

URBAN SPIRIT foundation



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 (USF) 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 are as follows: 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, to 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 President
Susan Tatoosh
Vancouver Aboriginal
Friendship Centre Society



Vice-President
Jerry Adams
Circle of Eagles Lodge Society



Director
Ross Ramsey
Ross Ramsey Associates
Limited



Director
Merv Thomas
Canadian Aboriginal AIDS
Network



Director
Tabitha Geraghty
Helping Spirit Lodge Society



Secretary-Treasurer
Stewart Anderson
Vancity Savings Credit Union

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

ACCESS/USF First Annual Charity Golf Tournament

The first annual charity golf tournament that ACCESS and USF organized for the benefit of USF was a great success. The event was held at Country Meadows Golf Course in Richmond, BC on August 15, 2013. Seventy-two golfers took part, as well as many guests, staff, volunteers and some of the USF and ACCESS board members.

Everyone had fun with the contests and fundraisers such as the popular silent auction. Guests were treated to a delicious evening buffet with relaxing background classical music by violinist David Rabinovich. There was interactive audience

involvement with the dance group, the Lax Kxeen Traditional Dancers. A USF scholarship award recipient, Chusia Graham, and ACCESS summer student employment participant, Bryan Sparrow, both warmly relayed their personal and educational success stories.

A second annual tournament is being planned for Friday, June 27, 2014 at Country Meadows. We anticipate even greater success at that tournament which is one of the Foundation's largest fundraisers of the year.



USF Executive Director John Webster at 1st Annual Event



ACCESS summer student participant Bryan Sparrow



USF VSB Scholarship recipient Chusia Graham with Elaine Clare, USF Development Officer conveyed their heartfelt success stories



Aboriginal Wellness Events

USF was involved with the ACCESS Aboriginal Wellness Events that occurred in Metro Vancouver from January to March 2014 at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, Musqueam Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and Squamish Nation. Keynote speakers Dr. Gabor Maté and Bob Joseph covered addictions, body and stress/disease connections, and how to use inspiration for a better life. Approximately 810 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people attended all four events. Wellness workshops covering topics like stress relief techniques, nutrition (“eating like your ancestors” and “food as medicine”), lifestyle wellness, residential school/reconciliatory healing, medicine wheel teachings, and cultural activities for adults and children.

Extremely grateful for the wise words of Gabor Maté and the emotional investment he made in the Aboriginal community. Please bring more of this research, lectures to us and our children, families.

- Anonymous



USF Scholarships Awards

Scholarships are provided to secondary and post-secondary Aboriginal students based on achievement. Urban Spirit Foundation disbursed scholarships to educational entities in 2013, with nine urban Aboriginal scholarships awarded throughout Metro Vancouver as follows:

VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD



CHUSIA GRAHAM WAS AWARDED \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP



RYAN HANSEN WAS ALSO AWARDED A \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

NATIVE EDUCATION COLLEGE

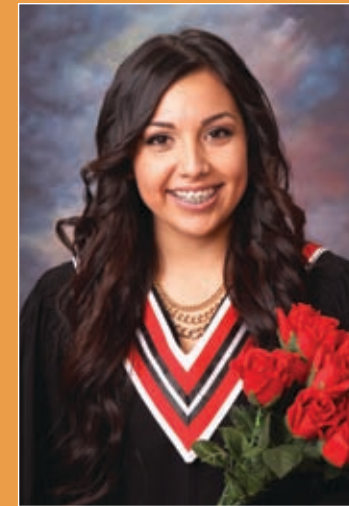


USF DIRECTOR LUCIE LACAILLE WITH JULIE STEVENS AND CATHERINE ADAMS, BOTH AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS



LYLE MACSWEEN AND DANA TOUGH WERE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

SURREY SCHOOL DISTRICT



LAKISHA ENCARNACION WAS AWARDED \$1,000



COURTNAY BROWN WAS ALSO AWARDED \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP. SHE IS PICTURED HERE WITH USF DIRECTOR STEWART ANDERSON

BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



RANDALL HINK WON TOP STUDENT AWARD
FOR THE PIPING PROGRAM AT BCIT

Short Term Assistance

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM

Urban Spirit Foundation supports the Children's Back-to-School Backpack Program at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre. This initiative is geared toward providing school supplies for Aboriginal children in need in East Vancouver. USF's ultimate goal is to extend this program to the Burnaby, New Westminster and Surrey areas.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

USF contributes towards the Children's Christmas Program 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 sources such as foundations and corporations.

USF FUNDRAISING

USF organized several fundraisers during the year and sought funding from numerous foundations and corporations. The fundraisers included an Aboriginal Day event, the first urban Aboriginal charity golf tournament, the two ACCESS community forums, four wellness events and Giving Tuesday in December 2013.

USF appreciates donations from all donors. Thank you for your thoughtful contributions to the work of USF during the 2012-13 year. Contributing foundations and corporations are recognized on the Urban Spirit Foundation website.

CONTACT

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

www.urbanspiritfoundation.com

or email us at:

info@urbanspiritfoundation.com

Charitable Number:
82789 5368 RR0001

