New opportunities

Being prepared for the future

A global pandemic certainly changes the way our community looks and how we engage with those around us.

As Spectrum Health navigated these changes, they wanted to make sure they had the equipment and training necessary to provide quality care for patients and create a comfortable and safe environment.

While hospitals already have high standards for sanitation, those requirements greatly increased in the last few months. There was a

Chair’s note

In the last few months, we have experienced a world that many of us never imagined. The plans we had for 2020 continue to change on a daily basis. However, through all of this change, the focus of the Community Foundation has remained the same. We are here to enhance the quality of life for all residents in Osceola County.

Through this time, we have maintained our current processes and were able to award our spring grants and scholarships. In response to COVID-19, and in partnership with Fremont Area Community Foundation, we also made grants through our Community Response Fund to nonprofits providing essential services. These grants allowed us to have a quick impact in our community.

We are sad we won’t see you this year at the annual auction but we look forward to continuing to partner with you to make a difference in our community.

Respectfully,

Roger Elkins
Board Chair
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need for additional protective measures for patients and staff as well as a need for more training. For Spectrum Health, it was vital that all necessary steps be taken to continue the much-needed services provided by their passionate doctors and nurses.

Faced with the unforeseen costs of implementing new and expanded safety measures, Spectrum Health reached out to the Community Foundation through the Community Response Fund. This fund was built to provide support and a quick turnaround for grantees who were providing essential services during the pandemic. Spectrum Health Foundation received a grant from the fund for additional protective gear for staff and patients. Grant funding also helped them seek additional training opportunities for staff who were suddenly working in new and unfamiliar areas.

“We love having that support and it makes us feel like we’re doing good in our community,” said Nicole Johnson of Spectrum Health. “The generosity has really been amazing. It’s greatly appreciated.”

The Community Response Fund was created to address issues such as healthcare, childcare, food insecurity, financial assistance, general operating support, and other identified needs. Other grants awarded from the fund included support for Love Inc of Wexford and Osceola Counties, Project Starburst, and Feeding America West Michigan. Additional grants continue to be deployed as needs arise.

The goal of the fund is to provide quick help to vital organizations while also giving generous community members an easy way to support them. Those interested in supporting local relief efforts can donate online to the Community Response Fund at facommunityfoundation.org/covid. Donors may designate their gift for a specific county.

Always sunshine

Suzie Neiderheide brought sunshine into the lives of everyone she met. Now, a Community Foundation fund created in her memory will continue her legacy of making a positive difference.

Suzie grew up in Traverse City and received an education degree from Central Michigan University. She also met her husband Larry while at CMU. They raised their son, Scott, in the Reed City area where both Suzie and Larry taught for almost 30 years. Suzie was also an incredible grandmother to her two granddaughters.

Upon Suzie’s passing, Larry and Scott decided to create a scholarship fund in her memory. In honor of the nurses who helped the family during Suzie’s final months, the fund will provide scholarships for students pursuing nursing or for current nurses continuing their educations.
2019 financials
Impact by the numbers as of December 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL GIFTS</th>
<th>$179,825</th>
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<td>TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS</td>
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<td>Donor advised, agency endowments, and designated grants</td>
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Our future
Youth leaders ready to begin a new journey

The Community Foundation is home to the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for Osceola County. These student leaders help to address youth needs in the county by participating in community service projects and recommending grants from the Youth Endowment Fund.

“Serving on YAC was an excellent opportunity to better my community,” said Teagan Cox, a YAC senior. “Working alongside my peers towards a common goal of helping others was a meaningful experience I will carry into the future.”

We wish our 2020 YAC seniors well as they continue making a positive impact!

2020 YAC seniors (pictured from top left):
Noah Blythe, Reed City High School; Ferris State University: industrial chemistry
Rose Clark, Evart High School; Saginaw Valley State University: special education
Teagan Cox, Marion High School; Central Michigan University: environmental engineering
Rebecca Horan, Pine River High School; Ferris State University: dentistry
Tyler Lindquist, Pine River High School; Michigan State University: linguistics
Sydney VanBuren, Evart High School; Saginaw Valley State University: pre-medicine

If you are passionate about youth and would like to give to the Youth Endowment Fund, you may do so at facommunityfoundation.org/giving.
Sometimes it is great to take a step back and reflect on why we do what we do and then act again. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have discovered that giving looks a little different now than it did a few months ago. For some of you, it may look more service-oriented or you may now be considering new philanthropic goals.

How would you like to better your community now and in the future? As you work through this question, give us a call at 231.924.5350. We would love to discuss how we can help you meet your goals. We look forward to helping you give today and tomorrow.