



**Abbotsford, BC, November 16, 2018** – Celebrating Philanthropy in our community

Lead: The Abbotsford Community Foundation announces local award winners at their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual National Philanthropy Day Lunch.

The Abbotsford Community Foundation (ACF) held their 8<sup>th</sup> annual National Philanthropy Day lunch at the Quality Hotel on November 15<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Abbotsford as Canada's most giving community. The luncheon theme was Give where you Live. Philanthropy awards were given out in three categories: Youth, Business, and Volunteer of the year and there were a record number of nominations received in each category. Each winner received \$500 to donate to the charity of their choice. ACF's Community Grants Chair, Andrea Senft said, "the number of organizations and individuals in our community that believe in giving back is always humbling. We are very grateful for their efforts and the various ways that they help those less fortunate in Abbotsford."

The first award category was the Alan and Vivian Trethewey Youth Philanthropy Award which was established to acknowledge Alan and Vivian for their leadership role in starting the Abbotsford Community Foundation in 1979. This year the award was presented to Aidan Schweinbenz by J.O. Trethewey and his wife, Marlene. J.O. is the brother of the late Alan Trethewey. Aidan graduated from Yale Secondary school in June of this year and is currently attending university in Ottawa. Aidan organized Rockin' Abby Strong in 2018 which focused on bringing people together after some very trying times and events in Abbotsford. Local singers from each of the high schools and other Lower Mainland talent entertained about 400 people, both young and old. Approximately \$10,000 was raised which went towards a well in Ethiopia, Constable John Davidson's "Shine on Legacy" fund at the ACF, and the Western Institute of the Deaf.

In the category of Business Philanthropy, sponsored by the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, Chamber Board Vice President, Sara Lawson presented the award to MNP, LLP. David Turchen, Partner at MNP, accepted the award on their behalf. MNP supports many charities in Abbotsford including Canuck Place, Abbotsford Food Bank, BC Turkey and Egg Board, BC Young Farmers, BC Dairy Association, BC Cattlemen's Association, Farm Management Canada, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Mainland Young Milk Producers, Pacific Agriculture Show, United Way and more!

The Volunteer of the Year award category was sponsored by Assante Wealth Management and was presented by Mark Driediger, Senior Financial Planner with Assante. The recipient chosen for 2018 was Nikolas Venema. Nik's volunteerism with the University of the Fraser Valley dates to when he was a student at UFV in 2009. However, Nik's most significant volunteer contributions have been made within the last six years through his work as an alumnus. In 2012, Nik joined the UFV Alumni Association Board of Directors as a volunteer director at large. Also in 2012, he became Vice-Chair and in 2015, became Chair of the Association. Nik was instrumental in introducing the organization's first three-year strategic plan with a focus on mentorship, engagement and fundraising. In 2016, Nik spearheaded a fundraising campaign for the UFV Alumni Changing Lives Bursary Endowment called the Class Gift campaign. Because of Nik, the campaign was able to raise over \$43,600 for students in need at UFV.

Next year the ACF will be celebrating 40 years of giving in the Abbotsford community. Since inception, over \$10.5 million dollars has been granted to numerous charities and to students for scholarships and bursaries. At the lunch, the audience was shown a video featuring Vivian Trethewey who was a founding donor to the ACF. Vivian said in the video: "The Abbotsford Community Foundation is one of the best ways to give; it's strong and it's living, it's alive and active!"



Keynote speaker, Ed Fast, MP for Abbotsford, gave an inspiring talk on the impact of philanthropy and he encouraged the audience to give and hire where you live as a key way to contribute to a healthy community.

To find out more about the various ways to support the ACF, please visit our website at [www.abbotsfordcf.org](http://www.abbotsfordcf.org) or contact Executive Director, Wendy Neufeld at 604-850-3755.

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Please visit <https://abbotsfordcf.org/> for more information.

The publications on our site are used year-round by the foundation to build local knowledge, set strategic priorities, inform granting and engage in community leadership activities.

Abbotsford Community Foundation is one of 191 community foundations across Canada. For more information about *Community Foundations of Canada* visit [www.communityfoundations.ca](http://www.communityfoundations.ca).

### **About Abbotsford Community Foundation**

#### **Vision**

Together we build a stronger, more caring community.

#### **Mission**

Inspire philanthropy and develop partnerships by investing in people, projects, and programs to strengthen our community.

#### **Definition of Success**

Abbotsford Community Foundation is an outstanding community leader and capacity builder in the not-for-profit sector.

Abbotsford Community Foundation has 20 million dollars in endowment funds by 2020.

#### **Strategic Priorities**

- Fund Development
- Promotion
- Impactful Granting



## **Values**

Caring, engaged, responsible, trustworthy, accountable

## **Our History**

The Abbotsford Community Foundation was conceived by a series of initiating events that started with a substantial donation by the Trethewey Family to the Matsqui Parks and Recreation Commission in 1978.

The Directors of the Commission at that time felt that the sizable donation could have a much longer effect on the community if it was invested in perpetuity and revenues from the investment spent annually.

## **Funds**

12- Endowment Funds

18 - Agency Funds

13 - Donor Advised Funds

12 - Donor Designated Funds

81 - Student Award Funds

Click [here](#) for ways to give.