



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Capital Region Community Foundation

2026 Impact Report

Fish Ladder Music Park completed October 2025, photo credit Lenon James Photography

Our Mission

To lead philanthropic solutions that build vibrant communities in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties.

- Donor Services
- Nonprofit Support
- Community Leadership

CFNS

ACCREDITED
FOUNDATION

Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations

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Board of Trustees

Staff

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 Company/CommunityFoundation

 517-272-2870

 ourcommunity.org

Dear Friends,

The new Fish Ladder Music Park was completed last fall - our third project on the downtown Lansing riverfront - and opening night on May 29 was a spectacular success! It included a concert, beverage tent hosted by Lansing 5:01, vendors, concessions, and more. News outlets, attendees, and local organizations flooded social media with outstanding reviews and photos. Sources estimated 1,500 attendees, exceeding our hopes.

The truly remarkable story was the positive vibe generated by a crowd of people not often seen together. Jack Roberts, a Community Foundation fundholder and past board chair, attended with his wife Peggy, who is also a donor. Jack wrote the next day, "Scanning the huge gathering, Peggy and I observed a diversity – including generations – that should thrill us during a time of such destructive division in America. Proud to be from Lansing and involved with you great leaders." Jack struck an important chord about the value of our work in building community, now more than ever.

Creating a vibrant community is our mission, and to that end, we're proud to have built three great parks on the downtown Lansing riverfront, including Rotary Park and Play Michigan! all-access playground. This year, we're focused on activating and increasing maintenance and safety in these parks. Results of an anonymous survey of 349 residents helped us shape our current and future phases of riverfront development.

You can read more about the Fish Ladder Music Park on page 24, and be sure to visit LansingRiverfront.org, our new website promoting concerts, festivals, wellness activities, and other events happening on the riverfront. Let us know what you think!

Working with you for a vibrant community,



Laurie Strauss Kuerbitz
(formerly Baumer)
President & CEO

*Laurie Kuerbitz with Bryan Beverly,
2026 Board Chair, at Fish Ladder Music Park*



Why Donors Partner with Us

1 Funds are Invested for Growth

It's simple and quick to open a fund that will be invested for growth. Your gift will be placed in our highly diversified asset pool, benefiting from the guidance of experienced professional investment managers. We do the work while you get the joy of giving.

2 Maximum Tax Benefits

Your contributions qualify for the maximum allowable deduction for income, gift, and estate tax purposes. You can maximize your charitable deductions by "bunching" multiple years of contributions to exceed the tax deduction threshold, while supporting the causes you care about each year.

3 Creative Giving Options

We offer abundant choices to make both current gifts and deferred gifts. We will work with you and your professional advisor to identify your best giving options.

4 Community Knowledge and Impact

We have our finger on the pulse of nonprofits and needs in Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties. We can help you make the most informed decisions possible about your giving.

5 Recognition or Anonymity

The Community Foundation appreciates the generosity of our donors! Stories of charitable donors can inspire others to give, although anonymity is also available for donors who prefer that option.

6 Leave Your Legacy

Through an endowment fund at the Community Foundation, your gifts are protected and work to benefit the causes you care about, and your charitable spirit will live on forever.

In 2025, the Community Foundation opened **19 new funds** and received **over \$8 million in gifts** from charitable individuals, businesses and organizations. These donors are driving the engine of the Community Foundation to build vibrant, thriving communities!

Giving with Tax Advantages

With today's high standard tax deduction (\$16,100 for single individuals and \$32,200 for married couples for 2026), fewer people are itemizing their deductions. However, there are still things you can do to maximize the tax benefits of your charitable giving, and the Community Foundation is a great resource to help you at no cost.

Create or use your donor-advised fund (DAF) at the Foundation to “bunch” multiple years of gifts into one year to take advantage of itemizing. Then, make grants from your DAF over time to provide regular support to your favorite organizations, even in years when you will not itemize.

Use your IRA to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to the Foundation. If you are age 70 1/2 or older, this may be a tax-smart way to directly transfer up to \$111,000 per year to the Foundation without having to claim the distribution as income. And you can use your QCD or Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to create your own fund at the Foundation or contribute to an existing fund. **For 2026 only, a one-time election to have up to \$55,000 of this QCD limit can be sent to a charitable trust or gift annuity, giving you even more options.**

Stocks, bonds, and mutual funds make great gifts. Simply transfer appreciated securities straight to the Foundation rather than selling first, and typically, you avoid capital gains tax and potentially receive a contribution deduction for the fair value of the securities contributed. Direct this gift to one of our 580+ existing funds or create a fund of your own.

New! Contributions of \$1,000 or \$2,000. **In 2026, non-itemizers can also get a charitable deduction for contributions made to the Community Foundation (\$1,000 for singles and \$2,000 for married couples).**

Special thanks to Carrie Hindmon, CPA, CSEP, Partner at Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC, for assisting us with this information.

You should always consult with your own tax and financial advisors. The Community Foundation is honored to be part of your charitable planning team.

Charitable giving questions? We have answers.

We'd love to talk further or answer any questions to help you understand the best way to continue giving in the new tax environment.

Cindy Watters, VP of Donor Services
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517-490-6107

Beauty in Giving

Mike and Debby Harrison have always believed that good communities are built by people who show up when help is needed, and they did just that through volunteering, public service, and giving back in whatever ways they could. Mike passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer's, but the impact of his and Debby's generosity continues today. "My mother always said, 'If you're going to do something, do it well or don't do it at all.' We tried to take on challenges and make things better for others. Mike and I felt very strongly about this," Debby said. "And Mike always took things and made them better."

After Debby's breast cancer diagnosis, she and Mike started a mammography fund at Sparrow because early detection had saved her life. Up until Mike's diagnosis, Debby turned her birthday into a fundraiser, asking friends to bring a cake and give whatever they could to the fund. "We had to make every penny count," Debby said. The Deborah L. and Michael G. Harrison Fund for Breast Care is still helping women at UM-Sparrow Health today and will for years to come.

Even after Mike's Alzheimer's diagnosis, the Harrisons kept finding ways to contribute. They set up scholarships, supported local causes, and gave what they had. As they began planning for the future, the Harrisons worked with the Community Foundation to set up a fund in memory of his mother, Jean. After Mike's passing, Debby established a second fund to honor him and cement their legacy. It was a way to make sure their giving could keep growing, even after they were gone. "I like to know things are secure, have meaning in our lives, and will help others," she said. "It gives me peace."

Debby hopes other people will think about how they can get involved too, whether that means donating, volunteering, or just showing up for the people around them. "You don't have to be wealthy to make a difference. You just have to be willing to start."



I like to know things are secure, have meaning in our lives, and will help others. It gives me peace.

Debby Harrison, fundholder



High Impact Funds Meet the Moment

The Community Foundation's **High Impact Funds** provide flexible resources that allow us to respond to emerging needs, invest strategically, and support projects that strengthen our region. These funds meet both urgent and long-term needs in our community.

Leadership Fund

Advances strategic initiatives, proactive grants, and Community Foundation priorities that strengthen our region's future. By investing in bold ideas and community-driven projects, this fund has helped bring transformative spaces like Rotary Park, Play Michigan! all-access playground, and Fish Ladder Music Park to life.

Community Needs Fund

Provides flexible, endowed support that allows the Community Foundation to respond quickly and effectively to our region's greatest current and changing needs.

DEI Action Fund

Supports Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs and activities that expand opportunity, elevate diverse perspectives, and help build a community where everyone can contribute and belong.

Riverfront Activation Fund

Programs the Fish Ladder Music Park and Rotary Park.

Riverfront Maintenance Endowment Fund

Provides long-term support for our riverfront parks.

Thank you to donors who have supported a High Impact Fund:

Anonymous
Doris Asher
Rebecca Bahar-Cook and Todd Cook
Bryan Beverly
Richard and Diane Blundy
Jim and Dorean Brazier
David Brogan
Bruce and Suzanne Caltrider
Richard F. Chormann
Comerica Business Banking Group
Otis Edward DuPont
Kurt and Barbara Guter
Frank and Connie Hagelshaw
Christine Hill

Philip F. Jager
Brett and Carla Kaschinske
Elizabeth Kaufman
Colette Kelly
Robert Kinning
Bob and Ruth Lendt
Charles and Helen Mickens
Robert Miller and Shelagh Ferguson-Miller
Irvin Nichols
Virginia Orabone
Jeffrey Padden
Olga George Pascalenos
Michael and Van-anh Peters
Molly Petitjean

Plante Moran
Kristin Rogers
Laurence and Janice Rosen
Angelia Salas
Timothy Salisbury
Kelly and Nicki Skinner
Stuart D. Sleight
Diane M. Smith
Kathleen M. Soltow
Denis Sullivan
Tim and Ann Vogelsang
Cindy Watters

Create Your Charitable Impact



Every donor has a unique vision for creating change. The Community Foundation offers a variety of charitable funds designed to align with your goals, values, and the causes you care about most. Our team provides the guidance and expertise to help you choose the giving approach that best fits your philanthropic journey.

General Fund Types

Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)

A flexible way to organize your charitable giving. Start your DAF with a simple online application and work with our team to recommend grants to the organizations and causes you care about most.

Designated Fund

Create a lasting source of support for the charitable organizations that matter most to you through a permanent endowment.

Field of Interest Fund

Concentrate your giving on a cause that is meaningful to you, such as food insecurity, youth development, the arts, or countless other topics. Your fund supports nonprofit work addressing those priorities over time.

Agency Fund

A permanent endowment established by a nonprofit or donor to provide ongoing support for a specific charitable organization. See page 29 for a list of our 200+ agency funds.

Legacy Fund (Testamentary)

With no upfront gift or cost, your legacy fund defines your charitable intentions after you're gone. Ultimately funded through your estate plan, the Community Foundation grows and protects your fund, ensuring annual gifts are made to your favorite charities forever. Changes can be made to your legacy fund during your lifetime without having to amend your will, trust, or other beneficiary designations.

Curious about starting a fund?

We'd love to answer your questions and help you get started!

Cindy Watters, VP of Donor Services
cwatters@ourcommunity.org
517-490-6107

Agency Fund Benefits

An agency fund is an endowment fund created by a nonprofit or donor to exclusively benefit that nonprofit, forever. The Community Foundation holds over 200 funds for area nonprofit organizations.

- ➔ Establishing an endowment fund creates sustainable income for your organization and can attract major planned gifts that you might not otherwise receive. Your fund is truly endowed – permanent and protected forever. This is important to donors who want their investment to be their legacy.
- ➔ Because your fund is pooled with hundreds of other funds at the Foundation, your organization benefits from a diverse investment portfolio with outstanding returns that typically come only with very large funds.
- ➔ The Community Foundation is trusted and well-respected throughout the region, bringing credibility to your organization and your fund.
- ➔ Our professional development staff can help you grow your fund by promoting it to your donors, Foundation donors, and professional advisors in the community who trust us. We will also meet with your major donors and your board to answer their questions.



Having an agency fund with the Community Foundation has strengthened our credibility with donors, especially those who are thinking about long-term impact. It serves as a signal that we are not only focused on meeting immediate needs, but are also intentionally planning for the future.

**Kalli Brady, Executive Director
Eaton Community Health**

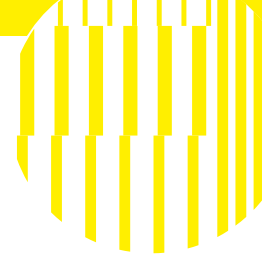


We didn't have the funds to start an endowment until a very generous gift from Dr. Mary Brown, a lifelong educator who loved the library. Establishing it through the Community Foundation felt like a way to honor her life. Now, having that endowment gives us all a peace of mind that the work we do will sustain.

**Liesel Carlson, Board President
Friends of the East Lansing Public Library**



Customize Your Giving



Donor-advised funds are a popular option for charitable people and businesses who want customized giving options. Fundholders make their own recommendations for grants made from their fund. Think of it as having all the joy of a private foundation without the burden of administration and costs of legal and tax work.

You may name your own fund as you wish at the Community Foundation. Some use their family name, such as “The Smith Family Charitable Fund,” while others name their fund in memory of a loved one. Some remain anonymous or choose a creative name such as “The Giving Tree Fund.”

Your fund will be pooled and invested with over 580 other funds at the Community Foundation so that **your fund can grow over time.**

Benefits of establishing a donor-advised fund with the Community Foundation include:

- Flexibility to give when and how it works best for you
- Bunch multiple years of gifts to exceed the tax deduction threshold, then make grants over time
- Personalized services and knowledgeable staff who understand local needs and nonprofits to help you give with purpose
- Access to resources and annual events that inform you about community needs and impactful grantmaking opportunities
- The option to give anonymously
- Competitive fees that stay local and support nonprofit services
- A fast, simple setup process that can be done online or in person

Partnering with your own investment manager

In special circumstances, donors can choose to work with their preferred investment manager while supporting causes through the Community Foundation. This opportunity ensures that your donor-advised fund is managed just the way you like it, while you enjoy personalized care by our staff with nonprofit expertise. Ask us if this option might be right for you.

Start a conversation with our Donor Services team to explore what an agency or donor-advised fund could mean for you.

Cindy Watters, VP of Donor Services
cwatters@ourcommunity.org
517-490-6107

Estate Planning with Community in Mind

Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC has represented clients in mid-Michigan for over a century. With offices across Michigan, Foster Swift attorneys bring deep local knowledge to the families and individuals they serve, including those considering how to give back to their communities. The spirit of giving is woven into Foster Swift's culture. Attorneys at Foster Swift believe that being a good lawyer means being a good neighbor, too.

Foster Swift and the Community Foundation share a decades-long relationship. The cornerstone of that relationship is trust. Each client values the personal attention their attorney invests in getting to know the client's needs, and the Community Foundation offers that same care when it comes to charitable giving.

For attorneys who have not yet connected a client with the Community Foundation, the message is simple: the Community Foundation works *with* attorneys, not around them. That partnership is valuable not only to estate planning attorneys and the Community Foundation, but also to each client and the communities in which the client lives.



Many of my charitably inclined clients have a specific vision for charitable giving upon their death. I know that the Foundation is the perfect organization to help my clients tailor their charitable giving plan to fulfill their goals and wishes.

Alaina Nelson,
attorney at Foster Swift

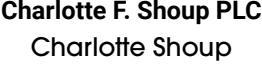


We assist clients through some of the most impactful moments of their lives. That includes helping clients think about their legacy and the difference they want to make in their community.

Warren Krueger,
attorney at Foster Swift



The Community Foundation enjoys working with professional advisors every day to help their clients. Thank you to the advisors below who have referred their clients to the Community Foundation, resulting in new funds and/or planned gifts:

 Ener Almanza	 Erik Hansen	 Patrick Hanes	 Amber Terakedis
 Rosemary Buhl Katie Lynwood	 Jeff Gorsline	 David Brake	 Ben Bakken Lee B. Reimann, CPA
 Susan Chalgian	 Howard "Jack" Weyers	 Melissa K. Allen	 Colleen Mitchell
 Charlotte Shoup	 Douglas Mielock	 Dick Lowe	 Frank Cherniawski
 Robin D. Ferriby	 Charles L. Lasky Marlaine Teahan	 Nancy Elwood	 Kenneth Klegon
 David J. Ambrose	 Carrie S. Ihrig Freeman	 Louis K. Nigg	

Emeritus

April J. Alleman J.D. (moved) - State Bar of Michigan
Sally Babbitt ‡ - Babbitt Legal Group
Deb Bauer ‡ - Raymond James
John Bos* - Buhl, Little, Lynwood & Harris, PLC
Arlyn Bossenbrook ‡ - Bossenbrook Williams
Jack Davis* - Loomis Law
Tina Ferland, CPA ‡ - Plante Moran
William Ferrigan ‡ - William L. Ferrigan Law P.C.
Richard Greene ‡ - Greene Wealth Management
Chuck Hillary ‡ - Hillary Lyons Associates
Mark Hooper, CPA ‡ - Andrews Hooper Pavlik

Robert B. Hughes* - Principal Financial
Charley Janssen ‡ - Foster Swift Collins & Smith
Nancy Little ‡ - Buhl, Little, Lynwood & Harris, PLC
Patricia Ouellette ‡ - Lowe Law Firm P.C.
Molly Petitjean (moved) - Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing
Bob Reinhart ‡ - Plante Moran
Merrick Richardson* - Layton & Richardson, P.C.
Jerry Sutton* - Sutton Advisors, PLC
David Thomas ‡ - Varnum - Kalamazoo Law Office
J. Michael Warren* - Warren Cameron Faust & Ascitutto, P.C.

If you've referred clients to the Community Foundation who have set up new funds or planned gifts but you are not included on this page, please contact us so we can be sure to recognize you in the future.

* Indicates advisors who have passed away.

‡ Indicates advisors who have retired.

Community Values in Action

For Cat and Paul Rathbun, being there for community isn't just a value, it's something you actually DO.

Paul, a second-generation business owner, spent much of his life quietly investing in the Lansing community. He passed away unexpectedly, but his spirit of generosity lives on through Cat and the legacy they built together. "He deeply cared about the community and about the people in it," Cat said. His generosity often happened behind the scenes, helping someone cover an unexpected bill or making sure a person in a tough spot could get back on their feet.

That same hands-on approach is what drew Cat and Paul to the Community Foundation's Underground of Good, a social giving group that pools small donations to make a bigger impact. "We joined Underground of Good because it was fun, and also because it showed how a few people together can really make a difference," Cat said.

Cat and Paul also worked with the Community Foundation to set up a legacy fund to keep supporting the community even after they were gone. They were finishing up the paperwork when Paul died. In her grief, Cat found purpose in carrying on what they had started together. "I really felt like doubling down on our commitment to the community, for both of us," she said.

"People think philanthropy is only for people with millions of dollars. It's not. You can plan to give as little or as much as you want," she said. "It doesn't even have to be a dollar amount. It can be a percentage. The important thing is just taking that first step."

That spirit of showing up lives on in Paul's son, Ben. He's active with the Foundation's Underground of Good, serves on nonprofit boards, and volunteers at community marches and neighborhood cleanups. "He's everywhere," Cat said.



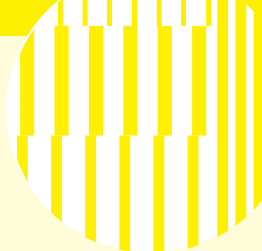
You can make a difference long after you're gone. A lot of people talk about ideas, but the Foundation gets things done.

Cat Rathbun,
Legacy Society member



Cat and Paul Rathbun, Penelope Art Photography

Thank You, Legacy Society



Sam M. & Mary E. Austin
Leahbelle M. Balbach*
Jim & Nancy Ballard
Dr. Paul J. Ballard
Susan J. Bandes
Jack E. & Margaret J. Bates*
Doris H. Bauer*
Joan Bauer
Kenneth C. Beachler*
Dana & Kim Beaman
Robert H.* & Jane M. Becker
John & Jewel Bos*
James & Sandra Briney
Ted & Maureen* Buda
Mike Chaddock, D.V.M.
William & Marilyn Cochran*
Sandra Sageser Clark
Kathleen J. Doan*
Mary Doering
Eleanor A. Doersam*
David & Connie Donovan
Gary & Peggy Doty
Ron & Susan Eggleston
Michael* & Karen Engan
Tom Eveland
Bernard & Susan Fehr
Vincent Ferris, Jr.
Jerry & Eileen Phaner
Dennis & Linda Fliehmman
John & Pamela Foster
Gerald & Dorothy Francis*
Charles Furney
Joe* & Betty Gadaletto
Mark D. Geovjian
Bertha P. Gilson*
Betty Giuliani*
Camron & Lisa Gnass
Shane & Ronda Goodale
Mark D. & Cheryl M. Grueneberg
Cindy E. Hales
Doug Hall
Billy E. Hanel*
Deanna & John Hanieski
Michael G.* & Deborah L. Harrison
James* & Judith Herbert

C. Richard Herrold
George & Eleanore Higginson
William Hochman
Grace C. Hoffer*
Thomas E. & Lynne M. Hoffmeyer
Meegan Holland
Mark & Marcia Hooper
Beth M. Hubbell
Robert B. Hughes*
Charley & LeaAnne Janssen
Gary & Marcy Kinzer
Kenneth & Karen* Klegon
Laurie Strauss Kuerbitz
Randy Linn
Jim & Ruth Linnemann
Nancy Little
Theresa Lynch*
Robert & Audrey Martin*
Clarabelle Maxey*
Gary & Jenny McCampbell
Gena McCoubrey & Family
Michael & Ann McDaniel
Richard D. McLellan
Paul & Evie McNamara
Heidi McNaughton
Thomas J. Messner
Charles & Helen Mickens
Cynthia M. Mielock
Donn & Kathleen Miller
Cleon Mingus*
Maureen Moloney & Doug Peterson
Leon* & Carol Monroe
Donald R. Moore*
Mike & Midge Morrow
Patricia K. Munshaw
Sherry & Ed Nelton
Mary Nesman*
The Ng Family
Suzanne M. Olivier
Gerald L. Olson
Richard & Lorayne Otto*
Dennis Pace & Anne Grofvert
Jeffrey Padden
Janice Parish
Nancy Passanante*

Molly P. Petitjean
Howard T. Pierce
Donald F. Power* & Maureen McCabe-Power
Joe & Lori Pray
Robert C. Rabeler
E. Paul* & Catherine Rathbun
Andrew & Michelle Reynaert
Frank H. & Patricia Reynolds
Helen Riendeau
Jack & Peggy Roberts
Ryan Robertson & Kira Carter-Robertson
Ruth Sablich
Schertzing Family
Carol Schwartz
Pamela A. Shaheen
Scott Schrager & Mary Anne Ford
John & Debbie Sirrine
Stuart Sleight
Diane Smith
Warren Smith & Paul Marisch
Kathleen M. Soltow
Heather Spielmaker
Ernest & Katherine Strefling*
Denis Sullivan & Peggy Parke
Janette and Elsie Trachsel*
Richard Eason Tuttle*
Jesusa Vasquez & Gary L. Heilig
John R. Wales*
Diane Warner
Mary Weimer*
Abraham Wheeler & Rachel Minkin
Ronald W. Whittaker
John & Cheryl Wieber
Jeff D. Williams & Joy M. Whitten
Tom & Elizabeth Wilson
Sally Wittler
Gary Witzenburg
Joan Wright
Wilbur & Ruth Wright*
Raymond R. Ziarno

** indicates Legacy Society members who have passed away.*

If you've made arrangements for a planned gift to the Community Foundation and are not included in the above list, please contact us so we can be sure to recognize you in the future.

Youth Leading the Way



2025-2026 Youth Advisory Council meeting

The **Youth Advisory Council (YAC)** gives high school students the chance to lead, serve, and make a real difference through philanthropy.

YAC brings together students from across the region to fund the causes they care about. Members review proposals, talk through community priorities, and decide where funding will have the most impact, gaining hands-on experience in leadership and grantmaking along the way.

In 2025, YAC members awarded more than \$50,000 in grants to 12 youth-serving organizations. It's proof that young people don't need to wait until adulthood to lead meaningful change.

Give young people responsibility, and they'll rise to it, and often exceed expectations.

Know a student who would like to join?

LaToya Turner, Community Investment Officer
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 517-282-1809

Our Grantmaking

Grantmaking is one of the many ways the Community Foundation supports nonprofits in our region. Since the Foundation's first grant in 1989, we have awarded more than **\$95 million** to organizations in Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties through five grant opportunities.

Impact Grants fund projects or programs that help an organization to create greater impact with those they currently serve, or to extend their work to underserved populations.

Capacity Building Grants strengthen nonprofit board governance, fundraising, strategic planning, and much more.

Mini-Grants support small organizations with operating budgets under \$200,000. These requests are reviewed and funded by our generous donor-advised fundholders.

Youth Grants are awarded by the Youth Advisory Council, a group of high school students from schools throughout the tri-county area. Grants support issues that are important to teens.

Al & Jan Granger Beacon of Hope Grant is a \$100,000 annual award supporting nonprofits that bring hope and dignity to those facing adversity. *Applications are accepted by invitation only.*

The Foundation's Community Investment team provides exceptional service to nonprofits beyond grants with coaching, workshops, networking events, and other support.

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Book vending machine from East Lansing Kiwanis



Nonprofit Meet & Greet at Woldumar Nature Center

Over \$1.3 Million Granted to Nonprofits in 2025

Impact Grantees • \$831,520



Al & Jan Granger Beacon of Hope Grantees • \$200,000



Capacity Building Grantees • \$162,450



Youth Fund Grantees • \$50,140

- All of the Above Hip Hop Academy (AOTA)
- Building Twentyone
- Eastside Community Action Center
- Eaton Rapids High School Interact Club
- First United Methodist Church of Eaton Rapids
- Focus On Love Foundation
- I'll Be Your Rock
- Judson Love Clothing Center
- Nottingham Nature Nook
- St. Johns Call-In Coalition
- STREETS 517 Ministries
- Teaching & Mentoring Young Leaders

Mini Grantees • \$87,446

- All Nations Christian Church Food Pantry of Lansing
- Building Twentyone
- Eaton Foster Closet
- Giving Paws
- Good Shepherds Love
- Helping Hands of Eaton County
- Holt Community Food Bank
- I'll Be Your Rock
- Judson Love Clothing Center
- Leslie Outreach Inc.
- Mason Community Services Inc.
- Next Generation Family Services
- No Senior Without Christmas
- Nottingham Nature Nook
- Petals & Pinecones, Inc.
- Pure Hearts of Michigan
- Qat Quilters Guild
- South Lansing Ministries
- Southside Community Kitchen
- T.W.I.G.S. To Work In Grateful Service
- Talking Dog Film, INC.
- The Global Institute of Lansing
- There's Always Room Inc.
- Veterans Archives

The Power of Collective Giving

Community impact grows stronger when people come together around a shared purpose.

Underground of Good connects young professionals who want to make a difference where they work and play. Through collective giving, shared experiences, and community connection, members pool their gifts and invest not only in local nonprofits, but also in a culture of generosity and civic engagement.

Since 2016, Underground of Good members have invested over \$103,000 in nearly 40 local nonprofits, turning shared ideas into real community change.

Quarterly gatherings at local businesses and restaurants become spaces where members learn about community needs, discuss solutions, vote on grant investments, and connect with peers who share a commitment to giving back.

“Philanthropy can sometimes feel formal or exclusive, but this group makes it approachable, fun, and meaningful,” said 2025 co-chair Tricia Carter. “It brings people together from all walks of life – young professionals and beyond – and creates a real sense of community among compassionate individuals who genuinely want to make a difference. For me, what started as a unique way to give back has turned into meaningful friendships, enjoyable experiences, and a lot of laughs.”



2026 Underground of Good meeting

Our Leadership



We Asked. You Answered.



Rotary Park



Play Michigan!



Fish Ladder Music Park

The Community Foundation is making great progress on shaping the downtown Lansing riverfront, creating public spaces where diverse people can gather, have fun, and feel connected to their community.

Public Survey Results

In summer 2025, we conducted a public survey. 349 people shared what they think about the Lansing riverfront, what's working, what's missing the mark, and what they'd like to see in the future.

The results were encouraging. 82% said the riverfront has become more enjoyable thanks to recent improvements. Many called out spots like Lansing Shuffle and Play Michigan! playground as great examples of what public spaces can be.

What do people want more of?

Events and programming topped the list. 65% of respondents said they want more things to do along the riverfront, including live music, markets, and family activities.

People also want the spaces to be better maintained. Cleanliness, lighting, and upkeep came up repeatedly. The message was simple: a great public space needs consistent care to stay welcoming for everyone.



Communication is key

Even though appreciation for the riverfront was high, more than 80% of people didn't know the Community Foundation was behind many of these spaces, with most finding out about riverfront spaces through friends or social media rather than any official source. That told us we needed to do a better job of sharing information and helping people see the riverfront as a whole.

To help with that, we created and manage **LansingRiverfront.org**. It connects the community to live music, festivals, wellness activities, and more, with the goal of making the riverfront a place where everyone wants to live, work, and visit.

What comes next

Listening doesn't stop when a survey ends. The feedback from hundreds of residents is now shaping the next phase of riverfront work. We're using what we heard to set priorities and decide where to invest.

The riverfront has come a long way. But there's still more to do, and we're committed to making sure its future is welcoming, connected, and built for everyone.

To learn more about upcoming events along the riverfront, check out LansingRiverfront.org.



Starfarm performing at the opening night of Fish Ladder Music Park, Lenon James Photography



Fish Ladder Music Park Completed

Last fall, the Community Foundation celebrated the completion of Fish Ladder Music Park, transforming one of Lansing's most unique landmarks into a vibrant gathering place for music, events, and community connection.

Located along the Grand River in Old Town, the reimagined Brenke Fish Ladder now features a permanent performance stage, tiered seating, accessibility improvements, creative lighting, gathering spaces, and riverfront amenities designed to welcome visitors year-round. What was once an underused public space has become a destination for residents and visitors alike.

Following the success of Rotary Park and Play Michigan! all-access playground, Fish Ladder Music Park became the third major riverfront placemaking project designed to strengthen community connections and create a more vibrant downtown Lansing.

In 2026, our focus is shifting from building spaces to activating them.

The Community Foundation surveyed hundreds of residents about the future of the Lansing Riverfront. One message came through clearly: people want more opportunities to gather, connect, and experience the riverfront through events and programming.

Starfarm performing at the opening night of Fish Ladder Music Park, Lenon James Photography



Fish Ladder Music Park is helping to meet that moment.

Today, the park is hosting concerts, festivals, wellness activities, community celebrations, and other events that bring new energy to the riverfront.

In response to community feedback, the Foundation launched **LansingRiverfront.org**, a website to promote and connect people with all that's happening on the riverfront. Through that effort, Fish Ladder Music Park is becoming a destination on the riverfront.

The completion of this park is exciting, and its success will be measured by the memories created there, the connections formed, and the role it plays in building a riverfront where everyone feels welcome. We're creating reasons for people to gather, celebrate, and belong.



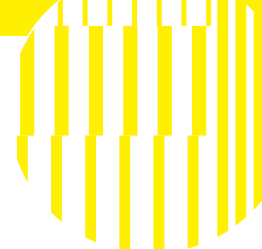
**Thank you to those who made
this park possible:**

Anonymous
Joseph and Theresa Butcher
Ryan and Patricia Carter
City of Lansing
Tom and Wendy Hofman
Meegan Holland
Brian Huggler and Ken Ross
LAFCU
Lake Trust Credit Union
Lansing Board of Water & Light
Diana Maddox
MSU Federal Credit Union
Jeffrey Padden
Cat Rathbun
Dale and Anne Schrader
Jamie Schriener
State of Michigan
Wieland

Community Foundation 2025 Annual Report



Audited Financial Report



ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 976,751	1,543,511
Investments	189,263,788	166,510,672
Promises to give, net of allowance for doubtful accounts and discount	96,849	924,434
Deposits	17,980	10,786
Property donation: cemetery lots	93,845	93,845
Furniture and equipment, less accumulated depreciation	11,762	17,263
Operating lease right-of-use assets	90,809	198,601
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 190,551,784	169,299,112

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$ 49,590	63,460
Accrued salaries and related	14,463	39,944
Grants payable	304,724	256,207
Deferred Revenue	-	500
Funds held in agency endowments	20,825,114	17,227,851
Liabilities associated with gift annuities	37,039	38,300
Operating lease liabilities	90,809	198,601
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 21,321,739	17,824,863

NET ASSETS

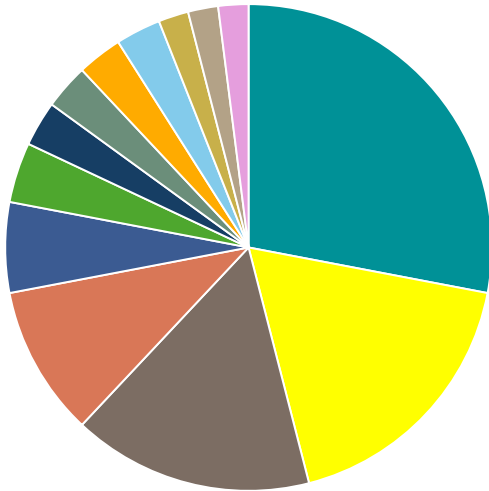
Total Net Assets	\$ 169,230,0245	151,474,249
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 190,551,784	169,299,112

The accounting firm of Maner Costerisan, PC, annually audits the Capital Region Community Foundation's financial statements and has once again expressed an unqualified favorable opinion. A complete copy of our audited financial statement is available online at ourcommunity.org.

\$10,118,989 of Impact

GRANTS & AGENCY DISTRIBUTIONS

Total: \$10,118,989

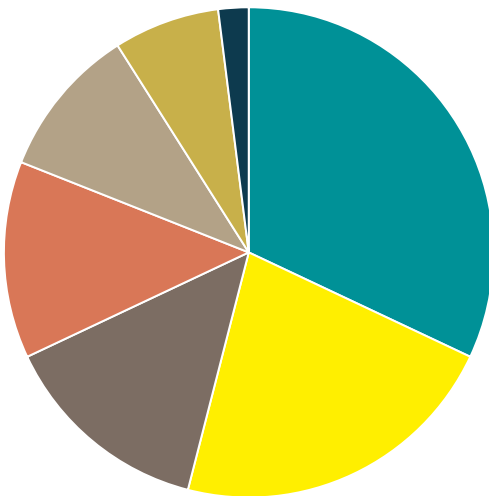


	Leadership Initiatives	28%
	Education	18%
	Philanthropy & Volunteerism (Primarily Agency Funds)	16%
	Human Services	10%
	Health	6%
	Other	4%
	Recreation	3%
	Housing & Shelter	3%
	Arts & Culture	3%
	Religious*	3%
	Nonprofit Capacity Building	2%
	Animal Related	2%
	Youth Development	2%

*The majority of these grants were from our Donor-Advised fundholders.

FUND CATEGORIES

Total: \$169,133,196



	Agency Funds	32%	\$54,345,893
	Field of Interest Funds	22%	\$37,883,544
	Designated Funds	14%	\$23,751,005
	Donor-Advised Funds	13%	\$22,011,097
	Scholarship Funds	10%	\$17,013,441
	Undesignated Funds	7%	\$10,829,997
	High Impact Funds	2%	\$3,298,219

587 Funds and Growing

High Impact Funds

See page 8 or visit ourcommunity.org for information on these funds.

Community Needs Fund

DEI Action Fund

Leadership Fund

Riverfront Activation Fund

Riverfront Maintenance Endowment Fund
• Play Michigan! Playground

Agency Funds

American Council of Snowmobile Associations Legacy Fund

American Red Cross Mid-Michigan Chapter Endowment Fund

Arc Michigan Endowment Fund, The

Archives of Michigan Endowment Fund

Arts Council of Greater Lansing Endowment Fund

- Arts Advancement Fund
- Suzanne B. Mills Fund for the Arts

Autism Support of Michigan Endowment Fund

Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region Endowment Fund

Boys & Girls Club of Lansing Endowment Fund

- Dr. Carl Bradford and Rhea May Bradford Endowment Fund, The

Burcham Hills Endowment Fund

- Center for Health and Rehab Fund
- Donald and Phoebe Griffin Benevolent Care Endowment Fund
- Lenna M. Keith Benevolent Care Fund

Camp Grayling Officers Club Fund

Capital Area Humane Society Endowment Fund

- Glassen Memorial Endowment Fund for Humane Education
- Harold Levy Charitable Fund

Capital Area Literacy Coalition Endowment Fund

Capital Region Housing Collaborative

Carol J. Greer Community Learning Center Endowment Fund

CASA for Kids Fund

Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton & Clinton Counties

- Cristo Rey Campus Fund
- St. Vincent Campus Fund

Chief Okemos Council, Boy Scouts of America Endowment Fund

- J. Michael Warren Campership Fund

Child and Family Charities Endowment Fund

Chosen Vision Endowment Fund

City of East Lansing Endowment Fund

City of Lansing Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund

Clinton County Historical Museum Endowment Fund

Community Mental Health Endowment Fund

Crosswalk Teen Center Endowment Fund

Davies Project Endowment Fund, The
• Fred and Barbara Honhart Charitable Fund

DeWitt Area Community Fund

- All Kids Playground
- Japanese Garden Project

DeWitt Public Schools Foundation Endowment Fund

Digital Collegium Endowment Fund in Honor of Dr. Tonya Oaks Smith

Dobie Road Foundation Endowment Fund

East Lansing Educational Foundation Endowment Fund

- Allyson Knox and Mark Solheim School Social Worker and Counselor Fund
- Asa and Calder Bromley Memorial Library Fund
- Class of 1963 Endowment Fund
- Class of 1971 Endowment Fund
- Corey Cafagna Fund for Special Education, Jazz and Choral Music
- Discretionary Fund for Professional Development
- Dorothy McDonald Endowment Fund for Orchestral Music
- Draggoo Family Endowment Fund for High School Band
- East Lansing Alumni Association Fund
- Endowment for Academics
- Endowment for Athletics, Clubs, and Activities
- Endowment for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)

• Endowment for the Arts

• High School Music Directors' Discretionary Fund for Music Students

• Jason Wildman Fund

• Jodi Piper Bappert Fund for Student Leadership Development

• John Ropp Endowment Fund

• Mary Anne Sternberg Marshall Fund for High School Theater

• Sally McClintock Endowment for Elementary Music

• Science Olympiad Club Endowment Fund

• Shrewsbury Sisters-Whitmer Family Endowment for Civic Engagement

• Spartan Village G.L.O.B.A.L. Endowment Fund

• Staton Family Endowment Fund

• S.T.E.M. Endowment Fund

East Lansing Public Library Endowment Fund

Eaton Community Health (ECH) Endowment Fund

- Barbara Jean Fulton Memorial Fund

Eaton County Community Foundation

- Administrative Endowment
- Charlotte Public Schools Education Foundation Endowment Fund
- Courthouse Square Association Fund
- Eaton Area Senior Center Endowment Fund
- Eaton Rapids Education Foundation Endowment Fund
- First Congregational Church of Vermontville Endowment Fund
- Friends of the Charlotte Performing Arts Center Endowment Fund
- Grand Ledge Education Foundation Endowment Fund
 - » Dart Bank Grand Ledge Literacy Endowment Fund
 - » David and Betty Morris Fund
 - » Josh Spalsbury Endowment for the Social Sciences
 - » Winstanley Endowment for Mathematics and Science Scholarship
- Grand Ledge Opera House Endowment Fund
- Heart and Hands Endowment Fund
- Housing Services Mid Michigan Endowment Fund
- United Way of South Central Michigan Endowment Fund
- University of Michigan Health – Sparrow Eaton Hospital Endowment Fund

Eaton Rapids Area Historical Society Roger Hoopingarner Endowment Fund

Eaton Rapids Community Alliance Endowment Fund

- James and Carolyn Ballard Memorial Fund

Edgewood Village Endowment Fund

Ele's Place Endowment Fund

- Shirley Pasant Memorial Fund, The

EVE, Inc. Endowment Fund

Fenner Conservancy Endowment Fund

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Michigan Fund

Friends of Historic Meridian Endowment Fund

Friends of the East Lansing Public Library Endowment Fund

- Dr. Mary M. Brown Endowment Fund

Friendship Forever Fund

Grand Ledge Opera House Endowment Fund

Greater Lansing Food Bank John and Diane Dodge Endowment Fund

Habitat for Humanity of Michigan Endowment Fund

Harris Nature Center Endowment Fund

Haven House Endowment Fund

Highfields, Inc. Endowment Fund

Hospice of Lansing Endowment Fund, The

House of Promise Endowment Fund, The

Impression Five Science Center Endowment Fund

Izzo Legacy Endowment Fund, The

- Rick and Denise Young Charitable Fund

Jayne E. Rabeler Mathematics Memorial Endowment Fund

Junior Achievement of Mid-Michigan Endowment Fund

Laingsburg Educational Advancement Foundation Fund

Lansing Concert Band Endowment Fund

Lansing Promise Endowment Fund

Lansing Public Schools Educational Advancement Foundation Fund

Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission Endowment Fund

- Shaheen Family Fund for Sister Cities

Lansing Symphony Orchestra Fund

Legacy Endowment for Catholic Spartans (St. John Church & Student Center)

- Father Jake Fund
- Student Leadership Fund

Library of Michigan Foundation Endowment Fund

Loaves and Fishes Ministries Endowment Fund

Lucinda Means Bicycle Advocacy Fund

Michigan Animal Health Foundation Endowment Fund

Michigan Barn Preservation Network Endowment Fund

Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence Endowment Fund

Michigan Disability Rights Coalition Jim Francis-Bohr Memorial Fund

Michigan Economic Developers Association Endowment Fund in Honor of Birgit Klohs

Michigan Historical Center Foundation Fund

Michigan Insurance Hall of Fame Endowment Fund

Michigan Museums Association Endowment Fund

Michigan Nurses Foundation Fund

Michigan Physical Therapy Institute for Education and Research Endowment Fund

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Student Award Fund

Michigan Physician Assistant Foundation Endowment Fund

Michigan Public Power Agency Fund

Michigan Shiga Sister State Board Endowment Fund

Michigan Wildlife Conservancy Endowment Fund

Michigan's Children Fund

Mikey's Fund

MNA ConnectMichigan Alliance Endowment Fund

- George W. Romney Endowment Fund
- Michigan Campus Compact Fund
- Russel G. Mawby Endowment Fund

mParks - Raymond C. and Katherine E. Davis Access to Recreation Endowment Fund

- Michael and Karen Engan Park and Playground Fund
- Timothy J. Doyle Memorial Fund

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Michigan Fund

Next Generation Family Services Endowment Fund

Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project Endowment Fund, The

Okemos Community Church Endowment Fund

Okemos Education Foundation Endowment Fund

Old Town Commercial Association Robert P. Busby Memorial Fund

Opportunity Resource Fund Endowment Fund

Origami Rehabilitation Endowment Fund

Ovid-Elsie Community Fund

- Athletic Fund
- Band Fund
- Future Farmers of America Alumni Fund
- Information Center Fund
- WOES Fund

Peckham Endowment Fund

Portland Foundation for Public Education Fund

- Austin Getchell Memorial Fund

Potter Park Zoological Society Endowment Fund

- Robert and Phyllis Miller Fund, The

REACH Studio Art Endowment Fund

Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation Endowment Fund - In Memory of Jack Bates, The

- George and Marilyn Nugent Rotary Endowment Fund, The
- Hooper Family Rotary Endowment Fund
- Kenneth C. Beachler Rotary Endowment Fund

School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan Endowment Fund

Small Talk Children's Advocacy Center Partners in Hope and Healing Endowment Fund

St. Gerard Church Endowment Fund (in honor of Fr. John Klein)

St. Johns Area Community Fund

- Class of 1965 Sickles & Fitch Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
- Ed and Sara Peters Family Heritage Fund
- Forrest and Doris Swatman Downtown Celebration Fund
- John and Cheryl Wieber Family Heritage Fund
- Mazzolini Family Fund



- McKenzie/Crosby Agency Fund
- Sirrine Family Heritage Fund, The
- St. Johns Area Children's Fund
- Zuker Family Fund, The

St. Johns Schools Foundation for Excellence Endowment Fund

- Jean M. Harte Scholarship Fund
- Terry Cornwell Award Fund

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church Fund

St. Thomas Aquinas Church Music Ministry Fund

St. Thomas Aquinas Faith Fund

State Bar of Michigan Access to Justice Fund

T.W.I.G.S. To Work In Grateful Service Endowment Fund

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Tri-County Office on Aging Endowment Fund

United Way of South Central Michigan Endowment Fund I

- College Access Network Endowment Fund
- United Way of South Central Michigan Endowment Fund II
- United Way of South Central Michigan Volunteer Center Endowment Fund

Williamston Area Beautification Fund

Williamston Schools Foundation Endowment Fund

Woldumar Nature Center Fund

Women's Center of Greater Lansing Endowment Fund

YMCA of Lansing Fund

Dorothy A. Johnson Scholarship Fund

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Eaton County Community Foundation

- Charlotte Country Club Community Fund
- Charlotte Industrial Development Corporation Fund
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- Joe Hartig Fund
- Miller Fund

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Engler Family Fund

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Gillner Family Fund, The

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Lansing Promise Endowment Fund in Memory of Lisa Daman

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Ray and Dee Kinzel Endowment Fund

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Wales Family Charitable Fund

Will Goodale Memorial Endowment Fund

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Designated Funds

Adam D. Nevells Memorial Fund

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Bill Buchanan Endowment Fund

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Field of Interest Funds

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 Antonio Jordan Youth Empowerment Fund
 Barry Eaton Health Plan Health Care Access Fund

Basic Needs Fund

Buda Family Human Services Fund
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 • Eaton County Substance Abuse Fund
 • Eaton Federal Savings Bank Fund

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- Eaton Rapids Community Foundation Fund
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- Wildern Family Fund
- Youth Fund

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Lansing Eastern High School Alumni Fund

- Don Johnson Leadership Fund
- Schneider-Young Fine Arts Fund
- Ted Wonch Entrepreneurial Fund

Lansing Fund Endowment

Lansing Ophthalmology - Justin Sleight Basic Needs Fund

Lansing Regional Youth Charities Endowment Fund

Lansing State Journal First Amendment Fund

Leahbelle and Harold Balbach Senior Fund

Len Charitable Fund to Benefit the Leslie Community

Local Impact Investment Fund

Lucile Belen Fund

Moloney-Peterson Charitable Fund

Nicholoff-Nowitzke Lansing Youth Fund
 Nolan, Madelyn, and Joanna Owen Fund
 Otto Family Greatest Need Fund
 Ovid-Elsie Community Fund
 • Bob, Connie, and Scott Parmenter Fund
 • Catherine Atkins Memorial Fund
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 Paul and Marje McConaughy Fund for the Arts
 Penny Strang Memorial Fund
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 Sablich Basic Needs Fund
 Someone's Watching Over Me Fund
 Susan J. Bandes Arts and Culture Fund

Theater Fund

Thelen-Woodruff Family Charitable Fund
 Two Men and a Truck MicroEnterprise Fund
 Underground of Good Fund

Veterans Assistance Fund

William G. and Phyllis E. Meier Endowment Fund

Youth Fund

- Lansing Chapter Credit Unions Fund

Scholarship Funds

American Legion Brewer Scholarship Fund
 Dansville High School
 • Ed and Sandra Cremer Class of 1957 and 1958 Scholarship Fund
 Dave West Memorial Fund
 DeWitt Public Schools Foundation – David Cutler Endowed Scholarship Fund
 Donald T. MacLean and Margaret Finlayson Hunter MacLean Scholarship Fund
 Eaton County Community Foundation
 • Eaton Rapids Community Foundation Fund
 » James E. and Joyce E. Griffith Scholarship Fund
 » Kiwanis Club Scholarship Fund
 • Eaton Rapids Public Schools
 » Bernadine Ann Bosier Memorial Scholarship Fund

- » Carl & Ruth Ackley Scholarship Fund
- » Charles James Dowding Scholarship Fund
- » David D. Letts Memorial Scholarship Fund
- » Sarah Copp Scholarship Fund
- James N. and Clarabelle Maxey Family Memorial Fund
- John and Gloria Nelson Scholarship Fund

Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C. H.O.P.E. Scholarship Fund

Future City Scholarship Fund

George and Ilah Mae Damman Scholarship Fund

H.O.L.T. (Helping Others Learn Together) Scholarship Endowment Fund

Helene Tzitsikas Holy Trinity Scholarship Fund

If I Can Do It, You Can Too Scholarship Fund

Lansing Promise
 • HOPE Connections
 • HOPE Scholarship

Lansing Public Schools Educational Advancement Foundation
 • Cecil H. Nickel Scholarship Endowment
 • Clayton and Ann Kowalk Fund
 • Dr. E. Sharon Banks Education Scholarship Fund
 • Dr. Laurence MacQueen Education Scholarship Fund
 • Eva Evans Fund
 • J Mark Mehaffey Art Education Scholarship Fund
 • John Aldinger Scholarship Fund
 • John C. and Joan M. Weaver Scholarship Fund
 • Kiwanis Scholarship
 • Mrs. Maria Velasquez Scholarship Fund
 • Richard J. Halik Endowed Scholarship
 • Sparrow Hospital/Dr. W. E. Maldonado Endowment Fund

LEHS Arthur E. and Hilda F. Mitchell Scholarship Fund

Lillian M. Rush H.O.P.E Scholarship Fund

Maggie Miller Kind Heart Scholarship Fund

MAPA Educational Development Scholarship Fund

Mary A. Dunn Fund

Mason Promise Scholarship Fund

Michael and Sandra O'Malley Scholarship Fund

Michigan Nurses Foundation

- Goddeeris Scholarship Fund
- Margaret Louise Miller Leipold RN Scholarship Fund

Nowak Family Scholarship Fund

Ovid-Elsie Community Fund

- Gladys Vincent - E.E. Knight Scholarship Fund
- Glenn and Cleo Williams Scholarship Fund
- Kelley E. Carter Memorial Fund
- R. and D. Moore Fund

Portland Foundation for Public Education

- Alyce Dowling Scholarship Fund
- Bradley Foltz Scholarship Fund
- Class of 1959 Scholarship Fund
- Robertson Family Scholarship Fund
- Shirley Storz Smith Scholarship Fund
- Suzanne J. Buche Memorial Scholarship Fund

Richard and Lorayne Otto Scholarship Fund

Robert E. and Audrey M. Martin Scholarship Fund

Scholarship Fund

Smith-Marisch Music Education Scholarship Fund

Southside Church of Christ - Barbara Surine Memorial Scholarship Fund

Suzan Jean Snyder Scholarship Fund

Thornton Family (George and Emma, Jim and Becky) Endowment Fund, The

Vandercook Scholarship Fund

Wayne V. Shooks Scholarship Fund

Legacy Funds (Testamentary)

These donors are listed as members of our Legacy Society on page 15.

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