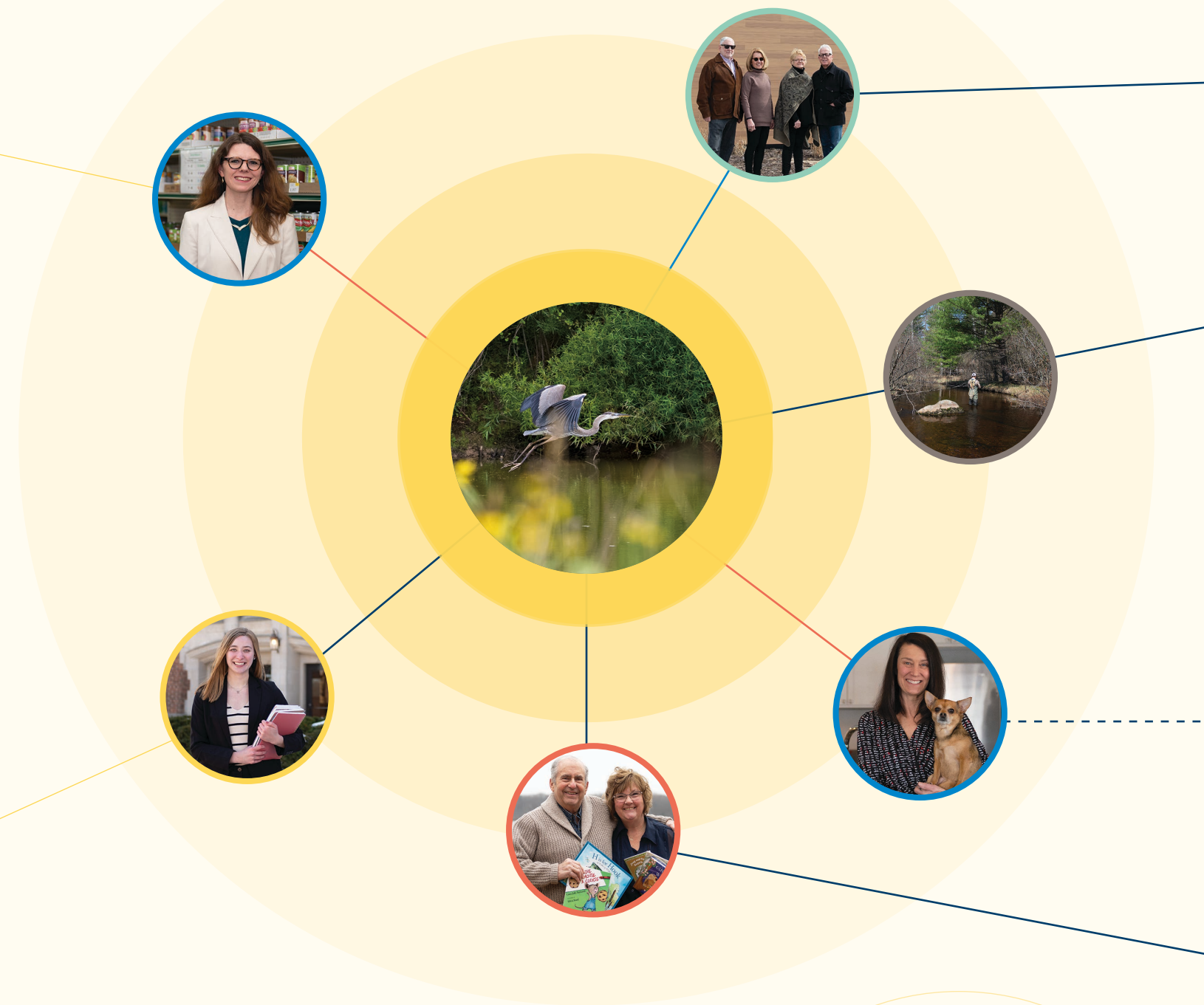


ripple effects



ripple effects



Creating lasting change through quiet intention

One gift,
one connection
can transform
a community.



**A modest gift in 1933
fed hungry people in 2022.** A

family who moved away in 1918 funded river restoration last year. Like so many others, they gave to improve a future they couldn't predict, the quiet generosity of individuals and families connecting across decades to become more than they could have imagined.

Our Community Foundation exists to link people and resources to local needs. From the smallest gifts to the largest grants, every connection we make together expands opportunity in our community. Each effort builds on the last, growing in impact as it flows outward.

Hope meeting intention.

Optimism becoming action.

Our work together creating lasting change.

Connecting
to
community

WATERS EDGE

THE BUNKER/Toptracer

GORSKY FAMILY



Four of six Gorsky siblings moved to Newaygo County in the early 1970s with their parents, Al and Loretta. They graduated from high school, then spread out across the country for college, military service, and careers. Yet this area kept drawing them back.

“We have kept these connections for the 50 years since,” said Therese Gorsky Cosan.

“We could go anywhere in the world, but we choose to be here because it’s special,” said Alex Gorsky.

Older brother Jim Gorsky used to visit but never lived here until several years ago. “I realized I had only scratched the surface before,” he said. “There are so many people to meet here, really good-hearted people.”

Several family members live here full-time now, and the others love to visit regularly. They all follow Al and Loretta’s example of seeking out ways to give back and get involved.

The Gorskys have been instrumental in the resurrection of Waters Edge Golf Course, inspired by their father’s vision and the prospect of creating jobs and recreational opportunities. They also created an endowment fund together at the Community Foundation as part of the family’s ongoing commitment to the area.

“We are so fortunate in this community,” said Alex. “But it’s because people have made the effort to get involved. Giving back is our responsibility.”

(l-r): Roy Cosan, Therese Gorsky Cosan, Madelon Gorsky, Jim Gorsky

Connecting to conservation

LAND
CONSERVANCY
OF WEST
MICHIGAN

Conservation is future-focused work. It requires deliberate, ongoing action. Habitats don't improve overnight, and forests take decades to grow.

"Some restoration projects take a long time to show us the signs they are working," said Kim Karn, executive director of Land Conservancy of West Michigan.

The Land Conservancy specializes in the long-term commitment that caring for natural areas requires. One of their newest projects is the McDuffee Creek Nature Preserve in northern Newaygo County. Multiple partners, including the Community Foundation, supported the purchase of the property. Now, the Land Conservancy is also planning for amenities, like boardwalks and signage, and habitat restoration.

"Our goal is to manage the preserve with an eye toward creating and maintaining climate resilient and biodiverse landscapes," said Kim. "We want to see the restored habitat thriving. We envision anglers, hikers, birders, and more using the preserve as a destination for nature exploration."

While work like restoring the preserve's oak savanna will take time, the Land Conservancy celebrates milestones along the way, like rare birds or insects returning to a once-degraded area. "How rewarding it is to know that we helped usher those conditions back!" said Kim. "To do so alongside members of the community, who volunteer their support in all manner of ways, makes it even more special."

Connecting
to
compassion

NEWAYGO
COUNTY
COMPASSION
HOME

Where some saw an eyesore, Newaygo County Compassion Home saw potential. While the hospice home began serving guests in 2018 at a donated house in White Cloud, they also began renovating a larger building in Fremont that had been empty for years. Today, it is a spacious, comfortable home where guests can complete their lives with dignity, surrounded by care.

“The end of life is part of living,” said Diane Rudholm, executive director. “We want to help people transition peacefully and gracefully. We want it to feel like home.”

Thanks to a devoted board and staff—including support dog Darla—the Compassion Home has served over 245 people, including more than 155 since moving to their new location in 2021. All services are free to guests and families, so the organization relies on donations and local support. “It’s a gift from the community to the community,” said Dr. Douglas Johnson, board president.

To provide additional long-term support, the Compassion Home created an endowment fund at the Community Foundation last year. “It will provide sustainability in the future,” said Diane. “It also provides another way for people to give. We are so grateful for the support of the community.”



Connecting to service

EMMA
KARTES

As a member of the Community Foundation’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), Emma Kartes spent her first year quietly observing. “Then I started getting more comfortable speaking up,” she said. “I learned about communication. I learned that when you take on a leadership role, it’s not just being in charge. It’s making sure everyone is supported and knows that I feel confident in them. I use that all the time now.”

Today, as a college student, Emma is using her skills as she majors in public and nonprofit administration. She is also involved with the Nonprofit Leadership Student Alliance on campus and has an internship with the Council of Michigan Foundations. She has consulted with organizations, written grants, and helped guide giving campaigns. In her internship, Emma provides leadership for statewide youth philanthropy programming.

“I always knew I wanted to do good work for a good reason,” she said. “Being in YAC helped me begin to professionalize my interest in the nonprofit sector.”

Growing up in Newaygo County also served as early inspiration. “Seeing how involved people were in supporting each other, especially youth, made me want to get involved too,” said Emma. “I feel very lucky. All the support I got from the community made me want to give back.”

Connecting to education

After Tim Rossler volunteered in his mother’s Head Start classroom in college—where he was studying business—he began picking up education electives and ultimately became a teacher and superintendent. For Peggy Rossler, a love of education started even earlier with a kindergarten teacher she adored. “Teaching was my dream from then on,” she said. “And I got to live my dream. It wasn’t always easy, but it was wonderful.”

Tim and Peggy are retired now, but they are still just as passionate about education. Their three sons are educators, Tim serves on the Promise Zone board, and Peggy, a Community Foundation trustee, is chair of our Education Committee. The couple also used our build-a-fund program to create the Tim and Peggy Rossler Fund for Early Literacy.

“Kids who are read to, talked to, and sung to when they’re young have a better chance of success,” said Peggy. Their hope is that the fund can provide books and learning materials for the area’s youngest residents. It’s also part of a long-standing Rossler family goal: Leave the world around you a little better.

“If you’re going to be part of the community, you have to contribute to the community,” said Tim. “You have to try to make it a better place.”

TIM AND
PEGGY
ROSSLER



Connecting to transformation

LOVE INC

Love INC offers many services, including a food pantry, resale store, and help center which connects people with the appropriate resources. Most importantly, however, it's a place where transformation begins.

“We’re helping people go from just surviving to thriving,” said Traci Slager, executive director. “A lot of people feel very stuck, and we help them see life through a different lens.”

Love INC’s Transformational Ministry programs, supported in part by grants from the Community Foundation, help individuals and families make lasting changes and regain hope. Participants learn about budgeting, job skills, setting healthy boundaries, and more. They are also matched with mentors. “We always say that we’re not just giving people resources, we’re trying to build resources in people,” said Traci.

With the support of local church partners and a host of dedicated volunteers, Love INC is working to expand their Transformational Ministry and develop new initiatives to meet other community needs.

“The most rewarding part of our work is the freedom we see in people as they’re completing these programs,” said Traci. “They used to feel trapped and hopeless and didn’t see their situation being any different in the future. Now we can see the weight lifted off them. They’re starting to find a way out.”



OUR NEXT 75

Gerald and Suzanne VanWieren

“We’re grateful for what we’ve received and want to return it.”

-Dr. Gerald VanWieren

As part of Dr. Gerald VanWieren’s commitment to the National Health Service Corps, he had to work in a high-need community after medical school. He and his wife Suzanne, a family nurse practitioner, chose Grant. Used to high doctor turnover, patients often asked how long they planned to stay.

“I was obligated to two years, but we’ve stayed 40,” said Gerald. He and Suzanne raised their children here, love local trails and rivers, and are active volunteers.

As members of Our Next 75, the VanWierens have also given to the Maynard and Lavina DeKryger Scholarship. Their support honors the DeKrygers, who were mentors to them, and helps local graduates attending medical school.

About Our Next 75

In 2026, Fremont Area Community Foundation will celebrate 75 years of generosity and impact in Newaygo County. As part of this milestone anniversary, we are looking for 75 people who want to support the community they love both today and into the future.

These philanthropists will play a vital role in building the future of Newaygo County. **To join Our Next 75, we ask three simple things:**

1

Give today

Establish a named fund or make an annual gift of \$250 or more to an endowed fund at the Community Foundation

2

Give tomorrow

Include the Community Foundation in your estate plan

3

Share your story

Share with us why you chose to give back to the community

From our president and chair



Connecting generosity and action

2022 was a year of strengthening connections. We focused on relationships and continued to serve as a vital link between intentional generosity and thoughtful action.

We also engaged in refreshing the Community Foundation's strength in purpose. We consulted many, listened a great deal, and found a renewed vision for our work. Philosopher Simone Weil called attention "the rarest and purest form of generosity." We are grateful for the attention of so many who helped us think through our strategic framework.

We always remember that the Community Foundation belongs to the community. We strive to build upon our collective strengths and meet needs with the goodwill and compassion that will lift up all of us.

A phrase that became a flagship for us in 2022 was *positive disruption*. To us, that means taking forward-thinking action that leads to real change. It's an idea at the heart of our organization's history: decades of people giving not only to meet the needs of their day, but also to impact an unknown future.

Within these pages are many examples of positive disruption. In 2022:

- We awarded \$9.5 million in grants to support important local work.
- We helped 304 students pursue their dreams with scholarships.
- We contributed more than \$1.1 million in small business loans and program-related investments.

By connecting gifts to needs, partners to resources, and intention to optimism, we know our combined efforts reach beyond this moment to create positive, lasting change.

Thank you for being our partner in this work. We look forward to a bright future together.

Shelly Kasprzycki

Shelly Kasprzycki
President and CEO

Lori Tubbergen Clark

Lori Tubbergen Clark, PhD
Board Chair

Strategic planning framework

Throughout 2022, we developed an updated strategic plan to guide our work. Our refreshed framework is centered on partnership and collaboration as we seek to create positive, lasting change together.

Vision

We are a catalyst for change, enhancing thriving communities through the power of philanthropy.

Mission

To enhance the quality of life for all people of Newaygo County and surrounding communities

Guiding principles

- We build **goodwill**
- We earn **trust**
- We strengthen **relationships**

Our core values

- Compassionate and collaborative leadership
- Trusted stewardship
- Courageous and responsive action

GOAL

1

Optimize operational enhancements

We will increase our impact and strengthen relationships through innovative strategies, excellent stewardship, and a focus on trust.

GOAL

2

Promote the common good

We will share stories, elevate civility and goodwill, and model inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility practices relevant to our community.

GOAL

3

Expand philanthropy

We will seek new ways to involve more people in philanthropy and pursue opportunities for positive disruption.

GOAL

4

Strengthen capacity for people and communities

We will invest in economic development and placemaking, preserving our natural resources, poverty reduction, and educational attainment.

Youth Advisory Committee

Our Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) has been giving young adults in Newaygo County hands-on experience in leadership, service, and grantmaking for nearly 30 years. Our current group is made up of 25 students from local high schools and the homeschool community. They meet once a month and oversee an annual grant round that supports projects impacting Newaygo County youth. In 2022, they awarded grants that helped fund mentoring programs, summer enrichment courses, infant safety education, library programs, and more.

\$63,000
total grants
awarded
in 2022



Front row (l-r): Kaelyn Stephens, Lillian Vanmeter, Reece Johnson, Kaley Cousineau, Evan Roossinck,
Back row (l-r): Co-advisor Patti Wheeler, Makayla Zerlaut, Iris Herrera, Cayman Ramsey, Eli Deters, Zander Trapp,

Lily Christoffersen, Jorja Baker, Alex Sayer, Christian Burns
Kiara Edwards, Julie Ashbaugh, Josiah Long, Blake Kerr, Tyler Dow, Co-advisor Trisha Somers
Not pictured: Olivia Gerard, Victoria Karnemaat, Rachel Maddox, Morgan Pope, Noah Swanson, and Olive Weller

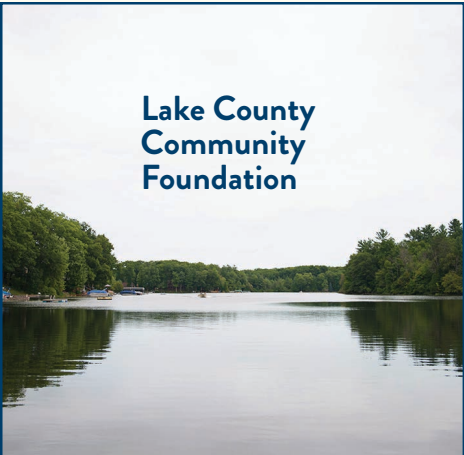


Our affiliates

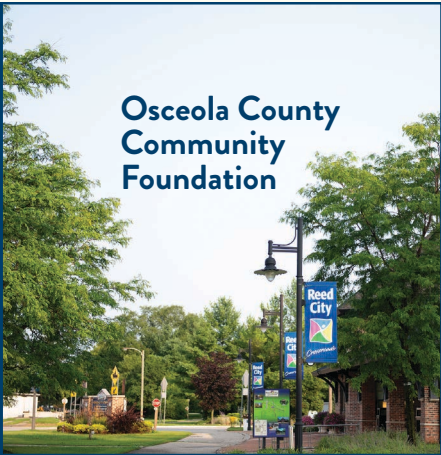
**We believe in creating connections
to strengthen our landscape.**

For over 30 years, we have been proud to support three affiliate foundations in Lake, Mecosta, and Osceola counties. Each affiliate foundation is led by a local board that awards scholarships, recommends grants, provides community leadership, and works to make a difference in their counties.


In 2022, they also served as essential partners in our strategic planning process, and each has participated in focus group sessions to identify needs unique to their counties.




Lake County
Community
Foundation



Osceola County
Community
Foundation



Mecosta County
Community
Foundation



LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Since being founded in 1992, LCCF has grown to more than \$5 million in assets through quiet intention and thoughtful giving. Each year, LCCF addresses Lake County’s most pressing needs through scholarships and grant awards in human services, education, environment, and arts and culture. One recent grant funded the Mid-Michigan Idlewilders Summer Festival. More than \$2.5 million has been awarded to organizations across Lake County since LCCF’s inception.

\$137,354
Total grants
awarded in 2022

\$103,322
Total gifts
received in 2022

\$5,304,281
Total assets



MECOSTA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Twice each year, MCCF awards grants to organizations and programs in arts and culture, education, health, nature conservation/the environment, community development, historical resources, and social services. Through an endowment of over \$6 million, built with support from generous donors like Isabel and Arnold Kempton, MCCF is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all in Mecosta County.

\$155,199
Total grants awarded in 2022

\$50,411
Total gifts received in 2022

\$6,220,086
Total assets



OSCEOLA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Thanks to decades of donor generosity, OCCF has grown to an endowment of \$10.6 million since 1990. The board reviews grant proposals twice each year and recommends awards to organizations in the areas of arts and culture, education, environment, health, and social welfare. One recent grant supported outdoor sports court renovations at Cran-Hill Ranch. Since being established, OCCF has awarded more than \$4.1 million to organizations throughout Osceola County.



\$396,012
Total grants awarded in 2022

\$325,474
Total gifts received in 2022

\$10,650,137
Total assets

Supporting organizations

The Community Foundation is home to two supporting organizations, both committed to serving specific populations in Newaygo County. Our supporting organizations qualify as public charities through their relationship with the Community Foundation, have their own boards, and recommend or award grants based on their missions.



\$292,012
Total grants
awarded in 2022

\$5,757,299
Total assets



\$402,128
Total grants
awarded in 2022

\$11,482,474
Total assets

THE AMAZING X CHARITABLE TRUST

Created in 1978 with gifts from the Gerber family, The Amazing X Charitable Trust exists to support people with disabilities and address general charitable needs.

In 2022, grants were awarded to fund accessibility projects, transitional housing, an adult day group, respite programs, and more. One grant supported the Empowerment Network’s food pantry and transportation service.

BRIDGING GENERATIONS FUND

The Bridging Generations Fund is dedicated to enriching life for older adults. Recently, its board has also been taking a closer look at how we talk about aging in our community, the importance of intergenerational partnerships, and ways to address the growing issue of social isolation.

Older adults are often at increased risk of loneliness and social isolation, which can negatively impact mental and physical health. The Bridging Generations Fund has worked with select organizations and encouraged new programs that are bringing older adults together with peers and other generations for fun, learning, and connection. Initiatives like Catholic Charities West Michigan’s One Township at a Time and Wellspring Adult Day Services’ Grandfriends program are offering creative solutions to social isolation.

2022 financials



TOTAL GRANTS		\$9,477,931
Fremont Area Community Foundation		\$8,789,366
Affiliates		\$688,565

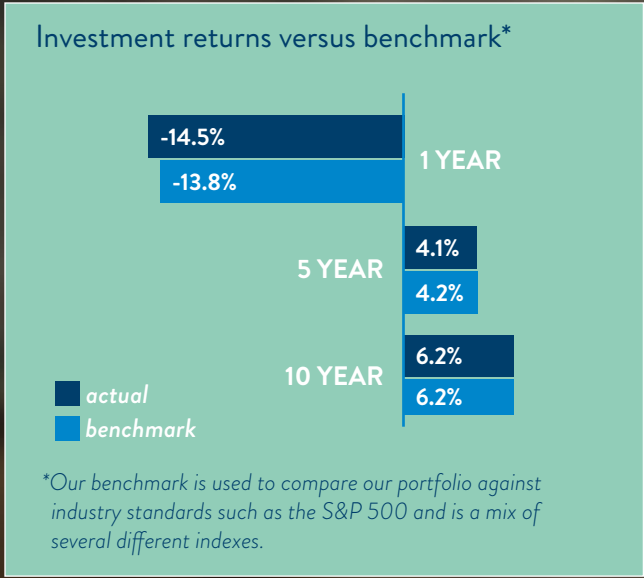
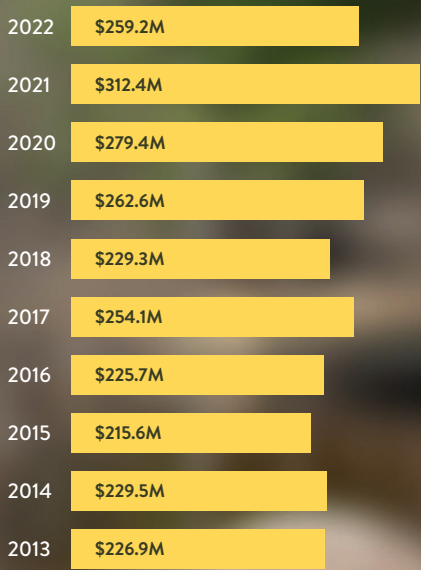
TOTAL GIFTS		\$1,347,605
Fremont Area Community Foundation		\$868,398
Affiliates		\$479,207

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS		\$589,785
Fremont Area Community Foundation		\$474,135
Affiliates		\$115,650



Investments

Total assets by year



Our board

Our board brings together community members with diverse backgrounds, professions, and areas of expertise to guide our work. They generously volunteer their time and goodwill to create lasting change.



Lori Tubbergen Clark, PhD
Chair
Executive coach and consultant



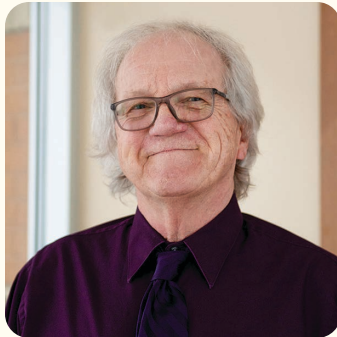
Lola Harmon-Ramsey
Vice Chair
Director of advocacy and community engagement, American Classic



Charles Chandler
Retired, American Airlines



Todd DeKryger, PhD
Regional manager, sustainable agricultural development, Nestlé Nutrition North America



Ken DeLaat
Publisher, Near North Now



William Alsover
Treasurer
Business consultant



Mikhail Salacina
Secretary
Attorney and partner, Schuiteman & Salacina



Randy McDonald
Retired, Fremont Ford



Mary Rangel
WIC program clerk technician, District Health Department 10



Dr. Susan Wente
Trustee at large
Retired nurse midwife



Micheal Anderson
Facility manager, North Lake Correctional Facility



Travis Bull
Financial advisor, Edward Jones Investments



Roland Reed
CPA and partner, H&S Companies



Peggy Rossler
Retired educator



Julie Tatko
CEO, Family Health Care

Our staff



Front row (l-r): Ashley Folkema, Renee Hanshue, Lisa Bougher, Sarah Dixon, Ronda Brandt,
Back row (l-r): Lindsay Hager, Katie Boven, Shelly Kasprzycki, Greg Poches, Lauren Crawford, Jenna Smalligan,

Todd Jones, Kathy Pope, Shelly Henderson, Patti Wheeler, Maria Gonzalez, Kaitlyn Goguen
Robin Cowles, Lindsey Slater, Wes Miller, Becky VanHaften, Vonda Carr, Jackie Hite

2022 highlights

A small sample of accomplishments we achieved together

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

We were excited to expand our small business loan program to include our affiliate counties: Lake, Mecosta, and Osceola. In addition to pandemic-related needs, our partnership with MSU Federal Credit Union now includes loans for start-ups and expansions, while our partnership with Northern Initiatives provides loans and technical assistance for small businesses.



ASSISTING NONPROFITS

In November, nonprofit organizations across the region came together for a grantwriting workshop held in partnership with the Johnson Center for Philanthropy. The presentation covered a variety of topics on writing a grant proposal and was designed to better equip organizations to secure support.

HITTING THE TRAIL

Last year, we awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Ice Mountain Environmental Stewardship Fund to support Michigan's Dragon at Hardy Dam. In addition to providing more miles of trail for visitors to bike, walk, hike, and run, the grant will help protect sensitive watershed areas around Hardy Pond.



EXPLORING POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

Last fall, we partnered with WE CAN! Newaygo County to hold College and Career Night Out. The annual event allows students and families to learn more about post-secondary education, career opportunities, and financial aid. It serves as a way to connect local students with numerous career and college representatives under one roof.



GATHERING TOGETHER

We were thrilled to host two donor luncheons last year. In June, we gathered at the newly renovated Heritage Museum of Newaygo County for a special preview of the museum's remodel. In October, donors came together at The Shack Country Inn for conversation and to hear an update on our strategic plan. Both were fun opportunities to explore different parts of the community and mingle with friends.



GIVING FOR TOMORROW

Christie Pollock was adopted at birth and always knew she wanted to adopt as well. "I adopted my two children and they're everything to me," said Christie. Through an estate gift, Christie will combine her love of family and community, creating a fund to help local people who want to adopt and give children a permanent home.



By giving through the Community Foundation, you not only help our area today, you're investing in a brighter future.

Join us in building the connections that create lasting change.

(((ripple effects)))

ripple effects



4424 W 48th Street
Fremont, MI 49412

231.924.5350
fcommunityfoundation.org