**Catherine Wilson Foundation**

 **Annual Report**

**2018**

The Catherine Wilson Foundation was established in 1998 (incorporation date of Dec. 11 1998) by Catherine Wilson and associates. Ms. Wilson was a high school teacher for over 35 years at Sarnia Collegiate Institute & Technical School (S.C.I.T.S.) located in Sarnia, Ontario. She was one of the first financial sponsors in support of the recruitment of doctors to the Sarnia area. She supported vision care in Sarnia as a result of her own experience with vision issues. Upon her death the balance of her estate was donated to her Foundation with the board of directors acting as the trustees of her estate.

**Vision Statement**

The Catherine Wilson Foundation will promote a sense of community by being a champion to both individuals and organizations in reaching their full potential.

**Mission Statement**

The Catherine Wilson Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life of the citizens of Sarnia Lambton by providing scholarships and agency grants.

**Values**

* Integrity and accountability
* Caring and compassion
* Responsiveness to the community
* Empowerment of others

**Fields of Interest**

* Education, particularly Sarnia Collegiate Institute & Technical School
* Children, Youth and Family
* Health, Social and Community Services

**Presidents Message**

*Again, as Board President, it is my distinct honour and privilege to report to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of The Catherine Wilson Foundation on the work undertaken by the Board this past year.*

*We, as a Board, would hope that Catherine Wilson would approve of the support her Foundation has provided agencies within the County. The programs that are supported are primarily focused on the delivery of service to youth and education; by providing grants to those agencies, church organizations and education facilities we feel we are meeting the intention of Ms. Wilson. Those programs were and would be such a primary consideration for Catherine Wilson as an educator and member of the Sarnia Community during her lifetime.*

*As a Board, we have addressed this with a purpose of providing assistance to various agencies that would, in turn, assist them in addressing problems for youth and providing the extras in the education sector that are so valuable. As such, over $140,000.00 has been allocated this past year to grants in support of local agencies.*

*The Board has been successful again in providing substantial grants out of the Foundation this past year, but at the same time, with the advice and guidance of Roger Warren, have been able to grow the initial capital left in the Foundation by Catherine Wilson. This is an enviable situation to be in, being able to make substantial distributions in the form of grants, but to be able, at the same time, to grow the Foundation assets for the future.*

*The Board continued to focus on assistance to secondary and post-secondary education with donations to SCITS/Great Lakes Secondary high school, in the form of support for library upgrades and most importantly, scholarships for graduates of the facility. Funding for Scholarships, for Library books and programs, and for Athletics and after School Activities all enhance the educational experience at the high school that Catherine Wilson taught at for decades.*

*A large commitment of $200,000.00 over four years to Pathways Health Centre for Children will provide a substantial boost to that agencies campaign to raise funds for the rebuild of the rehab pool on site; a unique and valuable asset within our community for the benefit of disabled children and adults.*

*Other recipients within our community all provide service to Sarnia Lambton that would please Catherine Wilson, and they are agencies and institutions that she supported in her lifetime. The Foundation is and should continue to reflect her ideals.*

*The Board continues to rely upon the services of Mary Ellen Warren to assist in the administrative function of the Foundation. Mary Ellen has developed a Web Site for the Foundation and implemented a method of accepting applications for grants through that site. We have found this to be a tremendous success in getting the word out to agencies in need and making the grant procedure extremely efficient. This year we chose a logo which now appears on our letterhead and our website.*

*The Board has also added a fifth member, Mrs. Lori Girard, who has many years’ experience in the education sector. We all appreciate what Lori brings to the table in her experience and insight.*

*The Board continues to develop strategies for satisfying grant requests that best suit the purpose of the Foundation, we look forward to expanding the impact this Foundation will have in our community.*

*My thanks to the Board Members, Executive Director Mary Ellen Warren, and all those associated with the Foundation this past year and in the future*

*June 17th, 2019*

*John Ruffilli*

*Board President.*

**Members of the Board of Directors 2018**

**William Chong** is retired from being President and owner of Haines Printing in Sarnia.

**John Ruffilli** is a practicing Sarnia Lawyer and Partner at George Murray Shipley Bell LLP.

**Dr. Gordon Warren** is a practicing Optometrist and owner of Sarnia Optometric and Sarnia Vision Centre.

**Scott McKelvie** is a retired principal from the Lambton-Kent District School Board. Being a life-long resident of Sarnia, Scott is committed to enhancing the lives of its residents.

**Laurie Girard** is a retired teacher/coach from the Lambton Kent District School Board having spent 32 years at Great Lakes Secondary School.  Born and raised in Sarnia, Laurie has been an active member of the Sarnia Lambton Sports Hall of Fame and volunteer with Sarnia-Bluewaterland Rotary Club through Art in the Park.

**Grant Recipients 2019**

Sarnia Lambton Rebound: rlounge $20,000

Community Concerns for the Medically Fragile Interactive Programs $10,000

Inn of Good Shepherd Snack Packs Program $ 5,000

Big Brothers/Big Sisters Van Rental for Camp $ 2,100

Community Law School Legal Literacy for Youth Program Development $15,000

Pathways Health Centre Pool Revitalization $50,000\*

Boys and Girls Club Backpack Program $ 7,500

Great Lakes Secondary School Scholarships $21,000

Catherine Wilson Library $18,000

 **TOTAL $141,100**

**\*Total grant is $200,000 payable over 4 years**

**Financial Statements 2018**

See attached statements as prepared by Hazlitt Steeves Harris Dunn LLP