

Community Investment Fund | Fall 2022 – Approved Projects

Seniors Outreach Services Society | \$5000

Linked Together

Linked Together is a new program that helps older adults access non-clinical services to improve their health and wellness. The program is designed to build better connections between medical care and social care in communities and to provide a personalized approach to wellness through physical activity programs, nutritional and food programs, and social programs. As part of this service, Seniors Outreach Services Society will create a specialized equipment and assistive aids lending program that will help older adults have access to a variety of equipment to help them reach their goals. The program is a great fit with Interior Savings' impact pillars of *Maintaining Mental Wellness and Social Connection with Age*. The grant will help them purchase items such as walkers and canes, gait belts, reaching aids and magnifiers.

Kamloops-Cariboo Regional Immigrants Society | \$11,000

KIS Childmind Children and Parent Connections Program

As immigrant families move outside of Kamloops and into surrounding areas for work and more affordable accommodation, they are being met with a gap in services to help them stay connected with their community. The Childmind Children and Parent Connections program aims to fill that gap and provide opportunities for parents and their children to connect with other immigrant families regardless of their physical location. With this grant, Kamloops-Cariboo Regional Immigrants Society will purchase technology to help them enable online programming that is accessible to everyone whether participating in person or online. A great fit with Interior Savings' *Maintaining Mental Wellness and Empowering Parents* impact pillars, it will provide the opportunity for families to nurture and expand their community while accessing support services tailored to their needs.

Archway Society for Domestic Peace / \$12,000

Remote Court Testimony for Vulnerable Victims of Crime

Archway Society for Domestic Peace is launching a new service to help ensure vulnerable victims of crime feel safe while providing testimony. This service will provide a solution to the long-standing lack of safety measures available at the courthouse in Vernon while removing any worry or stress that a child, youth or adult victim of crime will share the same public spaces, waiting areas or washrooms with the person who has offended against them. With the purchase of a SMART board, portable stand and camera, Archway Society for Domestic Peace will offer a secure location and peace of mind for those they serve.

Community Recreational Initiatives Society | \$9000

Adaptive Adventures Cross-Country Ski Program

To improve accessibility, support mental wellness and nurture social connections, Community Recreational Initiatives Society (CRIS) is expanding their successful Adaptive Adventures Cross-Country Ski program into the North Okanagan. With a grant from Interior Savings, CRIS will purchase sit skis and accompanying nordic skis and bindings. The equipment is intended to support those with physical disabilities, balance-related challenges and those who may find the activity intimidating or too strenuous. This adaptive equipment removes many of the barriers that people of all ages and diverse abilities have when wanting to participate in outdoor activities with friends and family.

Kamloops Food Policy Council | \$6000

Stir Maker Program

Kamloops Food Policy Council is launching the Stir Makers program which supports local food entrepreneurs with business mentorship, food safety plans, access to kitchen facilities, a storefront and a community gathering space for pop-up events to build awareness and create opportunities to showcase their products. The Stir Maker Program will help entrepreneurs to collaborate and learn from others while building their businesses. A fit with Interior Savings' *Cooperative Economy* impact pillar, the grant will help with the purchase of audio-visual technology equipment to support in person and hybrid learning and pop-up events, a photography booth, shelving for the retail space and food and beverage serving dishes.

BrainTrust Canada / \$20,782

Brain Injury Substance Use Education for Youth

BrainTrust Canada is launching a new program focused on youth and young adults, 12-30 years old, to provide interactive, community-based education on substance use, brain injury, and prevention and harm reduction strategies. The initiative will use innovative goggles that cause a person to display behaviors that are typical of individuals impaired by substances. Participants will perform simple cognitive activities with/without the goggles to help demonstrate how impaired a person is under the influence of non-prescribed substances. The grant will assist with the purchase of substance simulation goggles and supporting equipment.

Central Okanagan Hospice Association | \$7720

Children and Youth Grief and Bereavement Program

Central Okanagan Hospice Association has expanded their grief and bereavement services to include children and youth ages 5-19. This expansion fills a gap that exists in the Central Okanagan and will be provided at no cost to clients. Their diversified approach will meet children and youth where they are at in their grief and support needs. In alignment with Interior Savings' *Maintaining Mental Wellness* impact pillar, the grant will help Central Okanagan Hospice Association purchase furniture and therapy tools and games to help create a safe and supportive space for children and youth.

Kamloops and District Society for People in Motion | \$6400

Mobility Garage

Kamloops and District Society for People in Motion is launching a new mobility equipment lending program to help address a barrier that often leads to loss of social connection and impacts the mental and physical well-being of their clients. Broken brakes on walkers, missing seatbelts on wheelchairs or having to navigate flights of stairs can make safely attending appointments and social events very difficult. With a grant from Interior Savings, the Mobility Garage will loan clients quality wheelchairs, walkers and even a portable ramp to help them navigate stairs. Equipment loans will be provided on a daily or short-term basis while their clients' equipment is being repaired or replaced.