



GRAND TRAVERSE REGIONAL
community foundation

Meet Our Board of Directors

The Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation's Board of Directors is a voluntary governing body comprised of 33 community members from across our five-county region covering Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau Counties.

Antrim

Laura Asiala
Jürgen Griswold
Mark Irwin
Dan Phillips
Royce Ragland

Kalkaska

Rachael Birgy
Lauren Clark
Cash Cook
Andi Halpin
Rick Heitmeyer
Cari Jo Roberts

Benzie

Elise Crafts
Laris Galejs
Phyllis Kladder
Chris MacInnes
Carol Marsh
Megan Royle Carrella
Amy Schindler

Leelanau

Terry Beamsley
Sara Brubaker
Marshall Collins
JoAnne Cook
Edward Lanphier
Ranve Martinson
Larry Nelson

Grand Traverse

Marty Colburn
Annie DeVries
Beth Dunckel
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, *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.



MEGAN ROYLE CARRELLA has been with Herman Miller for 15 years and part of the larger design industry for almost 20 years. She currently serves as the Sales Operations Manager at Herman Miller and has a successful track record of leadership support and project management in progressively responsible roles. She is also a mother of two and owns Vita Bella Italian Kitchen and Market with her husband.



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.

MARSHALL COLLINS is the Regional School Health Coordinator and Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Consultant for Northwest Education Services, which includes program oversight of NorthEd's SNAP ED Program, LifeSPAN, Farm-to-School, and DEIB support. Marshall received a degree in teaching from Concordia College in Ann Arbor and went on to teach at Northport Public School for 10 years. Marshall has served as Northport's Varsity Soccer Coach and Athletic Director and his work also involves supporting the Grand Traverse Area in continual efforts in the realms of social justice.



ELISE CRAFTS is a professionally certified community planner and developer who founded Statecraft in 2018 to help communities organize and implement their ideas. Prior to founding Statecraft, Elise worked as a community planner with Networks Northwest, planner with Mansfield Land Use Consultants, and planning and zoning coordinator with Peninsula Township. Elise has a Master's degree in geography from Western Michigan University and a Bachelor's degree in geography, sociology, and writing from Aquinas College. She splits her time between Traverse City and Frankfort and has served on the board of Commonplace, the subcommittee of the Lower Boardman River Leadership Team, and on the board of the Institute for Sustainable Foraging.

CASH COOK, *Secretary*, 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.



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).



DR. LARIS GALEJS was born and raised in Ames, Iowa where his immigrant parents were faculty at Iowa State University. He attended the University of Iowa, studying biochemistry, and attended medical school there as well. After a urology residency at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, he served eight years on active duty in the Air Force. Once honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel, Laris and his wife moved back to Michigan in 2008 to be closer to family and to Benzie County, with a permanent move to the county in 2021. Laris was in private practice in urology and now works at Munson Healthcare with an office in Cadillac and Frankfort.

JÜRGEN GRISWOLD is a junior at Ellsworth High School. He is president of his school's Student Council and represents several school and community organizations, serving as a three-sport varsity athlete, leadership team member of the Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council, and as a member of S.A.F.E. in Northern Michigan/Community Anti-Drug Coalition, FIRST Robotics, National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, and his church youth group. Jürgen is also the founder of the Little Reading Buddies literacy program, and for the past 11 years has co-led an annual fundraiser to benefit the Great Lakes Burn Camp for Kids.



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.



RICK HEITMEYER began working in education in the 1990s. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Education, Master of Arts in Principalship, and an Education Specialist degree in General Administration, all from Central Michigan University. Rick joined Kalkaska Public Schools as Superintendent in 2021 after working in various school districts across Michigan, including in Baldwin, Buckley, Vanderbilt, Central Montcalm, and Vestaburg. A graduate of nearby Elk Rapids, Rick is excited to be back home working with and serving a great community.

MARK IRWIN was born and raised in Bellaire. He attended Michigan Tech University and ended up graduating from Central Michigan University with a double major in industrial education and physical science education. He elected to return to his hometown and pursue a career in insurance; 20 years later he is now Principal at Fischer Insurance Agency with offices in Bellaire and Elk Rapids. Mark has served on the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce and the Paddle Antrim board. He currently sits on the board of the Bellaire Downtown Development Authority.



PHYLLIS KLADDER was born and raised in Midland, and attended both Ferris State University and Aquinas College. She is a small business accountant that retired in 2020. Phyllis is involved in many area organizations, including the Benzie Sunrise Rotary, Benzie Area Historical Museum, Thompsonville Area Revitalization Project, Crystal Scholarship Foundation, and Weldon Township Planning Commission. She has lived in northern MI full-time since 2017, with her spouse Scott and their dog and cat. She enjoys golf, watching sports and paper crafts.

EDWARD LANPHIER grew up in Springfield, Illinois, attended high school in Connecticut, and graduated from Knox College in 1978. Since 1982, he has been actively involved in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, founding Sangamo Therapeutics in 1995. In 2014, Edward and his wife, Cam purchased a cottage in Leelanau County that had been in the family since the 1940s. Until recently, Edward and Cam spent the off season in Ross, California, but have now made Leelanau their full-time home. Edward is involved with several organizations, including Sangamo Therapeutics, Buck Institute for Research on Aging, Choate Rosemary Hall, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Alliance for Regenerative Medicine, and the Glen Lake Association.



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.



CHRIS MACINNES moved from Southern California in 1985 to join their family-owned business, Crystal Mountain. She is a graduate of St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. As President of Crystal Enterprise, Chris is active in day-to-day operations as well as the company's on-campus real estate development. Chris is also involved in regional, state, and industry organizations including currently serving on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Executive Committee, and as past chair of the Michigan State Chamber, Michigan Travel Commission, and the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce.

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.

DAN PHILLIPS was born in rural central Indiana, where he lived for 15 years before moving to southeast Michigan in 2003 with his family. He graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor's degree in religious studies and later attended Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary, graduating with a Master's degree in divinity. He currently serves as a Pastor at the United Methodist Church in Bellaire.



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.

JERRY RING, *Vice-Chair*, 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.



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AMY SCHINDLER 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.

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.

