

Sussex Area Community Foundation

Sussex Area Community Foundation was established in 2004 and is located in the community of Sussex, New Brunswick. As of 2011, Sussex had a population of 4,312. As a regional foundation, however, Sussex Area Community Foundation has been dedicated to serving the people within the communities of Sussex Corner, Apohaqui, Norton, Sussex and other surrounding areas, helping a population of approximately 20,000 people and encompassing an area over of 200 square kilometers (Statistics Canada, 2013).

In the past fifteen years, the population of Sussex has primarily stayed the same. In 1996, the population of the community was 4,293. Five years later, it decreased by 2.6%, down to 4,182. However, 2006 saw another increase in population, rising 1.4% to 4,241. Similarly, population numbers rose again by 2011, where a 1.7% gain brought it to the number of residents living in Sussex today (Statistics Canada, 2013).

The Sussex Area Community Foundation has a small number of granting priorities, focusing particularly on health and education throughout their grant-making initiatives. In 2013, Sussex Area Community Foundation contributed to the Health and Wellness Program at Sussex Regional High School by distributing funds so the program could purchase five new spin bikes to add to their exercise machines. In addition, through the grants contributed by Sussex Area Community Foundation, the Health and Wellness Program has been able to purchase a Bowflex Tred Climber, adding more modern technology in their exercise program. By doing so, they hope students will be encouraged to actively engage in exercise programs on school grounds (Sussex Area Community Foundation, 2013).



Since their inception, Sussex Area Community Foundation has committed to delegating grants to student scholarships. This trend continued into 2012 and 2013. At the end of the school year, the foundation provided five scholarships valued at \$2,500 to students graduating from Sussex Regional High School to assist in the costs of post-secondary tuition. Additionally, five Fran Simpson Scholarships were awarded to high school graduates, again channeled through Sussex Area Community Foundation. Furthermore, two students received the Earl J. Cunningham Scholarship and the Steven Skaling Memorial Award, (Sussex Area Community Foundation, 2013).

Since 2004, the total assets of Sussex Area Community Foundation have grown exponentially. After it's first ten years, the foundation has total assets worth \$1,350,336 and has distributed over \$300,000 in grants. With these assets, they have been able to positively impact the residents of Sussex. This includes the recent events that occurred in May 2013, where they provided eleven grants valued at \$15,750 to distribute the local community in ways mentioned above (Sussex Area Community Foundation, 2013).

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References

Statistics Canada. (2013). *Sussex*. Accessed 27 February 2014 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>.

Sussex Area Community Foundation. (2013). *Community Connections Newsletter*. Access 27 February 2014 from <http://www.sacfi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/newsletter2013.pdf>.

Further Information

- Sussex Area Community Foundation website: <http://www.sacfi.org>.
- Fostering Sustainable Futures for Rural Regions through Philanthropy Initiative: <http://philanthropy.ruralresilience.ca>