



**WE ARE NOT ONLY YOUR** LOCAL GIVING PARTNER, BUT ALSO A LEADER YOU CAN COUNT ON TO CREATIVELY AND STRATEGICALLY **RESPOND TO BOTH EMERGING** AND ONGOING COMMUNITY NEEDS.

Dear Friend of the Foundation,

Thanks to community partners like you, we closed 2021 with a historic milestone, surpassing \$100 million in assets!

As your Community Foundation, we have been serving you, your family, and our five-county region since 1992. Throughout our 30 years, our team—both our staff and voluntary Board of Directors—has grown and strengthened partnerships with nonprofit organizations, education institutions, governmental entities, and local businesses to benefit communities across the region.

We are uniquely positioned to achieve community benefit through strategic grantmaking, meaningful scholarships, cross-sector collaborations, and by leveraging critical financial and human resources.

This benefit is possible because of contributions like yours that have been entrusted to the Community Foundation. The assets we steward exist because of people just like you who love this region and want to see it thrive.

And so, as we make our way through 2022, remember that we are not only your local giving partner, but also a leader you can count on to creatively and strategically respond to both emerging and ongoing community needs.

Thank you for working with us to impact our region, now and for generations to come.



Terry Beamsley Board Chair



David Mengebier President and CEO



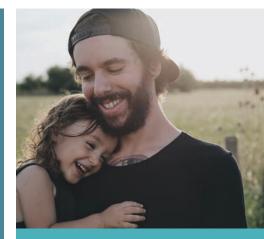


\$3.3 Million given back to the community through grants & scholarships

534 grant partners and scholarship recipients supported



WE'RE GIVING IT FORWARD



\$5.7 Million in gifts received, ranging from \$10 to \$2 million

\$104 Million in assets we steward for the benefit of our region





### **OUR MISSION**

We invest in the people and places of our region and steward community assets for lasting impact.

### **OUR VISION**

A region of healthy, resilient, thriving communities for all.

### **OUR CORE VALUES**

Adaptability
Collaboration
Equity
Generosity
Integrity
Stewardship



# COLLABORATING TO CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Achieving community vitality is a challenge, but through strong collaborations we are responding strategically to our region's most pressing issues, meeting critical needs as they emerge, and leveraging promising partnerships.

"With so many partners investing and collaborating on this project, we are glad the Boardman Lake Loop Trail Maintenance Endowment will ensure the future of the trail is more secure."

Chuck Korn, Supervisor, Garfield Township



### SUPPORTING COMMUNITY MOBILITY



The Boardman Lake Loop Trail was established through a multi-year cross-sector partnership between TART Trails, Garfield Township,

the City of Traverse City, and Grand Traverse County. With the Trail set for completion during the summer of 2022, support for ongoing care and maintenance is an essential part of the overall project.

In the fall of 2021, Garfield Township established the <u>Boardman Lake Loop Trail Maintenance</u>
<u>Endowment</u> with an \$800,000 gift. The
Endowment will help support the Trail for many generations to come.

"With so many partners investing and collaborating on this project, we are glad the Boardman Lake Loop Trail Maintenance Endowment will ensure the future of the trail is more secure," said Chuck Korn, Supervisor, Garfield Township.



# PROTECTING REGIONAL WATER QUALITY



Through the Northwest Michigan Community Development Strategy, we convene a Coalition of more than 30 cross-sector partners

working together to transform the region. Together, we are focused on 13 economic, societal, and environmental goals, measured on a <u>Community Scorecard</u>.

Our region is well on its way to reaching our shared Scorecard benchmark of improving regional water quality. Through close collaboration between Coalition Contributors—the City of Traverse City and The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay—two large-scale green infrastructure projects have been installed.

These projects are actively keeping millions of gallons of runoff, hundreds of pounds of nitrogen and phosphorous, and several tons of sediment out of the Great Lakes and our drinking water supply each year.



# SUPPORTING ACCESS TO EDUCATION



The <u>Wilfred and Joan Larson</u>
<u>Endowment</u> was made possible through the largest cumulative gift in our 30-year history—\$15

million—from the late Wilfred and Joan Larson. In partnership with an endowment advisor, we are honoring the Larson's philanthropic interests to support emerging needs and opportunities.

One particular focus area is increasing access to post-secondary education. Through grants to local schools that have historically lower college access and attendance, we are helping students pursue educational opportunities beyond high school.

Since 2015, almost \$800,000 has been awarded from the Larson Endowment to support these school scholarships and other initiatives in the region. Through the power of endowment and the Larson's generosity, this community benefit will continue to grow in the years to come.

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### **UPLIFTING**

### **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

To cultivate a healthy, resilient, thriving region for all, we must support people across Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau Counties in attaining equitable access to the resources they need to flourish.

In 2021, we uplifted diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as a priority, pursuing a variety of actions, including:

- Publishing a DEI statement to publicly share our commitment to this important work.
- Launching our <u>DEI Fund</u>, which is dedicated to supporting DEI efforts across the region, including organizations led by BIPOC, LGBTQ+, immigrant, neurodiverse, and/or disability community members.
- Integrating gender-inclusive language into our scholarship and grant applications.
- Implementing an inclusive holiday policy to better serve current and future staff, laying the groundwork for a more diverse team.
- Signing onto the <u>Disability Inclusion Pledge</u>, thus committing to pursue actions that will make our organization more inclusive of community members with disabilities.

# OUR DEI FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meagan Alvarado
Terra Bogart
JoAnne Cook
Bea Cruz
Tyasha Harrison
Amy Jun
Jane Kittendorf
Damian Lockhart
Brett Sinclair

Thank you to Joe Short for serving in 2021.

# ADVANCING COMMUNITY-LED DEI EFFORTS

During our DEI Fund's first grantmaking cycle, we partnered with eight organizations, including Suttons Bay Public Schools (SBPS). Through a \$1,200 grant, we supported the SBPS' studentled Cultural Club, which hosts events and fundraisers aimed at promoting diverse cultural experiences.

"We are so thankful to see that the Community Foundation and the DEI Fund have become available to our local community in order for us to feel like we can find the resources and support we need to sustain these amazing efforts towards a better and more accepting world," said Jessica Vitale, Media Publications Supervisor and Spanish Instructor, Suttons Bay High School.

SBPS' recent DEI efforts also include inviting youth to The Friendship Community Center's Diversity Dialogues and Community Dinners and launching the HumanKIND Club in partnership with LIFT Teen Center, which we supported through our Youth Endowment in 2021. The HumanKIND Club provides a safe environment for Leelanau-area LGBTQ+ youth and their allies.

Together, SBPS' Cultural Club and HumanKIND Club are helping to create more inclusive, welcoming spaces for local students.

We are so thankful to see that the Community Foundation and the DEI Fund have become available to our local community."

Jessica Vitale, Media Publications Supervisor and Spanish Instructor, Suttons Bay High School

# YOUTH PROGRAMS & SERVICES

During 2021, our <u>Youth Advisory Councils</u>, representing each of the five counties we serve, collectively awarded \$80,000 from our <u>Youth Endowment</u> to support youth programs and services across our region.

Through these Youth Endowment grants, we were proud to partner with 16 different organizations, including:

**Justice for Our Neighbors** to expand free immigration legal services for children and youth in Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties.

**Kids on the Go Traverse City** to grow their summer camp program providing therapy and artistic, athletic, and social enrichment to children, including youth with disabilities.

**Title Track** to help fund their Water Protectors Training Camp, a five-week online course for teens that is grounded in Indigenous wisdom and is aimed at building their relationship with water and raising their awareness about challenges facing the Great Lakes.

**Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center** to support SafeTeam Training for student athletes, coaches, and parents to learn about how to recognize the signs of child abuse, talk about abuse, and report suspected abuse.



"Having youth plan an active part in the process of grantmaking . . . cultivates a deeper sense of compassion for others."

> Amy Jun, Board Director

### **ADVANCING YOUTH ISSUES:** A SPOTLIGHT ON LEADER, AMY JUN

Amy Jun, a senior at Traverse City West Senior High School, serves as one of our Board Directors, sits on our Diversity Equity Inclusion Fund Advisory Committee, and is a member of our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) leadership team.

As a YAC leadership team member, Amy provides strategic input to ensure a quality, meaningful YAC program experience for all students. She has enjoyed collaborating with other YAC members to decide how Youth Endowment funds will support grant partnerships with youthfocused organizations such as Michael's Place, Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center, and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

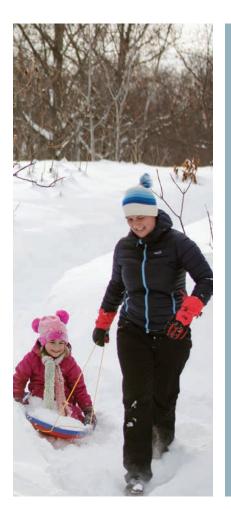
"Having youth play an active part in grantmaking is so important. It teaches us to prioritize community needs and cultivates a deeper sense of compassion for others," said Amy.





### OUR REGION'S FUTURE, NOW AND FOREVER.

Our donor partners give meaningfully and generously in so many ways. Your support makes our work possible and shows that gifts of all sizes really do make a difference. Thank you.



"After moving to Traverse City, it was important to me that I seek out an organization that supports this amazing community. After seeing all of the programs, people, and parks that benefited from the GTRCF, I knew that I could trust the organization to make a lasting impact with my funds. Furthermore, I decided to donate via payroll deduction. It is easy, consistent, and budget-friendly and also allows me to take advantage of my employer's donor match."

Erika Fussman, Payroll Giving Donor Partner, Community Funds

"The reason that recurring giving makes so much sense to us is because the work that the Community Foundation does is recurring. It's not a one-time effort; it's an ongoing commitment to supporting our region. We are happy to support that."

Pete & Whitney Finch, Monthly Giving Donor Partners, Community Funds "The Community Foundation is such a great local resource. With its community development focus, it is providing opportunities for individuals and organizations to connect, share, and improve our community to the benefit of all."

Kate & Rick Dahlstrom, Donor Partners, Mental Health and Well-Being Support Fund



Randy Lucyk, Donor Partner, Endowment for Kalkaska Area

"Seldom in my

life have I felt

to serve as a

so privileged as

when I am allowed

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that is difficult to

the future. It

duplicate."

our children's and

"I am a particularly ardent believer in community foundations as they are professionally managed and legally obligated to protect the corpus of an endowment. I give to the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation because it's a vehicle for supporting what I believe in."

John Vinkemulder, Donor Partner, Frankfort Garden Theater Endowment and John P. and Lynn Vinkemulder Endowment





Gateway communities that border Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore, like Glen Arbor, Empire, and Frankfort, are facing a significant shortage of seasonal workforce housing options. To help tackle this issue, we brought several funding partners together and leveraged \$10,000 in Community Funds that enabled the Sleeping Bear Gateways Council to access \$90,000 in federal funding. This support will allow the Council and its partners to develop solutions for housing needs in these local communities.



During the summer of 2021, unprecedented heavy storms brought down trees and cut electricity for many across our community. Flooding damaged homes and buildings, including the Kalkaska County Library. The Library's lower level bore the brunt of the water damage, and immediate support was needed to lessen its impact and reduce the chance for future water issues. Using Community Funds, we provided \$10,000, which helped the Library continue serving the Kalkaska community.

# RESPONDING TO AREAS OF GREATEST **NEED AND OPPORTUNITY**

We understand the greatest challenges and opportunities facing our communities now and over the next several years. One strategic way we can support our region in a flexible, responsive fashion is through Community Funds. Community Funds are resources we steward that are not restricted to a particular cause or organization. Grants from these types of funds are directed by our Board and are intended to fill gaps or leverage promising opportunities that our other 340 funds may not be able to meet.

Our Urgent Needs Fund is a perfect example of the power of Community Funds. With the support of many donor partners, we raised nearly \$1 million, all of which was awarded in grants benefiting 75 nonprofit partners across the region. These dollars provided support to organizations working with individuals and families who were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Urgent Needs Fund sunset in 2021, yet there are plenty of needs and opportunities in our communities that remain unaddressed. While we have a long path ahead to build needed Community Fund resources (currently just 3% of our total assets are in these types of funds), here's how we are currently putting flexible assets into action to support our region.



In 2021, the United Way of Northwest Michigan launched the Early Childhood Innovation and Development Hub to help reduce barriers for local caregivers, providers, parents, and children. To support the Hub's launch, we brought nearly \$14,000 to the table from our Community Funds and a donor advised fund we steward. This funding will help create better access to resources for families during the important early years of a child's life.

TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP
IMPACTING ISSUES THAT ARE
CRITICAL TO OUR REGION'S
FUTURE VITALITY. INVESTING
IN COMMUNITY FUNDS IS OUR
SHARED OPPORTUNITY TO
SUPPORT HEALTHY, RESILIENT,
AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES
ACROSS ANTRIM, BENZIE,
GRAND TRAVERSE, KALKASKA,
AND LEELANAU COUNTIES,
NOW AND FOR GENERATIONS
TO COME.

# OUR COMMUNITY GUARDIANS

Our Legacy Society honors community-minded donor partners that have created a plan for a future gift, such as through a will, trust, or beneficiary designation. They have committed to making a long-term investment in our region, entrusting us with their giving so that future generations benefit from their generosity.

Anonymous (4) Ed and Mary Arbut Leila and Owen Bahle \* Teresa Beamsley Phillip Begley \* John and Rebecca Bercini Gordon V. Brown \* Elisabeth W. Case \* Steve and Hallie Christian Chuck Cigrand and Sallie Thompson Elaine Cluff \* Jean and Gordon Cornwell \* John Davies Robert A. and Arlene V. Dean Shirley Denman \* Helen Wolfe Dewey Clifford Domke \* Phil Ellis William C. Engle \* Richard A. Grout James C. Gurd \*

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Thomas F. Menzel

Ruth Luse Myers \*

Larry and Joan Miller

Helen and Gov. William Milliken \*
Richard and Virginia Mouch

Richard W. and Clarine Olson \*



### **GIVING FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT, NOW AND LATER**

John Davies—an avid 95-year-old hiker and skier—has called Elk Rapids home for the last 33 years. He began considering how he could support the region because, as he stated, "it's been so good to me." John approached a friend about this desire, who then referred him to the Community Foundation. In 2021, John became one of our supporters, providing a generous gift to our Focus Fund Endowment, one of our flexible Community Funds.

"The Community Foundation's ability to move in different directions as needs come up is what appealed to me," said John.

In addition to his current giving, John has committed a future gift that would allow him to support what the community may need down the line even after he passes. We worked closely with John to match his passion with purpose, and John joined our legacy society of Community Guardians, including a gift to the Community Foundation as part of his will.

Needs will change over the years. The Community Foundation has a broad interest in the community that will allow it to support the community however it needs to be supported."

John Davies, Donor Partner and Community Guardian

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates donors whose gift has been realized.



# GRANTS BY FOCUS AREA EDUCATION - 39% Early Childhood 22% Scholarships 9% Education 8% OTHER - 3% Animal Welfare 1% Animal Welfare 1%

**ENVIRONMENT – 9%** 

### **ASSETS**

### 2021 Assets = \$104.1 M

Business & Economic

Development 1%

2021 Designated Assets **\$100.8M (97%)** 

Designated assets have a specific area of focus or benefit, such as scholarships or grants for designated organizations.

2021 Community Fund Assets \$3.3M (3%)

Community Fund assets are responsive and flexible resources to meet areas of greatest need.

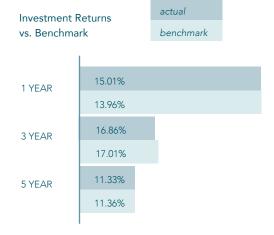


Arts, Culture & Humanities 8%

Religious 1% Recreation 3%

### **INVESTMENTS**





The benchmark consists of investments that mirror our portfolio, allowing us to assess the relative performance of our own investment portfolio.

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Net Assets beginning of year	\$90,131,398	\$67,967,501
Endowment Gifts	\$ 4,563,737	\$ 13,558,432
Non-Endowment Gifts	\$ 1,191,093	\$ 2,124,492
Total Gifts	\$ 5,754,830	\$ 15,682,924
nvestment & Other Income	\$ 3,596,383	\$ 2,175,174
Unrealized Market Gain or (Loss)	\$ 9,251,752	<u>\$ 9,367,426</u>
Total Revenue	\$18,602,965	\$27,225,524
Endowment Grants	\$ 2,329,854	\$ 2,064,280
Non-Endowment Grants	<u>\$ 1,054,673</u>	\$ 1,741,507
Total Grants	\$ 3,384,527	\$ 3,805,787
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,174,451	\$ 1,081,096
Other Expenses	<u>\$ 100,919</u>	<u>\$ 174,744</u>
Total Grants & Expenses	\$ 4,659,897	\$ 5,061,627
Net Assets end of the year	\$104,074,466	\$90,131,398

# **BOARD OFFICERS** Terry Beamsley, Chair, Leelanau County Jerry Ring, Vice-Chair, Grand Traverse County Larry Nelson, Secretary, Leelanau County Beth Dunckel, Treasurer, Grand Traverse County

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



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Additionally, thank you to the following community members for their years of service on the Board: Pete Finch Rich Hannan Rex O'Connor

Roger Perry Kim Ranger Joe Short **Janet Sieting** 

Board List as of January 2022 \*Youth Representative

### THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TEAM





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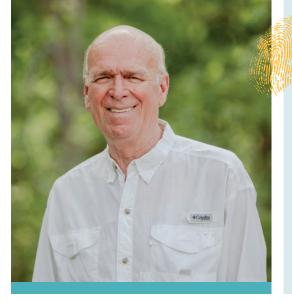
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Bill and Sandy Cartwright Elisabeth Case Estate Glen B. and Gwen Catt

**CBRE** 

Rhoda Centazzo

Robert and Susan Chapman



"My donations are based on the considerable valuable work the Foundation does in our region, coupled with the fact that they are gifts that give forever. I appreciate the variety of community needs that are greatly assisted by the Foundation's philanthropy. The Community Foundation is an asset that helps with the quality of life throughout the region, with care and compassion."

Cash Cook, Board Director, Kalkaska County

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"I support the Community Foundation and choose to donate because I believe in the work of the Foundation and the commitment to enhance and better the lives of everyone in our five-county region."

JoAnne Cook, Board Director, Leelanau County

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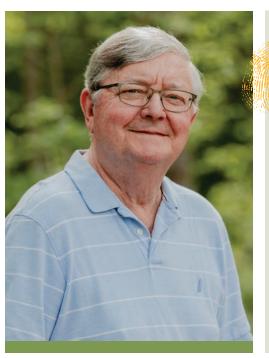
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Larry Nelson, Board Director, Leelanau County

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