SPIRIT



INSIDE:

Gary Liddell (l) and Paul King (r) from Love INC help neighbors find warmth and hope. PAGE 7

OSCEOLA COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

An affiliate of Fremont Area Community Foundation

SUMMER 2026

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recently

KEN BOLLMAN
Board Chair

As another school year begins, we are grateful for the generosity of donors who entrust Osceola County Community Foundation with their charitable giving. Their support helped make possible another strong year of grants to community partners and scholarships for students.

Our grantmaking committee reviewed many applications and awarded support to organizations meeting needs from hunger relief to educational opportunities.

Our scholarship committee also awarded 61 scholarships to local students pursuing education or career training in a wide variety of fields, thanks to donors who believe in investing in their futures.

That spirit of investing in young people continues as the Osceola County Youth Advisory Committee (OYAC) gears up for the 2026-2027 school year. OYAC gives local students the opportunity to learn about philanthropy, identify needs among their peers, and recommend grants that improve quality of life for Osceola County youth. In monthly meetings, they review grant applications focused on priorities such as addiction, basic necessities, extracurricular activities, and mental health.

I am grateful for our trustees and committee members, who share their time, talents, and resources to carry out this work. As we look ahead, we are honored to keep serving and strengthening our community alongside you.



trustee spotlight

FLORA GRUNDY
Trustee

For nearly 30 years, Flora Grundy has called Osceola County home and has developed a deep appreciation for the people and organizations that strengthen the community. For the past three years, she has brought that same commitment to her role as a trustee.

"This community has given so much to me and my family," Flora shared. "I've always believed that we all have an obligation to leave the world a little better than we found it, and serving on the Community Foundation board is one of the ways I've chosen to do that."

As a trustee, Flora helps ensure the Community Foundation remains a good steward of the gifts entrusted to it. Her responsibilities include reviewing grant applications and making funding recommendations, strategic planning, and looking for ways to grow the Community Foundation's impact throughout Osceola County.

One of her favorite responsibilities is serving on the grants committee. "I enjoy learning about the amazing work happening throughout our county and seeing how passionate people are about improving their communities," she explained. "Being able to invest in those ideas and watch them become reality is incredibly rewarding."

Flora sees this work as part of building a stronger future for our county. Through support for local nonprofits, scholarships, community projects, and emerging needs, the Community Foundation helps connect people's generosity with opportunities to create lasting impact.

Flora hopes more people will see philanthropy as something everyone can participate in, not just large donors. Whether someone gives time, talent, or financial support, she believes every act of generosity helps strengthen the community for future generations.

Flora is grateful to serve alongside others who care deeply about Osceola County, and said, "Together, we really can leave our community better than we found it."

FINANCIALS

TOTAL GIFTS	$1,161,049
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS	$192,140
TOTAL GRANTS	$201,042
Community grants	$174,642
Donor advised/agency endowment/designated grants	$26,400
TOTAL ASSETS	$17,930,136

**all data as of June 30, 2026*

recent grants

In fall 2025, we awarded more than $78,000 to organizations across Osceola County. Here are a few highlights!

Association to Rescue Kritters (A.R.K.) — $1,600



PURPOSE
To promote better understanding, treatment, and appreciation of Michigan's wildlife population to local K-12 students.

WHY IT MATTERS
The A.R.K. rehabilitates hundreds of sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife each year with the goal of returning them to their natural habitats. Their Animal Ambassador Education Program features a diverse group of animals that visit classrooms as ambassadors, teaching students the importance of these species to the wild while giving students a lifelong appreciation for the animals.

Angels of Action — $5,000



PURPOSE
To provide more than 200 pairs of new shoes and boots for children in Osceola County.

WHY IT MATTERS
For children, a good pair of shoes can make a big difference. This project quietly connects children who need shoes or boots with warm, comfortable footwear that helps them stay healthy, attend school, and feel confident. With the right shoes, children are better prepared to learn, play, and thrive.

City of Reed City — $7,500



PURPOSE
To provide arts and entertainment access to a rural community.

WHY IT MATTERS
Rural neighborhoods, like Reed City, rarely have the opportunity to host cultural gatherings. The arts and entertainment series of events is geared toward community interaction and includes Art in the Park, Summer Saturdays, Crossroads Picnic Showcase, as well as other cultural, entertainment, and music events. These events bring people into town, support small businesses and restaurants, and create a sense of community.

Hospice of Michigan — $5,000

PURPOSE
To provide grief support for adults and children in Osceola County.

WHY IT MATTERS
Grief can be isolating, especially for children and families. Hospice of Michigan offers counseling, group sessions, and memorial services that give people a safe place to process loss, build healthy coping skills, and find connection. With this support, grieving adults and children can begin healing while honoring the memory of their loved ones.



Women's Information Service, Inc. — $12,000



PURPOSE
To support survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children through safety-focused programs and services.

WHY IT MATTERS
For survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, safety can be the first step toward healing. WISE provides emergency shelter, a 24-hour hotline, crisis intervention, advocacy, support programs, and parenting classes. These services help individuals, children, and families find safety, rebuild confidence, and begin reclaiming their lives.

from adversity to opportunity

Leinweber Osceola STEM Scholars Fund

Larry Leinweber's story is one of determination, vision, and belief in the power of education. Raised with limited means by a single mother, Larry learned early what it meant to work hard and persevere. Growing up on a rural farm in Osceola County, he delivered newspapers, worked shifts at a bakery before school, and walked wherever he needed to go. Fueled by his innate curiosity, he was an avid reader who eagerly read every book available in his one-room schoolhouse, and he later graduated from Reed City High School. All the while, he dreamed of a different future.

Larry's dream came with many challenges. He had to hitchhike to Ann Arbor to attend the University of Michigan, then worked in factories and fought forest fires in Idaho to earn enough money to continue his studies. He eventually completed his degree at Michigan State University and began his career at IBM before founding his own company. He built a successful public sector software business–New World Systems–by seeing possibility in an emerging market.

In 2015, Larry founded the Leinweber Foundation to support scientific research, education, and Michigan communities. He created the Leinweber Osceola STEM Scholars Fund at the Community Foundation so students from his home county can pursue their own dreams without the financial burden he carried alone. The four-year scholarship provides $10,000 per year to students from Osceola County pursuing a STEM degree at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, or Michigan Technological University.

"I want to support Osceola County students with the aptitude and determination to pursue STEM degrees here in the state of Michigan–a degree that unlocks their full potential, enables them to help their families and communities, and drives Michigan's economic future," said Larry. "My hope is that these scholarships will enrich the lives of the students who earn them."









more than a utility bill

Love INC of Wexford and Osceola Counties

When a family worries about keeping the heat on, every other challenge can feel overwhelming. For many Osceola County residents, rising utility costs and unexpected expenses can quickly turn one bill into a crisis.

Through its Utility Relief Project, Love INC of Wexford and Osceola Counties supports local families in difficult moments and helps them build skills and resources for the future. A recent Community Foundation grant assisted the project. "We listen to our clients' stories. We care," said Paul King, main office coordinator. "We don't only offer utility relief; we work with them to give options going forward."

In 2025, utility requests increased sharply, reflecting the pressure many households face. For one single working mother, propane assistance meant more than paying a bill. With her tank running low heading into winter, Love INC connected her with additional assistance and practical items like sweatshirts and blankets so she could stretch her propane further.

Gary Liddell felt called out of retirement after returning to Michigan to serve as Love INC's executive director. For Gary, the Utility Relief Project is part of a larger mission: meeting immediate needs, building relationships, and encouraging the community to care for its neighbors. "Giving back is an act of love, and meeting a need can help people see a way forward," he said. He hopes support for utility relief will allow Love INC to invest in other ministries, creating opportunities for churches to care for neighbors and see lives transformed.

For families in crisis, that care brings relief, gratitude, and hope. With support from the Community Foundation and local partners, Love INC helps neighbors stay warm in the cold months while inviting churches and community members to see people in need with compassion and respond with the resources they have been given.

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SPIRIT

The annual newsletter of Osceola County Community Foundation

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GIFTS OF STOCK

Did you know the Community Foundation accepts gifts of stock? Everybody wins when you donate appreciated stock. Your gains are put to good use and your gift of stock is reinvested into your community.

By giving stock through Osceola County Community Foundation you may qualify for a tax deduction at the stock's market value and avoid capital gains tax. We reinvest your gift into the community to build a better future for everyone.

Interested in learning more about the stock transfer process or additional ways to give? Talk to your professional advisor and contact Lindsay Hager at 231.924.5350.

