



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 (USF) is a registered charitable organization that exists to further the success and self-reliance of urban Aboriginal people in the Metro Vancouver region. It was created in 2007 by ACCESS.

The Foundation's core purposes are:

- Education and Employment Training supports ACCESS programs through funding obtained from foundations and corporations.
- Scholarship/Bursary Awards for secondary and post-secondary students
- Short Term Assistance 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. Urban Spirit Foundation is overseen by Executive Director John Webster and USF staff.

Board of Directors



USF President
Susan Tatoosh
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship
Centre Society



USF Vice President
Jerry Adams
Circle of Eagles Lodge Society



Secretary Treasurer
Stewart Anderson
Vancity Savings Credit Union



USF Director
Tabitha Geraghty
Helping Spirit Lodge Society



USF Director
Ross Ramsey
Ross Ramsey Associates
Limited



USF Director
Merv Thomas
Canadian Aboriginal
AIDS Network



USF Director
Marjorie White
Community Member



USF Launch

The most significant event in 2012 was the launch of Urban Spirit Foundation as a charitable foundation. On Thursday, May 17, 2012 the Urban Spirit Foundation was officially launched as a charitable foundation at the Bill Reid Gallery in downtown Vancouver.



Special guests, board members, presenters, and staff at the launch listen to John Webster, USF Executive Director.



Four success stories from left to right, Nathan Whonnock, USF secondary scholarship recipient; Robert Holler, USF post-secondary scholarship recipient; Ryan LeNeal and Gerald Green, past ACCESS participants.



Mike Dangeli officially opened the event with his traditional singing and dancing.

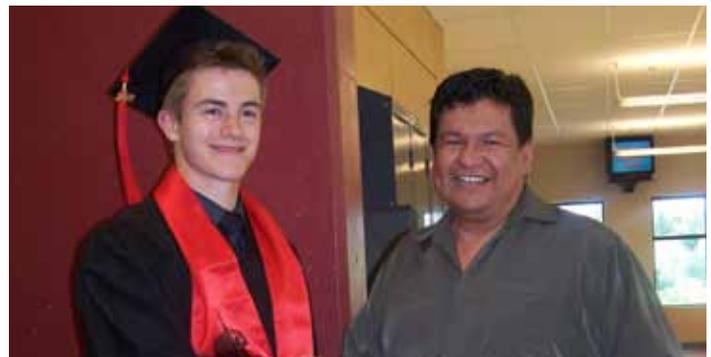
USF Scholarship Awards

Scholarships are provided to secondary and post-secondary Aboriginal students based on achievement. In 2012 USF disbursed \$7000 in scholarships to nine students through the Surrey and Vancouver School Boards, Native Education College and BCIT.

Surrey School District



Board member Merv Thomas presents Tenaia Gatland of Clayton Heights Secondary and Mike Morarity of Fraser Heights Secondary with a \$1,000 scholarship award.



Vancouver School Board



USF Director of Development Lucie Lacaille presents Stephen Hall of Gladstone Secondary with a \$1,000 scholarship award.



Amanda Kenoras of Roberts Education Centre receives her \$1,000 scholarship award.

Native Education College



USF President Susan Tatoosh and Executive Director John Webster present Edna Agla and Lyle McSween with Single Parent Bursary awards (left) and Jordon Williams and Terrance Sankey with Male Bursary awards (right).



British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT)

Two USF BCIT bursaries were awarded in 2012. Chris Herrling for Welding Level C and James Walton for Carpentry.



James Walton

“I grew up in a small town in the Yukon with high aspirations of becoming a top-notch tradesman. The Urban Spirit Foundation award helped me step up to the plate and give it a go! Because of the award I am currently a second year apprentice carpenter and on my way to getting a Red Seal. The USF award also provided funds for my vocational training at BCIT so I could focus on my studies. It soon paid off and I became top of my class two years in a row. I now have a head start in my career and path to becoming a Red Seal carpenter. I give many thanks to the Urban Spirit Foundation. They allow individuals like me to reach their aspirations and make a positive change in this world.”



Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Back to School Backpack Program

This initiative provides school supplies to Aboriginal children in East Vancouver. USF's goal is to extend the program to Burnaby, New Westminister and Surrey.



Children's Christmas Program

USF contributes to the Children's Christmas Program held at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre. The program 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 Westminister and Surrey.



USF Fundraising

USF organized several fundraisers during the year and applied to numerous foundations and corporations. Fundraisers included the USF Launch, Friendship Walk on Aboriginal Day and two ACCESS community forums. We also participated in the BC Lions game fundraiser, Trevor Deeley Motorcycles Indian tacos, chili and bannock sales, and a silent art auction at the BladeRunners Conference in February 2013.

Thank you for your thoughtful donations and contributions to the work of USF during 2012-13 year. Please visit the USF website for a list of donors.

Contact

For further information on the Urban Spirit Foundation or to purchase Essential Skills DVDs, USF greeting cards and for on-line donations, please visit www.urbanspiritfoundation.com or email us at info@urbanspiritfoundation.com.

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