

VitalNews



Donor Profile: Gregory J. Niwa

Gregory J. Niwa is a proud Board member of the CFSEA and owner (along with his brother Bruce) of Niwa Crane Ltd. Last year, they celebrated their 40th anniversary providing crane services in Medicine Hat, Southern Alberta, and Southeastern Saskatchewan.

Greg recalls: "I started the company in 1977 with one crane. Two and a half years later we had nine cranes. Over the 40 years we have always called Medicine Hat home even though we were partners in Northstar Crane in Calgary for 11 years."

Niwa Crane believes in giving back to the community that has nurtured their family

and business. Greg and his family proudly established The Niwa Family Fund with the CFSEA when his father passed in 2001.

A champion of his community, Greg loves the local impact and the permanency that the CFSEA offers its donors. "It's a win-win for the region. As you support the work that local charities are doing, you support the people of this community and they, in turn, are better able to support local business. The Foundation has a lasting impact that continues to respect and honour the wishes of its donors."

Greg's favourite quote is from Warren Buffet: "Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." True to his word, the Niwa Family Fund has planted countless trees.

The many causes they've supported include the expansion of Camp McCoy at Elkwater, support of the McCoy High School Scholarship Program, YMCA, Food Bank, 4H Clubs, Cancer Relay for Life and more. The most notable contribution from their fund launched the building of a new hockey rink at Acadia Valley (where the Niwa Boys grew up).

After 40 years, Niwa Crane continues to grow. "We must be doing something right because 50% of our customers have been using us for over 25 years."

Niwa Crane projects can be found all over the Gas City. "In the last 40 years, every major project that has been constructed in this city, we've lifted something on that job. We lift process skids, piping, compressor engines, steel, grain handling systems, modular homes, anything."

Niwa Crane Ltd. played a role in developing the Medicine Hat skyline as they erected the Saamis Tepee - one of the city's most recognized landmarks.

With the plan to pass on his business to his son Brandon, Niwa Crane is in good hands moving into the next 40 years and they plan to continue supporting the CFSEA's vision of vibrant, healthy, caring communities - today, tomorrow, forever!

**We are so proud of our Board member and
Community Leadership Committee Chair Tracy
Stroud!**

Not only did Tracy give birth to a healthy baby boy named Orion in April, but two weeks later she was also awarded the Women In Business Inspire Award for her work as a community leader and innovative thinker.

Join us in extending a big **Congratulations** to Tracy!



Philanthropy: What will your legacy be?

Many of us make charitable donations. We do it on a regular basis, by making an annual gift to a charity that's close to our heart or more spontaneously by responding to a request for donations to aid the victims of disaster.

Sometimes we do it simply by giving to various charities as part of their holiday campaign. Philanthropy, however, is more strategic. It is about establishing a long-term plan for giving, setting out the goals of an individual or a family and working to make that vision a reality. It can be a very personal plan that reflects the donor's convictions, beliefs and values. It involves a process of governance, monitoring and assessment.

Why Do We Give?

What motivates you to give back to the community? Maybe there were events in your personal history that affected you or members of your family and helped shape your philanthropic intentions. In some cases, individuals are driven to give by a sense of social responsibility. Whatever your reason, it may continue to evolve over time and you may want to build enough flexibility into your plan to ensure that your gifts continue to reflect your motivation.

Building a Philanthropic Plan

Consider the charitable donations you made in the past. If you have an interest in

charitable giving, could your interest develop into something more strategic? There are many questions to consider, including: What kind of charitable organizations would you like to benefit? How much time are you willing to give to this endeavour? Do you wish to make it a long-term commitment?

One concern that advisors note from their conversations with clients is the idea of giving away too much. It can be difficult to assess the impact that a large donation or an ongoing series of donations can have on personal resources, future income and family legacy. A comprehensive financial plan, developed with input from professional advisors, can help you see the effect that a gift, or a longer-term pattern of giving, will have on your financial picture. It may assist you in determining the amount and timing of your gifts to ensure the optimal outcome.

Whether you are just setting out to build a structured plan for your giving, to allow your existing plan to evolve and grow or merely exploring the alternatives, the journey is likely to be challenging and highly rewarding.

Todd O'Reilly
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RBC Wealth Management Services provided source material for this article.



Our monthly newsletter has been named "**Vital News**"!

Congratulations to Lisa Kowalchuk, who submitted the name.

Lisa generously donated her CFSEA prize pack but we insisted she keep a CFSEA hand-crafted mug!

Once again, we'd like to extend A **HUGE** thank you to everyone who submitted suggestions and ideas for our monthly newsletter name.

Upcoming News and Events

Mothers' Day - May 13th
Heritage Club Reception - May 29th
Founders Day Picnic - June 8th
**Medicine Hat Community Volunteer
Appreciation Event - June 12th**



Grant Recipient Impact Story: Miywasin Society

In the Fall of 2016, the Miywasin Society received a grant for their Youth Development Program. Here's a touching story they sent us:

During Healing and Reconciliation week, one youth spent the week helping to take care of the Elders. Her excitement was palpable and her behaviour and outlook on life improved immensely after this experience. When she recently graduated from high school, she asked to take some of her grad photos at the Miywasin Centre. She has since become a volunteer for our Society, helping the next generation and paying it forward.

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