

# IMPACT



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Farmworker Appreciation Day honored hardworking local families.  
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FREMONT AREA  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

FALL 2022

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Cooler weather, colorful leaves, the scholarship application opening—just a few signs that fall is underway around the Community Foundation. It’s always a busy time of year for us and 2022 is no exception!

In addition to opening our online scholarship application on October 1, staff is hard at work reviewing grant applications. We were also proud to partner again with WE CAN! Newaygo County on this year’s College and Career Night Out event in September and were excited to hold our Fall Donors Luncheon last month.

This fall also marks one year since we welcomed Shelly Kasprzycki as our president and CEO. Her energy, vision, and desire to listen are just a few things we’re grateful for, and we can’t wait to see what our second year together will bring.

Looking ahead, we’ll be sharing the results of our recent strategic planning work with you in the new year. We also look forward to many more opportunities to listen to, learn from, and partner with you as the season and year changes. Thank you for your continued support of the Community Foundation!

## STRATEGIC PLANNING UNDERWAY

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Trustees and staff came together in August for a strategic planning session focused on our mission, vision, and values, along with identifying goals for the future. Lee Anne Keller Rouse from Omni Tech led the discussion that explored feedback from individuals and organizations across our community. We received input from grantees, emeritus trustees, and donors as well as representatives from our geographic affiliates and supporting organizations. They provided valuable perspectives through surveys, interviews, and focus groups. We are excited to share what we've learned and what we have planned as trustees approve new goals by year's end.



## VINCENT BUNKER

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Vincent Bunker was born in Fremont in 1904. His father, Frank Bunker, owned Darling Milling Co. and was active in the community. Frank served on the city commission and chaired the committee that oversaw the paving of Main Street. You can still spot the name “F.W. Bunker” inscribed in stone at the top of a downtown building.

In 1918, the Bunkers moved to Grand Rapids. While the family kept a cottage on Fremont Lake until the 1970s, Vincent never lived here again. Instead, he went on to study at Michigan State University and spent time in California and the Northwest

before returning to Grand Rapids. Vincent worked as an engineer for a tool and die company and married Helen Ziegler in 1956. He passed away in 1982.

After Helen passed away in 2014, the Community Foundation received a \$4.8 million gift from Vincent's estate to create the unrestricted Vincent W. Bunker Fund. It was the largest single gift in our history. According to Helen, Vincent felt that the money had been made in this area and should return here. The fund he created will continue to meet the changing needs of his home community for generations to come.

# recent grants

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*Our Board of Trustees approved nearly \$2.5 million in our spring community grant round. Here are a few highlights!*

**Migrant Legal Aid, Inc.**

**\$42,000**



**PURPOSE:**

To help members of the migrant farmworker community who have been victims of a crime gain legal assistance. The award includes \$2,450 from two donor advised funds.

**WHY IT MATTERS:**

When migrant and seasonal farmworkers become victims of a crime, they may be less likely to seek help because of language barriers or fear of the impact on their jobs or families. Migrant Legal Aid offers free legal and wrap-around services to victims.

**Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency (NC RESA)**

**\$56,400**

**PURPOSE:**

To support the continuation of NC RESA's preschool tuition program and provide literacy and math materials.

**WHY IT MATTERS:**

Quality preschool can help prepare children for kindergarten, build social skills, and have a positive impact on early literacy and math skills. The effects are even more pronounced for children from lower income homes. NC RESA's program to fill early childhood gaps provides preschool scholarships and learning materials for local classrooms.



## Newaygo County Agricultural Fair Association

\$74,000

### PURPOSE:

To support renovations to the Newaygo County Fairgrounds that will increase safety, capacity, and accessibility. The award includes \$1,000 from a donor advised fund.

### WHY IT MATTERS:

Agricultural fairs are an annual summertime tradition, help participants build important skills, and have a positive economic impact on the community. At the Newaygo County Fairgrounds, renovations like new grandstands and barrier-free restrooms help even more people get involved and enjoy the fair and other events.



## West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC)

\$13,500



### PURPOSE:

To study the economic impact of the White River on the communities in its watershed. The award includes \$1,600 from two donor advised funds.

### WHY IT MATTERS:

More than 30 municipalities are located within the White River watershed. This new research—a partnership between the White River Watershed Collaborative, WMSRDC, and Grand Valley State University—will study the impact of the river on recreation, property values, and commerce. It is part of ongoing collaborative work to protect and improve the White River.

## Arts Center for Newaygo County

\$334,000

### PURPOSE:

To provide program and operating support for the Dogwood Center for Performing Arts. The award includes a matching grant of \$10,000.

### WHY IT MATTERS:

Performance and arts venues across the country were devastated by the pandemic. During their lengthy closure, the Dogwood Center was able to make some improvements—like a new ticketing software—and is now returning to offering its trademark diverse mix of programming and acting as host for a wide range of local events.





# taking care of each other

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## *farmworker appreciation day*

On a bright morning at the end of July, a line of cars looped around the parking lot at Grant Middle School. One by one they drove past a stretch of colorful tents and tables, greeted by smiles and a mix of Spanish and English. Families in each car received groceries, back-to-school supplies, information on local services, and more as part of Farmworker Appreciation Day.

Organized by the Sparta Area Migrant Resource Council, the day is an annual opportunity to recognize those who play a critical role in our local economy and community. Each year in Michigan, the food and agriculture industry brings in more

than \$100 billion and includes 94,000 migrant farmworkers and family members.

“I wish more people realized how important these workers are to farmers and to you and I,” said event organizer Mary Rangel, who also serves on the Community Foundation board. “We need them, and it’s important they know how much we appreciate them.”

This year, more than 150 families participated in the event, which is funded in part by a grant from the Community Foundation. It also brings together a network of partner agencies and enthusiastic volunteers.

“Everybody is pitching in and helping,” said Mary. “The community is coming together, whether they’re on the receiving end or the giving end.”

Mary has led Farmworker Appreciation Day for 18 years and is still excited about the opportunity to share resources, help kids feel more ready for school, and show support for these local families.

“I’ve always wanted to leave a person, a community better than when I found it,” said Mary. “This is the best thing I can do for my community. We are taking care of each other.”

# the best work

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## *jack and mary butterick*

Jack and Mary Butterick were high school sweethearts in the Grand Ledge area. “Well, it actually started around age 10,” Jack clarified with a laugh. “But we took a few years off in there.” They have been married for 56 years and, as part of Jack’s job with Gerber, spent some of those years traveling and living in Indianapolis and even Puerto Rico. But it was always West Michigan that captured their hearts.

“I traveled the world and have been to 65 countries, but this is where our hearts are,” said Jack. “This is where we always came back to.”

For part of the year, Jack and Mary divide their time between their home

in Fremont and a cottage on White Lake that Jack’s parents bought years ago. They stay there until the cold drives them out, but even at the height of summer, the Buttericks still make regular trips back to Fremont for laundry, church, and volunteer commitments. Service has been a hallmark of their life together.

“I was in the Jaycees and their slogan was, ‘service to humanity is the best work of life,’” said Jack. “We’ve believed that and practiced it.”

From volunteering at local food pantries to shifts in the Friends of the Library room at Fremont Area District Library, Jack and Mary take their commitment to being good

neighbors seriously. “We’ve been blessed in so many ways so we can share,” said Mary.

Another avenue for getting involved has been their partnership with the Community Foundation. The Buttericks created a scholarship nearly 30 years ago and will create an unrestricted fund through their estate plan.

“The Community Foundation was the obvious place,” said Jack. “Newaygo County has been a wonderful place for us to live, work, socialize, and worship. We want to leave a legacy and share in the Community Foundation’s ongoing role in our community.”





## OUR NEXT 75

### Greg and Christy Zerlaut

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Greg and Christy Zerlaut are both Holton graduates who returned to the area after college. Christy had trained as a teacher and was quickly hired as a long-term substitute. “We got to town on Saturday and I got the call on Monday,” she said. “I was eventually hired in and never left.”

Greg, an accountant, worked first in banking and then in the community foundation field. He was later hired as the first vice president of finance at our Community Foundation. “In the corporate world, it can be cutthroat,” he said. “But in community foundations, people helped each other.”

The Zerlauts’ up-close experience with the Community Foundation made it a natural fit as a place to give. With their donor advised fund, the couple supports the causes most important to

them, from education to food pantries and more. They’ve also included the Community Foundation in their estate plan, making them the latest members of Our Next 75.

#### *Why is giving important to you?*

Greg: We learned about giving from our parents. They weren’t wealthy, but they gave to the church and other causes. Our families taught us that giving back was important.

#### *Why give through the Community Foundation?*

Greg: We wanted to compliment the work of the Community Foundation. From working there, I know personally the process they go through to make decisions. We feel comfortable following their direction. Their focus areas follow what we want to do.

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.*

To find out more about Our Next 75, contact a member of our philanthropic services team at 231.924.5350.





# pro - advice

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**ROLAND REED**  
*Certified public accountant*

## QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM IRAs

As another year closes, many of us are inundated with phone calls from organizations requesting charitable gifts. Some of the more relentless callers are seeking as little as \$10 and are willing to call after 8 p.m. and on Sundays to get it!

For years, charitable contributions were deductible on schedule A of federal tax returns. However, with the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, many taxpayers no longer benefit from itemizing. For some, there is still another option with significant tax benefits to consider – Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs).

To be eligible to make QCDs, you must be at least 70 ½ and have an IRA (not SEP or SIMPLE). The IRS will allow you to exclude from gross income up to \$100,000 in QCDs made to qualifying charities each year. If your spouse also qualifies and you file jointly, that's \$200,000 per year of potential exclusions from income!

What's the difference between QCDs and normal distributions? For starters, QCDs must be made directly from the IRA trustee to the charitable organization. Your IRA trustee can mail you a check made payable to your chosen charity if you want to personally deliver your

gift. Another difference is how the distributions are reported on your federal tax return.

For example, let's assume that your required minimum distribution for 2022—which you're required to take no later than December 31—is \$25,000. You receive a \$5,000 cash distribution from your IRA in June and write a personal check to Charity A for the same amount in July. In December, you receive a \$20,000 check from your IRA trustee made payable to Charity B, which you personally deliver. On your taxes, you would report the \$5,000 June distribution as income and be eligible for a \$5,000 charitable deduction for the personal check you wrote to Charity A. The \$20,000 distribution to Charity B in December does not qualify as a charitable deduction, but you get to exclude it from your taxable income.

For some, QCDs have distinct advantages over regular charitable contributions. If you're 70 ½, have an IRA, and have charities you would like to support, ask your tax professional how QCDs might work for you.

*Roland Reed is a certified public accountant and partner with H&S Companies. He also serves on the Community Foundation Board of Trustees and Professional Advisors Board.*

*QCDs must be donated to a 501(c)(3) organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. Some charities do not qualify for QCDs, including supporting organizations and donor advised funds.*

# noteworthy

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## NEW TRUSTEES JOIN BOARD

At our annual meeting in June, members elected three new trustees: Todd DeKryger, Ken DeLaat, and Julie Tatko. DeKryger is the regional manager for sustainable agricultural development at Nestlé Nutrition North America. He holds degrees from Michigan State University, including a PhD in resource development. DeLaat is a freelance writer and creator of Near North Now. He has also spent his career working in mental health in various capacities. Tatko has a background in community health. She is currently president and CEO of Baldwin Family Health Care. We are thrilled with the community expertise and knowledge they each bring to our board.

## RONDA BRANDT JOINS STAFF

We are excited to welcome Ronda Brandt to our finance team as an accounting associate. She works with accounts payable, performs reconciliations, and maintains our recordkeeping procedures. Ronda grew up in the area, moved away after college, and recently returned. Welcome to the team, Ronda!



## COLLEGE AND CAREER NIGHT OUT

We partnered with WE CAN! Newaygo County again this fall for College and Career Night Out. Over 300 students and families attended to learn more about post-secondary education, career opportunities, and financial aid. Students also met with representatives from a wide variety of public and private colleges and universities, military branches, trade schools, and career training programs—all without leaving the county.

# recently

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SHELLY KASPRZYCKI  
*President and CEO*



Autumn is upon us! Thank you to the many people and organizations who have given us feedback as we engage in strategic planning. Trustees and staff are listening to the community and finding innovative ways to enhance our philanthropy. The Community Foundation belongs to Newaygo County, and we are very cognizant of the legacy we hold and the future we can impact.

A hallmark of the Community Foundation is being a trusted steward of community funds. We value that trust, and we are thoroughly examining what we've done well in grantmaking and convening and seeking to enhance our role in a more innovative way in coming years. We've learned that grantees appreciate when we are flexible and able to address community needs quickly. We also know that the pandemic changed our perspective on how to attain real and lasting positive change.

We plan to wrap up our strategic planning process and have new goals to share by year's end. Please look for further information about this unfolding process coming soon.

This summer, we were pleased to welcome Todd DeKryger, Ken DeLaat, and Julie Tatko to our Board of Trustees. You can read more about them on the previous page. We are delighted to have their collective wealth of experience join our board.

On another note, we were excited to once again partner on College and Career Night Out at the end of September. Our trustees and staff are so proud of our commitment to educational success. Another example of this commitment is our scholarship program. The online application for high school seniors opened October 1. To learn more, please visit our website or call us at 231.924.5350.

My first year as president and CEO has been the most rewarding of my career. My family has fallen in love with Newaygo County. Thank you for making us feel welcomed as community members, and for the joy and privilege of serving as president and CEO of your Community Foundation.



FREMONT AREA  
**COMMUNITY**  
 FOUNDATION

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## IMPACT

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### CONTINUING A LOCAL LEGACY

Peggie Stone loved travel, dogs, and gardens. She also loved her hometown and was widely known as a thoughtful, generous philanthropist. In addition to giving throughout her lifetime, Peggie included the Community Foundation in her estate plan. With that act of future-focused generosity, Peggie became a member of our Slutterback Legacy Society.

Named for our organization's first leader, Bessie Slutterback, the Society welcomes all those who choose to include the Community Foundation in their will or estate plan. Peggie and Bessie both cared deeply for our area and ensured their support of it would continue for generations. For more information on how to join that legacy, contact a member of our philanthropic services team at 231.924.5350.

