



THRESHOLD
HOUSING SOCIETY

**CREATE
BRIGHTER
FUTURES
FOR YOUTH.**

Rotary Education Pursuit Fund
Fall 2022

Background

In 2021, the Rotary Club of Oak Bay initiated the Threshold Education Pursuit Fund at Threshold Housing Society, with a goal to support five youth to attend post-secondary and employment training over an 18-month period. Threshold Housing Society prevents adult homelessness by providing safe housing, support services, and community to at-risk youth, aged 15-24 years old.

Threshold empowers youth by assisting them with developing life skills, whether it is learning how to cook, budget, create a resume, or navigating the sometimes daunting application process for employment training or post-secondary education. A common narrative among the youth we serve at Threshold is that they did not think it was possible to complete high school, attend post-secondary, or find a full-time job, especially before receiving support. We know that if more youth had access and the means to attend post-secondary, they would! Not only would this help youth have brighter futures, but it would also benefit the broader community.

The initial funding amount of \$10,000 was received in Summer 2021, thanks to the Rotary Club of Oak Bay and its foundation.

Pursuing Brighter Futures

In the 2021-2022 pilot of the Education Pursuit Fund, funds impacted youth in two ways:

Tuition and Fees

- Tuition towards a nursing degree
- High school upgrading
- High school equivalency diploma
- Personal Trainer education and certification (two youth)
- Community Mental Health Worker program at Camosun College

Supplies

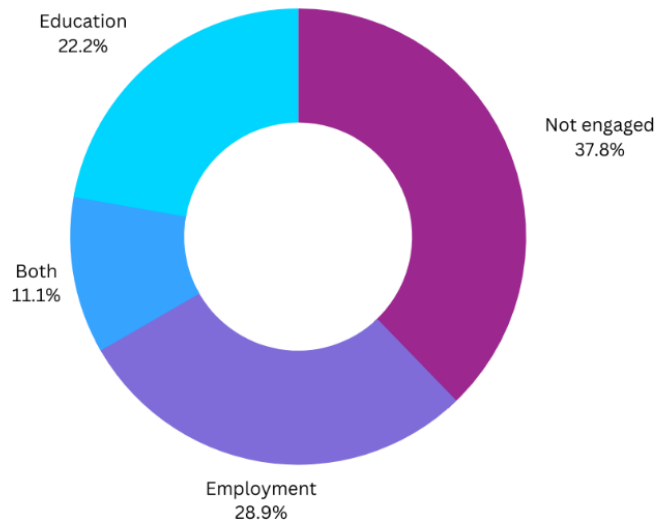
- 8 Laptops/tablets for various youth to access online courses (particularly crucial even as the pandemic wanes)
- Textbooks for Auto Mechanics program at Camosun College
- School supplies for 2 youth, including notebooks, pens, pencils, sticky notes, and a pencil case

In total, nine youth have been supported in pursuing their education and employment goals thanks to the Rotary Education Pursuit Fund. The average expenditure per youth was \$1,111.

Impact

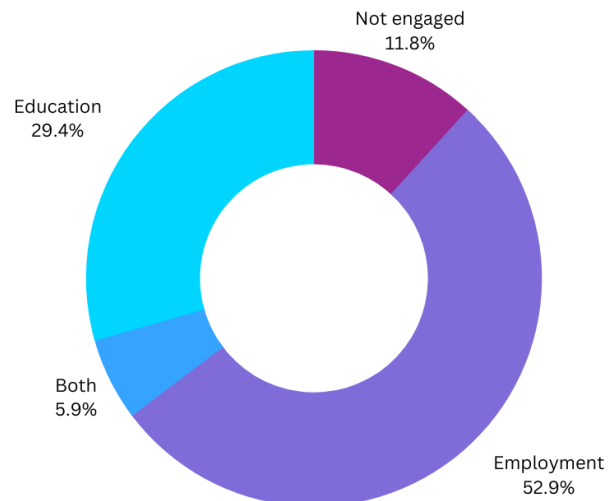
In 2021 when the Rotary Education Pursuit Fund was first funded, **28 of the 45 youth (62%) were employed, pursuing education, or both.**

Youth engaged in education or employment, 2021



After one year of funding, 88% of Threshold youth are engaged in employment, education, or both.

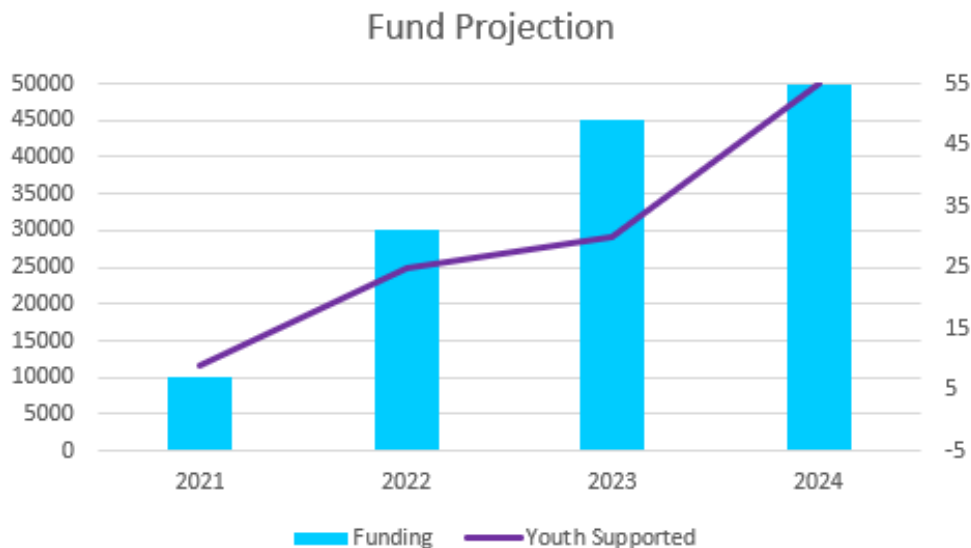
Youth engaged in education or employment, 2022



Looking Forward

With continuing support from the Rotary Club of Oak Bay and its foundation, and with potential additional funding, it is possible that every youth who accesses Threshold Housing Society could receive financial support to reach their educational and employment goals.

Threshold Housing Society currently supports 55 youth in Greater Victoria, with plans to expand services. While there will always be youth at Threshold Housing who aren't ready to pursue education or employment, if we presume that 90% will, the need to continue growing the fund becomes apparent. The graph below demonstrates one possible future vision, with the expectation that as youth hear about this opportunity and the difference it is making for others, they will be inspired to participate.



Engagement

It was an early intention of the fund to ensure that Threshold Housing Society, and the youth we support, are actively engaging with Rotary Club of Oak Bay members. While the lingering pandemic has made that somewhat challenging, we would be happy to supply more frequent updates, to explore mentoring between club members and youth, to promote donations to the fund by directing people to the Rotary Club of Oak Bay Foundation website, and to further develop this meaningful relationship.