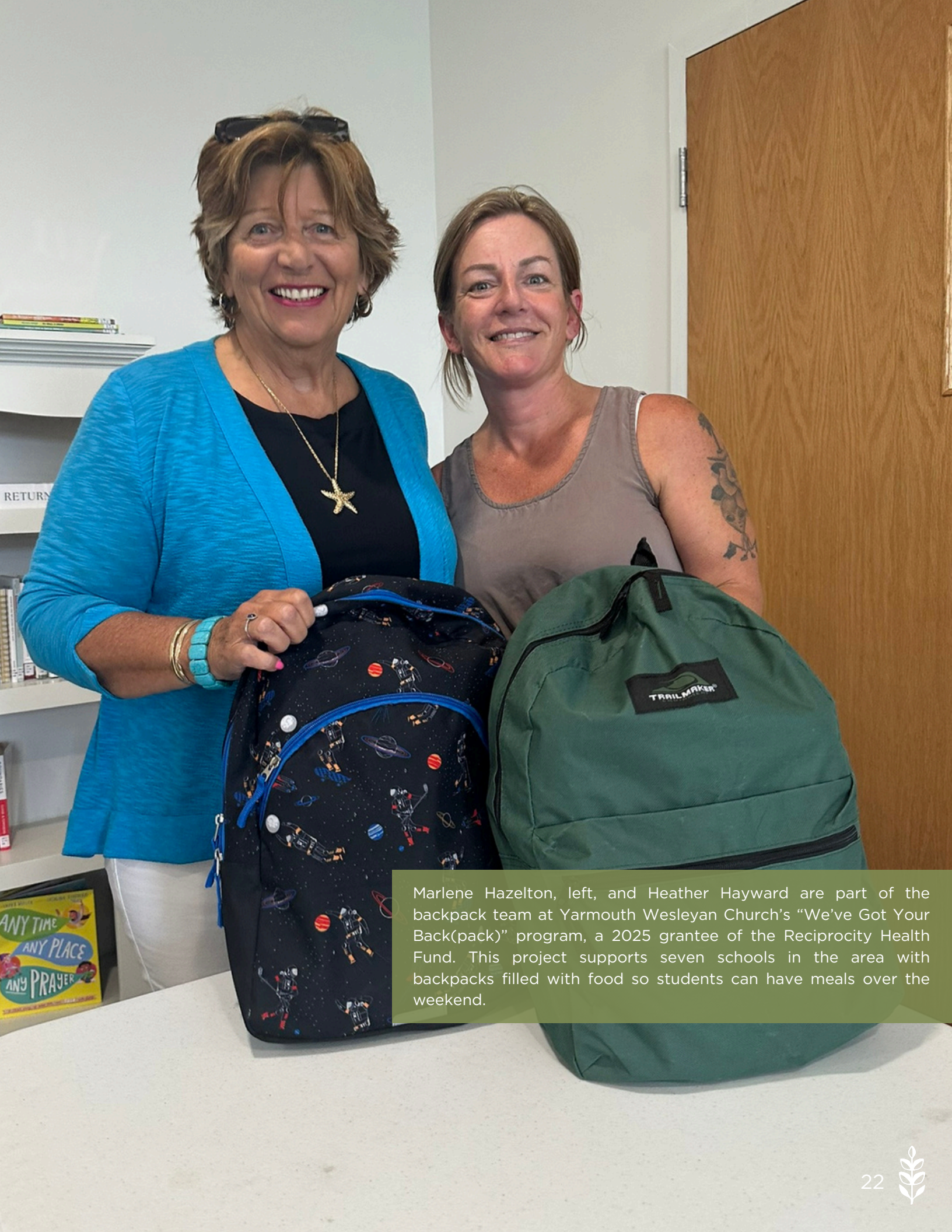
Lynn has been a lifelong community leader and volunteer, including serving as a Mahone Bay town councillor and on many Boards for organizations that make the region vibrant and resilient. After selling the family business in 2015 and then retiring in 2017, Lynn became even more involved in philanthropy.

Lynn's Fund with CFNS owns her life insurance policy, and is named as the beneficiary. This structure allows the death benefits to be paid directly to the Fund, providing flexibility for Lynn to support designated charities and nonprofit organizations of her choosing. She maintains the ability to adjust beneficiaries during her lifetime as her priorities evolve.

Lynn's annual life insurance premiums were considered charitable contributions, for which CFNS was able to issue tax receipts. The policy is now fully paid, with no further premiums required.

Lynn chose to share her story in hopes of inspiring others to consider a life insurance gift, just as her father inspired her.





Marlene Hazelton, left, and Heather Hayward are part of the backpack team at Yarmouth Wesleyan Church's "We've Got Your Back(pack)" program, a 2025 grantee of the Reciprocity Health Fund. This project supports seven schools in the area with backpacks filled with food so students can have meals over the weekend.

# Fraser Family Fund *For Music Education*

In communities everywhere, music has the power to uplift, connect, and transform lives. The Fraser Family Fund for Music Education seeks to inspire and educate a new generation of passionate music teachers who will settle in Atlantic Canada to teach privately, ensuring that music education is accessible and flourishes.



Katherine Fraser



Peter Fraser



Rosemary Fraser

The Fraser Family Fund for Music Education was established in honour of Peter Fraser, and in loving memory of Katherine Fraser (1960-2025) and Rosemary Fraser (1939-2018), a devoted family of private music teachers. Their legacy still resonates throughout Cape Breton where, through their guidance and mentorship, persons across the lifespan learned piano, theory and music history. Their students were also encouraged to take Royal Conservatory of Music Exams and compete in the Cape Breton Kiwanis Music Festival—initiatives wherein the Frasers held crucial organizational and leadership roles.

With Peter's retirement and Katherine and Rosemary's passing, the community now faces an impending void where music learning once thrived. The Fraser Family Fund for Music Education is both a tribute to the past and a promise for the future—supporting students of all ages who aspire to study music and share their gifts with communities in need of musical connections, creative inspiration, and music instruction.

## Sparkling Creativity in *Guysborough County*

A bursary program created in 2025 is lighting the way for young artists in Guysborough County. The Guysborough County Youth Arts Education Fund is the first of its kind in the region, dedicated to supporting youth pursuing arts education beyond the classroom.

Created by private donors from the area who recognized a gap in opportunities, the Fund offers up to \$1,000 per year to residents aged 16 to 30. Funding can be used for classes, workshops, training programs, or tuition—whether applicants are just starting their artistic journey or looking to deepen their craft.

The Guysborough County Youth Arts Education Fund addresses this gap, offering support that helps nurture local talent and strengthen the arts community. Beyond providing financial assistance, the fund serves as a catalyst for possibility, giving young artists in rural areas the resources and encouragement to explore their potential and pursue their creative dreams.

The Fund launched with an initial \$20,000 contribution, invested to ensure sustainable annual grants.



# Africadian Empowerment Academy



Tomisin Ayoola, Project Coordinator, left, and Omolara Ogunboski, Executive Director, discuss plans for upcoming program launch of Pathways to Skilled Trades for People of African descent.

The Africadian Empowerment Academy received a grant from the CFNS VISIONS Fund for *Pathways to Skilled Trades for People of African Descent*, an innovative, culturally responsive program preparing participants for long-term careers in Nova Scotia's skilled trades. The initiative supports participants through job readiness training, hands-on career exploration, mentorship, and transitions into registered apprenticeships.

By combining Africentric education with wrap-around supports such as transportation, equipment, and mentorship, the program addresses systemic barriers while strengthening workforce diversity and economic opportunity.

Omolara Ogunboski, Executive Director of the Africadian Empowerment Academy, says the program is grounded in cultural approaches to learning.

"Generally, African people like to do things in co-op, in a community way. We have a wraparound support for one another. There is an important cultural component that we bring into our program."

Among the 2025 CFNS VISIONS Fund grantees is New Dawn Community Development Educational Foundation, which received \$40,000 per year for three years for its Social Development Forum, a new initiative addressing persistent poverty in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

The Forum brings together community organizations, service providers, and people with lived experience of poverty to build shared strategies for change. Through facilitated sessions and collaborative planning, the project aims to strengthen coordination across the sector, elevate first-voice participation, and develop a community-wide poverty reduction agenda rooted in local realities.

Eric Leviten-Reid, Project Coordinator, says the support allows the organization to focus on the deeper, collaborative work needed to address poverty.

"The funding coming from the VISIONS Fund is really a godsend," says Leviten-Reid. "It puts some legs underneath a level of work that's often missing and is essential if we're going to address poverty in our community."

# New Dawn Enterprises



Eric Leviten-Reid, Project Coordinator for the Social Development Forum.



2025

# Financial Highlights

\$43.0M

Total Assets

\$13.3M

New Contributions in 2025  
to Funds Stewarded at CFNS

\$20.0M

All-Time Grants\*

\$3.9M

Granted in 2025 to  
Community Organizations\*

4.76%

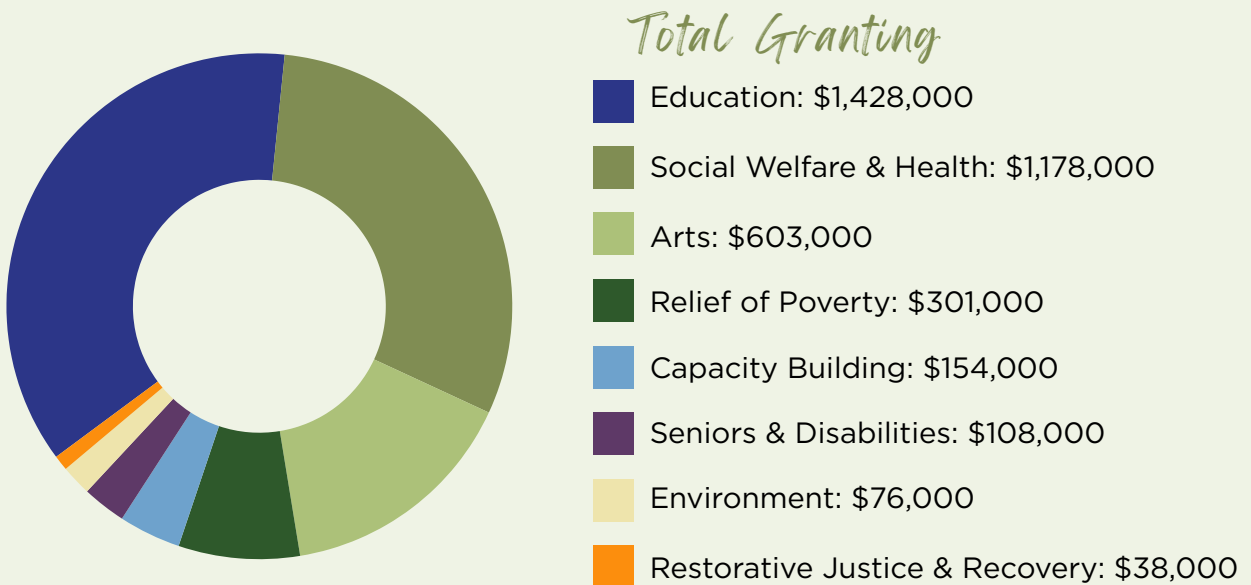
2025 Return on  
Investment

12.2%

3-Year Return on  
Investment

\*These figures include certain inter-Fund transfers, such as grants made between two Funds both held at CFNS, as well as allocations to the LIFT micro-lending program. Because these transactions did not involve funds leaving the Foundation, they are not reflected on the Grants and Allocations line in our audited financial statements.

CFNS grants support a wide range of charitable and nonprofit organizations and initiatives. In 2025, the Foundation granted to 416 charities, nonprofits, and scholarship recipients, totaling \$3.9 million. The chart below shows grant distribution and reflects the philanthropic interests and granting recommendations of CFNS Fundholders.



# Thanks to our 2025 *Board & Staff*

## Board

**Carla Arsenault** – Sydney  
**Stephanie Clark** – Bedford  
**Angie Gillis** – Eskasoni First Nation  
**Mary Eldridge** – Yarmouth  
**Frank Lockington CFRE** – Chair, Dartmouth  
**Dennice Leahey CM** – Pugwash  
**Anne-Marie McElrone** – Dartmouth  
**John Naas CFA, CFP, FCSI** – Halifax  
**Robert Orr** – Past Chair, Bedford  
**Hon. Michel P. Samson LLB, ECNS** – Dartmouth  
**Monita Taylor, CPA** – Treasurer, Porters Lake  
**Michele Williams FCPA** – Annapolis Valley

## Staff

**Daniel Holland, CEO**  
**Sheryl Penny, CFO**  
**Carly Levy, Stewardship & Donor Relations Manager**  
**Julia Pollack, Accounting Manager**  
**Kathleen Murphy, Director of Communications**





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