



URBAN SPIRIT foundation 62

USF Mission Statement:

To provide opportunities for urban Aboriginal people on their journey to success through education and training, secondary and post-secondary scholarships and relief of poverty.

Introduction

Urban Spirit Foundation is a registered charitable organization that exists to further the success and self-reliance of urban Aboriginal people in the Metro Vancouver region. In 2007, USF was created by Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS).

The Foundation's three core purposes include Education and Employment Training, Scholarship/Bursary Awards for secondary and post-secondary students and Short Term

Assistance that provides grants to urban Aboriginal organizations for community-based projects that enable urban Aboriginal individuals and families to get back on track in times of need.

USF's Board of Directors is a diverse group of reputable individuals with strong connections and commitment to the urban Aboriginal community. The Board is represented by the following community leaders:



USF Chair
Susan Tatoosh
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship
Centre Society



USF Vice-Chair
Tabitha Geraghty
Helping Spirit Lodge Society



Secretary-Treasurer
Stewart Anderson
Vancity Savings Credit Union



Director
George Chow
Community Member



Director
Ross Ramsey
Ross Ramsey Associates
Limited



Director
Merv Thomas
Community Member



Director
Jerry Adams
Circle of Eagles Lodge Society

USF is overseen by Executive Director John Webster and staff. The office is located at 108 – 100 Park Royal, West Vancouver, BC.

Year in Review

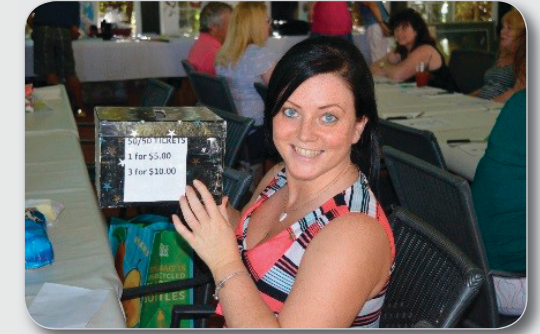
Urban Spirit Foundation had a very busy and exciting year in 2015-16. The year began with scholarship presentations, short term assistance activities, the third charity golf tournament, and at the end of the year the "Giving Tuesday" fundraiser with lunch and bake sales, raffles, and 50/50's. The Board approved an extension to the Scholarship Award Program by adding Burnaby School District and Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. USF will hand out the new scholarships in 2016-17.

ACCESS/USF Third Annual Charity Golf Tournament



Eric Schweig of APTN's Blackstone and the keynote speaker getting ready to golf

The third annual charity golf tournament that ACCESS and USF organized for the benefit of USF was very successful. The event was held at Country Meadows Golf Course in Richmond, BC on June 26, 2015. The golfers and many guests, staff, volunteers and some of the USF and ACCESS board members enjoyed the contests and fundraisers such as the popular silent auction. All were treated to a delicious evening buffet with relaxing background classical music by violinist David Rabinovich.



Jennifer Haggarty an ACCESS student success story speaker helped USF by selling 50/50 tickets

Jennifer Haggarty who was in the ACCESS Aboriginal Gateway to Health Careers Program was the student success speaker. She is enrolled in the VCC RN program and sits on the VCC student council. Eric Schweig, an actor who has starred in feature length films and on the APTN TV drama series Blackstone, was the keynote speaker.



Darcy Rota, NHL Canucks player and All Star provided the players with a challenging skill building net ball game which was very entertaining and fun

A fourth annual tournament is planned for Friday, July 8, 2016 at Country Meadows. We anticipate even greater success at that tournament which is one of USF's largest fundraisers of the year.



The 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament won by the ACCESS team and on the right the 2nd place winners were from one of the Vancouver Native Health Society teams.



Giving Tuesday Fundraiser – A Canada Wide Charity Fundraising Event

The Giving Tuesday fundraiser was held at all ACCESS offices. The competition was on between all ACCESS sites to see who could raise the most funds for Urban Spirit Foundation. The ACCESS EAS office won 1st prize trophy for raising the most funds for the Giving Tuesday Initiative on December 2, 2015 and took home the coveted trophy.



Friends of Ferrari Donates to Urban Spirit Foundation

Urban Spirit Foundation was invited to attend the Friends of Ferrari gala luncheon on October 25, 2015. Franco and Suzanne Corona presented USF with a \$5,000 cheque and the donation was accepted by USF Development Officer Elaine Clare. This was to be the last year for the Friends of Ferrari Fundraiser race for kids as event creators Franco and Suzanne Corona are retiring after 10 years of organizing the charity event.



Elaine Clare (left) with Franco Corona



Elaine Clare (left) with Suzanne Corona of Friends of Ferrari

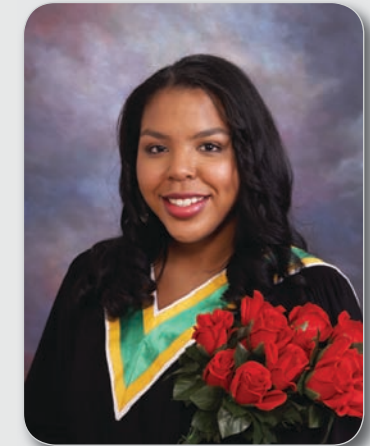
USF Core Programs Scholarships Awards

Scholarships are provided to secondary and post-secondary Aboriginal students based on achievement. Urban Spirit Foundation disbursed scholarships to educational entities in 2015 with 6 urban Aboriginal scholarships awarded throughout Metro Vancouver at Vancouver School District, Surrey School Board, Native Education Centre and British Columbia Institute of Technology.

Vancouver School Board



USF Board member Tabitha Geraghty presents scholarship to VSB recipient Audrey Telek



The second VSB recipient was Angeline Day

Surrey School District



Wylee Fitz-Gerald



Brittany Tremblay

I would love to thank USF for your financial generosity. It has allowed me to be one step closer to my goal and will allow me to give back to my community.

- Wylee Fitz-Gerald

As a recipient of the Urban Spirit Foundation Bursary, I would like to thank you for your generous contribution to my future. I will be pursuing a degree in Ocean Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in the fall at the University of Victoria with the goal of completing my Bachelor of Science and becoming a geographer.

- Brittany Tremblay

Native Education College



Two of NEC's USF Scholarship recipients: (left) NEC Scholarship recipient Alexandra (Allie) Kidd with USF Board member Tabitha Geraghty and (right) NEC Scholarship recipient Darryl Gray.



The other recipients were Julian Edwards and Jason Wing for Male Bursary and Ernestdeen Hood for Single Parent bursary.

British Columbia Institute of Technology



BCIT Graduates of the Metal Fabrication/Marine Fitters program Matthew and Kevin Poitras were recipients of USF scholarships, seen here with USF Development Officer Elaine Clare and USF Development Director Lucie Lacaille.



Other recipients for USF scholarships in the trades program at BCIT were Zach Hopper for Welding, Colin Teasdale for Welding, Kurtis Ferguson for Metal Fabrication/Marine Fitter 1, William Kwandibens for Pipefitting and Kristian Paull for Pipefitting.

Short Term Assistance

Back-to-School Backpack Program

Urban Spirit Foundation supports the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Children's Back-to-School Backpack Program. This initiative is geared toward providing school supplies for Aboriginal children in need in East Vancouver.



Children's Christmas Program

USF contributes towards gifting to the Children's Christmas Program that is held at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre and provides Christmas food hampers and children's gifts to Aboriginal families in Vancouver. We would like to extend this program to include Aboriginal organizations in New Westminster and Surrey.

Employment & Training

USF supports ACCESS employment and training programs through funding obtained from funding sources like foundations and corporations.

Contact

For further information on the Urban Spirit Foundation or to purchase Essential Skills DVDs and USF greeting cards and for on-line donations, please view our website at

www.urbanspiritfoundation.com

or email us at:

info@urbanspiritfoundation.com

Charitable Number:

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