



Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation
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The Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation donate \$90,000 to support Banff recreation programs

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BANFF – The Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation is excited to announce it is once again donating \$90,000 to the Town of Banff to ensure youth and young adults have access to recreational activities at an affordable price.

The donation will go towards a variety of recreation programs offered by the town, including \$19,000 for the town's Mountain Adventurers out of school programs, \$18,000 to fund the Summer Youth Drop-In program, and \$10,000 has been earmarked to support programs at The Basement youth drop-in centre.

The foundation has also allocated \$33,000 to the BanffLIFE Mountain Adventure program for residents between 18 and 30 years, and the Mountain Life program for the 30 plus age group. BanffLIFE and MountainLIFE offer excursions for young adults who want to get outdoors and experience mountain adventures in a guided group with their peers.

An additional \$10,000 will go towards the Town's "PAUW Pass" membership cards for all Banff residents who are 25 and younger. In 2020, the Town introduced free universal access to all town drop-in recreation programs. A pass is required to participate, and the Pauw Foundation has stepped in to cover the cost of the passes for local youth.

"We are excited to once again partner with the Town of Banff to support the delivery of recreational services at an affordable price for youth and young adults in our community. The Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation takes great pride in promoting active lifestyles for community residents and we are pleased to see the town responding to the needs of our residents to offer unique recreation programs for all," said Cathy Geisler, executive director of the Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation.

This is the second year the foundation has donated \$90,000 to the Town of Banff to support its recreational programs.

Last year, hundreds of youth and young adults took advantage of the affordable programs, including 1,228 students from Grade 5 to 8 who made use of The Basement, the town's youth drop in centre. The Mountain Adventure program was also popular last year with 227 young people participating in programs on Friday afternoons out of school. The Summer Youth Get Out program, which was a pilot project, also had a successful season with 339 young people in Grade 7 and 8 participating in weekly activities, such as soccer, basketball and skateboarding.

"Our community is so fortunate to receive this generous gift from the Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation," said Alison Gerrits, Director of Community Services at the Town of Banff. "We know how important recreation is to physical and social wellbeing and this funding support removes barriers for children, youth and young adults to participate by offering these programs at low or no cost. We're absolutely thrilled to have this partnership."

Quick Facts:

- \$10,000 for the Town's drop-in recreation programming initiative, specifically to cover the administrative fee for producing "PAUW cards" for Banff residents, ages 25 and younger
- \$19,000 towards Mountain Adventurers out of school programs for Grades 4–8
- \$10,000 towards The Basement youth drop-in programs for Grades 5-8
- \$18,000 to fund the Summer Youth Drop-In program for young teens
- \$8,000 to provide affordable Mountain Life adventure excursions for residents who are 30 or older
- \$25,000 to provide affordable BanffLIFE Mountain Adventure excursions for those who are between 18-30 years of age.

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