

# Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

# REPORT

Volume 31 / Issue 1  
September 2017



# INVESTING IN YOUTH

Volume 31 / Issue 1 / September 2017

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EDITOR: Colin Bowyer

PHOTOGRAPHY: Michelle Andonian, pp. 1, 13; Ali Lapetina, p. 5; Chuk Nowak, pp. 2-4, 9; Larry Peplin, p. 11; Jay Singleton, p. 8; Glenn Triest, p. 12; Benjamin Weatherston, p. 6;

**Community Foundation**  
 FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

333 W. Fort Street \ Suite 2010 \ Detroit, MI 48226-3134 \ 313.961.6675 \ www.cfsem.org

When provided with great opportunities and quality resources, young people will devote energy and creativity toward addressing the challenges we are facing today and will face in the future. The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan believes the success of this region is determined by how well we nurture and develop our children and young adults. Investing in the youth of southeast Michigan is a direct investment in the region's future.

This fall, some of our young people are returning to school academically underprepared and physically unfit. According to Kids Count in Michigan, a report from the Michigan League for Public Policy, 37 percent of Michigan students have less than a basic reading level by the fourth grade, and 17 percent of the state's children are living in concentrated poverty. We also know that only 13 percent of southeast Michigan's young people are physically active an hour or more on a daily basis, as reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Growing up is tough, but it is even harder without access to services and programs that support academic, physical, and creative development. Therefore, at the Community Foundation, we invest in efforts across our seven-county region to bolster the health and wellness of young people, particularly during out-of-school hours. We also support opportunities where youth can lead and contribute, as we know their voice is key to solving community challenges. In this newsletter, we share a few stories of our investments in young people.

While we continue to listen to the ideas of young people, the views and opinions of all southeast Michigan residents are vitally important in shaping our region's future. The Community Foundation invites you to join a new community engagement initiative called *On the Table*, where individuals young and old will have the opportunity to discuss ideas and propose solutions for improving their communities, so our youth can thrive now and in the future. We are inviting everyone to set aside some time on October 4 to take part in this initiative. See page nine for more information. Let your voice be heard and sign up to join a conversation or host a table yourself.

As summer comes to a close, we begin to think about the upcoming holidays. It is the time when many people consider giving to others, whether it be time or money. Collectively, we can continue to make this region a great place to live and work. Thank you for all that you do.



Mariam C. Noland  
 President

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# INVESTING IN YOUTH

The Community Foundation believes the future of this region rests on developing children into fully capable adults. That is why we have invested in youth for more than 30 years by supporting high-quality out-of-school programs, organizations, and initiatives.

Enrichment opportunities offered before or after school, on weekends, and in the summer have been proven to improve academic performance, school attendance, and motivation. Students who receive extra academic support from community-based organizations are more engaged with their communities and demonstrate better reading and math skills, according to Youth.Gov.

Academic support and intervention is especially critical for our youngest children. Effective programs in pre-school education can offset and counteract many of the risks and pressures associated with concentrated poverty, and out-of-school youth programs can lead to significant decreases in spending on interventions later in life. With the reduction of school-based physical education programs, out-of-school recreational opportunities are even more critical. Numerous studies have established that daily physical activity reduces obesity and increases cognitive function.

Creative safe spaces where youth can be artistically expressive and are able to socially interact with their peers without the added weight of trying to “fit in” are important for the social-emotional aspects of youth development. Places where young people can come together to collaborate and discuss issues of identity, self-definition, and ways to improve their communities encourage positive mental and emotional development. It is also critically important to listen to the concerns and opinions of young people, as they can often provide some of the best solutions to community problems!



## GRANTING KIDS A HEAD START

Effective academic programs yield a wide range of benefits in the positive development of a child. This is especially true with early childhood education. Studies have shown that early engagement and intervention lead to positive behaviors and choices throughout life.

For low-income children from birth to 5, Head Start and Early Head Start are key educational opportunities. Collectively, these two federally-funded programs serve babies, children, pregnant mothers, fathers, and families. Annually, over \$7,000 worth of education, health screening, nutrition, family support, and training

services is provided for each Head Start family at no cost to them. The benefits of children participating in Head Start and Early Head Start education are significant. These programs help ensure children are healthier and better prepared for Kindergarten.

Recognizing the critical role these programs play, the Community Foundation launched the Head Start Innovation Fund in 2013 with the support of 10 local and national foundations. The goal is to help improve the quality of Head Start services and outcomes for children and their families, and to support the



implementation of a new model of Head Start that serves the family as a whole, rather than solely focusing on the child.

Today, the Head Start Innovation Fund has grown into an \$11 million effort across Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties. Collectively, this geographic area serves more than 9,000 children through Head Start and Early Head Start. The impact of the Head Start Innovation Fund has included the development of a partnership across all agencies pertaining to enrollment activities and events, data collection, and teacher recruitment. Grants from the Head Start

Innovation Fund support unique efforts to build early childhood education teacher pipelines, create more on-demand training, and build the capacity of organizations to facilitate staff development and appreciation.

“Recruiting and retaining talented teachers in the Head Start program is fundamental to creating a strong developmental track for our children,” says Katie Brisson, vice president, program, at the Community Foundation. “Matching the talent with career opportunities is going to advance the Head Start program and help children for years to come.”



## LEADING THE REGION IN SUPPORTING YOUTH SPORTS

The numbers are startling. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only 13 percent of youth across southeast Michigan are physically active for at least one hour a day. If this trend holds, more young people in Michigan will grow up to develop chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease than earlier generations. If 25 percent of the state’s young people were to be physically active for at least one hour a day, compared to the current 13 percent, approximately 34,000 fewer young people would be overweight and obese saving the region more than \$1 billion in current and future direct medical costs and workplace productivity losses.

The Community Foundation and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation recently collaborated to examine the status of youth sports across the seven counties of southeast Michigan. The result is a report called “State of Play,” conducted as an independent assessment by the Aspen Institute’s Sports & Society Program on behalf of the two foundations. The report examines access, quality, and participation in youth

sports. Over a 10-month period, more than 1,000 local adults and youth informed the report through interviews, roundtables, focus groups, and surveys. The Community Foundation also assembled a task force of local youth sports leaders who helped provide guidance to Aspen’s data-collection efforts.

“Research shows active children do better in life,” says Tom Farrey, executive director of the Aspen Institute Sports & Society Program. “They’re healthier, more often go on to college, and as they move into adulthood are more likely to raise active kids. So how do we get more kids off the couch, without running them into the ground? It starts with a clear-eyed account of how well a community is currently serving kids through sports. We hope this report — the first of its kind nationally — provides valuable insights that can help mobilize stakeholders.”

“Research shows active children do better in life...”

Through the report, the Aspen Institute recommended eight strategies, or “plays,” designed to increase sport participation with urban, suburban, and rural youth.

The eight plays are:

- 1. Ask Kids What They Want:** Understand the needs of kids and building their voice into the decision-making process around sports
- 2. Reintroduce Free Play:** Make room for less-structured activity
- 3. Encourage Sports Sampling:** Expose kids to a variety of sports, and do not ask them to specialize early in any one sport
- 4. Revitalize In-Town Leagues:** Support community-based options
- 5. Think Small:** Be creative in the use and development of play spaces

- 6. Design for Development:** Deliver age-appropriate programs
- 7. Train All Coaches:** Provide training in key competencies in working with kids
- 8. Emphasize Prevention:** Prevent brain and other injuries

To bring awareness to these strategies, the “State of Play” report was publicly released in a press conference at Keyworth Stadium in Hamtramck on June 28.

While the “State of Play” report will help inform grantmaking strategies for the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the broader hope is that the region’s communities will begin to engage in this early conversation and collectively rally around our youth. Beginning this fall, the two foundations will partner to host a series of community roundtables and discussions to improve youth sports.



When asked the question, **What grade would you give stakeholders in Southeast Michigan in getting kids active through sports?**

168 youth sport providers and other stakeholders in an online survey distributed throughout the region by the Aspen Institute gave Southeast Michigan an average grade of:

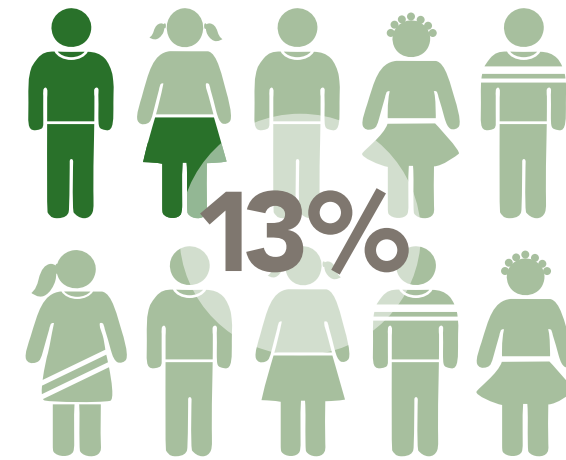
2017  
State of Play  
Grade  
Southeast  
Michigan

C+

**ON THE WHOLE, FEW KIDS ARE ACTIVE ENOUGH**

Percentage of Southeast Michigan youth getting one hour of daily physical activity, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

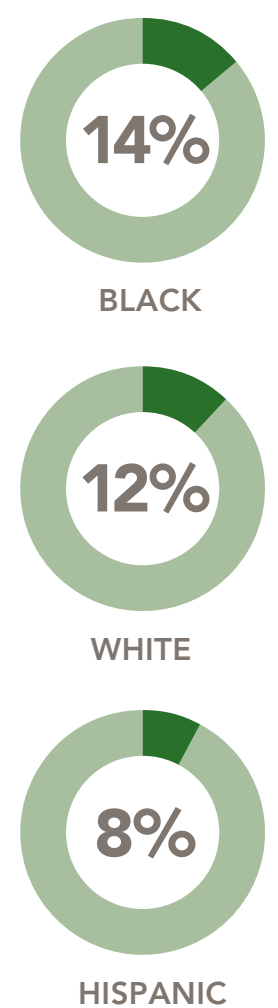
TOTAL



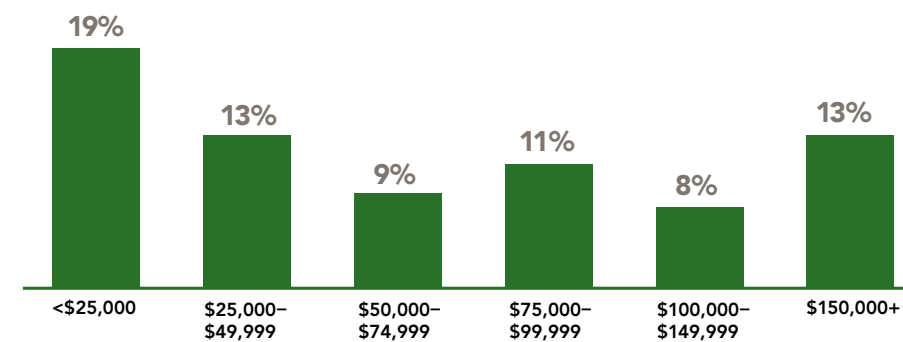
BY GENDER



BY ETHNICITY



BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME



While 19% of youth from the lowest-income households are active to the level recommended by the CDC, kids from that income level as a whole are 3.6x more likely than youth from the highest-income households to be active zero days during the week, and much less likely to be active through sport.

## PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD

A vital part of the Community Foundation's ongoing programmatic strategy is to involve more young people in learning about community needs and building solutions to address those needs. One formal avenue by which we get youth more engaged in their communities is through our Youth Advisory Committee (the YAC). Currently, 15 teens from across the region serve on the Community Foundation's YAC, which reviews proposals and makes recommendations for grants from our endowed funds for youth leadership. The involvement of youth in grantmaking was initially championed by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation 25 years ago, when it helped establish endowed youth funds at community foundations across the state of Michigan.

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan takes a unique approach to this work in that, from the beginning, we not only formed the southeast Michigan YAC, but also required that grants recommended by the YAC must be for youth-led activities. For over 25 years, our teen YAC members have recommended grants to other teens, to support projects that are by youth and for youth. Since the endowed funds for youth leadership were established in 1991, the Community Foundation has distributed just over \$1 million in grants for 205 unique youth-led projects



across the region, exponentially impacting the number of youth who have built leadership skills through various, localized efforts.

Recent grants have been made to projects organized by youth leaders at the Detroit Food and Entrepreneurship Academy, Escuela Avancemos! Academy in Detroit, and Friendship Circle in West Bloomfield.

- The Detroit Food & Entrepreneurship Academy received a \$30,000 grant to support a summer youth leadership program in which Detroit high school students will learn culinary business skills and workplace basics.
- Escuela Avancemos! Academy's \$5,250 grant supports the development of a Student Leadership Council for fourth-and-fifth grade students, giving students at the elementary school an opportunity to voice their opinions and make a valued difference in their school and community.
- The Friendship Circle is using a \$5,000 grant to expand U\_Matter, a teen-led initiative to help high school teens who are struggling with mental illness.



## FURTHER CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

*On the Table* is a new Community Foundation investment in the future of young people. The Foundation is encouraging residents from across the region to pause from their daily activities to gather in small groups to share a meal and discuss how to create vibrant communities in which all youth are able to thrive. On October 4, we invite everyone to join the conversation. The Community Foundation, in partnership with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, is sponsoring this region-wide community engagement initiative.

The act of people coming together to discuss the issues that matter the most to them has never been more important. *On the Table* connects individuals and communities of diverse perspectives and backgrounds to do just that. *On the Table* will inspire new ways to work together to make our communities stronger for young people across the region.

The Community Foundation's goal is to identify and highlight ideas emerging from the conversations to inspire collaboration and action and to drive progress across the region. After the conversations, *On the Table* participants will be invited to complete an

anonymous online survey regarding the topics discussed at their respective tables. Through those surveys, we will learn what it will take to make southeast Michigan a better place for youth to thrive. A comprehensive report highlighting the ideas, themes, and outcomes from the October conversations will be made available in early 2018.

The Community Foundation invites everyone to host an *On the Table* conversation at their home, place of business, or anywhere a small group of people can gather. No matter where one lives, no matter their age or background, everyone who is interested can participate. There is no need for any prior experience to host a discussion. Hosting is easy and resources are available online. Join us for an exciting day of conversation across the region.

If you are interested in hosting an *On the Table* conversation, please register online at [onthetable.cfsem.org](http://onthetable.cfsem.org) or email us at [onthetable@cfsem.org](mailto:onthetable@cfsem.org).



## CHARITABLE GIFTS WILL YOU SEIZE THE MOMENT?

Two current events are creating a unique opportunity for giving. The stock market is posting record gains and federal tax policies remain unchanged. Now is the perfect time to consider making charitable gifts.

Policy makers in Washington D.C. are considering introducing changes to the federal tax code that may increase the after-tax cost of making a charitable gift. Specifically, some of the proposals could significantly affect the attractiveness of making gifts of marketable securities. While no one knows what the new tax code will include, we do know that the tax code currently provides incentives for making charitable gifts of marketable securities.

When you make a gift of long-term appreciated securities to a public charity, including the Community Foundation, you can:

- Claim a deduction equal to the fair market value of the securities
- Claim a deduction of up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income for the year, and
- Avoid any capital gain income on the appreciated value of the securities (which for Michigan taxpayers also means avoiding state taxes on that gain)

These benefits make the after-tax cost of a gift of long-term marketable securities more attractive than a cash gift. With the stock market at record highs, this might just be the right time to make that charitable gift, add to your donor advised fund, or create your philanthropic legacy.

The Community Foundation can accept gifts of other unique assets like privately held business interests, as well as planned gifts. A contribution to any fund at the Community Foundation is treated as a gift to a public charity. As such, these contributions receive the most favorable tax treatment under the Internal Revenue Code.

Types of gifts to the Community Foundation can include:

- Cash
- Marketable Securities
- Retirement Plan Assets
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Real Estate
- And Many More

Giving through the Community Foundation allows you to support what is most important to you. You may support the endowment of a specific nonprofit organization or give to an area of philanthropic interest (e.g. early childhood education, economic development, etc.). Or, you may choose to support the Community Foundation's unrestricted fund, which gives us the flexibility to address the emerging needs and unforeseen opportunities that arise in our region over time.

Please visit [cfsem.org](http://cfsem.org) for more information or contact us at 313.961.6675 if you have any questions about how we can help. As always, thank you for what you do to make our region a better place for all to work and live.

### COMPARISON OF CASH AND STOCK GIFT

	CASH	STOCK
Gift Value	\$10,000	\$10,000
Income Tax Saved	2,800	2,800
Gains Tax Saved	0	750
<b>After-Tax Cost of Gift</b>	<b>\$7,200</b>	<b>\$6,450</b>

Assumes joint filers in 28% income tax bracket

At the Annual Board Meeting in June, the Community Foundation presented awards to recognize the leadership of an individual and the outstanding service of an organization.

## MARIAM C. NOLAND AWARD FOR NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP

Rick Sperling, founder and president of Mosaic Youth Theatre, received the 2017 Mariam C. Noland Award for Nonprofit Leadership. Named after the Community Foundation's first and current president, the Noland Award recognizes a nonprofit president or CEO in southeast Michigan whose service exemplifies the importance of leadership – not only to his or her organization, but also to the wider nonprofit community.

Rick Sperling, a professional actor and director, founded Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit in 1992. Under Sperling's care, he instituted a curriculum of high expectations and mandated the active participation of each individual. This has led to an extraordinary percentage of Mosaic alumni not only graduating from high school, but attending college.

Sperling has been an advocate in southeast Michigan's arts and culture sector for more than 25 years. He serves on the boards of numerous organizations and works to engage and develop talent and young leaders.



## RICHARD F. HUEGLI AWARD FOR PROGRAM EXCELLENCE



The Community Foundation was proud to present the Neutral Zone of Ann Arbor with the 2017 Richard F. Huegli Award for Program Excellence. The Huegli Award recognizes a nonprofit that reflects Huegli's vision of high standards in human services programming and his belief in human potential. Huegli worked in the human services sector in southeast Michigan for nearly half a century before his death in 1988. He helped to establish the Community Foundation and worked as acting director in its first year.

Over the past decade, the Neutral Zone has been recognized locally, regionally, and nationally as a high-quality youth development organization. It delivers distinctly effective programming focused on engaging youth in meaningful decision-making, mentorship, and leadership. The Neutral Zone was founded by teens and adults in 1998 as a concert venue that provided a safe, supportive space for teens on Saturday nights. Today, it has grown to include supporting weekend concerts and special events, and also serves as an after-school drop in space offering over 20 programs in visual and media arts, music performance and technology, literary arts, community leadership, and education.

## RUSSELL G. MAWBY AWARD FOR PHILANTHROPY

Congratulations to Joseph L. Hudson Jr., who received the Russell Mawby Award at the recent Governor's Service Awards ceremony. Gov. Rick Snyder presented the state's highest award for philanthropy to Hudson in recognition of his lifetime of service to his community and the state. Hudson has played many roles in promoting philanthropy, including founding the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan in 1984.

The award is named for Russell Mawby, president emeritus of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Dr. Mawby was also a founder of the Council of Michigan Foundations, the Michigan Nonprofit Association, and the Michigan Community Service Commission – three organizations that cosponsor Michigan's award for public service.



## AFFILIATED FOUNDATIONS

In the second quarter of 2017, the Chelsea Community Foundation and Community Foundation for Livingston County, both affiliated foundations of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, awarded three grants totaling \$46,000.

- The State of Michigan received \$10,000 from the Chelsea Community Foundation to support the construction of a nature play area and an accessible trail at the Eddy Discovery Center in Chelsea. Data from a recent survey of Chelsea residents showed the need for an area designed for play with the expressed purpose of connecting children to nature.

- The City of Chelsea received \$25,000, from the Chelsea Community Foundation to support the design of Letts Linear Park. The grant will assist in the planning phase for the development and construction of a tunnel underneath M-52 to connect the city's east and west side. The tunnel will provide a safe and accessible crossing to recreational opportunities and nature trails on both sides of the highway.
- The City of Brighton received \$11,000 from the Community Foundation for Livingston County to support "The Story of Us," a storytelling initiative aimed at encouraging artistic expression among Livingston County residents.



## NEW AND RETIRING TRUSTEES

At the annual Board Meeting in June, the Community Foundation recognized the retirement of several Trustees, as well as the election of a new member.

Appreciation was expressed for the dedicated leadership of two of the Community Foundation's Founding Trustees, Alfred R. Glancy III and Eugene A. Miller. Each was thanked for their many years of devoted service to the Community Foundation and to the community. Glancy served as vice chair of the Board of Trustees from 1995 – 2012 and was a vital

member of many committees. Miller was the second chair in the Foundation's history, serving in that position from 2003 – 2006. During his years of service, he oversaw the Foundation's continued asset growth and helped launch numerous new community initiatives.

The Trustees elected Barbara L. McQuade as a new member of the Board of Trustees. McQuade is currently a professor at the University of Michigan Law School and formerly served as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan.

## STAFF UPDATES



Lenzi Abma

**LENZI ABMA** was named program associate in the program department. She most recently held a community engagement and managerial role at The Greening of Detroit.



Colin Bowyer

**COLIN BOWYER** came on board as communications manager. He has worked in the communications field at a variety of Detroit-based nonprofits, including the Historic Ford Estates, Detroit Public Television, and Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings.



Ashley Collins

**ASHLEY COLLINS** joined the Community Foundation as digital marketing manager. He has served in communication and development positions for Wayne State University School of Medicine, L'Arche Chicago, and the Office of Peace and Justice for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

**PAULA GONZALEZ** has joined the New Economy Initiative at the Community Foundation as a program associate. Gonzalez comes from Loveland Technologies, where she was a business development and growth manager, as well as a *Venture for America* fellow starting in 2014.

**MONIQUE SIMS** became database manager within the finance and administration department. Sims brings extensive experience in fundraising operations and philanthropic database management, most recently at the College for Creative Studies.



Paula Gonzalez



Monique Sims



## Community Foundation

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333 W. Fort Street  
Suite 2010  
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## The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is here to permanently support our region.

We promote and facilitate permanent change in the seven counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, Livingston and St. Clair, and we help donors invest in organizations they care about nationwide.

We do this by:

- Making strategic investments in programs and organizations that benefit the region
- Equipping organizations and the public with knowledge and information that will lead to positive change
- Building endowment — community capital — to meet our region's needs today and tomorrow, and
- Providing expert assistance to donors and their advisors in their charitable planning

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