

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



Portage la Prairie
Community
Revitalization
Corporation

*"Working with the community, for
the community"*

www.portagecrc.com
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204-240-PCRC (7272)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

Mark Diboll, Chair

Don Smoke, Member at Large

Matthew Boschman, Member at Large

Cassandra Pehura, Vice Preseident

Alana Daniels

Scott Lawrence

Matt Harkness

Brandwyn Kinnear, Treasurer

Dave Roberts, Secretary

Dana Geisel

STAFF

Mari Kozar, Executive Director

Sherri Walker, Office Manager

Rachel Templeton, Community Facilitator

Aaron Pierre - Indigenous Seniors Coordinator / Indigenous Community
Coordinator

Randy Lilley - Indigenous Seniors Coordinator

Alexa Kowerchuk, Wawokiya Coordinator

Tawnee Kowerchuk, Reaching Home Coordinator

Mitch Tilk, Local Immigration Partnership Coordinator

Megan Romphf, Cultural Connector

Abosede Jogunosinmi - Cultural Connector

Ashley Anderson, Communities Building Youth Futures Community Connector

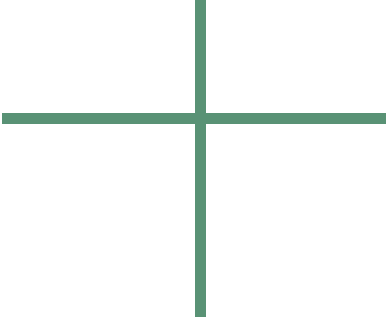
Adelynn Belfour, Communities Building Youth Futures Youth Navigator

Alex Lassell, Youth Intern

Justine Richardson, Youth Intern

Lorna Knight, Community Engagement Coordinator

Rachelle Sissons, Community Engagement Coordinator



Sierra Myran - Reaching Home

Anthony Woods - Reaching Home / Wawokiya Housing Intensive Case Manager

Kimberley Sharp - Reaching Home / Wawokiya Housing Intensive Case Manager

Taylor McCarson - Reaching Home

Pauline Johnston - Community Aunty

Cordien Johnston - Green Team

Tyson Prichette-Spence - Green Team

Kaylin Myran - Summer Student

Joshua Hillier - Summer Student

STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Another year has flown by at PCRC with our internal team, community partners and board members continuously looking for new ways to improve the wonderful community we all call home. We have all come together to push further in the right direction of change.

Our Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) program has worked diligently to support newcomer groups in Portage la Prairie while working on reconciliation and antiracism efforts. Our Communities Building Youth Futures Pilot came to a close after 5 years of dedication to youth perspective in our community. The Reaching Home program continued to address homelessness and housing insecurity in our community. They pursued temporary emergency housing solutions including managing multiple emergency suites in apartments and hotel rooms.



STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Wawokiya program has been spearheading our Community Safety and Wellbeing plan which is an exciting endeavor for our City. The Indigenous Seniors Resource program has supported elders and held meaningful gatherings each month. Our Urban Indigenous Strategy has undergone a rebranding to Suta Kachicha meaning “stronger together” in an effort to represent the urban Indigenous population in Portage la Prairie. Our Connecting Community program and Community Facilitator program have supported a multitude of events and organizations over the past year.

Sometimes our daily actions in community development seem ever so small in the grand scheme of things but as we reflect on a full year of these small wins, one can see the windfall of positive change they add up to. It brings me great pride to see all the team members at PCRC be such a strong part of this change.

Sincerely,

Mari Kozar

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

I would like to start off by saying what an exciting and educational year it has been as part of the PCRC board. I did not realize how in depth, or how far reaching, our organization is to so many people.

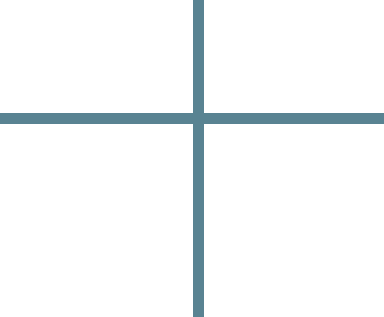
I am also pleased with how dedicated, compassionate and hard working the PCRC staff are on a daily basis. They do a great job of meeting the needs of the community in many different ways. I would also like to acknowledge and show appreciation for our Executive Director Mari Kozar. It is truly amazing how she can keep track of everything we are doing and continue to steer us in the right direction.

I would also like to thank the rest of the Board for their continued support, guidance and for helping me easy into my first year.

As with every new year, we are excited to see what may come our way and what new projects we might be able to provide to folks who are in need.

Sincerely,

Mark Diboll



Annual General Meeting

5pm - Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Welcome, Everyone!

Greetings from the Executive Director

Mark Diboll, PCRC Board Chair

Greetings from the City of Portage la Prairie

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Minutes from the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Video - Communities Building Youth Futures Wrap Up

Financial Report

Elections to the Board

Closing Remarks

Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation

Annual General Meeting – October 17, 2023

In attendance: James Kostuchuk, Cassandra Pehura, Brandwyn Kinnear, Matt Harkness, Dana Geisel, Dave Roberts, Mari Kozar, Sherri Walker, Mark Diboll

Regrets:

1. Greetings & Adoption of Agenda

Aaron Pierre opened the evening with an opening prayer.

James called the meeting to order and gave the address from the Chair.

Jeff Bereza, MLA elect for Portage la Prairie brought greetings.

Chair of Community Services, Ryan Espey, will brought greetings on behalf of the City of Portage la Prairie.

2. Adoption of Agenda

James: The agenda for today's Annual General Meeting has been included in your packages.

I would like to call for a motion: To adopt the agenda as presented.

Moved: Dave Roberts

Seconded: Mark Diboll

3. Adoption of Minutes

James: The Minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting have been included in your packages. Are there any errors or omissions?

I would like to call for a motion: To adopt the minutes of the PCRC Annual General Meeting dated November 15, 2022.

Moved: Matt Harkness

Seconded: Cassandra Pehura

4. PCRC Presenters:

Letter on behalf of the Holiday Avenue Project that has been sent in their absence of attending.

Men Shed presentation by Aaron Pierre and Anthony Woods.

5. Financial Report

James: A copy of the Board Approved audited financial statements for 2022-23 has been included with the Annual Report.

Revenue for this year was \$1,715,896.00. Expenses were \$1,527,985.00, leaving us with an excess of revenue over expenses of \$187,911.00.

Does anyone have any questions or comments on the financial statements?

I would like to call for a motion: To accept the Audited Financial Report 2022-2023 as presented.

Moved: Brandwyn Kinnear

Seconded: Mark Diboll

James: A part of our AGM is selecting an auditor for the coming fiscal year.

I would like to call for a motion: To appoint BDO as the auditor for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Moved: Dana Geisel

Seconded: Matt Harkness

6. By- Law Changes

James: Changes to report to the constitutional by-law as circulated to members include:

Composition of the Board

4.1.3 The board consists of a minimum of 7 and a maximum of twelve (12) "Directors-at-Large" and up to three (3) "Members at Large". All Board "directors" shall be Voting Members of PCRC of at least 18 years of age. "Members at Large" serve in an advisory capacity for projects and programming and are not Voting Members of PCRC.

Elections of the Directors-At-Large

4.1.4

iii) In some circumstances, a board motion may be presented to extend a Directors terms past the Director's three (3) consecutive terms.

I would like to call for a motion: To approve bylaw changes as circulated to members:

Moved: Dana Geisel

Seconded: Mark Diboll

7. Elections to the Board

I would like to call for a motion: that Mark Diboll be appointed to the PCRC Board of Directors for a two-year term.

Moved: by Brandwyn Kinnear

Seconded: Cassandra Pehura

I would like to call for a motion: that Mark Diboll be named as the Chair of the PCRC Board

of Directors

Moved: Dave Roberts

Seconded: Cassandra Pehura

I would like to call for a motion: that Cassandra Pehura be named as the Vice Chair of the PCRC Board of Directors.

Moved: Brandwyn Kinnear

Seconded: Matt Harkness

I would like to call for a motion: that Brandwyn Kinnear be named as the Treasurer of the PCRC Board of Directors.

Moved: Matt Harkness

Seconded: Dave Roberts

I would like to call for a motion: that Dave Roberts be named as Secretary for the PCRC Board of Directors.

Moved: Dana Geisel

Seconded: Brandwyn Kinnear

7. Closing Remarks

I would like to call for a motion: To adjourn the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the PCRC at 6:39pm.

Moved: Mark Diboll

Seconded: Brandwyn Kinnear

Mark Diboll Oct 19/2023

Signed & Date (Board Chair)

C. Pehura Oct 19/23

Signed & Date (Vice Chair)

Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
Revenue		
Grant revenue (Schedule 1)	1,352,797	1,313,248
Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation grant	262,272	229,611
Rental income	37,750	32,295
Small grants (Note 10)	37,500	37,500
Donations and events	25,836	34,806
Interest income	17,293	6,461
Miscellaneous	62,333	51,394
Work experience	3,416	7,657
Amortization of deferred contributions	678	2,924
	1,799,875	1,715,896
Expenses		
Advertising and donations	9,679	22,625
Amortization	53,472	53,444
Conferences	19,271	8,778
Contracted services	19,682	34,109
Events	-	30,978
Fees, dues and registrations	1,364	5,871
Grants	277,217	177,691
Insurance	39,626	9,971
Interest on long-term debt	13,477	13,645
Miscellaneous	22,192	-
Office and miscellaneous	18,445	20,521
Participant costs	164,060	77,815
Professional fees	11,443	18,298
Program related training	28,843	6,980
Rent - land and buildings	22,800	27,060
Repairs and maintenance	49,795	15,642
Salaries and wages	858,566	897,291
Small grants (Note 10)	37,500	37,500
Supplies	55,418	10,067
Travel expenses	38,987	25,511
Utilities	28,954	34,188
Total expenses	1,770,791	1,527,985
Excess of revenue over expenses	29,084	187,911

WAWOKIYA PROJECT

This year, Wawokiya has been busy in several different areas.

During this fiscal year, Wawokiya received 28 referrals, with over half being accepted as clients. Those not accepted into the program were still provided with immediate assistance, such as help with filling out documents, quick connections to direct services, and occasionally assistance with groceries. The top risk factors this year were consistent with last year's trends, with mental health and addictions remaining at the forefront. Basic needs, including housing, food, and clothing, were also a significant concern.

To enhance their knowledge and skills, the Wawokiya coordinator has participated in numerous training sessions and workshops. These include Land-Based training on Indigenous medicines and practices, a workshop on "Leading Through Change" by the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CEDNET), an information session on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), a crime prevention presentation by the RCMP, and training on the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). Additionally, the coordinator successfully completed a Mental Health First Aid course, obtaining certification, and attended a Business Training and Engagement Forum focused on climate action as well as an internet safety information night.

Wawokiya has been actively participating in various meetings and events. The coordinator attended the Annual MCMSI Meeting (Manitoba Community Mobilization and Safety Initiatives), a three-day conference hosted by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness in Halifax, N.S., quarterly System's Leadership meetings, and a tour of the new location of the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network. The coordinator also met with Jeff Bereza to provide insights into the organization's programs and participated in quarterly meetings of the Flourishing Communities Advisory Group.

WAWOKIYA PROJECT

In terms of new initiatives, Wawokiya successfully concluded its Emergency Food Fund initiative in July and August, distributing hampers to families in need within the community. The organization launched the Community Safety and Wellbeing project, with the coordinator participating in initial training sessions and ongoing meetings to ensure continuous progress.

Another significant achievement was the funding approval for the "Mashkiki Tetibis" program, which aims to support individuals involved with both the justice system and Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) as they transition into the workforce. This initiative represents a significant step forward in empowering community members.

Additionally, Wawokiya secured the "Family Violence Initiative Fund" grant, which was used for capacity building, benefiting both the coordinator and community partners. We were able to hold several training opportunities with this funding.

Wawokiya has also been engaged in various community activities and events. The coordinator presented information on the new Medicine Wheel program at an Indigenous Seniors Gathering. During February and March, the coordinator played a crucial role in staffing the Emergency Warming Shelter, providing essential support to houseless individuals in the community during harsh weather conditions.



WAWOKIYA PROJECT

Wawokiya has received inquiries from community members interested in donating hampers for families in need during the holiday season, demonstrating the community's generosity. These hampers have started rolling in and have been handed out accordingly. The organization continues to hold regular bi-weekly advisory table meetings, accepting new clients regularly and providing ongoing support to existing clients. Wawokiya also assists in brief interventions for individuals who need one-time help.

Overall, Wawokiya has been engaged in a wide range of activities, including client support, professional development, community engagement, and networking with relevant organizations. These efforts demonstrate a strong commitment to providing comprehensive services and staying informed about relevant topics and initiatives. The accomplishments and ongoing efforts reflect the dedication to the mission of PCRC: working with the community to create a stronger and more vibrant Portage la Prairie.

Wawokiya looks forward to building on these successes in the months ahead and continuing to empower citizens, enhance neighborhoods, foster community spirit, and strengthen community organizations.



AFFORDABLE RECREATION & IMPROVED FACILITIES

The Earth Day event featured the Bighetty and Bighetty Puppet Show, with the debut of Ajidamoo Aki. Supported by the Community Engagement Coordinator and funded through a grant from Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations and the Community Celebrations fund, gave out 200 free tickets. In early April, the last gardening workshop provided free herbs to participants and also sold out.

Bike Week, fully restored for the first time since 2019, included 11 transportation-related activities such as a free BBQ, bike rodeo, amazing race bike event, and the new “Ladies Sunrise Ride.” The Spring Beautification Days, held before the Centennial Cup in May, saw over 400 citizens participate in the clean-up.

Second Harvest distributed 1,888 boxes of food to over 15 organizations and schools throughout the spring months, and discussions were held with a Second Harvest organizer to increase community donors.

Touch a Truck, held during Public Works Week, saw increased vehicle attendance and expanded to larger parking lots at BDO, with approximately 550-600 participants attending the free BBQ and event.

The Ajidamoo Aki Coloring Contest in April awarded winners with prizes, social media recognition, and a visit from the mascot, who brought healthy snacks to their classrooms or daycares.

The Art Walkway project, funded by a grant from Southern Health, completed its first phase, with eight schools creating signs representing the seven teachings and Every Child Matters, which were mounted at Island Park with a protective graffiti coating.

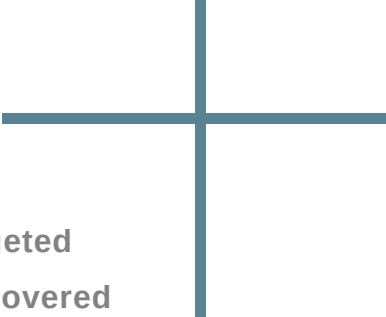
Seed starting packages were distributed at Fort la Reine Museum during its opening weekend to continue the gardening initiatives, with volunteers assisting in clean-up and planting, rewarded with ice cream. PCRC supported McDonald's McHappy Day, with staff collecting funds in-restaurant and the mascot collecting funds at the drive-thru.

On June 21st, for National Indigenous People's Day, PCRC participated in planning and executing the event, including manning the face painting station and transporting food, with an estimated 600 attendees.

In July 2023, two judges from the Manitoba Communities in Bloom organization toured Portage la Prairie, witnessing many areas of change and beauty in the city. Their visit included brunch with the Mayor and Council, a tour of the Recycling Plant, dinner at Fort la Reine Museum, and several presentations and picturesque stops. Additionally, PCRC, in partnership with the Holiday Avenue project, hosted the first annual fundraising garden tour on July 22nd. This sold-out event featured eight garden stops, sweet treats, cool drinks, and local experts available to speak with ticket holders, raising over \$2,750 for the Holiday Avenue Project to decorate the causeway.

In August, PCRC and PLIP held a free swim night, registering 160 individuals.



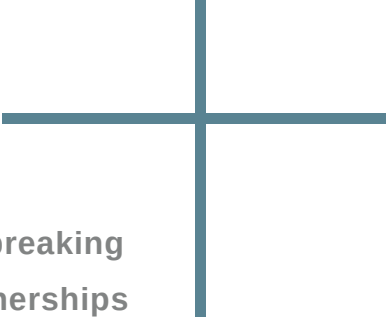


Over a seven-week summer term, the Green Team completed 27 targeted garbage clean-ups from public areas throughout Portage la Prairie, covered 33 instances of graffiti, assisted the Rotary Duck Pond with 13 two-hour watering sessions and three weeding sessions, and supported the Indigenous Senior Coordinator, Community Auntie program, Fort la Reine Museum, and Family Resource Centre. Their substantial efforts greatly contributed to the city's beautification.

This year's Culture Craft featured a DIY Nature Wind Chime, designed for all ages to encourage kids to explore nature for supplies. The craft kit included string, beads, and feathers, with instructions to find a stick for the base and use the yarn to assemble nature items, adding beads for a pop of color.

The Holiday Avenue Project requested that the Connecting Communities program engaged our Garden Goodie Box sponsors in decorating their boxes for the Santa Parade, and decorate any boxes for businesses that couldn't join the challenge.

During the Trunk or Treat event at the Portage Regional Library, we participated alongside other local organizations and businesses. Approximately 1,000 kids attended, receiving generous donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste from local dental businesses, including Brightside Dental, Brite Smile, and Westview Dental.



This year's Parade of Lights enjoyed excellent weather and record-breaking attendance. Our volunteers helped decorate the PCRC van, with partnerships including Bear Clan and PCRS's Mrs. Claus and Ajidamoo, as we handed out candy and enjoyed the evening with the citizens of Portage la Prairie. The Skate with Santa event was a great success, featuring a Santa donated by the Portage Fire Department and Mrs. Claus from PCRC. Partnering with the Family Resource Center, with ice time donated by Simplot, we provided extra skates and helmets through the Family Resource Center Recreation program. Guests enjoyed free hot chocolate, coloring books, crayons, and treats.

For the Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinic in November, funded by the Government of Manitoba, we supported Southern Health at Stride Place. We provided coffee, water, gift cards for Portage Supermarket and Tornados restaurant, coloring books for kids, and Tobacco ties for healing. Indigenous artwork was displayed, and Elder Angela performed a smudging ceremony. We also offered free transportation to community members needing access to vaccines outside of clinic hours.

The Malanka event was very successful, with over 300 attendees. PCRC supported this event by providing transportation and Christmas gifts for the children, including a Ukrainian coloring book with crayons. Our winter craft kit featured DIY snow paint, including two squeeze bottles with food coloring, allowing kids to create designs in the snow with just water. Although our building was closed, I handed out the craft kits at Prairie Fusion Art Center.

Winterfest 2024 was a weeklong celebration. We kicked off with a virtual contest organized by PCRC and CBYF, encouraging the community to create sculptures using ice or snow. CBYF provided mugs, hot chocolate, and toques as prizes for the winning photo. We also partnered with Portage Learning and Literacy Center to host a family movie night, distributing movie tickets to clients and families attending the event. Ajidimoo attended the Winterfest Movie Night on behalf of PCRC.

This year marked the 9th International Women's Day celebration, with 200 guests and two inspiring speakers: Delaney O'Neill, a military wife, and Nicole Dube, a former host of CTV Morning News. The event was enjoyed by all attendees.

PCRC teamed up with local organizations to host the Dress for Success event, aimed at women and non-binary individuals. PCRC supported this event by providing transportation and childcare, with a total of 12 individuals participating.



COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

SMALL GRANTS

Small Grants Fund 2023/24

Applicant Name	Project Name	Primary Category	SGF Amount Approved (\$)
Portage Collegiate Institute	PCI Community Basketball Court Update	Wellbeing	\$ 5,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Go Girls Healthy Body and Minds	Wellbeing	\$ 1,600.00
Crescent View School	CVS Playground Improvement	Wellbeing	\$ 2,175.00
Family Resource Centre	Summer Programs	Capacity Building	\$ 5,000.00
Portage Bear Clan	Sept 30 Truth and Reconciliation Gathering	Community Connecting	\$ 2,500.00
Portage la Prairie Local Immigration Partnership	Diwali	Community Connecting	\$ 2,000.00
Sunset Palliative Care	Dinner of Hope	Wellbeing	\$ 2,500.00
Portage la Prairie Legion Branch #65	Remembrance Day Luncheon	Community Connecting	\$ 2,500.00
Reaching Home	Meeting with Meals	Wellbeing	\$ 2,500.00
Portage Regional Economic Development PRED	Socio Economic Impact Assessment	Economic Development	\$ 5,000.00
Prairie Fusion Arts and Entertainment PFAE	Open House	Capacity Building	\$ 2,000.00
Soup Kitchen	Post-Holiday Lunch	Wellbeing	\$ 2,350.00

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - CAPACITY BUILDING

SMALL GRANTS CONTINUED

Small Grant Summary Information

Breakdown of Grants	
# of Projects	15
# Approved	12
# Declined	3
# Withdrawn	0

Financial Impact	
Funds Requested	\$43,600.00
Funds Approved	\$35,125.00
SGF Paid Out	\$35,125.00
Funds Leveraged	\$244,328.81

Breakdown of Projects by Primary Category

Capacity Building	2
Wellbeing	6
Stability	0
Community Connecting	3
Economic Development	1

Participation Overview

People Served	14562
Volunteers	141



Legion #65 receiving Small Grant funding for their Remembrance Day Luncheon.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS COMPLETED OR ASSISTED BY COMMUNITY FACILITATOR:

Grants/Funding Proposals and Fundraising that the Community Facilitator completed or assisted with

Funding Applications and Fundraising Tracker 2023/2024				
Application	Description	Funder	Amount	Partner
Community Spaces	Skate/Snow Park	Homestead COOP/FCL	\$ 67,000	Parks Committee
BSC (Building Sustainable Communities)	Skate/Snow Park	Government of Manitoba	\$240,000	Parks Committee
BSC (Building Sustainable Communities)	PCRC Building Upgrades	Government of Manitoba	\$ 8,900	PCRC
Heritage Canada	Truth and Reconciliation Events- Land Based	Government of Canada	\$ 10,000	PUIPC, Portage Friendship Centre, Bear Clan, Family Resource Centre, Red River Polytech College
Mashkiki Tetibis-Medicine Wheel	Assisting those who are on EIA and involved with justice system	Province of Manitoba	\$170,000	Wawokiya
Winter Response Funding	Providing warm place to those struggling with chronic homelessness	Province of Manitoba	\$90,000	Reaching Home
United Way Community Response Recovery Fund	Updating technology at PCRC	United Way	\$45,000	PCRC, City of Portage la Prairie
Bezigoobi (Be at Home)	Emergency Suites for those struggling with homelessness	Brandon Neighborhood Renewal Corporation	\$38,220	Reaching Home
Community Celebrations - Feast Fall Equinox	Indigenous Feast for Sept	Government of Manitoba	\$5,000	Portage Bear Clan
Community Grants	Bear Clan Operations	City of Portage la Prairie	\$10,000	Portage Bear Clan
United Way Central Plains	Bear Clan Operations	United Way Central Plains	\$20,000	Portage Bear Clan
Arts Culture & Heritage (Woksop Oiyadi)	Indigenous Interpretive Site Planning	Province of Manitoba	\$25,000	Suta Kachicha
Canada Summer Student Jobs	Hiring two students	Government of Canada	\$8,900	PCRC
Healthy Together Now	Earth Day -Indigenous 7 Teachings	Southern Health	\$2,000	Suta Kachihca, Portage Friendship Centre, Family Resource Centre, Bear Clan
Fuel Good Day	Wheelchair Accessible Playground Equipment	Homestead Coop	\$3,200	Kim Wikdahl (organizer)
Cash Calendar	Wheelchair Accessible Playground Equipment	Community of Portage	\$3,000	Kim Wikdahl (organizer)
50/50 Draw	Skate Park	Community of Portage	\$3,000	Parks Committee
Canada BBQ	Reach Home & Bear Clan	Community	\$1000	Reaching Home & Bear Clan
Total Funding Approved:			\$750,220.00	

FUNDING APPLICATIONS COMPLETED OR ASSISTED BY COMMUNITY FACILITATOR:

Collaborations and Support

The Community Facilitator provided extensive support to the Urban Indigenous Coalition (Suta Kachicha), Portage Bear Clan, Parks Committee (Treasurer), and other nonprofit organizations by assisting with grant applications, reporting, organizing large gatherings/events, and staff mentorship. In February 2024, at the Small Group Manso Conference the Community Facilitator presented: PATH (Strategic Planning), to a group from all across Manitoba.

The Community Facilitator played an integral role of planning of the Urban Indigenous Business Award for the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards.



Kim Wikdahl and Ajidimoo Aki "Fuel Good Days" at COOP for Accessible Playground Equipment Fundraiser



Corporal Crystal Perry Presenting to Bannock Hut (Recipient of Urban Indigenous Business of the Year Award)

COMMUNITIES BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES (CBYF)

Over the past three years, Community Building Youth Futures has supported many individuals between the ages of 15-30 in Portage la Prairie and the surrounding area. 2023 marked the wrap up of the CBYF pilot.

In April, CBYF was lucky enough to welcome two new youth interns: Justine and Alex. Their arrival brought fresh perspectives and enhanced the organization's capacity to make a meaningful impact in the community.

Throughout this last year, CBYF hosted and partnered with many events that engaged many youths to connect with the community they live in.

To honour Earth Day in April, CBYF hosted a paint night featuring renowned artist Ken Bighetty. Attendees were lucky enough to hear Ken share some teachings about the Medicine Wheel and the story of Turtle Island. The art piece that was created by the youth and Ken was on display at the Glesby Centre for a few weeks, showcases the artistic talents fostered by CBYF. The art is now on display at PCRC.



COMMUNITIES BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES CONT.

In July, CBYF hosted the Youth Council Fun Fest, bringing together over 30 young participants for a day of fun and community-building activities. The event featured a variety of fun stations including a photobooth and face painting, frisbee golf, giant Jenga, tug-of-war, a tent building contest, a real-life Among Us game, a three-legged race, a potato sack race, an egg race, rock painting, Twister, and chalk coloring.

October is always a vibrant month for youth engagement at CBYF, highlighted by several exciting events. Among the most popular, were Ghost Hunting and Fright at the Museum. The Ghost Hunting event drew a group of young participants to Fort la Reine Museum to search for its elusive ghost. Fright at the Museum was particularly thrilling, as we transformed a house into a Doggy Fortune Teller booth and photobooth, featuring the renowned Mystic Jones as our Doggy Fortune Teller for the evening. Mystic Jones helped engage over 100 individuals for CBYF.

In November, CBYF hosted the second annual Job Fair and Conference, organized by the dedicated CBYF Education and Employment Action Group. With invaluable support from local organizations, the event was meticulously planned and prepared, featuring over 30 employers and three engaging workshops. The event drew an impressive crowd of over 130 attendees, all eager to explore new career opportunities and gain valuable insights.



COMMUNITIES BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES CONT.

This past year, the CBYF team actively participated in a variety of workshops, trainings, and conferences to enhance their ability to support youth in Portage la Prairie and surrounding areas.

In May, three team members attended the CBYF Gathering in Prince Albert. This event was a hub of networking, collaboration, and sharing best practices among youth leaders and organizations. By participating, CBYF reaffirmed its commitment to engaging with the broader community and staying connected with fellow changemakers.

In February, CBYF attended the final Tamarack Conference in Ottawa. Here, the PCRC CBYF team had the opportunity to hear from Community Building Youth Futures teams across Canada, learning about their contributions and successes in their respective communities. They also shared the impactful events organized in Portage la Prairie over the past three years. In addition to celebrating success stories, the conference featured speakers who discussed community sustainability and strategies to empower youth to take independent action in this area.

Through these enriching experiences, the CBYF team was able to bring their knowledge that was gained to Portage and apply it in many ways, including completing the editing and updating of the Portage Resource Guide. A valuable resource, this directory serves as a comprehensive guide to local services and support available to youth in the community.

June was packed with workshops and support initiatives. CBYF organized a two-day Education and Employment Workshop Series to equip youth with essential career skills. They also funded a Pride lunch for Long Plain Pride, celebrating diversity and inclusivity. On National Indigenous Peoples Day, CBYF offered face painting to celebrate Indigenous culture. Additionally, CBYF supported Anti-Racism Week by providing art kits and contributing to the event's success, highlighting their commitment to equality and combating racism.



COMMUNITIES BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES CONT.

On September 23rd, CBYF provided technical support at a community event and distributed Indigenous Youth Wellness Kits. CBYF also facilitated the creation and decoration of Mini-Tipis. To mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th, CBYF attended the flag-raising at City Hall and participated in events at the National Residential School Museum, promoting awareness and understanding.

As the end of the CBYF pilot approached, CBYF was extremely busy. In February, they partnered with Red River College Polytech to host the exhilarating three-day Innovate to Launch event. The first day featured inspiring speeches from local stakeholders, guiding around 30 youth participants. Day two focused on entrepreneurship, giving the youth hands-on time to develop their projects. The event culminated on the third day with participants pitching their innovative ideas to a panel of judges.

Additionally, CBYF organized the impactful Second Annual Youth Mental Health Summit, a full day dedicated to workshops and activities centered on mental wellness, attended by approximately 30 individuals.

In March, CBYF concluded with an exciting End of Pilot Network lunch, celebrating and thanking our invaluable network members who supported us during the pilot phase. Additionally, CBYF achieved great success with the Regalia Grant for local youth, which was so well-received that we ran it twice to meet the high demand.

Throughout 2023, CBYF tirelessly pursued approval for the Youth Hub, a much-needed initiative designed to provide direct support services for youth transitioning into adulthood. In December, CBYF participated in a crucial meeting with potential funders to discuss the hub's details. By January, CBYF swiftly initiated follow-up efforts, submitting a comprehensive application by mid-month. PCRC is excited to hear back on the application soon.



REACHING HOME

Reaching Home had an active year in our community helping to house folks, and support our vulnerable population is accessing many other needed services.

We were fortunate to receive an Indigenous funding stream that allowed us the opportunity to rent urgent use suites to support clients until a longer-term rental option became available. We titled the funding stream “Beezhigoobi” which translates to ‘Be at Home’. We rented a room from CMHA, as well as two suites from a private landlord to meet client needs. This funding, although short term, made an impact in at least 12 folks’ lives. Some highlights include immediate housing upon rehab discharge, as well as reunification of a family with a child in care.

We ran the Flocking Flamingo Fundraiser for the second year. This fundraiser is a great way to spread community awareness of our program and supplement our income for client needs. It should be noted that food security in the community is one of the biggest areas of need for our clients.

The Reaching Home Team attended a virtual homelessness conference, and took training around toxic drug poisoning, Naloxone, Mental Health First Aid, and ASIST, which is suicide awareness and support. Members of the team attended the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness conference in person in Halifax.



REACHING HOME CONTINUED

The team continued with their learning by attending case management courses, and online courses through St. John's Ambulance. Reaching Home supported the Men's shed by providing a staff to host the gatherings until the torch could be passed on. Our Community Auntie kept the community cupboards stocked with food security funding.

We received several donations, including some hygiene supplies from Pharmasave, and dental hygiene kits from the Manitoba Dental Association. We received help from the local Soup Kitchen who generously put bagged lunches aside to distribute to clients from our office when the soup kitchen is closed.

In June, we participated in the Indigenous Peoples Day by helping with Tipi set up. The team stood alongside the Bear Clan for the Canada Day Festivities at Stride place, and ran the BBQ at the event, where proceeds were split between the two programs.

We partnered with the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network for STBBI testing events in the community throughout the year and attended the Youth Mental Health Day by providing debriefing staff. Some folks that we support were able to attend a day of Healing through Wa-Say in Winnipeg for survivors of residential school. Reaching Home proudly helped to support 56 individuals to find and maintain housing this year.



HOUSING INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

The Housing Intensive Case Management team is dedicated to supporting individuals and families struggling with homelessness or housing instability through personalized, client-centered care. This includes conducting in-depth assessments of each client's housing barriers and developing tailored housing stability plans. Ongoing case management is provided through regular check-ins, home visits, and resource coordination to ensure clients receive continuous support.

In November 2023, the team attended the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) conference, enhancing their knowledge of best practices in housing stability and homelessness prevention. Insights gained from the conference further improved the team's approach to supporting clients and collaborating with community partners. The team also completed training courses provided by CTRI (Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute) to enhance their skills in trauma-informed care, de-escalation skills, and housing support strategies. Additionally, the team has completed WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) training, equipping them with tools to support clients in developing personal recovery plans and enhancing their overall well-being.

The team continues to build and maintain strong relationships with landlords, property managers, and housing agencies. They advocate for clients during the housing application process, lease negotiations, and dispute resolution, maximizing opportunities for securing stable housing. Tenancy education and financial literacy support are also provided to ensure long-term housing stability for clients.

Additionally, the team helps clients navigate various resources, including rental and utility assistance, employment services, and mental health support. By addressing key barriers such as a negative past rental history, the team ensures that clients access the necessary financial supports and benefits to sustain their housing.

HOUSING INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

Through close collaboration with landlords and housing providers, the team has strengthened community partnerships, creating a growing network of landlords willing to offer affordable housing options. Housing Intensive Case Managers mediate landlord-tenant issues to prevent evictions, reinforcing trust and engagement with housing providers. Intensive Case Managers provide our most vulnerable housing participants with ongoing support and often daily check in's to maintain housing.

In cases of housing crises, emergency interventions and rapid rehousing support are provided, while the team advocates for clients within social services, legal systems, and other agencies. Comprehensive data tracking and reporting ensure compliance with program guidelines and provide measurable housing outcomes.

Impact and Outcomes (Fiscal Year 2023)

- The Housing Intensive Case Management team successfully assisted 4 households in securing stable housing and supported 4 additional participants with rapid rehousing between October and March.
- Through partnerships with landlords and property managers, the team expanded access to housing options and built a network of housing providers.
- Early interventions, mediation, and support services led to a reduction in eviction rates and housing loss.
- Engagement with landlords through consistent case management has fostered a more trusting and reliable relationship between housing providers and the program.



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

As we reflect on the past year, our community engagement efforts have thrived with purpose and commitment. From April 2023 to June 2023, we initiated several plans and achieved significant milestones, setting a strong foundation for the year ahead.

Summer Solstice (April to June 2023):

During the early months of our fiscal year, we made notable strides:

PUIPC was invited to give a presentation on the topic of “Residential Schools” with the Portage Community Revitalization Corporation staff, held at the National Indian Residential School Museum.

Approval was granted for a Canada Summer Student to support our efforts as a PUIPC Assistant, enhancing our capacity for impactful community initiatives.

Red Dress Day presentations on May 5th to over 120 students at North Memorial Elementary, in collaboration with CBYF, Portage Bear Clan, and Noozhek.

The PUIPC Coordinator made significant contributions including while attending Manitoba Education's Indigenous Education Policy Framework presentation and organizing cultural initiatives at William Morton High School's Cultural Days.

June was marked by an energetic celebration of Indigenous Day, together with the Portage Friendship Centre, PUIPC assisted with activities like tipi building, traditional teachings and storytelling.



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

Autumn Equinox (July to September 2023):

As we transitioned into the autumn months, our dedication continued to shine:

We played a pivotal role in Canada Day Celebrations by distributing Indigenous cards and supporting Ajiidimoo Aki, Ground Squirrel (Our community Mascot), promoting cultural celebration and awareness.

The Suta Kachicha (PUIPC) coalition led efforts in engaging PUIPC members and community, reviewing the Suta Kachicha by-law, and strategizing for coalition growth.

Suta Kachicha supported significant cultural events including organizing the Land-based Indigenous Day where there were over 125 community members. The placement of the Indigenous Language Welcome Sign at RRC underscored our commitment to promoting culture in our community.

Suta Kachicha presented over 500 orange t-shirts to all of the day care children in Portage La Prairie. In spirit of Orange Shirt Day, Suta Kachicha Coordinator facilitated a smudging ceremony at McCain Foods Portage la Prairie.

Suta Kachicha was a part of the Truth and Reconciliation event hosted by the City of Portage la Prairie. The Suta Kachicha Coordinator participated in the opening ceremonies, and walked with members of the community for the 'Every Child Matters' march.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

Winter Solstice (October to December 2023):

The latter part of the year was characterized by strategic planning and community engagement:

Suta Kachicha Coordinator participated in the Grand Entry and Flag Raising for the Indigenous Veterans Powwow.

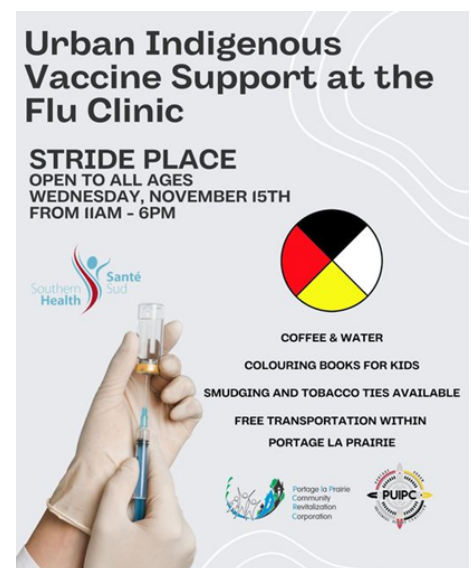
Suta Kachicha provided Urban Indigenous Vaccine Support at the Southern Health – Sante Sud – Flue Clinic.

Suta Kachicha's Ajidimoo Aki attended the Santa Clause Parade, handing out candy and spreading holiday cheer.

Suta Kachicha Coordinator helped with the Ajiidimoo Aki Earth Day event planning.

Suta Kachicha Coordinator assisted with Malanka (Ukrainian Celebration) planning.

A pivotal moment was with the City passing the bylaw to change the coalition's name from Portage Urban Indigenous Peoples Coalition (PUIPC) to Suta Kachicha (meaning Stronger Together).



LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

Anti-Racism Week (June 5-10)

The Portage la Prairie LIP organized a cricket exhibition match between a local team and the U20 team from the Manitoba Cricket Association. This was the third match the two teams have played, with our local team having won one, lost one, and drawn the other. The sport of cricket is very popular among newcomers and we hope that by hosting these exhibition matches that we demonstrate the growing desire for a dedicated space for matches and tournaments to be hosted in the community. In keeping with the community's goal of making cricket available, the LIP successfully applied for \$4,950 through a grant provided by ParticipAction. The grant was used to deliver a series of workshops through local coaches to kids interested in cricket, ranging from 6-14 years old.

We also hosted an event we called International Grub Hub Night, which featured cuisine from India and the Philippines made from local caterers. Guests were able to choose from a variety of dishes with the goal of having people experience and appreciate the different types of food that are now available in our community.

To cap off this year's Anti-Racism Week, we held a March for Change from the National Indigenous Residential School Museum to City Hall. Along the way, marchers were asked to contribute their voice to a banner that had been erected, indicating their reasons for supporting anti-racist practices and their desire for change in the community.

LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

The Portage LIP was proud to have been selected to host a Citizenship Ceremony on Canada Day at the Rotary Duck Pond at Island Park. About 25 people from around the region received their citizenship at a beautiful ceremony and location that showed off some of the amenities available in our community. Several dignitaries were in attendance, including our (at the time) newly elected Member of Parliament, who was attending as his first official event in office.

LIP was proud to have supported Pride at Long Plain First Nation, as well as a celebration of Diwali, a festival of lights, for which we secured an additional \$2,000 in funding. We also worked closely with the local Ukrainian community to support Malanka, a celebration of the New Year which was held in partnership with the Portage Friendship Centre as the organizers explicitly wanted to incorporate Indigenous understanding into the celebration. We partnered with the Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations to host the Manitoba Small Centre Gathering in the nearby community of Keeshkeemaquah. The conference was a two-day event with participating agencies from around the province, highlighted by a tour of the National Residential School Museum.



LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

In an effort to foster inclusive and forward-thinking strategies for our community, we held a Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope (PATH) planning session with the Immigrant Advisory Table and the PLIP Council. PATH is a person-centered planning and goal-setting tool that helps communities and organizations envision a positive future and develop actionable steps to achieve it. This session was particularly significant as it brought together diverse voices and perspectives from our immigrant community, ensuring that their needs and aspirations are integrated into our future plans. By engaging in this collaborative and visionary process, we aim to build a more inclusive, supportive, and vibrant community where everyone, regardless of their background, can thrive. The insights and ideas generated during this session will guide our initiatives, helping us create a more welcoming environment for all newcomers

Recognition and Awards

At the Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala, we proudly supported the Outstanding Contribution to the Community by a Newcomer award. This prestigious accolade recognizes the significant impact that newcomers have on our community through their dedication, innovation, and community involvement. By sponsoring this award, we aim to celebrate and highlight the invaluable contributions of immigrants who enrich our social, cultural, and economic landscape. Honoring these individuals not only acknowledges their achievements but also inspires others to engage actively and positively within the community. Our support for this award underscores our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where newcomers feel valued and empowered to make meaningful contributions.

LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

Recognizing the importance of community support and representation, we played a key role in the formation of the Association of Nigerians in Portage la Prairie and the Filipino Association of Portage la Prairie. These associations provide vital platforms for their members to connect, share resources, and celebrate their cultural heritage. By assisting in their establishment, we aimed to empower these communities, fostering a sense of belonging and mutual support. Our involvement included offering guidance, facilitating initial meetings, and helping navigate organizational logistics. These associations are now instrumental in promoting cultural understanding, organizing community events, and advocating for the needs of their members. Supporting the formation of these groups is part of our broader commitment to enhancing community cohesion and ensuring that all cultural groups in Portage la Prairie have the opportunity to thrive and contribute to the vibrant tapestry of our city.

In our ongoing effort to address and support mental health within our community, we supported a free showing of a documentary focused on youth mental health, with a particular emphasis on the challenges faced by newcomer youth. This documentary provided valuable insights into the unique mental health struggles experienced by young immigrants, who often navigate complex cultural adjustments and the stress of resettlement. This initiative underscored our commitment to promoting mental well-being, reducing stigma, and providing support for vulnerable populations, ensuring that all youth have access to the resources and understanding they need to thrive.

LOCAL IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP (LIP)

Grassroots Market

We were thrilled to host the Grassroots Market - Women in AgriCulture, an event dedicated to showcasing second-stage products crafted by women in our community, with a special focus on those from ethnocultural backgrounds. This market provided a platform for female entrepreneurs to display and sell their agricultural products, which had been further processed and refined into market-ready goods. By highlighting the talents and creativity of these women, the event aimed to empower them economically and socially, offering them greater visibility and opportunities for business growth. Participants included a diverse group of women who shared their unique cultural perspectives through their products, contributing to a rich and varied marketplace. The Grassroots Market not only celebrated the contributions of women in agriculture but also fostered community connections and supported the local economy. This initiative aligns with our commitment to promoting inclusivity, entrepreneurship, and the recognition of the valuable roles that women from all backgrounds play in our community.



INDIGENOUS SENIORS RESOURCE COORDINATOR

The Indigenous Seniors Resource program is dedicated to helping seniors live at home longer. Throughout the year, we provided monthly gatherings where all Indigenous seniors are invited to get together, socialize, and have a feast. We would often have a presentation from someone in the community who can provide a service to help the elders, while often hearing from the seniors themselves about what sort of help they need. The Portage la Prairie Regional Library hosted many of our events and we continue to have a great relationship. We appreciate them providing a space for us to meet each month.

Food insecurity continues to be a major issue for our seniors and we are doing what we can to help, whether that's with a periodic gift card, a donation from one of our partners, or help with budgeting, transportation, and more. There are often unforeseen barriers that negatively affect an elder's ability to stay healthy.

During the Summer Solstice and Autumn Equinox, there was a focus on helping clients get to where they needed to go. For some, it was to medical appointments, for others, it was to various conferences and Sundances around the province. We supported seniors who wished to pay their respects at a cemetery while also providing some taxi vouchers to help others get groceries. Locally, there were many events that we helped our clients attend -- for example, Red Dress Day on May 5th and National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st.



INDIGENOUS SENIORS RESOURCE COORDINATOR CONTINUED

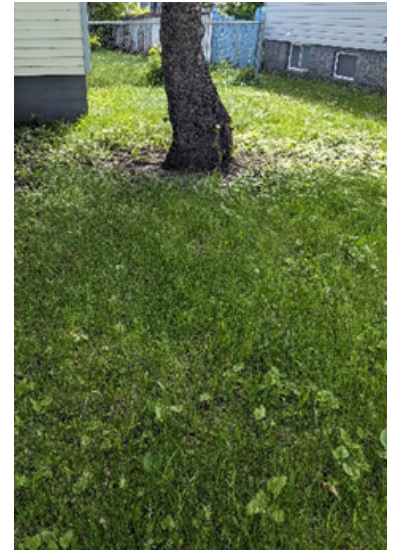
We work directly with our clients and this includes making sure they can live comfortably at home. We have provided lawn care, gutter removal, and other miscellaneous chores around the home that make things easier.

We visit with our seniors and try to help them however we can while connecting them to opportunities to share their cultural skills. We aided clients in getting their status cards while some elders helped us put together many grieving bundles. In another situation, an elder helped teach Indigenous History classes at Portage Collegiate and participated in Fort la Reine School's Cultural Day.

When it comes to education, the coordinator spent much time taking courses to learn more on how to support the seniors. This included Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education, Learning Michif, and other case-management courses.

Into the winter, many seniors were faced with the issue of snow making it difficult to leave the home. The coordinator was often out brushing off vehicles, de-icing walkways, and shovelling driveways. We connected with some clients who were able to help with the snow removal as they wanted to give back to the community. We continued to provide rides to and from grocery stores as the snow often made it impossible for some clients to walk safely outside.

In early 2024, the new coordinator began reaching out to new elders who were not connected with the program previously. Our goal is to reach out to more community resources who can help us support our clients. We want our elders to maintain their independent living status as they get older. With age comes barriers, and we are committed to help the Indigenous seniors of Portage overcome those barriers in life.

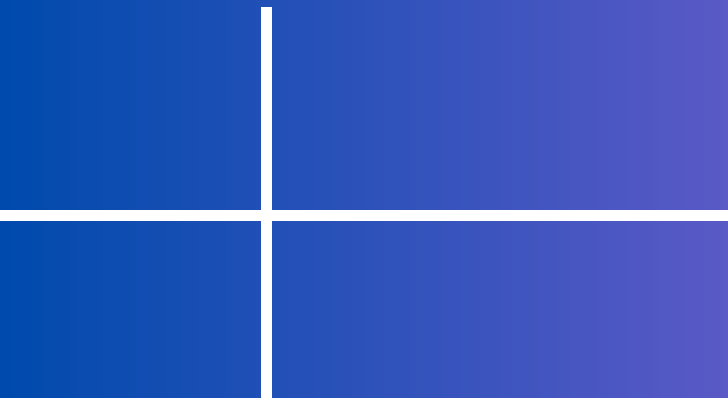


COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Portage Community Revitalization Corporation would like to thank the following funders for their continued support, guidance, and cooperation. Our work would not be possible without you. Thank you.

- City of Portage la Prairie
- CCEDNet
- Government of Manitoba
- Government of Canada
- Tamarack Institute
- Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation
- Southern Health/Sante Sud

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our numerous community partners. Due to the extensive list of invaluable collaborators we're fortunate to work with, we're unable to include every name in this AGM report. While we would like to individually acknowledge all contributions, the constraints of this report mean we can't include everyone. However, please know that your efforts and partnership are deeply appreciated.



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