

Nanaimo - Ladysmith Schools Foundation

"Helping our Students Reach for Tomorrow"



2015 Report to Donors

Our Mission

Empowering students to create a better future.

Our Vision

All students are successful, and our communities are stronger.

Our Values

We value students as individuals and empower them to make a positive difference in their lives and communities.

We value collaboration and partnerships with the community.

We value strong leadership.

We value public education and our unique relationship with School District 68.

October 2015

You make a genuine difference in the lives of students

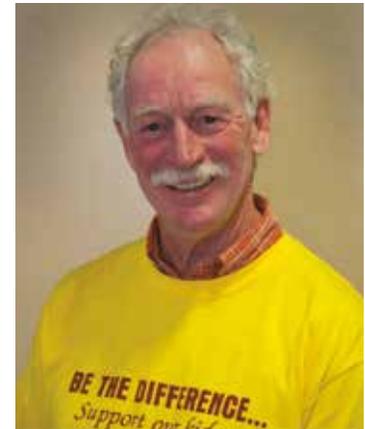
It is hard to imagine children arriving at school hungry and without basic necessities like clean clothes, adequate shoes, and school supplies. Unfortunately, this is the reality that teachers and staff experience at many local schools where parents of numerous students are struggling to make ends meet on low-income wages, and where trying to cover the high cost of rent, child care and food is a monthly challenge. Extras such as school sports, recreation, field trips, rental of musical instruments, and grad fees are out of the question for many students.

According to Dr. Paul Hasselback, Medical Health Officer at Island Health, almost 1 in 5 children in our region are affected by poverty. Thanks to caring donors like you, we are able to give students a helping hand by providing breakfast, lunch and snacks; school supplies; shoes; clean clothes; and other basic necessities.

In June we had the privilege of awarding \$474,500 in scholarships and bursaries to 373 Grade 12 graduates to help them pursue their dreams of higher education. Local service clubs, community organizations, employees, and private donors provided \$323,500, while the Ministry of Education funded 151 scholarships of \$1,000 each.

We are grateful that you partner with us to give students equal opportunities to succeed in school. You empower young people to become successful and to help create strong communities for us all. On behalf of our Board of Directors, I thank you for your continued financial support!

Dr. Patrick Ross, President



Seeing how your generosity is touching lives



It has been ten months since I took over as Executive Director of the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation. During that time, I have been truly amazed to see how your donations are helping local students. I have the privilege of meeting donors, as well as students, and I see firsthand how your generosity is touching lives.

During the summer months, Grade 12 graduates have visited our office to collect their scholarships and bursaries. Numerous times students have expressed amazement and gratitude that local community members – total strangers to them – believe in them enough to donate money so they can pursue higher education. Your kind gesture is giving them hope for the future.

Recently, I had the pleasure of helping a donor determine the best use for her gift. After discussing the various needs, we settled on the fact that several Grade 12 students could not afford their graduation fees. Her generosity ensured that 18 students could celebrate graduation with their peers. It meant the world to these students that someone cared enough to help.

On behalf of local students, I thank you for your financial and in-kind support and for standing with us to empower students to create a better future for themselves. I look forward to furthering the great work the Schools Foundation is doing in our local schools.

Crystal Dennison, Executive Director



Ms. Julia Browning's Bayview Elementary students perform at the 2015 Donor Appreciation Tea.

About Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation

Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation (NLSF) is a registered charitable 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, established in 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 2 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:

- Financial Awards
- Special Initiatives
- Student Support

Financial Awards

This is our largest program to encourage deserving Grade 12 graduates to pursue post-secondary education. We administer more than 440 scholarships and bursaries, ranging from \$100 to \$5,000 each. In 2015 donors provided \$323,500 in financial awards, and the Ministry of Education funded 151 scholarships of \$1,000 each.

Special Initiatives

Generous donors 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 \$36,500 for instruments at 16 elementary schools.

District Initiative Grants

To engage students in meaningful ways with their communities. Since 2013, NLSF has granted \$66,100 for 16 special projects.

Student Support

Through our Student Support program we help vulnerable school children in a variety of ways, including:

- purchasing shoes, clothing
- distributing food vouchers
- issuing school supplies
- providing eye/dental care
- funding rental of band instruments
- covering fees for field trips, grad, prom, etc.

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.

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

"Thank you sincerely for the awards I was selected to receive this year. They will greatly benefit me in the engineering program at UVic. Once my schooling for engineering is completed, I hope to become a civil or mechanical engineer. This dream has yet to come true but your generous awards have brought me just a little bit closer. Thank you for the amazing opportunity."

Damon Pedersen
2015 Wellington Secondary graduate





Bayview students lack many basic necessities

Donors help provide real safety net

Bayview Elementary School Principal Diane McGonigle is grateful for all the support she receives for her students from generous donors through the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation.

According to Statistics Canada, Bayview has the highest vulnerability rating in School District 68.

“Of the 150 students who attend our school, there are 100 who are considered ‘vulnerable’ in terms of poverty, involvement with provincial social service ministries and related agencies, past or current trauma or chaos in their home lives, and lacking of basic resources. Vulnerable students are at risk in terms of academic achievement and social funding, and often require extra support in order to achieve optimal educational outcomes,” says Mrs. McGonigle.

Thanks to the partnership with Breakfast Club of Canada, many of her students are now able to start the day with a healthy breakfast. She also receives funding to provide a lunch program that is attended by about 120. Some parents pay for the convenience but the majority of students are subsidized.

Mrs. McGonigle says that the needs of students are great and range from basic necessities such as personal hygiene, food, shoes and clothing, to health care.

“One year we noticed that many of our Grade 6s and 7s lacked personal hygiene so we provided each student with a bag filled with items such as shampoo, soap, toothbrush and paste, dental floss, deodorant, feminine hygiene products. Recently, several students needed dental care and had suffered chronic pain because of it. They, as well as their parents, were so appreciative when we managed to get them to a dentist for treatment. It was great seeing them pain-free so they could focus on their school work again. And a few days ago, several Grade 7 students required haircuts, and we took them for haircuts. It made them feel so great,” she says.

“**Our students have good attendance because their basic needs are being met.**”

Mrs. McGonigle says that her school receives support from other organizations, including the school’s Parent Advisory Council (PAC), but the Schools Foundation provides the bulk of financial support.

“We have an active PAC group that tries to raise money but it’s hard to raise funds when you

live in a poor area of town. The generosity of donors allows us to provide a real safety net. Our students have good attendance because their basic needs are being met, and they’re better able to focus on their school work.”

“You never know what that one thing is that we’re able to do for a child that makes a difference so they can believe in themselves. We’re seeing a real difference in kids whose needs are taken care of.”

“Too high a proportion of children come to school without even the basic necessities – food to begin with, clean clothing, school supplies – and many don’t have opportunities to take part in such things as sports, recreation, field trips, and they may be less likely to socialize with other children in the classroom.

Of the 20% of students living in impoverished conditions, only 5% are from families on income assistance. The other 15% are in that marginal income level where trying to get through a month is a challenge. They may be fine for a week or two when there is enough money but not necessarily for the rest of the month.”

– Dr. Paul Hasselback
Medical Health Officer
Island Health



Bayview Elementary School Principal Diane McGonigle welcomes some early students for breakfast.

Effects of poverty seen in all schools - from Ladysmith to north Nanaimo

Generosity of donors gives students hope for the future

The effects of poverty are seen in all schools – from Ladysmith to north Nanaimo. The needs are diverse but basics such as food, school supplies, shoes and clothing top the list. Many students also require financial assistance to participate in educational activities such as field trips, sports, band, and grad.

“Without the help of donors, we would be in trouble,” says Sandra Milne, teacher at Ladysmith Secondary School, where about a quarter of the student population is affected by social and financial hardship at home. “The support helps put everyone on a level playing field, and our students are very grateful for it.”

She is particularly thankful for the scholarships and bursaries provided by the community so Grade 12 grads can continue their education.

Some students work while finishing high school to help supplement their parents’ income.

“One student from a single-parent home worked 40-hour weeks while going to school to support himself and his little brother for four years.

He was the most loving and caring individual, and we were happy to support him with math workbooks, meals, and grad fees. He worked another year to make sure his brother could graduate this year and managed to save up enough money to go to VIU, next year,” says Mrs. Milne.

Staff at Dover Bay Secondary in north Nanaimo see their share of students who need help.

Principal Jill Bailey says that family demographics are continually changing, and Dover Bay now houses a more diverse socio-economic population.

“Dover Bay is considered to be a high achieving academic school that is also renowned for its performing arts academy and successful athletics. At the same time, a significant number of our students are vulnerable and have social, emotional and learning challenges,” she says.

To that end, Dover Bay has set up the Student Support H.U.B. (helping, understanding, belonging) to assist students in need.

“Our students and their families really appreciate the support they receive – from school supplies,



Dover Bay teacher Lesley Domino meets with students.

clothing, lunch coupons and bus tickets, to expenses for field trips, athletics and grad. Without these generous donations, many of our students would not be able to enjoy a full range of high school experiences,” Mrs. Bailey adds.

“
Family demographics are continually changing, and Dover Bay now houses a more diverse socio-economic population.”

Lesley Domino, Student Support Services teacher, says that building strong relationships with students allows her to help many students.

“It’s hard to admit you need help, and students don’t like to ask,” she says. “Some students genuinely need help – like girls who are desperate for personal hygiene products because they’re so expensive. They have learned to trust us enough that they’re willing to ask for help”

Ms. Domino says that many good students have to postpone their post-secondary education. “Many students work for a year or more in hopes of saving up enough money to make their dreams of a college or university education a reality. I’m hoping that businesses or professionals will consider supporting financial awards for our grads as a way to promote their business or career choices to young people.”

“One of our students did not participate in PE because he only had sandals. When I caught up with him and found out why he did not attend class, we were able to buy a pair of gym shoes for him through the Schools Foundation. He turned out to be an ‘A’ student in PE and went on to become a PE peer tutor in Grade 11.”

– Sandra Milne, teacher
Ladysmith Secondary School





“I know firsthand what a difference the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation makes. From providing necessities like food and school supplies to support for extra-curricular activities, field trips and clubs, your generosity benefits students every day. For Grade 12 students like myself, scholarships open doors and offer opportunities that would never be possible. Most of all, it’s so valuable as a student to know that I have a whole community of people behind me. On behalf of all the students of School District 68, I would like to say a special ‘thank you’ to all donors.”

– Michaela Chan
Grade 12 student
John Barsby Community School

Gift of \$320,000 will benefit students and teachers for many decades to come

Instilling student leadership, community development, and social responsibility

Local students are benefitting from the estate of the late Joseph T.A. Lee, an Ann Arbor architect and Professor Emeritus at the University of Michigan School of Architecture & Urban Planning, who passed away in 2009.

Born in 1918, of immigrant Chinese parents, Mr. Lee attended school in Nanaimo. After the University of British Columbia, where he studied civil engineering, he transferred to the University of Michigan to pursue graduate studies. He believed strongly in the value of education, and he made provisions in his will to pass on his love of learning to local students.

Interest earned on the \$320,000 bequest is earmarked for special funds – named District Initiative Grants – for projects that instill *student leadership, community development, and social responsibility*. Schools can apply for up to \$5,000 each, and several schools have put these grants to good use.

Photo: Shauna DeBodt



Gabriola Elementary student explains how to use a tablet.

On Gabriola Island, Brenda Peacock’s Grades 6 and 7 students jumped right into the chance to become tutors to local seniors. The Comfort on Computers project saw young student tutors and their elderly charges huddled around iPads and computers to create Apple IDs, install Skype, surf the Internet, organize files and folders, assist with eReaders, and other technological challenges.

One elderly participant reported that she was moved by the experience to sit down with a

young person willing to take time to teach her. Another was very impressed with how skilfully her young tutor was able to break down the various steps involved in teaching a new skill. In the process of instructing, students were pleasantly surprised to learn how much they actually know about technology.



He remembered the schools of his birth city in his will.”

At Hammond Bay Elementary, the \$3,000 grant was used to purchase special resources with aboriginal themes that helped the school to reach out confidently to their aboriginal community. It spurred activities such as drum making and visits to a longhouse. It also allowed teachers to adapt a Coast Salish legend as a musical,

which the whole school performed. Jr. Streamkeepers materials were purchased so students could take a course to become experts on local streams and share their knowledge with the community.

In Ladysmith, Grades 9 and 10 students worked with vulnerable Grade 2s from the Primary school. Older students gained leadership and social responsibility skills,

and the younger students got mentor buddies from the high school and learned that teens can actually be friendly. They worked together on several community clean-up projects.

“Mr. Lee’s generosity and love of learning will benefit our students and teachers for decades,” says Crystal Dennison, NLSF’s Executive Director. “We’re so appreciative that he remembered the schools of his birth city in his will.”

Financial Highlights 2014-2015

Funding Sources – income

Donations	
Scholarships/Bursaries	\$295,500
Ministry of Education for 151 Dogwood Scholarships	151,000
Lotto 68 50/50 Draw (SD 68 employees only) for scholarships	7,850
Student Support Fund	70,000
Elementary Music Initiative	1,500
Employee Payroll Contributions	10,500
Breakfast Club of Canada partnership	25,500
Other Donations	8,300
Total	\$570,150

Other sources – income	
Interest from investments	47,000
From SD 68, for administration and office space	150,000

Funding Uses – expenses

Scholarships/Bursaries (including \$151,000 from Ministry of Education)	\$470,200
Student Support Fund	42,000
School Supplies	21,000
Breakfast Club of Canada food program	25,500
Elementary Music Initiative	7,500
Mini-O	2,900
District Initiative Grants	12,100
Total	\$581,200

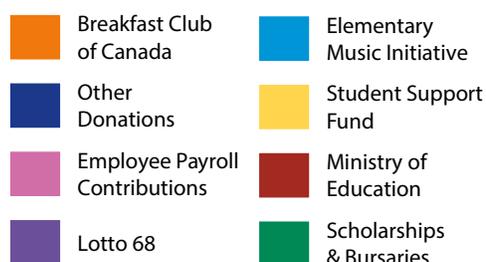
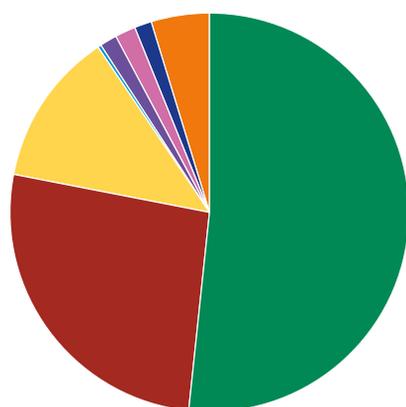
Other uses – expenses	
Administration	4,300
Marketing/Communications	18,500



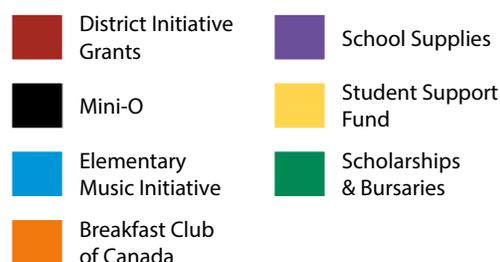
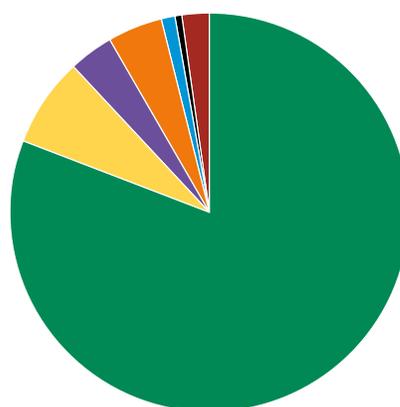
“One of the things I’m passionate about is seeing that all children have the same opportunity to complete school and to further their education. Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation does an excellent job of making each of those goals happen: support students in need, and provide financial awards to give Grade 12 grads a start on their post-secondary education. Our youth are our future. If we want a bright future, we need to support and nurture our youth. The Foundation is the perfect organization to make that happen.”

– Fred Kolodrubsky
NLSF’s Past-President and donor

Funding Sources



Funding Uses



Board of Directors

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Dr. Patrick Ross, President

Patrick Ross Consulting
Retired Vice-President,
Student Services,
Vancouver Island University

Sharon Welch, Vice-President

Executive Director at Forward
House Community Society
& former School Trustee

Cara Light, Treasurer

Partner, Hayes, Stewart, Little &
Co. Chartered Accountants

Susan Muirhead, Secretary

Rehabilitation Consultant

Fred Kolodrubsky,

Past-President
Financial Consultant,
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Jim Cram

Retired Teacher

Ron Dale

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Dan Morris

Realtor, ReMax of Nanaimo

Trevor Muise

Retired Teacher
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Ed Poli & Associates

Sharon Richmond

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Karen Stant

Retired Manager,
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Sylvia Wilson, Board Recorder

Mortgage Advisor, CIBC

Ex-Officio Directors

John Blain

Superintendent & CEO, SD 68

Bill Robinson

Board of Trustees, SD 68



Directors and staff at the 2015 Donor Appreciation Tea.

How you can help change lives

You can be the difference between success and failure for students affected by financial hardship in their homes. Your generosity allows us to help vulnerable students and empower them to create a better future for themselves.

You can earmark your gift for a special financial award, or you can choose to support a specific school. Our Student Support Fund is distributed equitably to all schools.

If you want to leave a lasting legacy, you might consider remembering the Schools Foundation in your will.

Whatever your charitable objectives, please feel free to give us a call to discuss your options – 250-753-4074.

Ways to make a donation

Online: www.NLSF.ca

Mail: Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation

550 7th Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 3Z2

(make cheques payable to NLSF)

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