Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

REPORT

Volume 32 / Issue 1 September 2018



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Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

The economy touches everything in a community: its infrastructure, its education, its quality of life, its people's livelihoods. At the Community Foundation we approach multifaceted problems with multifaceted solutions — all paved with ingenuity, effort, and time. At the heart of our mission is people and the talent they possess: Their passions, skills, and ideas become the lifeblood and the future of our community. As you'll read in the talent story in this newsletter, the Community Foundation is playing a long game.

The Community Foundation is the home of the Head Start Innovation Fund, an \$11 million effort that seeks to recruit and retain qualified early childhood educators, attract more Head Start-eligible families, and share data and program evaluation for nearly 9,000 children. The Head Start Innovation Fund is working to address the talent pipeline problem for this system by promoting early childhood education jobs to new markets such as men and millennials.

In all stages of economic growth, there is a need to cultivate talent. We're supporting the SME Education Foundation's work establishing cutting-edge manufacturing education centers of excellence in three of our region's high schools. In 2014, manufacturing jobs accounted for 49 percent of the total jobs in Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland counties. Thanks to the SME Education Foundation — which works with local employers to identify skills gaps — the students of southeast Michigan will be better prepared to succeed.

The New Economy Initiative works to both attract new talent to southeast Michigan and to bolster the capacity of the local entrepreneurs who are already here. Because of NEI's work with startup fellowship program Venture for America, the city of Detroit has more Venture for America fellows working for local startups than any other city in the country. Since its inception in 2007, NEI has contributed more than \$110 million to support entrepreneurs and small businesses. Sometimes, these businesses are in flashy arenas, like tech; sometimes, they're in reliable industries like mechanics. A solid community needs both.

Another program, the Hacker Fellows Program, encourages talented young people to go into business and promote the economic development of southeast Michigan. This year a grant was provided to grow the availability of entrepreneurial talent in competitive-edge technology sectors. As of last summer, all Hacker Fellows have been hired by Michigan startups, most of them in southeast Michigan.

There are always more opportunities to develop talent. We look forward to continuing to give our young people, local entrepreneurs, and those outside our region the support necessary to succeed and contribute to our community.

Mariam C. Noland
President

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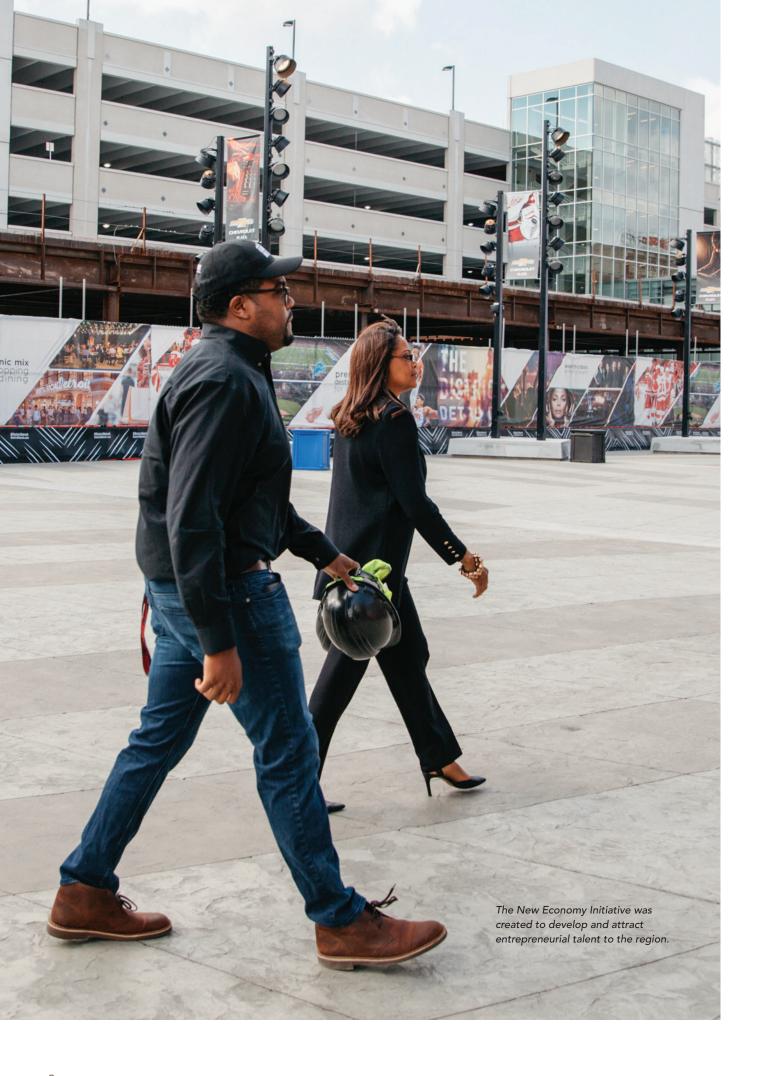
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INVESTING IN TALENT, NEAR AND FAR

Talent development is crucial to a healthy economy and the region. The Community Foundation understands that, in addition to attracting new talent to our growing and changing region, we must also support the abundant talent that's already here. Jobs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) grew 18.4 percent from 2010-2015 in the Detroit area, almost double the national average. During that time frame, about 5,000 engineers graduated from area schools, supporting the growing number of openings in STEM.

The Community Foundation takes a holistic approach to talent development, nurturing programs that empower the current workforce, and ensure those about to enter the workforce have the tools and skills they need, to start the next generation of talent off strong.

The New Economy Initiative, the Community
Foundation's largest special project, was launched in
2007 to address systemic problems in the regional
economy by developing and attracting entrepreneurial
talent. To date, NEI has granted more than
\$110 million to organizations and programs that
help people launch and grow businesses across
southeast Michigan.

NEI was one of the first philanthropic initiatives that saw the value of lifting up entrepreneurs running small businesses in low-income neighborhoods. Through its NEIdeas program, a challenge that rewards neighborhood businesses with \$10,000 and \$100,000 grants for their ideas for growth, NEI has enabled local

businesses like Benkari Mechanical to pursue new opportunities. In 2015, Adrienne Bennett, the first black woman to become a master plumber in the U.S., was awarded a \$10,000 NEIdeas grant to invest in bidding software, which helped her win larger jobs, including a major contract working on the recently opened Little Caesars Arena. Since winning an NEIdeas grant, her business has grown 400 percent and she has hired new employees.



NEIdeas is a means of recognizing and investing in the talent that already exists in our community. Lots of local business owners have ideas for growth; they just need a little help to realize them.

NEI works to attract talent to southeast Michigan through support for programs like Venture for America (VFA), a national fellowship program that places recent

continued on page 4

To date, NEI has granted more than \$110 million to organizations and programs that help people launch and grow businesses across southeast Michigan.

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Students at one of the SME Education Foundation's manufacturing education centers of excellence discuss a project they worked on as part of the program.

The funding in Pontiac is leveraged by a large investment by the Flagstar Bank Foundation.

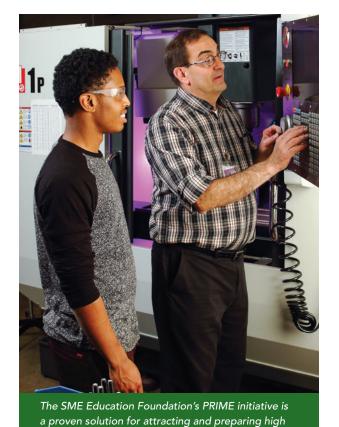
SME tailors its PRIME programs to the specific needs of each educational landscape and does workforce assessments with local employers, such as GM, to discuss needs and identify existing skills gaps. Between them, the three regional PRIME programs focus on mechatronics, industrial robotics and animation, welding, design, and engineering.

The students in the seats are what that really matters. At a time when a skills gap and the "graying out" of the existing workforce creates a talent mismatch, 84 percent of PRIME students enter manufacturing.

The Community Foundation also understands the importance of early childhood education in growing a dynamic talent pool. As the number of families choosing to enroll their children in Head Start centers

increases, the waiting lists at these centers grow because there are not enough teachers to meet the student-teacher ratios.

The Head Start Innovation Fund is working to address the talent pipeline problem for this system by promoting early childhood education jobs among men and millennials, who traditionally do not consider positions in this sector. The Community Foundation oversees the Head Start Innovation Fund, which is supported by 10 foundations and seeks to recruit and retain qualified early childhood educators, attract Head Start-eligible families, and support shared data and program evaluation. Launched in 2013, the Innovation Fund is an \$11 million effort to improve the quality of these services and outcomes in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties, an area that services nearly 9,000 children through Head Start and Early Head Start.



school students for careers in manufacturing.

graduates at early-stage startups. In 2012, NEI helped establish a Detroit chapter of VFA, which has since become the most popular destination for fellows of any city in the organization's national network. Several VFA alumni have launched their own startups in Detroit.

The Community Foundation also cultivates talent at the high school level, building the pipeline to match available jobs in the region and providing students with the cutting-edge skills they need to succeed. One example is the creation of the Partnership Response in Manufacturing Education (PRIME) program, which established manufacturing education centers in high schools to prepare students to enter the next-generation manufacturing workforce. According to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, manufacturing jobs accounted for 49 percent of the total jobs in Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland counties in 2014.1 Two grants totaling \$90,000 from the Community Foundation's Herbert and Grace Dow Endowment Fund are supporting the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Foundation's PRIME programs at three high schools: Cornerstone Schools, Fraser High School, and Pontiac High School.



Madonna University.

¹ http://semcog.org/Talent#2263402-manufacturing-careers



2018 Hacker Fellow, Caleb Latimer, worked with Detroit-based Autonomic AI during a day-long session of testing assumptions and risks in developing ideas into software solutions.

SUPPORTING TOMORROW'S TALENT

Cultivating the rich pool of young talent growing up in southeast Michigan is a crucial aspect of keeping the next generation in the community and attracting new talent to the region. The Community Foundation has supported programs that develop young people's entrepreneurial skills, encourage talented young people to go into business, and promote the economic development of southeast Michigan.

A grant from the Community Foundation's endowed Ann and Carman Adams Fund supports the expansion of the successful Hacker Fellows program, which seeks to grow the availability and quality of entrepreneurial talent in competitive-edge technology sectors.

Since 2015, the Hacker Fellows program has recruited 20 outgoing college seniors annually. Students participate in a rigorous application process including a written portion, coding tests, and phone and in-person interviews. Once selected, Fellows undergo extensive training and a six-week boot camp, culminating in a

high-energy interview day. The program has cultivated relationships with many companies around southeast Michigan. All 80 Fellows have been hired by Michigan startups, the majority of them in southeast Michigan. The Hacker Fellows program has placed young talent with companies like Autonomic Al (Detroit), Farm Logs (Ann Arbor), and Sift (Detroit).

This program continues to evolve by including internships for rising college juniors and recruiting women and people of color, who are traditionally underrepresented in the tech sector.

"My grandparents, Ann and Carman Adams, were successful entrepreneurs and built a great business in metropolitan Detroit," said Christy Meyers, granddaughter of Ann and Carman Adams. "They believed in entrepreneurship. The Hacker Fellows program honors and extends their memory by helping to keep smart, young talent in Michigan and helping young people grow and thrive."

WDET AND CITY BUREAU: CITIZEN JOURNALISM SERVING AS THE EYES AND EARS OF THE PUBLIC

Too often, Detroit residents are not aware a public meeting is happening, or they are unable to find out what occurred. Some public meetings, once routinely covered by local journalists, seldom have anyone attend to listen or observe. To address the challenges that limit civic participation, WDET has partnered with the Chicago-based City Bureau to share information about when public meetings are scheduled to occur and to train citizens to gather content at those public meetings.

Through its Documenters program in Chicago, City Bureau recruits and trains citizens who attend public meetings, take notes, serving as eyes and ears for the public. City Bureau is working with WDET to create a similar engaged citizen program in Detroit.

The first step in the partnership between City Bureau and WDET, supported by a grant from the Detroit Journalism Engagement Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, was to identify the barriers in Detroit that limit citizen participation in government. An early assessment found a lack of newsroom diversity, limited investigative reporting capacity as Detroit's news organizations become smaller, and a lack of transparency and uniformity in local government operations. These variables make it difficult for citizens to know what's happening with

issues that are important to them and prove particularly challenging for residents who want to participate.

To help citizens access information about when public meetings are scheduled to occur, WDET reached out to a group of local coders to help gather all of the available public meeting information. They now are building an aggregator of meetings that can be shared with the public. "People showed up, they understood it, and they immediately started working," said Candice Fortman, engagement and marketing manager at WDET. The volunteers worked to create a comprehensive public meeting list to help make government in Detroit more accessible.

The next step is recruiting and training local citizens and documenters who can begin participating in public meetings in Detroit.

"We are building this not for our newsroom but for Detroit, and for the protection of democracy," Fortman said.

The WDET and City Bureau program is one of six grants from the Detroit Journalism Engagement Fund supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Ford Foundation, and Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. To learn more about the other grants, please go to www.cfsem.org.

WDET and City Bureau meet with volunteer coders from across the city and region to explain how to contribute to City Bureau's public meeting aggregator tool.



FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS: WIDE-RANGING AND FAR-REACHING

From a hillside Italian village to an economic club, southeast Michigan students are reaping the fruit of generations before them who wanted to give back

The Community Foundation has a rich history of providing scholarships to students from all walks of life and all communities in southeast Michigan.

In 2018 alone, the Community Foundation has provided \$271,000 to 80 deserving students. Each year, students can apply for awards from the Community Foundation's 46 endowed scholarship funds.

Scholarship funds have been established by entities such as the Detroit Tigers, the Detroit Economic Club, and by families such as Enrico and Marie Vespa, former owners of the famous-to-the-region English Gardens.

Enrico Vespa immigrated from the tiny Italian village Bagnoli del Trigno to the U.S. as a 16-year-old in the early 1920s. Marie Vespa was born in the U.S. in 1928 to parents who had immigrated separately from the same village as Enrico.

Despite getting their start in the U.S. in the auto industry, the Vespa family had an agrarian background and, soon enough, destiny redirected them from the auto industry and back to the earth. In 1954, a fruit and vegetable stand owned by a man named English went up for sale. Enrico Vespa and his brothers-in-law bought it and the rest is history. The second generation



Enrico and Marie Vespa

of Vespas now runs the 64-year-old English Gardens, which features five retail centers in southeast Michigan.

After Enrico's death in 1990, the Vespa family got together to discuss how to honor his memory.

"There had been gardens and a tree planted," said Enrico Vespa's daughter, Julie Janosz. "But we sat and talked to mom about what else to do. Dad valued education, although he was never able to complete his. Even though he was very successful, he always felt he was missing something because of that."

The Vespas initiated the scholarship program in 1996 as a way to honor both parents. Janosz still co-owns English Gardens and, along with other community leaders, she participates in selecting recipients for the Vespa Scholarship Fund.

Since its inception in 1995, the Community Foundation's Enrico and Marie Vespa Scholarship Fund has supported more than 86 scholarships. The scholarship is awarded to employees or children of English Garden employees.

For the 2018–2019 academic year, the Vespa scholars included:

- A computer science student who has worked at two store locations and runs his own gaming tournament.
- A nursing student from a single parent home who is paying for college and has made the Dean's List the past two years.
- A health care management student who was captain of her school's softball team and a member of the National Honor Society.
- An engineering student who works with a mechanic, teaches neighbors basic mechanics, and is on his school's Dean's List.

Meanwhile, the Community Foundation's Detroit Economic Club Scholarship Fund supports students graduating from high schools located in Detroit, or



2018 Detroit Economic Club Scholarship recipients Penny C. Richards and Clabe A. Hunt are photographed with Detroit Economic Club President and CEO Steve Grigorian. Richards, a graduate of Detroit Collegiate Preparatory High School, is pursuing a social work degree at Wayne State University. Hunt, a graduate of Renaissance High School, is pursuing an information technology degree at Michigan State University.

Wayne, Oakland, or Macomb counties, and entering their first year of college in the fall. They must demonstrate strong academic performance, and special consideration is given to students who have overcome hardships to achieve their personal and educational goal.

Since 2006, the Detroit Economic Club Scholarship Fund has provided 163 scholarships to Detroit-area students.

This is a renewable scholarship, meaning students can renew their scholarship every year for four years of college, as long as they remain in good standing.

This year's new recipients include:

- A graduate of Detroit's Renaissance High who is active in his school and community, competitive golf, basketball, and baseball. He will attend Michigan State University in September, majoring in information technology.
- A graduate of Detroit Collegiate Preparatory High School who grew up in foster care. Now a legal adult, she lives on her own in an apartment, works the front desk at a hotel, and bought a car, all while maintaining high grades, taking a challenging course

load, and being active in school. She will major in social work at Wayne State University.

Another five students had scholarships renewed for another year:

- A sophomore at Michigan State University studying criminal justice who is well ahead of her first-year credit completion targets from taking college credits in high school.
- A sophomore at the University of Michigan pursuing a degree in nursing. A Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) student, she wants to increase racial and ethnic diversity in the medical field.
- An electrical engineering junior at Michigan State University looking to pursue a career in biomedical engineering.
- A nursing junior at Western Michigan University who is active in Residence Life and an honors fraternity.
 She is interested in becoming a nurse practitioner.
- A mechanical engineering senior at Western
 Michigan University, member of Alpha Lambda Delta
 Honor Society, and former intern at Fiat Chrysler in
 2016 and 2017. He is interested in designing parts
 for an automotive company.

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RECORD AMOUNT OF GRANTS AWARDED TO REGIONAL NONPROFITS FROM RALPH C. WILSON, JR. LEGACY FUNDS

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan recently awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants to 49 organizations through the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds. Each grantee organization is performing critical work within the seven counties of southeast Michigan: Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair, and Livingston.

Last year, the Community Foundation awarded \$720,000 to 33 organizations from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds.

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation established these endowment funds at the Community Foundation to

provide support to organizations dealing with issues that were important to Wilson during his lifetime: Caregiving, Design and Access, Community Assets, and Youth Sports. Endowment funds are designed to grow over time and provide funding in perpetuity for charitable causes, according to Wilson's wishes.

The endowment funds at the Community Foundation are complementary to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation's efforts to create immediate impact within the communities of southeast Michigan and western New York. To learn more about grants offered by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation directly, please visit RCWJRF.org.



KAREN L. LEPPANEN RECEIVES BUSINESS COMMUNITY RECOGNITION



We are proud to share that Karen L. Leppanen, vice president finance and administration for the Community Foundation, was recently named one of the *Crain's Detroit Business* 2018 Women of Finance. This group of talented women work in finance roles in companies in Michigan, ranging from automotive to health care to nonprofits. The women were nominated by their peers and by members of the community. Leppanen has been with the Community Foundation since 1986 and has helped it grow from \$2 million to nearly \$900 million in assets.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN SURPASSES \$1 BILLION IN GRANTS

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has provided \$1 billion in grants since it began in 1984. Grants are primarily distributed throughout the seven counties of southeast Michigan, including Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Monroe, Livingston, and St. Clair.

At the same time, thanks to its generous donors, the Community Foundation has built assets of nearly \$900 million to continue to strengthen the community into the future.

Since its inception, the Community Foundation has partnered with local nonprofits to support arts and culture, health and human services, education, community development, and leadership development, and has led an array of special projects like the GreenWays program and the New Economy Initiative.

\$1 BILLION
IN GRANTS SINCE 1984

65,000 GRANTS

\$900 MILLION
IN ASSETS

10

GIVING

THE POWER OF ENDOWMENT: AN ENDURING LEGACY

Endowments are a powerful way for a donor to make an impact in the community focusing on the causes they care about.

Many of the Community Foundation's endowed funds carry the names of families or businesses.

These endowed funds grow over time through investment, resulting in the gift lasting in perpetuity and making a much larger impact on the community than the value of the initial gift had it been spent at the outset.

Over time, Community Foundation funds grow to be larger than the original gifts. The funds have supported awards that have surpassed the amount of the original gifts. These endowments will continue to grow and continue having an impact in the community in perpetuity.

Below are a few examples of Community Foundation endowed funds, with details on how they've grown and what they have accomplished.

The William and Mary E. Pagel Fund: Acquired by the Community Foundation in 1994 with a gift of about \$7 million, this fund has granted more than \$9.9 million through 285 grants. It currently has

\$7 million endowment \$9.9 million in grants \$11 million in assets a balance of nearly \$11 million, from which grants will continue to be made annually.

Every year, grants carry out the interests of the Pagels, including supporting several organizations and programs that support human services.

Here are just a few examples of recent awards:

- Zaman International (Inkster) \$60,000 to support a culinary arts training program for low-income women.
- Pope Francis Center (Detroit) \$80,050 to build organizational capacity to better serve homeless individuals.
- Chaldean Ladies of Charity (Troy) \$59,065 to support an employment readiness and job assistance program for low-income families, immigrants, and refugees in southeast Michigan.

Ford Motor Company Endowment Fund: Established in 1988 with a \$500,000 gift, the Ford Motor Company Endowment Fund was created to support innovative programs that combat substance abuse in southeast Michigan. The fund has granted nearly \$600,000 through 20 grants. It currently has a balance of more

than \$1 million, from which grants will continue to be made annually.

\$500,000 endowment nearly \$600,000 in grants \$1 million in assets

Thanks to this fund the Community Foundation provided \$50,000 to Families Against Narcotics to expand services within Macomb County and surrounding counties for those with opioid addiction.

Elizabeth Wight Fund: The Community Foundation's first bequest came from Elizabeth Wight. Her initial gift of \$1 million has resulted in 105 grants of more than \$1 million, with a current endowed balance of more than \$2 million.

Ms. Wight left funds to the Community Foundation specifically for programs that would help those with vision or hearing impairments.

In 2014, the Community Foundation made a grant from the Wight Fund for the Hartford Village senior housing project. The new facility, a partnership between the Hartford Memorial Church and Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, has 39 independent living cottages and 45 independent living apartments.

Thanks to the grant, Hartford Village was able to add amenities throughout its common areas and individual apartments to help seniors with vision or hearing challenges.

If you or someone you know is interested in creating a lasting legacy, please contact our Philanthropic Services team to discuss how we can help you carry out your charitable interests in perpetuity.



KARY L. MOSS WINS NOLAND AWARD FOR NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP

Kary L. Moss, longtime executive director of the ACLU of Michigan, was selected as the recipient of the 2018 Mariam C. Noland Award for Nonprofit Leadership. In June, Moss was appointed nationwide affiliate director for the ACLU in New York, N.Y.

Named after the Community Foundation's first and current president, the Mariam C. Noland Award for Nonprofit Leadership recognizes a nonprofit president or CEO in southeast Michigan whose service exemplifies the importance of leadership in his or her organization and the wider nonprofit community.

Moss has served as the executive director of the ACLU of Michigan since 1998. In her role, she has led a robust program that included numerous high-impact civil rights initiatives addressing the rights of children, the poor, LGBT and immigrant communities, women's rights, voting rights, and access to a high-quality education. Moss also played an instrumental role in uncovering the Flint water crisis through her innovative move of hiring a journalist at the ACLU.

"Mariam Noland has shown exemplary leadership in supporting organizations that empower communities," Moss said. "I am truly honored to receive this award."

COTS SELECTED 2018 HUEGLI AWARD WINNER

The Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS) has been selected as the recipient of the 2018 Richard F. Huegli Award for Program Excellence.

The Richard F. Huegli Award for Program Excellence identifies a nonprofit that reflects Richard Huegli's high standards in human services programming and belief in human potential. Huegli was an integral figure in the region's human services sector for nearly half a century, spending 42 years with United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit, now part of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan. He later helped establish the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and served as the Foundation's acting director in its first year of existence. Huegli passed away in 1988.

Since 1982, COTS has served the most vulnerable members of the Detroit community with a wide continuum of services, from outreach and emergency shelter to permanent housing. All services are designed to meet the organization's mission of alleviating homelessness by empowering people to achieve self-sufficiency and obtain quality, affordable housing. The COTS emergency shelter provides a

safe place to stay; three hot, nutritious meals per day; toiletries; clothing; bedding; and pillows to an estimated 1,200 individuals annually. It also helps more than 500 families annually find permanent supportive housing and transitional housing.

"It's a huge honor to be selected," COTS Chief Executive Officer Cheryl P. Johnson said. "Since 1995, the Community Foundation has been a continued supporter of COTS and our mission in serving families without a home in Detroit. This award goes to our staff for all of their hard work, day in and day out, in providing excellent housing and homelessness services."



Community Foundation

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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.