**Community Initiatives: $121,240**

**Youth Initiative Grants**
- Village of Cache Creek: Youth Softball

**Emerging Needs**
- Village of Cache Creek: Cache Creek Flood Relief

**Regional Initiatives**
- bc211: Online Resource Directory
- Interior Health Authority: Cook It, Try It, Like It Program
- School District 73: Health Promoting Schools Program

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**Cache Creek / Ashcroft / Logan Lake Community Fund 2016: $54,000**

**All That Kids Can Be**
- School District 74 - Desert Hills Triathlon Club: Desert Hills Triathlon Club
- School District 74 - Desert Sands Community School: Active After School Program
- School District 74 - Cache Creek Elementary School: Art After School Program
- School District 74 - Desert Sands Community School: Art After School Program
- Winding Rivers Arts and Performance Society: Fine Arts Camp
- South Cariboo Elizabeth Fry Society: Playground Equipment

**Strong Communities**
- Logan Lake Wellness Health and Youth Society: Operational
- Winding Rivers Arts and Performance Society: Arsenic and Old Lace Performance
2016 Impact – Ashcroft School Vending Machine

Walking down the hallway at Desert Sands Community School (DSCS), it might look like any other vending machine. But, instead of rows stocked with Snickers and Doritos, this machine sells healthy snacks like peanuts and protein bars. And the proceeds? They go to the school’s athletics program.

“We were looking for ways to make the athletics program more sustainable and take the burden off families,” says Colleen Minnabarriet, Principal of DSCS in Ashcroft.

Sports teams can be tough on parents’ wallets. In September, not only are they purchasing back-to-school supplies and sneakers, but it’s also when soccer starts. The same goes for Christmas, when basketball tournaments align with putting gifts under the tree.

“It’s a very expensive time of year,” Colleen says. “It’s constantly going to parents and asking them for $20, for $40, for $60.” Those dollars add up.

“What I really worry about is kids who don’t come out,” Colleen says. “They don’t play because it’s too much money, that’s what worries me.”

Colleen’s concern comes from the vital role extracurricular activities play in child development.

“We get so much value out of kids playing sports. It’s unbelievable,” Colleen says. “The commitment they have to their school, to the team. The leadership they learn, competition. It’s just so positive.”

It’s why a group of parents came up with the plan for the vending machine — something that goes a long way in ensuring no child misses out on playing sports. United Way invested capital funding, allowing DSCS to buy the machine. Before United Way stepped in, other options had been exhausted.

“We actually tried to source out some used machinery, it was very hard to find,” Colleen says. “Then we looked for a lease but because they treat it like a franchise, it was $7,000 and you still don’t own the equipment.”

With help from a parent volunteer, the vending machine is up and running, providing healthy snacks in the halls of DSCS. With nothing left to do but stock it each week, the machine will collect funds for the school’s athletics program for years to come.

“It’s a big hit,” Colleen says.

Community Impact Council

At United Way, the money raised in a community stays there and is invested by Community Impact Council members who serve as local United Way champions and donors. They let us know emerging community issues, emergencies, connect us with leaders and resources and give us context when working locally.

“I joined the Community Impact Council because strengthening the health of communities comes from investment and ongoing support in the community. The structure of the Council ensures the strong voice of community in selecting investments that will make a difference, and the stories told by those accessing and providing these services is proof that these investments have made and continue to make a critical difference. Join us in building strong communities!

— Judy Sturm, Interior Health Authority

Cache Creek / Ashcroft / Logan Lake Community Impact Council 2016