GENERATIONS

ANNUAL
REPORT
2022

GENEROSITY
through
GENERATIONS

Our Community Foundation is built on seven decades of generosity.

Just like the community itself, our organization has adapted and evolved over the years. But through it all, one thing remains: we represent generations.

Generations of real people.

Generations of stories.

Generations of dreams.

We move toward the future while remembering the past. We grow thanks to the generosity of individuals and families passionate about Newaygo County. We work to leave the world a better place than we found it.

Our past, present, and future are knit together by generations of generosity.

CRANDELL FAMILY

Four generations of generosity

The Crandell family has been a fixture in Newaygo County for 120 years. As owners of Crandell Funeral Homes in Fremont and White Cloud, they have helped friends and neighbors through some of the most trying moments of their lives.

"We've been caring for families in this community for four generations," said Curt Crandell who, along with his brother Scott, owns and operates the business.

The Crandells have always made community a priority, through their work, volunteerism, and with a scholarship they created for Fremont and White Cloud graduates. The whole family—including Curt, Scott, sister Julie, their spouses, and their children—contributed to the fund honoring their father Richard who passed away in 2018.

"It was a family decision to start the fund when Richard died," said Phyllis, Richard's wife. "We believe every bit of education you can get is important."

Creating the scholarship through the Community Foundation helped the family continue a tradition of giving that is deeply local and long-lasting.

"It was important for it to be local and we like the sustainability of giving through the Community Foundation," said Scott. "In the future, we hope recipients look back and realize that people cared about them and were interested in them being successful."

Removing barriers to employment

Weary of third shift work, Timothy found a new job with Big Rapids Products. He was doing well and was even able to buy a house. However, unexpected expenses strained his finances just as his truck's tires were giving out. "I was starting to have problems getting to and from work," he said.

Timothy knew a little about Michigan Works! from his involvement in a program on the east side of the state for returning citizens, but that had been years ago and he wasn't sure what resources were offered here. He met with a Michigan Works! West Central coach at his workplace and explained his situation. Timothy soon received word that the organization could help him get new tires.

"Now I have told other people that there is a lot they can help you with," Timothy said. "I've recommended it to a lot of people."

Michigan Works! offers services to help people find and keep good jobs and address employment barriers. In 2021, Community Foundation grants supported the program that helped with Timothy's tires and another that offered work-based learning for high school students.

"We offer a wide variety of services and programs that can assist both job seekers and employers in our six-county region," said Shelly Keene, Michigan Works! West Central executive director. "By having the ability to help remove barriers, we hope this has a positive impact on employer retention rates in Newaygo County."

MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL

BILL
ALSOVER

Protecting local lakes

Every summer since 1949, Bill Alsover's family relocated from their East Grand Rapids home to a cottage on Pickerel Lake. The old cottage was beautiful "only in our hearts," said Bill, but all the neighbors had children of similar ages who swam, fished, and explored together.

"It was idyllic," he said. "It was a humble dwelling, but we loved it here."

The house is different today but the pull of the lake remains strong. Bill—now a Community Foundation trustee—moved to the area full-time over a decade ago and his children and grandchildren are frequent visitors. However, as Bill spent even more time on the lake, he began to notice changes in it and in neighboring Kimball Lake. There were more weeds and the water seemed less clear. One of the problems, a neighbor told him, was that "people *use* the lake now, they don't love it."

"I have learned a lot about lakes and how sensitive and fragile they are," said Bill. "They're not going to fix themselves."

In addition to encouraging lake health studies and working with the Pickerel Kimball Lake Improvement Board, Bill decided to create a fund at the Community Foundation to support projects that can improve the lakes and watershed.

"It's been ideal to work with the Community Foundation. It gave the fund credibility," he said. "We want people to know the fund is here and it's another way to contribute to the health of the lakes."

Saving for the future

While the class of 2030's graduation may seem far off, Kickstart to Career Newaygo County has been planning for it since before those students started kindergarten in 2018. The kids in this inaugural Kickstart class were the first to receive savings accounts at ChoiceOne Bank, seeded with $50 from the Community Foundation.

After graduation, students can use the money they've saved and earned for college, career training, and other related expenses. But the impact reaches far beyond just dollars.

"It's about so much more than the amount in the savings account," said Jackie Hite, Kickstart to Career assistant at the Community Foundation. "Our main goal is changing mindsets. Students start thinking, 'I am going to college. I am going to trade school,' instead of thinking they can't afford it or it's not for them. It makes it tangible."

Along with savings accounts, the Kickstart program provides interactive classroom lessons on financial literacy and how saving today can help students prepare for the future. The Community Foundation also created an endowed fund to support Kickstart's long-term sustainability.

"These kids are dreaming of a brighter future," said Jackie. "We want to say to them, 'Yes, you can and here's how.'"

KICKSTART TO CAREER NEWAYGO COUNTY

JEANNE LEAVER

Meeting local needs

Jeanne Leaver and her husband Bill created a donor advised fund at the Community Foundation because they wanted a sustainable way to support the area they were born in and returned to as adults. It was here they learned the importance of giving back through the example of their families and neighbors.

"Bill and I both had times when we needed help and people were there for us," said Jeanne. "Others in the community set the example and you don't forget that."

The Leavers worked to become informed about local needs and thought hard about the kind of impact they wanted to have. After Bill passed away in 2020, their practice of carefully researching opportunities fell to Jeanne. "I've had to take the reins on our fund," she said.

One thing enhancing Jeanne's new process is the Community Foundation's catalog of funding opportunities, which gives donors a chance to get involved in grantmaking. During each community grant round, request summaries from the grant applications are shared with donor advised fundholders. Donors like Jeanne can then recommend grants from their funds to help fill the needs of local nonprofit organizations.

"Looking through the funding opportunities is a really enjoyable time for me," said Jeanne. "I enjoy reading about what's going on in the county."

Now, as she travels around the community, Jeanne finds herself noticing the progress of the different projects she read about in the catalog. "I see something every day that those grants are doing," she said. "So many areas of our lives are touched by the work of the Community Foundation."

Helping people get to work

Reliable transportation is a necessity in a rural county where residents can't hail a cab or take a bus when their car breaks down. In fact, transportation is one of our area's biggest barriers to employment.

Classis Muskegon's Fremont Service Committee—a partnership of local churches—helps fill the need by providing cars and repairs to local people trying to get to work.

"Some of us have no idea what it's like to get up in the morning and not have a car that's going to start," said Sheri Byers, who has worked with the program for 19 years. She has seen clients finish work but wait eight hours to go home because their ride is on a different shift. Others can't schedule medical appointments or look for better jobs because there's no way to get there.

"For some, it's been so long since they could just jump in their own car and go to work."

The program works with local agencies to get client referrals and has a network of mechanics who source and repair vehicles. It's supported in part by a grant from the Community Foundation.

Mary works in Fremont and recently received a car through the program. "It has made it 100 percent easier to not only get to work, but I could take a job change that led to more money because I can now drive to the office every day," she said. "I have never been happier!"

FREMONT SERVICE COMMITTEE

Mary

Sheri

OUR NEXT 75

David and Rhonda Byrne

Hope College has always been an important part of David and Rhonda Byrne's story. They met there and both of their sons chose to attend there. David and Rhonda were even married by the school's chaplain, who offered advice the Byrnes have followed ever since. "He told us as soon as we got married to start giving and to make it a habit," said David. "That's what we've tried to do."

The couple has found plenty of ways to give, including joining Our Next 75 and creating a scholarship through the Community Foundation to help local graduates who want to attend the Byrnes' alma mater.

I remember meeting the people helping me go to college and I thought, "Someday I want to help someone else." - David Byrne

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 emerging 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 chair and president

Building on the past
Growing toward the future

2021 was a remarkable year of transformation and growth for Fremont Area Community Foundation.

We continued to increase our grantmaking to address needs intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic. We found creative ways to support local businesses through loans and program-related investments. We worked with our donors in new ways to increase our philanthropic impact.

We also experienced a leadership transition in September—saying goodbye to retiring president and CEO Carla Roberts and welcoming Shelly Kasprzycki to the team. We are grateful to Carla for her years of leadership and are thrilled to have Shelly on board to guide us into the future.

Our Community Foundation was created out of a few funds and the forward-thinking generosity of individuals who wanted to make their community better. Over decades, we have grown from an initial gift of $5,500 to total assets of $312 million. This didn't happen by chance or luck. The strength of our organization and the community itself lies in generations of generosity.

This year alone, we accomplished big things with the help of our community:

- We received $2.1 million in gifts from generous individuals, organizations, and families.
- We awarded $8.7 million in grants to deserving nonprofit organizations across the region.
- We helped 353 students pursue their dreams by awarding nearly $600,000 in scholarships.

We recognize that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. The work we do together is built on deep history and dedicated to a brighter future. Thank you for investing in our community, and we look forward to many more generations of positive change.

Joseph Roberson
Board Chair

Shelly Kasprzycki
President and CEO

We are built on generations of people passionate about the needs of their time while also providing a way to meet the needs of the future.

Our mission

To improve the quality of life in Newaygo County

Our focus areas

Together we build a stronger Newaygo County, focusing our grantmaking and leadership efforts on three main areas, each with its own decade goal. Investing in these areas furthers our mission and our shared commitment to this community.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We are committed to addressing unemployment and underemployment in our community—all to fuel a growing and sustainable local economy.

EDUCATION

We believe education is one of the most important tools for success. That's why we are seeking to increase post-secondary educational attainment to 60 percent.

POVERTY TO PROSPERITY

We strive to revitalize our community and shift poverty to prosperity by supporting individuals and families on their journey to empowerment.

Annie Laura Becker grew up in Hesperia, served in the Red Cross during WWII, and returned home to run her family's farm. Annie's generosity remains a force for good, in part through the fund she created at the Community Foundation.

Youth Advisory Committee

After 17 months of virtual meetings, our Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) brought renewed energy and enthusiasm to their work as a new school year began. The group, made up of 24 students from local high schools and the homeschool community, spent their year analyzing responses to their youth needs assessment survey, building leadership and communication skills, and learning about the nonprofit sector.

The students in YAC also oversee an annual grant round that supports organizations and programs impacting local young people. In 2021, YAC grants helped to fund mentoring programs, literacy kits, summer enrichment activities, recreational opportunities, and more.

Front row (l-r): Co-advisor Patti Wheater, Rachel Maddox, Alex Sayer, Lily Christoffersen, Victoria Karnemaat, Kiara Edwards,
Back row (l-r): Eli Deters, Brennan Schuler, Christopher Clouse, Evan Roossinck, Romeo Johnson,

$65,100
total grants awarded in 2021

Reece Johnson, Sidney Lay, Makayla Zerlaut, Kaley Cousineau, Noah Swanson, former co-advisor Liz Mansfield
Willow Hager, Julie Ashbaugh, Josiah Long, Blake Kerr, Tyler Dow
Not pictured: Jorja Baker, Christian Burns, Iris Herrera, Elli McAree, current co-advisor Trisha Somers

Our affiliates

Lake County Community Foundation

Osceola County Community Foundation

We believe in the power of collaboration and giving local.

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 communities.

Mecosta County Community Foundation

Lake County Community Foundation

Mission:
To enhance the quality of life for county residents and visitors through the development of permanent endowment funds

Through generations of generosity, LCCF has grown to more than $6 million in assets since its inception in 1992. Each year, LCCF addresses Lake County's most pressing needs through scholarships and grant awards in human services, education, environment, and arts and culture. Since the foundation's creation, more than $2 million has been awarded to organizations throughout Lake County.

$122,782
Total grants awarded in 2021

$75,388
Total gifts received in 2021

$6,286,158
Total assets

Our affiliates

Mecosta County Community Foundation

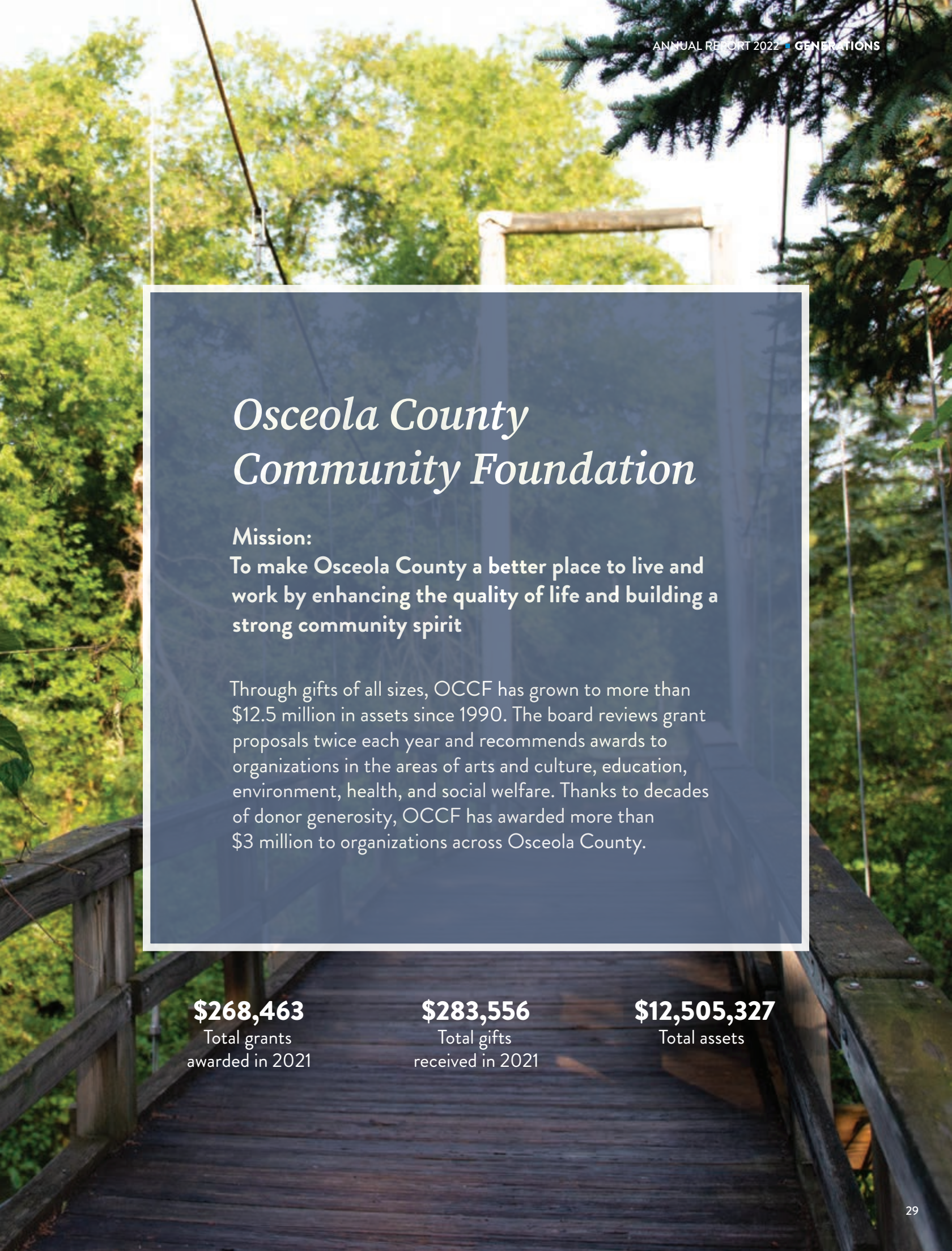
Mission:
Giving together to enhance our community

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 support for projects like natural area restoration and food pantries, along with total assets over $7 million, MCCF lives its goal to enhance the quality of life for all in Mecosta County.

$166,006
Total grants awarded in 2021

$132,840
Total gifts received in 2021

$7,431,433
Total assets



Osceola County Community Foundation

Mission:
To make Osceola County a better place to live and work by enhancing the quality of life and building a strong community spirit

Through gifts of all sizes, OCCF has grown to more than $12.5 million in assets 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. Thanks to decades of donor generosity, OCCF has awarded more than $3 million to organizations across Osceola County.

$268,463
Total grants awarded in 2021

$283,556
Total gifts received in 2021

$12,505,327
Total assets

Supporting organizations

The Community Foundation hosts two supporting organizations committed to serving specific populations in our county. Through their relationships with the Community Foundation, both organizations qualify as public charities, have their own boards, and recommend or award grants based on their specific missions.

The Amazing X Charitable Trust

Created in 1978 by members of the Gerber family, The Amazing X Charitable Trust exists to support differently-abled people and to address general charitable needs.

$220,852
Total grants awarded in 2021

$7,026,440
Total assets

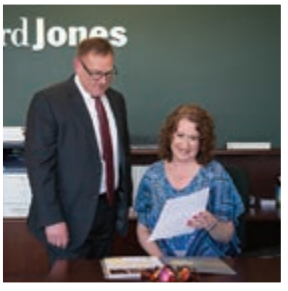
Bridging Generations Fund

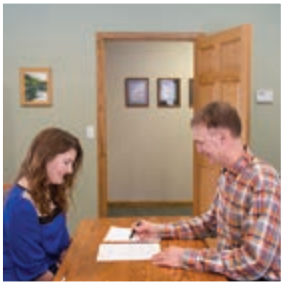
The Bridging Generations Fund awards grants to benefit and enrich life for older adults and is committed to supporting programs that encourage intergenerational partnerships.

$408,466
Total grants awarded in 2021

$13,776,498
Total assets

Professional Advisors Board





Giving is deeply personal and a great way to leave a legacy in your community. That's why we work closely with local professional advisors to connect their clients with causes close to their hearts through wills, estate plans, and charitable gift tools.

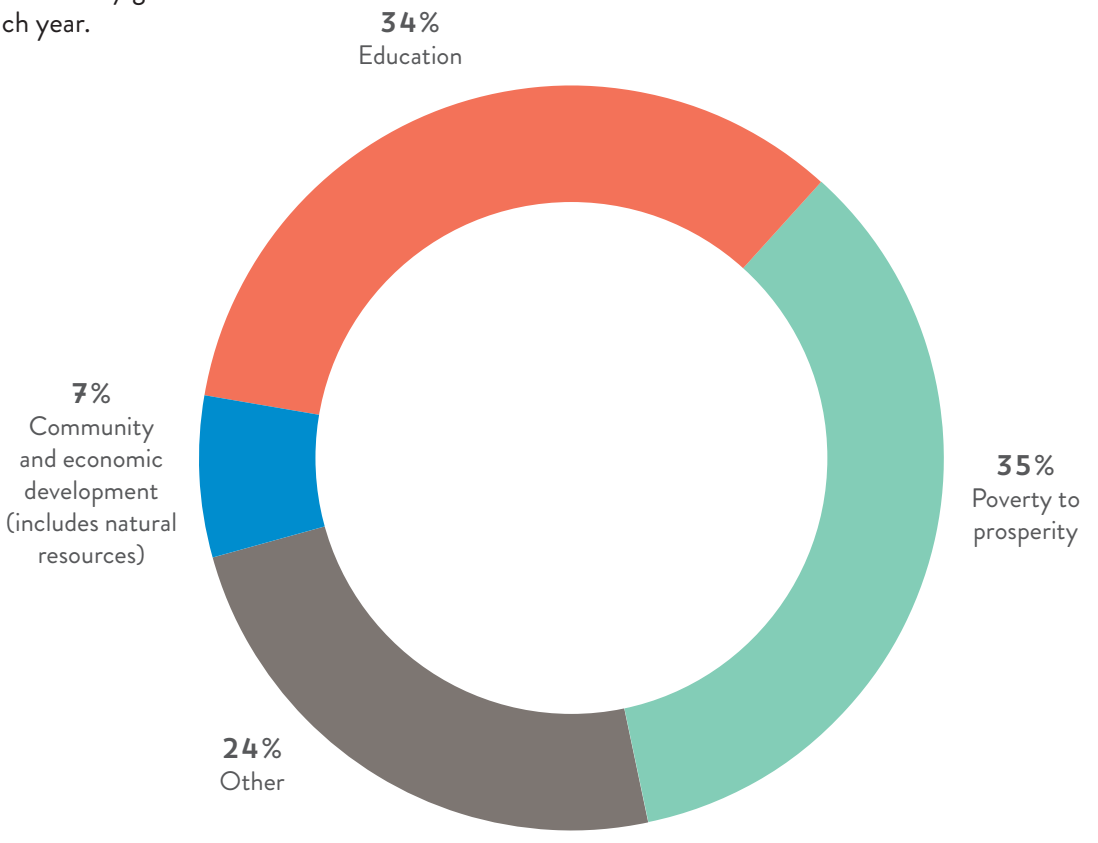
These partnerships are guided by our Professional Advisors Board, a steering committee that includes dedicated advisors from across our four-county region. Board members include attorneys, accountants, bankers, financial advisors, insurance agents, and other professionals. They provide guidance and serve as liaisons to our entire network of advisors.

2021 financials

Grants by focus area

Fremont Area Community Foundation community grant awards

Our community grants are strategic and responsive, allowing us to partner with organizations and programs meeting critical local needs. Community grants are awarded twice each year.



$8,732,252
TOTAL GRANTS

$7,545,683
Fremont Area Community Foundation

$557,251
Affiliates

$408,466
Bridging Generations Fund

$220,852
The Amazing X Charitable Trust

$2,125,606
TOTAL GIFTS

$1,633,822
Fremont Area Community Foundation

$491,784
Affiliates

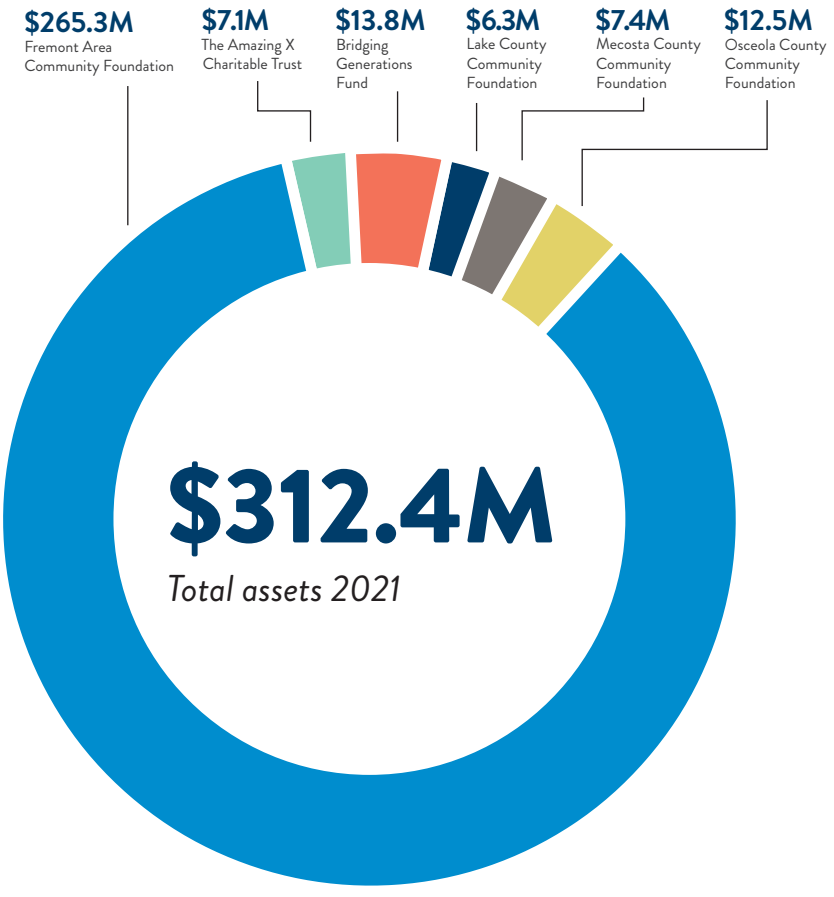
$597,507
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS

$499,581
Fremont Area Community Foundation

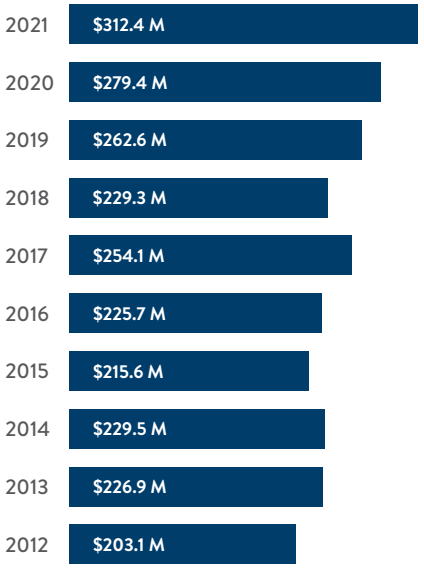
$97,926
Affiliates

353
Students awarded scholarships

Assets

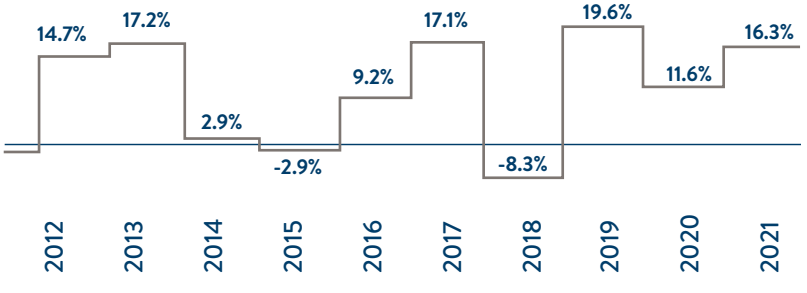


Total assets by year

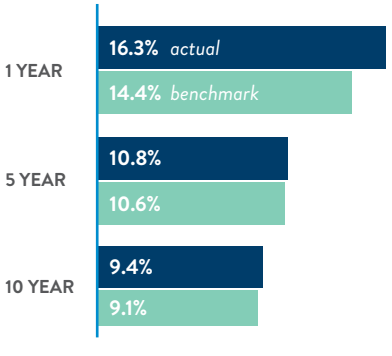


Investments

Investment returns by year



Investment returns versus benchmark



Our board

Our board brings together community members with diverse backgrounds, talents, and experiences to guide our work. They generously volunteer their time and expertise to honor the legacy entrusted to us and to help us make lasting investments in our community for generations to come.

Joseph Roberson
Chair
Sr. Financial Management, Nestlé USA

Dr. Lori Tubbergen Clark
Vice Chair
Retired educator

William Alsover
Treasurer
Business consultant

Lola Harmon-Ramsey
Secretary
Owner, Cart-Right Recycling, LLC

Carolyn Hummel
Trustee at large
Retired educator

Micheal Anderson
Facility manager,
North Lake Correctional Facility

Travis Bull
CPA, Edward Jones Investments

Charles Chandler
Retired, American Airlines

Randy McDonald
Retired, Fremont Ford

Mary Rangel
WIC program clerk technician,
District Health Department 10

Roland Reed
CPA and partner, H&S Companies

Peggy Rossler
Retired educator

Mikhail Salacina
Attorney and partner,
Schuiteman & Salacina

Dr. Susan Wente
Nurse midwife

Our staff

Front row (l-r): Kathy Pope, Patti Wheater, Maria Gonzalez, Tara Takken, Jessica Folkema,
Back row (l-r): Renee Hanshue, Vonda Carr, Mark Petz, Lisa Bougher, Robin Cowles, Lindsay Hager,

Sarah Dixon, Jackie Hite, Dan Wheat, Shelly Kasprzycki, Ashley Folkema
Katie Boven, Trisha Somers, Wes Miller, Jenna Smalligan, Lindsey Slater, Lauren Crawford

2021 highlights

A small sample of accomplishments made possible by this community

WELCOMING SHELLY KASPRZYCKI

In September, we welcomed Shelly Kasprzycki as our new president and CEO. Shelly was chosen after an extensive nationwide search and has deep experience in nonprofit leadership and rural philanthropy. She previously led organizations including Michigan Humanities, Greater Jackson Habitat for Humanity, and Jackson Community Foundation. We're excited to have her on staff and appreciate her energy and collaborative spirit.

TOGETHER AGAIN

We were thrilled to gather for our Fall Donors Luncheon. This event marked the first time our donors came together in person since before the pandemic and gave them an opportunity to hear about Shelly's background and her vision for our organization.

A NEW YEAR FOR YAC

Our Youth Advisory Committee celebrated their first in-person event since March 2020 with an outdoor retreat at Camp Henry. They spent time getting reacquainted, having fun, and growing as a team as they entered a new school year.

CELEBRATING CARLA ROBERTS

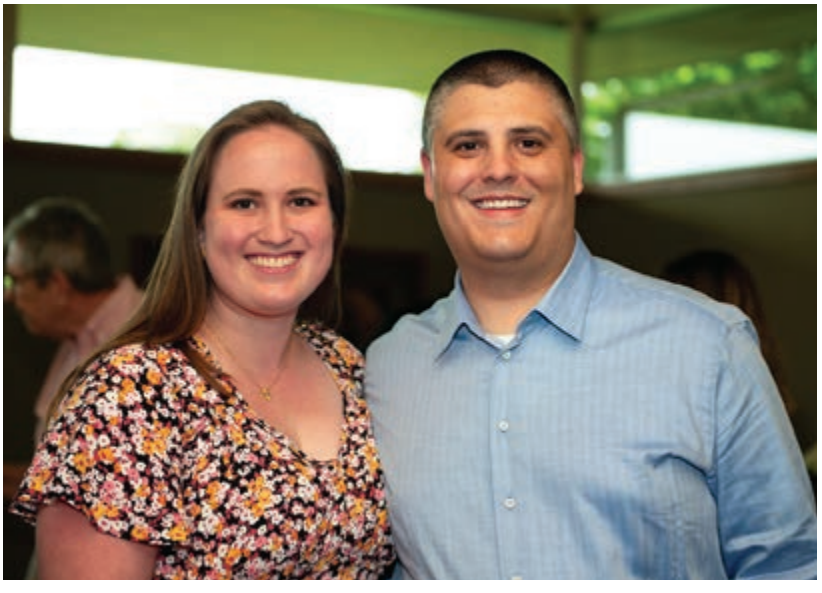
In late August, we joined with donors, community partners, colleagues, and friends to celebrate Carla Roberts as she retired after 10 years as our president and CEO. Under Carla's leadership, our assets grew from $185 million to more than $300 million, we launched the Kickstart to Career countywide children's savings program, and we moved quickly to respond to local needs in new ways during the pandemic.

PROTECTING THE WHITE RIVER

Last spring, we awarded a $44,022 grant to Trout Unlimited to support their efforts to restore and protect the White River watershed. "None of this would be possible without the Community Foundation," said Jake Lemon from Trout Unlimited. "It's been the catalyst for something that can grow."

MIKHAIL AND EMILY SALACINA SCHOLARSHIP

One of our new funds in 2021 was created by Emily and Mikhail Salacina. Mikhail is a Newaygo graduate and now a lawyer in the area. When he joined our board in 2020, he told us, "I grew up here and I want to do something to give back." He and Emily created the scholarship to help support other local graduates as they continue their education.



DFA
Dairy Farmers of America

The generosity of community members decades ago makes our work possible today and into the future.

GENERATIONS *through* GENERATIONS

FREMONT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

GENEROSITY *through*

GENERATIONS

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