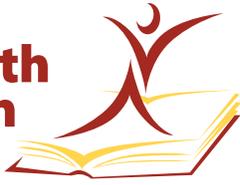


Nanaimo - Ladysmith Schools Foundation

"Helping our Students Reach for Tomorrow"



2014 Report to Donors

Our Mission

We partner with the community to promote educational growth for students by providing financial awards and enhancing learning through support programs.

Our Vision

We empower students to create a better future for themselves.

Our Values

We value students first and we want to make a difference in their lives.

We value students as individuals and as the future of our community.

We value and need partnerships with the community.

We are willing to be leaders and become a model organization.

We value our unique relationship with SD 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith).

From the President



It is with considerable pride that I present this first Report to Donors on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation.

The Foundation was established on the belief that we want to support students to reach for tomorrow – to empower them to create a better future for themselves and, ultimately, to live purposeful lives. They are the future of our communities.

We all share a fundamental belief in the need for strong beginnings for our children. Even in challenging economic times, individuals, businesses, families and community groups will rally around such a vital common cause.

We are thankful for the generous support we continue to receive from our donors, who give selflessly to make our

Foundation successful. Thanks to your generosity, we can respond to the needs of vulnerable students, and we can reward graduating students so they can pursue post-secondary education.

As a child growing up in a household headed by a single mother, I was the beneficiary of support from an organization such as our Schools Foundation, and I know first-hand what a positive difference it made in my life.

My sincere thanks to our Board of Directors, who are dedicated community volunteers and donors who care deeply about the future of our school children. Most of all, I want to thank our Executive Director, Erin van Steen, who works tirelessly to help students.

As I reflect on our achievements, I am proud to report that we have much to celebrate.

Dr. Patrick Ross

From the Executive Director

Thank you, donors, for your generosity! Your financial support is truly making a difference in the lives of many students at Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools.

Daily, I witness first-hand the positive impact you are having on young people, many of whom have been touched by poverty. Because of you, we are able to provide school children with support that changes lives and builds confidence and self-esteem.

This report contains some stories about the impact your donations are having on local students. Despite issues of poverty, many students are successful in their academic achievements. Your financial support allows them to focus on their learning and sends them on the road to making a better future for themselves.

Your generosity is truly at the heart of all we do, and your gift is bringing comfort and hope to those who have the smallest voice in our society.

Erin van Steen





About Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation

Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation (NLSF) is a registered non-profit organization that provides support to students in School District 68. NLSF has assumed the role played for many years by the Nanaimo Schools Financial Awards Society, est. 1982, which received and presented graduation awards.

The Foundation is directed by a Board of community volunteers. All donations are managed in the Foundation's own bank and investment accounts. A professional accountant serves as Treasurer and oversees financial activity and annual reporting. School District 68 provides funding for 1.5 staff and covers basic operational costs and office space. Each year, the Foundation collaborates with the School District on needs and priorities, and NLSF directs its activities accordingly.

Our Programs

NLSF's programs fall into three categories:

- Student Support Fund to help vulnerable students
- Special initiatives: Elementary Music, and District Initiative Grants
- Scholarships, bursaries, awards for Grade 12 graduates

Student Support Fund

Almost 1 in 5 students in our district are living in poverty, according to a recent report by Medical Health Officer Dr. Paul Hasselback. The Student Support Fund allows us to help disadvantaged school children in a variety of ways, such as:

- purchase shoes, clothing
- distribute food vouchers
- issue school supplies
- provide eye, dental care
- fund fees for field trips, rental of band instruments
- cover fees for grad, prom, athletics

Our donors give us the means to do the most good with the funds provided to us.

Breakfast Club of Canada partnership

Many students can now start the day with a meal before heading to class. Breakfast Club funding allows us to serve more than 5,500 meals a month at eight Nanaimo schools.

Stock the Lockers

The annual Stock the Lockers campaign, in August, raises funds for school supplies and other needs so students can start the new school year ready to learn.

Special Initiatives

Donations allow the Foundation to fund special initiatives when school budgets are tight.

Elementary Music

To purchase musical instruments and introduce students to the joy of playing music. Since 2009, NLSF has distributed \$29,000 for instruments at 13 elementary schools.

District Initiative Grants

To help engage students in meaningful ways with their communities, focussing on student leadership, community development, and social responsibility.

Scholarships, Bursaries & Awards

To encourage deserving Grade 12 graduates to pursue their dreams of post-secondary education. In June 2014, 372 graduates received a total of \$462,000 in scholarships, bursaries and awards ranging from \$100 to \$5,000 each. Local service clubs, community organizations, private donors, and School District employees provided \$322,000, while the Ministry of Education funded 140 scholarships of \$1,000 each.

For More Information

For more information about the Foundation and our programs, please visit www.NLSF.ca.

"I was very blessed to receive help from the Foundation. My family experienced financial hardships when I was in high school, and when the Foundation helped me get shoes - and very good quality shoes at that - it was a huge burden off our shoulders. The organization does great things for kids in need."

Third year student at
Vancouver Island University
(name withheld by request)



Georgia Avenue students have benefitted from NLSF's Elementary Music initiative.



“All throughout high school I have dreamt of attending the University of Toronto for political science but the added cost of living away from home was causing me to worry that, despite having been accepted, this dream would never come to fruition. Thanks to the scholarship I received that dream can now come true, and I can attend my top choice institution and, hopefully, go on to one day work for the United Nations.”

– Jake Mitton
2014 NDSS graduate

Supporting Students to Focus on Learning

Shannon Wilson | Community School Coordinator | John Barsby Community Secondary School

Hunger is very real among some students in local schools, and staff like Shannon Wilson are working hard to give school children the help they need so they can focus on learning, rather than their empty stomachs.

Shannon is a Community School Coordinator at John Barsby Community School and, daily, she is called upon to support students in need.



We frequently see children who haven’t eaten for a few days and are starting to speak up.

“Food security is a real issue for many of our students, and we’ve worked hard to reduce food shame as a barrier to learning,” she says. “It takes a lot of hands to make programs happen, and assistance from organizations such as the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation is very much appreciated.”



Shannon Wilson, centre, with Barsby’s Breakfast Bistro staff Loree Wallace, left, and Margaret Perala, right.

Barsby is one of eight schools that provides a breakfast program through a partnership between the Schools Foundation and Breakfast Club of Canada. Through other partnerships, Shannon is able to provide healthy snacks and distribute food to students in need.

“We frequently see children who haven’t eaten for a few days and are starting to speak up.

Fortunately, we have programs in place to help them when required.”

Shannon says that the needs are diverse, immediate and very real.

“Our programs help with basic needs of food, clothing and, in some cases, transportation to school. Some families live in motels with only one hot plate, a small fridge, and no access to laundry facilities. It’s hard for kids to be socially engaged with smelly clothes. One of the programs in our feeder schools has built in the opportunity for children to launder their clothing.”

At Barsby, she helps coordinate the Change program where students have access to free, gently used clothing, shoes, blankets, school supplies, and hygiene products. School supplies, backpacks, binders and calculators are in high demand and supported through the Foundation.

She recalls the case of a boy who used to come to school wearing girl’s ‘flats’ with thin soles in the middle of winter and, during the summer, some students will show up bare-footed.

“We have to approach these situations discretely, anonymously, and respectfully because kids don’t want hand-outs. In many cases both parents are holding down two jobs that only pay minimum wage, and they are barely making ends meet.”

She is thankful for the help she receives for students through the Foundation and is encouraged by the

resilience she sees in many of the students she supports.

“Many of them are holding down after-school jobs – such as delivering newspapers or working at McDonald’s – to help contribute to the family household. They’re showing responsibility at a young age,” she adds.



Making a Difference to Students

Bob Eslinger | Assistant Superintendent | Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools

“Research shows that education is one sure path out of poverty, and I’m pleased the Schools Foundation focuses all its fundraising efforts on schools and education,” says Bob Eslinger, Assistant Superintendent at Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools (SD 68).

He says the general public may not be aware that many school children are affected by poverty or may think it affects only the inner city area; however, “Data from the Early Development Instrument (EDI) shows a band of vulnerability that runs throughout our school district,” he says.

“Educator and author Dr. Ruby Payne distinguishes between ‘generational’ and ‘situational’ poverty – where several generations have been affected, versus situations that are caused by lack of resources as a result of such issues as lay-off, chronic illness, divorce, death, etc. We tend to see generational poverty in the inner city, and situational poverty in all areas of our district, from Ladysmith to North Nanaimo,” he says.

Because of the city’s central location, there are more transient families – some moving here from other parts of the Island to gain easy access to Mainland medical facilities, or moving frequently within the city because of the high cost of housing.

“This compounds the issues and makes it harder for us to consistently provide support to some of our vulnerable students. We see everything from whole families living in motels to students living alone in camper trailers because the parents have left town in search of work and the children wanting to stay here because they like the school they attend.”

Mr. Eslinger says that donors to the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation are filling a great need where traditional funding sources have dried up. The number of schools receiving support is growing annually.

“**The Foundation provides us with the means to get students ready to learn.**”

“While food programs are very important to our students, I’m thankful the Foundation is able to provide support in other ways their families can’t afford, such as rental of band musical instruments, fees for special field trips, school sports, scholarships and bursaries, and other educative endeavours that instil hope in our students.

“Many students don’t come to school ready to learn – they may not have had breakfast, don’t have warm clothing or proper shoes, or don’t have school supplies. Before we can teach students, we have to get them ready to learn. The Foundation provides us with the means to get students ready to learn,” he adds.

Many organizations are helping vulnerable students and their families in School District 68.

“Our latest statistics show that we receive help from some ten organizations. We receive the most financial support from the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation, and we’re very thankful to their donors,” he says.

“I cannot express how much your contribution to students going to post-secondary school means to me. Every student has a different background whether vulnerable, or accomplished, and most donors don’t even meet the person before deciding to fund their dreams. Without donors, I know that the number of students who leave high school and go into college would decrease.”

– Julia Kadera
Grade 12 student
John Barsby Community School





“I give to the Foundation because it represents all of the schools in School District 68, not just one particular school. I let NLSF be the judge where the needs are greatest, and I trust them to direct my donated funds in the best possible manner.

Helping keep kids in school and motivated is important; whether that means keeping them fed, clothed, supplied, or awarding them scholarships or bursaries upon graduation.

I appreciate the fact that the Foundation Board is community based, and members are volunteers who provide good input and appropriate direction.

For current donors, it is important to be cheerleaders for the Foundation and spread the word about the good work it does.”

– Dave Hammond is NLSF’s Founding President and Past President, as well as a donor.

Easing the Shame of Poverty

Pamela Manson | retired high school teacher and counsellor

Pamela Manson is a recently retired high school teacher/counsellor and, in her 40-year career, she has seen her share of poverty and its effect on students.

“When I worked at the Sooke School District and saw students in need, I had nowhere to turn to access money to help them. When I started in Nanaimo, in 2007, I was pleased to find out that we could call the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation to request support for students, and I have done so many times when I worked at Dover and Wellington Secondary schools,” she says.

She remembers well the case of a young boy whose mother contacted her at the start of his Grade 8 year to let her know that she was a single parent on a disability pension, wheelchair bound, in poor health, and without much money. Her son was a smart, hard working student who was also taking care of his mother and his younger brother in Grade 5.

“**No teenager wants to admit they’re poor – the shame of poverty weighs heavily on them.**”

“One day the student came in to see me, and I noticed that he had a big split in the soles of his old running shoes that were much too small for his large feet. It was a rainy day, and I knew he had a long way to walk home. I called the Foundation office and asked permission to buy him a pair of shoes. Executive Director Erin van Steen gave the OK and told me to visit the Frontrunners store that supports the Schools Foundation programs.

“Frontrunners staff were just wonderful – they measured his size 14 feet, fitted him with a good pair of shoes, and he walked out of there so proud and feeling like a prince – he had never had a good pair of shoes in his life,” she adds.

That winter she was also able to get him a proper winter coat to replace his light jacket.

As soon as he turned 15, he took an after-school job so he could help pay bills and buy groceries for the family, while continuing to do well in school and consistently making the Honour Roll and Principal’s List.

“His family could not do without him working and, as a result, he was not able to do all the extra-curricular activities required to qualify for scholarships, such as volunteer work at the hospital. We were very disappointed that he only qualified for a \$500 bursary to pursue his dream of post-secondary education to become a doctor, and I hope the Foundation can raise more money for bursaries to help good students such as these.”

Pamela has seen most of the needs centred on shoes and clothing and, at the start of the school year, on school supplies.



“Most kids won’t come forward when they need supplies. Our educational assistants and teachers are our eyes and ears in the classroom – they see the signs of poverty first-hand – and it’s nice to be able to take students aside and quietly slip them the supplies they need.

“No teenager wants to admit they’re poor – the shame of poverty weighs heavily on them. They’ll think there is nothing the school can do – but we can, with assistance from the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation,” says Pamela.

Financial Highlights 2013-2014

Funding Sources

Donations	
Scholarships/Bursaries	\$334,000
Ministry of Education for 140 Dogwood Scholarships	140,000
Student Support Fund	58,000
Elementary Music Initiative	4,000
Lotto 68 50/50 Draw (SD 68 employees only) for scholarships	11,500
Employee Payroll Contributions for scholarships	9,800
Breakfast Club of Canada partnership	25,500
Total	\$582,800

Other sources	
Interest from investments	38,000
From SD 68, for administration and office space	approx. 150,000
Estate bequest (interest earmarked for District Initiative Grants)	320,000

Funding Uses

Scholarships/Bursaries (including \$140,000 from Ministry of Education)	\$462,000
Student Support Fund	30,000
School Supplies	38,000
Breakfast Club of Canada food program	25,500
Elementary Music Initiative	5,000
Mini-O	1,000
Miscellaneous items and programs in schools	5,000
District Initiative Grants	14,000
Total	\$580,500

Other uses	
Administration	12,000
Fundraising	18,000



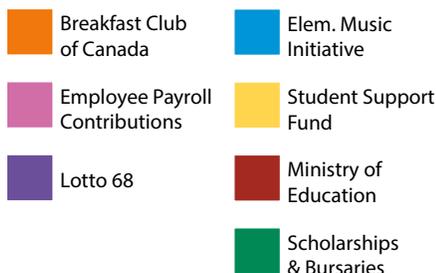
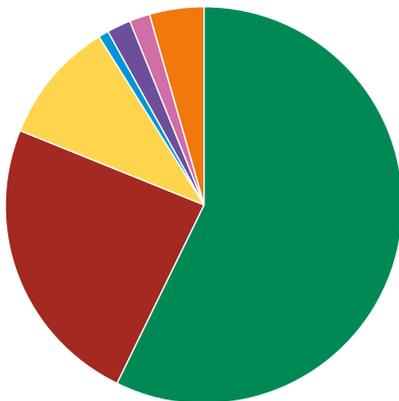
“I come from a single-mother family and always knew I would continue my studies but I just didn’t know how I would do it financially. The scholarships I received were a dream come true. They gave me confidence that my hard work had paid off, that I could believe in myself and be successful. I completed my first year at VIU and am now enrolled at UVic in second year business to learn how I can lead and run a successful non-profit.”

– Kennedy Baker
2013 Dover Bay graduate

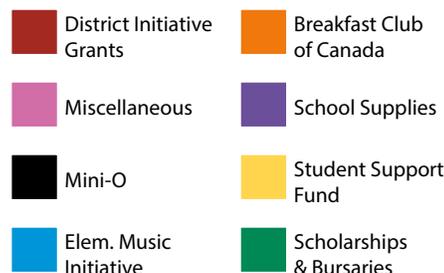
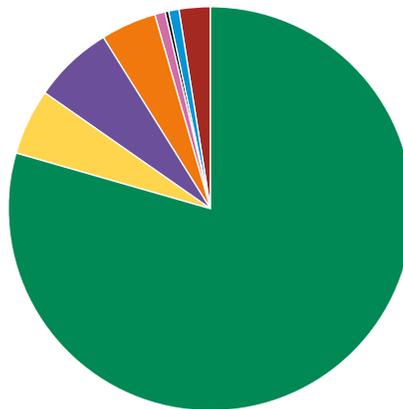
At age 17, she started non-profit STAND

standupstandtogetherstandstrong.com

Funding Sources



Funding Uses



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Dr. Patrick Ross, President
Patrick Ross Consulting
Retired Vice-President, Student
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University

Harold Kamikawaji,
Vice-President
Director of Human Resources
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Ed Poli, Management
Consultant, Ed Poli & Associates

Sharon Richmond, Retired
school principal

Karen Stant, Retired Manager,
Financial Aid & Awards,
Vancouver Island University

Ex-Officio Directors

Dave Hutchinson,
Superintendent, SD 68

Bill Robinson, Board of
Trustees, SD 68



Directors and staff at the 2014 Donor Appreciation Tea.

How You Can Help Change Lives

Your financial support has the power to change lives and create hope for a better future for many local students. You can make the difference between success and failure for students affected by poverty. Your generosity allows the Schools Foundation to provide programs to move disadvantaged students from poverty to possibility and dreams; and your support of scholarships and bursaries encourages accomplished students to pursue post-secondary education.

Annual commitments of \$500 or more can be directed to specific scholarships. Donors can also choose to support a specific school. General donations and fundraising proceeds are combined into the omnibus Student Support Fund that is distributed equitably to all schools.

Ways to make a donation

Phone: 250.753.4074

Online: www.NLSE.ca

Mail: Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation
550 7th Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 3Z2
(make cheques payable to NLSF)

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