



GRAND TRAVERSE REGIONAL  
community foundation

# Meet Our Board of Directors

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The Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation's Board of Directors is a voluntary governing body comprised of community members from across our five-county region covering Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau Counties.

## Antrim

Laura Asiala  
Matt Davis  
Rich Hannan  
Royce Ragland  
Kim Ranger  
Joe Short

## Kalkaska

Rachael Birgy  
Cash Cook  
Andi Halpin  
Cari Jo Roberts  
Janet Sieting  
Troy Stobert

## Benzie

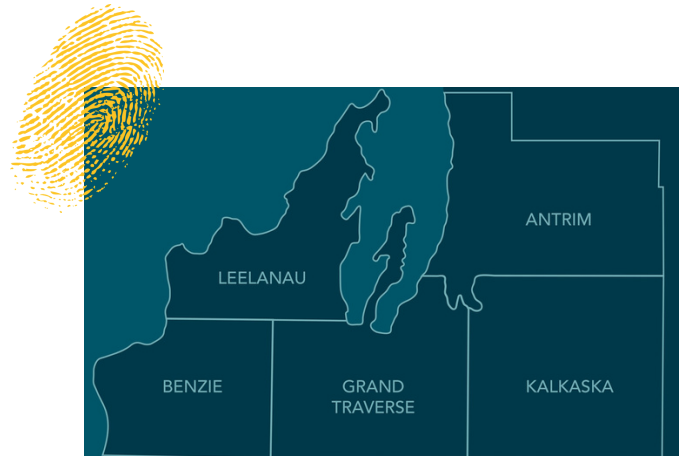
Linda Kehr  
Carol Marsh  
Roger Perry  
Amy Schindler

## Leelanau

Terry Beamsley  
Sara Brubaker  
JoAnne Cook  
Ranve Martinson  
Larry Nelson

## Grand Traverse

Marty Colburn  
Annie DeVries  
Beth Dunckel  
Amy Jun  
Damian Lockhart  
Suzanne Miller Allen  
Dennis Pearsall  
Jerry Ring  
Bill Smith





**LAURA ASIALA** is the Chief Sustainability Officer of WholeWorks, LLC, a consulting company with an internationally recognized Sustainable Business professional certification program, for which she is the Lead Facilitator. She has 35 years of international business experience, and formerly served Dow Corning Corporation (now part of Dow, Inc.) as the Director of Communications and Citizenship; PYXERA Global as Vice President; and Council of the Great Lakes Region as Senior Director. She is a board director for the National Writers Series in Traverse City and an elder for the First Presbyterian Church of Elk Rapids. Laura lives in her hometown of Elk Rapids.

**TERRY BEAMSLEY**, *vice-chair*, has extensive experience in the nonprofit sector. She has been a consultant and senior leader, working with a variety of organizations including the Community Foundation of Monroe County, the City of Monroe, River Raisin National Battlefield Foundation, Toledo Museum of Art, and The Henry Ford museum, among others. She is an active member of the Traverse City Rotary Club, a volunteer with the Traverse City Film Festival, and serves on the Michigan state board of Eversight, a national eye bank. Her passion lies in building better communities through the creation of collaborative systems.



**RACHAEL BIRGY** has spent her career working with children and families in educational environments. As a Board of Education Trustee for Northwest Education Services (formerly TBAISD) and President of the Kalkaska School Board, she is immersed in the local education system. Rachael has also worked on early childhood development programs, including the Rotary Born to Read program and Read Aloud. She is currently working on a project that trains students to provide reading services to families.

**SARA BRUBAKER** runs the private legal practice Sara W. Brubaker Law. Sara is the former Leelanau County Prosecutor and Prosecutor for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Sara is a founding board member of Munson Healthcare Foundations and past board member of the Leelanau Children's Center and Grand Traverse Lighthouse, among other nonprofits.



**MARTY COLBURN** is the City Manager for the City of Traverse City. He has 31 years of city management experience working in Michigan, Wyoming, and Arizona. Marty has also worked on the congressional staff of the U.S. House and Senate, and served with the Arizona National Guard for nine years. Marty likes to boat, hunt, fish, hike, and read, and lives in Traverse City. He has a great appreciation for protecting our freshwater resources.



**CASH COOK** is in his fourth career, which includes working as the Executive Director of the Kalkaska Village Downtown Development Authority, serving on the Kalkaska County Economic Development Board, and serving as a Kalkaska County Library Trustee. Cash has his finger on the pulse of the Kalkaska community and has championed a number of projects, often acting in a convener role.

**JOANNE COOK**, a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa/Chippewa Indians, is from Peshawbestown. She is an attorney; her professional experience includes one term on Tribal Council and with Tribal Courts as a Tribal Court Judge for two tribal communities. She believes tradition and culture is vital to the Anishinaabek way of life and has presented to various communities and taught a course at the Northwestern Michigan College Extended Education on the way of life and culture/traditions of the Odawa.



**MATT DAVIS** has spent the majority of his professional career in the body armor industry and is the current Chairman of the Board for Armor Express located in Central Lake. Armor Express is one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of body armor. Matt has also recently opened Solitude Float and Wellness Spa in downtown Traverse City.

**ANNIE DEVRIES** is a writer and published author. She has a master's degree in education and experience as a teacher. Annie has volunteered with numerous organizations in Grand Traverse and Benzie Counties, including the City Opera House Heritage Association, Traverse City Music Boosters, and Central Grade School. She's dedicated to helping others in Northern Michigan.



**BETH DUNCKEL**, *treasurer*, is a CPA and Senior Manager with Rehmann's Accounting, Consulting and Tax Department. Beth moved to the Traverse City area in 2005 and hopes to live in the area forever. Beth has volunteered with the Father Fred Blessings in a Backpack program and is active at Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS).



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**RICH HANNAN** is the owner and Chief Consultant of Plant Germplasm Conservation Systems Consulting. He holds his PhD in Horticulture from Washington State University, and has spent decades working on the conservation of plant genetic resources. Rich is also the former Executive Director of Grass River Natural Area in Bellaire and currently sits on its Board of Directors.



**ANDI HALPIN**, a longtime resident of Kalkaska, works as an Administrative Assistant at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan in Traverse City. Previously, she worked as the Events and Programs Coordinator for the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce for more than eight years. She has also served on the American Red Cross Northern Michigan Chapter Board of Directors for several years.

**LINDA KEHR**, *secretary*, is an attorney at her private legal practice in Beulah, which includes real estate, probate, and estate planning. Linda's interests include recreation, the environment, and historic preservation. She has experience with Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County, Mills Community House, and the Crooked Tree Girl Scout Council. She also currently serves on the board of Benzie Area Christian Neighbors.



**AMY JUN** is a senior at Traverse City West Senior High School and a leadership team member of the Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council. She plays on her school's varsity basketball team and is involved in several school clubs, including as Secretary of the National Honor Society and Vice President of the Key Club. Amy is also an active church member and is deeply involved in community service. Originally from Houston TX, she now lives in Traverse City with her family.

**DAMIAN LOCKHART** lives in Traverse City and works as a Financial Advisor and Traverse City Branch Manager at Morgan Stanley. He previously served on two boards in Grand Rapids—the Grand Rapids Children's Museum and CASA of Kent County. He currently serves on the Traverse City Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors.







**CAROL MARSH**, currently retired, spent her working career in education serving Birmingham Public Schools as a teacher, community school organizer, assistant community education specialist, senior citizen coordinator, and community information specialist for 25 years. Carol is involved in the Frankfort Rotary Club and Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital Auxiliary board.

**RANVE MARTINSON** is currently in her second career running the Martinson Funeral Home. Ranve and her brother are the fourth generation to run the business, which has been serving the area for more than 100 years. Ranve is active in the Suttons Bay community and is on the Board of Directors for the Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, is the Scholarship Chair for the Traverse City Elks Lodge #323, and plays the saxophone with the Northport Community Band and Cherry Pitters.



**SUZANNE MILLER ALLEN** serves as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's Senior Director of Community Responsibility and Social Mission. Prior to joining Blue Cross, Allen worked in Chief of Staff positions in both the MI House of Representatives and MI Senate. Allen serves as a board member of Northwest Michigan College Foundation and Traverse Connect as well as a National Cherry Festival ambassador and a parent volunteer for Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts. Allen also co-chairs the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee. Suzanne, her husband, Jason, and their three children reside in Traverse City.

**LARRY NELSON** served as the Probate and Family Court Judge for Leelanau County from 2010–2018. He then served as a visiting judge for a number of counties in northwest Michigan. He received his BA from the University of Michigan and his JD from the University of Toledo. Larry has practiced law in both the private and public sectors, including serving as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Oakland County and as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Prosecuting Attorney in Leelanau County. In addition, he maintained a private practice in Leland for more than 30 years.



**DENNIS PEARSALL** is the President of Real Estate One's Northwest Michigan & Franchise Divisions, Michigan's largest real estate broker. Dennis has been an active Board member of the Real Estate One Charitable Foundation the past ten years and has a particular interest in supporting nonprofits that service the needs of our greater community. He is a past President of the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors, past Chair of the Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce, has chaired the Ann Arbor Community Foundation, and is well-versed in the value of community foundations.



**ROGER PERRY** is a retired college administrator whose professional career focused on building institutions and transforming them into thriving organizations. Roger is a passionate leader, and has been involved in the Crystal Lake Watershed Association, Crystal Lake Yacht Club, Benzie Sunrise Rotary Club, and others since moving to Benzie County in 2008.



**ROYCE RAGLAND** is a resident of Elk Rapids where she enjoys numerous community involvements. She currently chairs the village planning commission and Green Elk Rapids, a volunteer environmental group. Her professional career included education, economics, and management training at several government agencies and universities around the country. A favorite life experience has been service on several regional boards, providing opportunities for being an active and engaged citizen.

**KIM RANGER** spent her career as an elementary educator and coordinator of three authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools, a global community of learners and educators striving to make the world a better place. Kim currently serves on the Elk Rapids Planning Commission and volunteers with Green Elk Rapids, a local environmental organization.



**JERRY RING** is the former Director of Global Contributions and Community Programs for The Dow Chemical Company where he developed a passion for cross-sector collaboration and solutions in addressing community quality of life issues. Jerry is also the founder of the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network in Bay City. He is a Traverse City Noon Rotary member as well as a board member of Inland Seas Education Association and the Discovery Center and Pier.

**CARI JO ROBERTS** has been a resident of Kalkaska for most of her life. She received her Cosmetology License at the Career Technical Center and has worked in the oil and gas industry as an office manager and supply specialist. Cari Jo served as Treasurer for Rapid River Township for over 10 years. She was also a part of the Rapid River Township Planning and Zoning Commission. In 2008, Cari Jo became a paraprofessional at Birch Street Elementary, and in 2014 was appointed the Secretary to the Superintendent, her current position. She is also a Trustee of the Kalkaska Area Transit Board. Cari Jo is married and has three children.





**AMY SCHINDLER**, *chair*, has spent her career leveraging her wide ranging expertise in trend analysis, futuring research, marketing, and development in positions at Deloitte and Touche Management Consulting, Ford Motor Company, Vertex Innovation, Campos Creative Works, Elk Rapids Schools, and Northwestern Michigan College. Amy is also involved in the Crystal Downs Country Club Board of Governors.

**JOE SHORT** is the founder of Short's Brewing in Bellaire. Joe registered Short's Brewing Company as a business at 22 years old, after time spent homebrewing and working at other Michigan breweries. Despite growing to be one of Michigan's largest breweries, Short's keeps a mom-and-pop approach to the business. Joe has a great enthusiasm for Northern Michigan, and works to keep his company involved in local issues.



**JANET SIETING** has deep experience in the world of advertising sales, newspapers, and special sections. Janet is retired from The Leader and Kalkaskian newspaper. She is involved in the Kalkaska Chamber of Commerce, Academea Club, the Kalkaska Downtown Development Authority, and served on Munson's Board of Directors. Janet is passionate about giving back to the Kalkaska community.

**BILL SMITH** is retired after 35 years of practicing family medicine in Traverse City. Bill has volunteer experience with the Munson Medical Center Board of Directors, VASA board, and Michael's Place board, among others. He is particularly interested in support of community non-motorized trails and recreation as well as programs supporting those experiencing homelessness.



**TROY STOBERT** owns Stobert Dental PC in Kalkaska with his wife, Dr. Carrilyn Stobert, where they have practiced since 2002. Troy is a former U.S. Air Force Captain, and has sat on various nonprofit boards including the Rotary Club of Kalkaska, the Munson Healthcare System, and Pathways Arts Council in Kalkaska.