



ACCESS COMMUNITY FORUM PHOTOS



Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and thank you to all our 2023 Donors from Urban Spirit Foundation.

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URBAN SPIRIT FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

*Urban Spirit Foundation
108-100 Park Royal
West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2*

December 2023

Mission Statement : To provide employment and training opportunities, scholarships, and the relief of poverty to urban Indigenous people on their journey to success

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Sybil Mecas, acting Director of Development for Urban Spirit Foundation presented Kyle Patrick with the top student award. Kyle is a member of the N'quatqua Nation and was commended for his attendance and commitment to the program. Kyle completed the ACCESS Trades Metal Fabrication Foundation Program in partnership with BCIT.



URBAN SPIRIT FOUNDATION

Urban Spirit Foundation strives to meet the needs of Indigenous people to help them overcome the multiple barriers they face to achieve higher education. Over the years, we have awarded over 160 scholarships totaling over \$160,000.

Each year USF supports the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre's Children's Back-to-School Backpack Program. Children receive a backpack filled with school supplies to start the new school year. USF also supports the VAFCS Children's Christmas Party where low-income families receive a food hamper and each child receives a present to open on Christmas morning.

USF is proud of our achievements. Our clients have steadily increased their independence to become more self-reliant.

Each year Urban Spirit Foundation holds the *USF Annual Urban Aboriginal Charity Golf Classic* to help raise funds for our three core purposes. In November, for Giving Tuesday USF has the Chili and Bannock lunch-to-go fundraiser. We hope you will support these events and remember to give generously. Together we can make great things happen.



CHILI AND BANNOCK FUNDRAISER

Each year for *Giving Tuesday*, Urban Spirit Foundation invites the community to join us for the Chili and Bannock Lunch-To-Go Fundraiser. Thank you to all the ACCESS and USF staff who participated. Thank you to the USF Board of Directors, donors and supporters who helped to make it another successful event!

We sold out of Chili in 45 minutes!!!



9TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

Urban Spirit Foundation held the 9th Annual Urban Aboriginal Charity Golf Classic Tournament at Country Meadows Golf Club in Richmond on August 25, 2023.

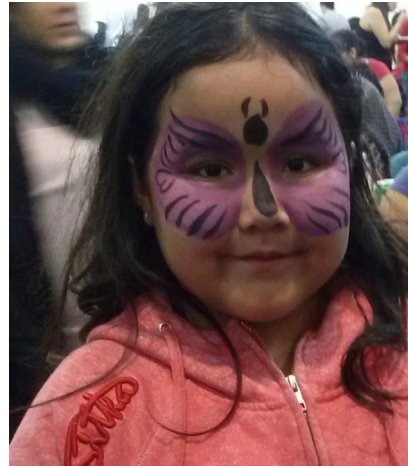
Thank you to all our sponsors, players, and volunteers who helped to make this event a huge success.

See you all in 2024 at the 10th Annual!



Urban Spirit Foundation supports two of Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship special programs such as the Centre's Children's Back-to-School Backpack Program. Children receive a backpack filled with the supplies they need to prepare them for success in the new school year.

USF also supports the VAFCS Children's Christmas Party. Food Hampers are given to low income families, and each child receives a present from Santa to open on Christmas morning. USF would like to ensure no child goes hungry, so please give generously to make someone's Christmas extra special this year.



On December 15, 2023, ACCESS Trades held a graduation ceremony for the Welding, Piping, Carpentry and Electrical Level 2 Training Programs. All students received certificates for completing their training programs. Families and friends attended along with many training and employment partnerships and employers. Thank you to everyone who attended to honor our students for their hard work and effort! USF presented top student awards to each cohort.



ACCESS WITNESSING CEREMONY

ACCESS honors 12 graduates from the Level 4 Electrical program



USF staff attended the ACCESS Witnessing Ceremony held at the Westin Bayshore to celebrate the graduation of 12 students from the Electrical Level 4 program. ACCESS invited community and trades training partners such as Seaspn, Skill Plan, IBEW213, and EJTC. Honorable Andrew Mercier and Andrew George, Director of Truth and Reconciliation from SkillTradesBC were also guest speakers. The GitHayetsk Dancers provided drumming and dancing at the event. Wakiniosta Rosie Cooper, top right, received the USF Top Student Scholarship Award. Congratulations to all the graduates.

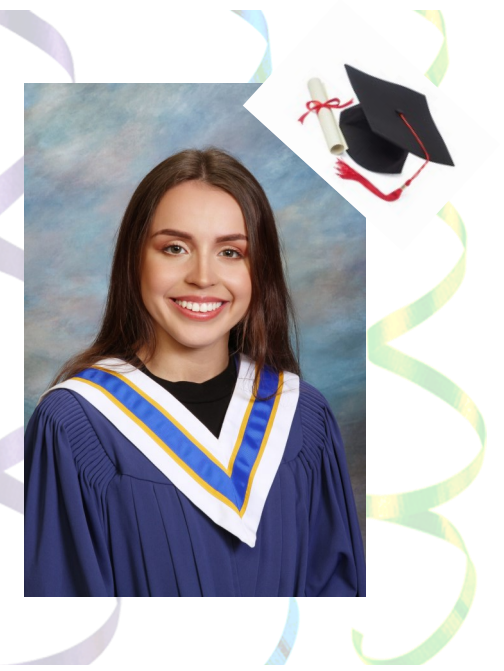
Every Child Matters!



USF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Harmony Basi-Lightfoot is from the Moosomin First Nation in Saskatchewan. Harmony graduated from Cariboo Hill Secondary in Burnaby. Harmony plans to enroll at the Justice Institute and would like to become a Paramedic. We would like to wish her all the best in her future. "I am so grateful to Urban Spirit Foundation and the assistance toward my future education."



Vanaya Jobin is from the Blackfoot and Nisga'a Nation. Vanaya graduated from Vancouver SD and plans to pursue the Early Education Program at Native Education College. She would one day like to be a contender for The Straw Weight Martial Arts Championship. "I would like to thank Urban Spirit Foundation for the scholarship toward my post secondary education."