

Grant Committee Report & Application Summaries

October 2022 Applications

Grants Committee:

Blair Geisel (Chair), Winnie Pauch, Diane Van Aert, Bev Gradidge, Amy Chappellaz, Mandy Dubois & Kim Lavallee (Executive Director)



Fall 2022

A total of 7 grant applications were received requesting \$435,100 and CFPD had allocated \$102,300 for the Fall Grant Cycle. The Grants Committee met on November 3, 2022 to review & discuss the applications. All application documents were made available to the committee on a Grant Portal on our website for secure access.

The number of applications was down this fall. We feel that this is because we only received one from the School Division compared to several other granting cycles. Also both PCRC and the City of Portage grants just closed.

The following report from the grants committee includes the details on all applications evaluated as well as the 7 projects the committee is recommending for funding totaling \$113,750.

FILE No.	Organization Name	Project Description	Sector	Requested \$	Recommended \$
2022-25(F)	Big Brothers Big Sisters Central Plains	50th Anniversary Video Project	Child Welfare, Youth Development, Family Well-being	\$10,000.00	\$10,000
2022-26(F)	Hopes Journey Home	Hopes Journey Home Building Fund	Social Services	\$250,000.00	\$0
2022-27(F)	Portage Service for Seniors	Nutritious Meals	Social Services	\$12,000.00	\$4,800
2022-28(F)	19 Portage Support Committee	Cadet Community Outreach Program	Child Welfare, Youth Development, Family Well-being	\$2,500.00	\$2,500
2022-29(F)	Eagles Wings Flight School Inc	Hangar Project	Social Services	\$10,000.00	\$10,000
2022-30(F)	Fort La Reine School	Basketball Court	Child Welfare, Youth Development, Family Well-being	\$75,600.00	\$0
2022-31(F)	Portage Parks Committee	Skate Park Project	Child Welfare, Youth Development, Family Well-being	\$75,000.00	\$75,000
				\$435,100.00	\$102,300

Name of organization: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Plains 2022-25 (F)

Background of Organization:

Big Brothers Big Sisters purpose is to enable life-changing mentoring relationships to ignite the power and potential of young people. This is accomplished through mentoring programs that place a mentor with a child ages 6-18. Our mentoring programs are in two sections Community Based (Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Big Couple, Big Bunch) and Site Based (In School & After School). We also offer three small group, short-term programs; Go Girls, Big Possibilities (career exploration/post-secondary) and Big Play.

All our programs strive for these measurable outcomes: social emotional competence, mental health and wellbeing, and educational engagement & employment readiness.

We are a member of United Way Central Plains, and receive some funding from Family Services Manitoba. The rest is through grant writing and fundraising.

Our clients are any child 6-18 who can benefit and would like to have a mentor. Our membership is made up of the children's parents and all our volunteers. There is no cost to being in any of our programs.

Project Description:

2024 will be the 50th Anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Plains. To celebrate we are planning a year of celebrating the past, and looking forward to the future. We would like to engage more potential mentors and generate additional revenue. Though our name is fairly well known for mentoring, we want people to have a better idea of what we do and how we impact lives.

We are requesting this grant to help with one aspect of our celebration and telling our story.

To tell our story in a succinct manner we would like to have a 50th Anniversary video made that speaks to who we are and the difference we have made and where we are going in the future. Along with that, we would like to purchase the Communications Strategy. Our office or board does not have someone who is knowledgeable in marketing, to know how to put a comprehensive strategy together.

The benefits from the project will be more mentors in the future which means more children have the opportunity to have a mentor on this part of their life journey. With increased exposure we would like to see an increase in financial donations.

2023 would see the making of the video with 2024 being the release and the start of the communications strategy. This is a one-time ask.

Amount requested: \$10,000

Amount recommended: 10,000

Comments:

The committee felt it was a good project. Straight forward and very forward thinking. Great way to communicate.

Name of organization: Hopes Journey Home Inc. 2022-26 (F)

Background of Organization:

Hopes Journey Home will be a homeless shelter for pregnant women. If shelter is the decision between life and death of a unborn child, we want to give women that option. It will be funded by donations and possibly rent by the women staying there. It is a 5 bedroom home with shared kitchen and living room.

Project Description:

This organization will be building a home at 687 Tupper Street north, Portage, Mb. This home will be a 5 bedroom with shared kitchen and living room. This home will be specifically for pregnant women who want life for their unborn child but struggle with housing. We will also have elders on site that will teach the women life skills, and caring for their newborn baby. The project is being funded by donations and businesses that are donating material goods.

Amount requested: \$250,000

Amount recommended: 0

Comments:

The committee felt the application was too vague, no mention of any services being provided or how they will cover future operating costs. For these reasons, the committee did not recommend this project.

Name of organization: Portage Service for Seniors 2022-27 (F)

Background of Organization:

Portage Service for Seniors provides services that assist older adults in maintaining an independent lifestyle. It is a charitable organization funded in part by Southern Health, Portage Plains United Way, sales of Meals on Wheels and congregate meals, and donations of cash, produce and groceries. Staff and volunteers are available to assist adults in transportation, socialization, nutrition, and safety needs. A major focus of our program is both congregate meals at seniors' apartments and our Meals on Wheels program.

Project Description:

We will provide nutritious and delicious meals to low income seniors at no cost to them, either in a congregate setting or through Meals on Wheels.

We will partner with Manitoba Housing, CHA, and the Portage Friendship Centre to identify those in the greatest need to make them aware of the program, and to confirm age (age 55 and over) and obtain proof of low income status. With a previous grant from Help Age Canada in December 2021- June 2022 we were able to provide 1 meal per week to 37 individuals for approximately 6 months. If we receive this grant, we hope to match that number of individuals within the same timeline (although numbers of applicants will likely increase).

We will also advertise in the local paper to ensure that eligible individuals who may not be linked to a social service agency are aware of the program and how to contact us, and to acknowledge the generous support from the CFPD.

Amount requested: \$10,000

Amount recommended: \$4800

Comments:

Because Service for Seniors offers meals to seniors at a cost as a one of their services, the committee felt this project waived on base funding, but decided to fund a portion but as a one time offer.

Name of organization: 19 Portage Support Committee 2022-28 (F)

Background of Organization:

The Canadian Cadet program is a National, community-based program for youth aged 12 to 19 where you can learn skills like good citizenship and leadership, promote physical fitness and stimulate an interest in the Sea, Army and Air activities of the Canadian Armed Forces. In this case, we are the Army Cadets of 19 Portage Royal Canadian Artillery Cadet Corps, the oldest Corps in both Manitoba and Western Canada. Our supervisory sponsor the Army Cadet League (mb) Inc. is a charitable non-profit organization. The Program is free to youth to join. The 19 Portage Support Committee raises funds to enhance existing programs, and recruit and retain local Cadets into the Program.

Project Description:

The first priority of the cadet program is to ensure that the cadets are always safe, having fun, and while learning. The Corps will use this grant to benefit our cadets by providing experiences through physical fitness activities such as snowshoeing, hiking, and swimming. To the cadet program, the flag is recognized as a symbol of esprit de corps and pride within the Corps. Purchasing the identifier/flag will help the Corps to be recognized while out in public and draw attention to our Corps. Our next purchase is a laptop which we will use for admin and social media purposes. We use social media to stimulate an interest in joining the corps and increase our participant numbers and ability to communicate with them. Our program currently has 20 youth, and have traditionally had more than double that, like everyone one else we are rebuilding post pandemic. We have the capacity to grow the program and sustain 80 youth. Two items on our list are one-time expenses and should be completed by March 2023. Regarding funding in the future, we plan to engage traditional fundraising methods such as raffles, 50/50, and mom's pantry. We also intend to approach local service clubs that share our values and will help us to build future community leaders and the strong healthy youth of tomorrow.

Amount requested: \$2,500

Amount recommended: \$2,500

Comments:

Initially some committee members felt the \$500 for gym fees was more operational, but all members felt it was a viable project as it appears they are trying to get back up and operating after the Pandemic. The purchase of the laptop is to do promotional material to attract more youth to join. For these reasons the committee recommends full funding.

Name of organization: Eagle's Wings Flight School Inc. **2022-29 (F)**

Background of Organization:

Eagle's Wings Flight School (EWFS) is a 100% volunteer run not for profit flight training school for at-risk Indigenous youth ages 14-19 years old. We currently provide a two-week summer program annually for a class of six to nine students in Portage la Prairie. Our students attend 10 hours of aviation ground school, 10 hours of Cultural Connections sessions hosted by Dakota and Ojibway Child and Family Services, and receive 10 hours of flight instruction from highly qualified professional pilot instructors in an Advanced Ultralight airplane flying out of Southport Airport.

The mission of our organization is to inspire youth to explore their innate gifts, build self-confidence, and develop practical life-skills through aviation training. We have seen this happen over the course of three consecutive summer programs and we're planning for our fourth in 2023. We do not have any members outside of the board of directors. Our student program costs are covered through a tuition fee paid by our partner Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services, and offset by the sponsorship and donations of generous organizations and individuals.

Project Description:

We plan on building a steel hangar structure at Portage North Airfield in May 2023 with the help of volunteers and by hiring local tradespeople as required. We will use skilled volunteer-labour wherever possible, without compromising on quality. This community build project is estimated to take 6 weeks with a completion date of June 30th, 2023.

To offset hangar costs over our first three years of operation (\$800/mth) we have stored our airplane from August-June in a donated hangar space 2 hours away, or we've taken its wings off and stored it in donated local shop space. As we look to increasing our reach, we're limited by a lack of local year-round airplane access. We're currently working with 8 youth per year in a compressed two-week timeframe, but we would like to do more! If we had year-round access to our airplane, we could host small fly-in style events for youth in our region (additional 15-20 students per year), or purchase an airplane build kit that we could involve high school students and/or other community groups (Big Brother-Big Sisters) in (additional 10 students per year) Year-round access to our airplane would also allow us to bolster our volunteer flight instructor base (currently 3) by providing training beyond our summer camp window (additional 2-3 volunteer flight instructors).

After the pre-build fundraising campaign, the remaining loan on this building will be funded in the future by corporate sponsorships and personal donations.

Amount requested: \$10,000

Amount recommended: \$10,000

Comments:

The committee liked this project as it will be used to increase enrollment and they will be using a large volunteer base and have other funding in place to sustain this project. The committee recommended full funding.

Name of organization: Fort la Reine School 2022-30 (F)

Background of Organization:

Fort la Reine School's mission is to work as a community to provide all students every opportunity to be successful.

We are funded through the province of Manitoba.
There are no member fees.

Project Description:

We have roughly 170 students attending our school as well as the surrounding community that use our basketball court and playground. The court's concrete (and surrounding attached pad) is starting to crumble and not safe. We want our existing court and surrounding concrete pad to be safe for student and community use.

The timeline would be to complete the project in early spring, depending on the contractor's timeline.

The Portage la Prairie School Division's operations department will help with upkeep of the new basketball court.

Amount requested: \$75,600

Amount recommended: 0

Comments:

The committee felt that not enough information was provided and were confused as to why the two quotes were so different. It was suggested to have them provide more information, do some fundraising and re-apply in the spring. For these reasons, the committee does not recommend this project at this time.

Name of organization: Portage la Prairie Parks Committee **2022-31 (F)**

Background of Organization:

This is a brief description of the Parks Organization: A group of residents from Portage la Prairie committed to maintaining, expanding and building Parks and green space in all of Portage la Prairie. The Parks Committee is made up of volunteers. The Parks Committee works with the community to seek their input on upcoming parks projects.

The Parks Committee meets at least one time per month to plan projects, fundraisers and grants. The Parks Committee also works closely with the developer/construction company on current projects. The Parks Committee plans and works fundraisers. The Parks Committee also works closely with the City of Portage la Prairie to ensure parks are safe.

We are funded by grants, fundraising and donation. The City of Portage la Prairie assists with maintenance of parks/green spaces. We also have volunteers who help with maintenance, clean up and fundraisers (such as our Canada Day BBQ). Our clients/members are all the community members of Portage la Prairie and surrounding communities. There are also many visitors/tourists that utilize our parks. There are no fees for membership.

Project Description:

The Parks Committee will be hosting fundraisers and completing additional grants to fund this project. The Parks Committee has been meeting with local businesses to seek donations as well. All community members will benefit from this project:

- Skate/Snow park is centrally located which helps as we do not have a transit system
- Park will offer features that will provide activities for all season
- When we have activities to keep you busy/active, this helps reduce the crime rate
- The Skate/Snow Park is close to the Water Feature, which helps families of all ages to enjoy the whole park at the same time
- At least 7000/yr community members and visitors will benefit from this project
- The timeline is to hopefully start in the spring/summer of 2023, and to be completed by fall of 2024.

The materials and construction are made for our cold climate, this will help with sustainability. Since the youth were a part of the plans, we strongly believe this will help the Skate/Snow Park stay in good condition. We plan to have volunteers help maintain the park. The Parks Committee will also continue to do fundraisers, apply for grants and seek donations.

Amount requested: \$75,000

Amount recommended: \$75,000

Comments:

The committee felt this was a good project and very much needed. Although they asked for \$25,000 over 3 cycles, they committee felt they could fund it all and still help other applicants.