

Making Grants- No Simple Decision

The Community Foundation can on occasion receive upward of 50 grant applications in one granting cycle. This can certainly be a big job for the Grants Committee as they review each application and decide how to allocate the available funds. Applications vary from program support to specific projects, from children and youth services to environmental programs to senior's projects.

The Community Foundation has two grant cycles, one in the spring followed by another in the fall. The Grants Committee is composed of several members from the Board of Directors as well as several community members who are interested in the work of the Foundation and the needs of this community.

The Foundation strives to maintain a broad grants program reflecting all aspects of our diverse community covering a range of interests and segments of the population. Our aim is to remain flexible and reflect the greatest needs of our ever- changing community. Some funding priorities that the committee has established are to fund projects/programs that have included:

- Ø Encouraging building community capacity from the grass roots
- Ø Ensuring healthy lifestyles and the overall care and well being of our citizens
- Ø Support for youth, seniors and those with special needs
- Ø Encourage active life styles for all age groups
- Ø Supporting those who support others
- Ø Support for creation of, and participation in, building skills
- Ø Encouraging the care of nature and a healthy environment

With the recent submissions of the fall 2005 applications, the grants committee has been busy reading, assessing, researching and discussing the projects that have been submitted and the needs of the community as a whole. The scoring is based on a certain criteria based on community need, completeness of application, and overall impact on the South Eastern Alberta community. The group will then meet on several occasions to collate their thoughts gather more information if necessary and debate the merits of the various projects or programs.

This is no simple decision, all aspects of each grant application are discussed in detail and the committee will eventually decide on a priority order. The final job and very often the most difficult, is to allocate the available funds. To put this into perspective, the total dollar value of requests is always around ten times greater than the money available to the Committee. Announcements of the successful grants will be made in June 2006.

Applications for funding are available at our office or on our website at www.mhcf.ca. We typically host a grant application workshop for each cycle and invite organizations to attend these helpful and informative sessions. Our next application deadline will be September 15th, 2006 and we again expect to have a diverse grouping of applications with many worthwhile projects.

Our Grants Committee will continue to work diligently in the granting process and we will be delighted to announce successful grant recipients from our deadline in late November 2006.

If you are interested in learning about how you could become involved in our grant-making process please call our office at 527-9038.