

# Community Matters

**Empowering Creativity: Donors Help Bring Dream Weaver Art Project to Life**

Each year, the Thunder Bay Community Foundation provides funding to deserving organizations in the Thunder Bay and District areas. The Canadian National Institute for the Blind received \$5,500 from the Dr. S. Penny Petrone Fund and the John Rafferty Memorial Fund at the Thunder Bay Community Foundation. The funding was used for their Dream Weaver Art Project.

The project gave CNIB the opportunity to hire a professional artist to work with members of the sight loss community. 15 CNIB participants who are blind or low vision were able to take part in the creation of beautiful works of art. This not only expanded participants understanding and engagement with art, but their idea of what's possible with arts and self expression. This was a therapeutic, cathartic and growth-centered experience for all involved.

“As a person who also participated in the weaving alongside volunteering, opportunities like this allow us to participate in something (art) that many times is not something we can access in other places in our communities, due to barriers and inaccessibility. Just because we are blind, does not mean we cannot create art. Art doesn't just look one way. It's in the eye of the beholder. I believe we as blind people have the ability to share a different perspective through art, that other artists might not be able to share. We just need to be able to have opportunities to create,” comments a volunteer from the program.



Participants got to display their artwork at Goods and Co Collaborative Gallery

“Thank you to the Thunder Bay Community Foundation for their generous support. Their grant has made it possible for our project to come to life, and we are truly grateful for their commitment to our community,” says Jenny Foster, Senior Manager of Foundation Partnerships at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

The purpose of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation is to inspire, promote and facilitate philanthropy to strengthen and support the ever-changing needs of the District of Thunder Bay. We connect people, families and companies with causes where they can nurture their passion, build our community and create a legacy. The Thunder Bay Community Foundation is still accepting grant applications until **October 14th**. Applicants can apply online for funding by visiting [www.tbcf.org/grants](http://www.tbcf.org/grants).

“I would like to thank all of our donors who support the Thunder Bay Community Foundation. Without them, we could not do what we do. We strongly encourage organizations who need funding to apply for a grant this Fall,” says Mike Belliveau, Chair of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation.

If you would like to help make a difference in our community through the Thunder Bay Community Foundation, please contact Athena Kreiner at [akreiner@tbcf.org](mailto:akreiner@tbcf.org) or (807) 627-0512. We would be more than happy to share information on how you can make a positive impact for people in our community.

## Passionate about our Community?

Consider starting a Fund at the Thunder Bay Community Foundation!

- Support organizations and areas of need that are important to you.
- Give students the gift of education by establishing a scholarship or bursary.

Visit [tbcf.org](http://tbcf.org) or call (807) 475-7279 for more information