

Community Foundation
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

REPORT

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BUILDING A
PROMISING FUTURE



1 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2 STORIES

- 2** Youth and Families in St. Clair County Benefit from Family Philanthropy
 - 4** Supporting Women in Southeast Michigan
 - 6** Eugene Howe: A One-of-a-Kind Philanthropist
 - 8** Accelerating Giving and Advancing Family Literacy
-

10 GIVING

- 10** Three Reasons to Start a Donor Advised Fund
-

11 NEWS

- 11** Two New Books Showcase Southeast Michigan as the Freshwater Capital of the World
 - 12** Census Grantees Expand Outreach in Key Undercounted Communities
 - 13** Melissa Smiley Promoted to Vice President, Strategy and Operations
-



EDITOR & WRITER: Jeffrey Waraniak
PHOTOGRAPHY & ARTWORK: Port Huron Parks and Recreation, p. 2;
Michigan United, pp. 4-5; Livingston Educational Service Agency, p. 9;
Wayne United, p. 12.

Community Foundation
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There's a Maya Angelou quote that goes like this: "I have great respect for the past. If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going." As a philanthropic organization looking back on 35 years of community service (and looking ahead to plenty more), Angelou's words ring especially true for us.

Since the Community Foundation was established in 1984, we've collaborated with others to make positive change. We've built a tremendous network of support for entrepreneurs and small businesses in the southeast Michigan region through the New Economy Initiative. We've helped Detroit in its recovery from bankruptcy and assisted in the revitalization of both downtown and the neighborhoods. And thanks to the generosity of our donors, we've distributed more than \$1 billion in grants to hundreds of organizations building sustainable programs in arts, education, health, human services, and — at the same time — have over \$900 million in assets.

While it's undeniably helpful to look back on the past, our work — as always — remains focused on the future. In this issue of the *Report*, we share stories about how we're working to ensure a promising outlook for each of the seven counties we serve, while also highlighting some of the generous donors who have made that work possible over our 35-year history.

In St. Clair County, for example, through our partnership with the Stebbins family, who established a Donor Advised Fund with the Community Foundation in 2005, we're helping to build public spaces so future generations can live active, healthy, lives (page 2). In Livingston County, with contributions from the Rex Family Fund for Literacy, a permanently endowed fund, we're working to improve literacy rates for youth in southeast Michigan and to foster a love of reading in students growing up in a digital age (page 8).

Beyond youth development, we're undertaking other future-oriented initiatives. The Foundation is helping organizations expand outreach and education efforts surrounding the 2020 census, with the intent of encouraging a full count of all residents (page 12). We also recently funded two books whose authors advocate for the protection of our freshwater resources as vital components of our sustainable future for the people in southeast Michigan and far beyond (page 11).

None of this, of course, would be possible without the generosity of thousands of individuals. As we head into the holiday season, when many of us are making our final charitable gifts of the year, we want to extend our gratitude to the people who enable the Community Foundation to function and grow. We thank community members like you who care about the welfare of your community — now and in the future. You help us fulfill our mission.

As we look back on 35 years of philanthropy in southeast Michigan, we're proud to say that we haven't lost sight of where we've come from. And as the needs of our community grow and change, we continue to evolve with them in our work to create a promising future.



Mariam C. Noland
President

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YOUTH AND FAMILIES IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY BENEFIT FROM FAMILY PHILANTHROPY

For Michigan families, the Blue Water Area of Port Huron and St. Clair County has a lot to offer. For starters, there's the shoreline — dozens of miles of waterfront that provide recreation opportunities for boaters, fishers, swimmers, and more. There are also plenty of cultural draws, from theaters to music venues to history museums celebrating the region's Great Lakes history.

But beyond the tourist attractions, Port Huron, like any community, has its share of needs. Low-income families in the area often seek services ranging from food to health care, and hundreds of children seek educational opportunities and services to address mental health, substance abuse, and other issues. The Stebbins Family Fund — a donor advised fund with the Community Foundation — has been addressing those needs for nearly 15 years.

The Stebbins family established the fund with the Community Foundation in 2005, after a family member won the lottery and chose to devote a portion of their winnings to community development in the Port Huron area. Mary Stebbins, the original donor, came to the Community Foundation with a goal: to grant money to public charities that benefit children and families — especially those from modest means.

Since then, the Stebbins' original mission has translated into more than \$7.5 million in grantmaking (about \$650,000 annually) in a wide range of sectors, including education, youth recreation, and capacity-building for area nonprofits. The fund has led to fruitful partnerships with dozens of groups throughout St. Clair and Lapeer counties, including the City of Port Huron Recreation Department, Literacy and Beyond, and Blue Water Habitat for Humanity.

Over the past few years, those partnerships have led to a \$30,000 grant made earlier this year to support the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History; an annual grant (\$18,500 in 2018) to benefit food pantries in St. Clair and Lapeer counties; and the establishment of two splashpads in Port Huron designed to provide safe, fun places for children to enjoy the summertime.

For the Stebbins family, developing affordable, accessible community spaces like the splashpads for area youth satisfies a personal goal. According to Debbie Post, sister of Mary Stebbins, who oversees the Stebbins Family Fund as its primary advisor, the Stebbins family's approach to philanthropy was shaped by their own experience of childhood poverty.





Helping the Stebbins family and others **discover and grow** projects that align with their giving goals has long been a strength of the Community Foundation and its donor advised program.

Experiencing those challenges firsthand served as the driving force behind the Stebbins' wish to improve the quality of life for children and families in their home county. In fact, in 2008, the Community Foundation assisted the Stebbins Family Fund in partnering with United Way of St. Clair County to establish a dental clinic directly across the street from the low-income housing where members of the family grew up.

Helping the Stebbins family discover and grow projects that align with their giving goals has long been a strength of the Community Foundation and its donor advised fund program. As primary advisor

for the fund, Post has been able to work directly with Foundation staff to develop a satisfying giving strategy that maximizes the Stebbins family's impact in their hometown and provides support to initiatives that make improvements in the lives of youth and families.

Looking forward, the Stebbins family seeks to continue to support initiatives and causes that bring about positive change. In the coming years, the Community Foundation and the Stebbins family will continue to help the community.



Members of Michigan United's community navigator program — an innovative women's leadership and workforce development effort that provides support to immigrant communities — celebrate after completing training.

SUPPORTING WOMEN IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Earlier this year, the statewide nonprofit Michigan United — a group that focuses on social, racial, and economic justice — came to the Community Foundation with a goal: to expand an existing program to help immigrant women obtain positions of leadership. Through the program, Michigan United had already helped several women receive their Department of Justice accreditation, attend law school, participate in professional internships, and volunteer to provide legal services at the border.

Knowing the group's success — and the need for more female representation in law and immigration services, especially in southeast Michigan — the Community Foundation chose to provide support. A portion of the funding has come from the Women's City Club of Detroit Endowment Fund, a fund that has helped the Community Foundation support women in cultural,

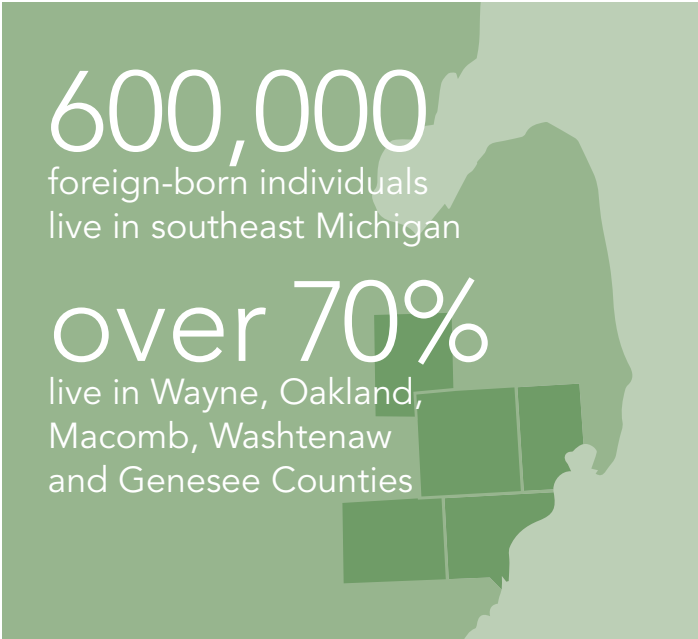
educational, and civic endeavors in southeast Michigan for more than 25 years.

With an original gift of \$123,000 to the Community Foundation, the Women's City Club Endowment Fund was established in 1993. Since then, the fund has grown, thanks to investments, to about \$200,000, and has supported approximately \$210,000 in grants. Among the 12 grantees that have received funding from the Women's City Club Fund are Vista Maria in Dearborn Heights, which provides transitional living and other support for youth — especially young women — who are homeless or have aged out of foster care; the Wayne County SAFE Program, which provides comprehensive services for those affected by sexual violence; and Zaman International in Inkster, which works to address the basic needs of and encourage empowerment among marginalized women.

... the Michigan United grant comes at
a particularly relevant time.

While many of the Women’s City Club Endowment Fund grantees have helped women create positive change in their communities, Michigan United’s grant comes at a particularly relevant time. According to a recent Community Foundation scan (A Landscape Scan of Immigrant- and Refugee-Supporting Organizations in Southeast Michigan), more than 600,000 foreign-born individuals live in southeast Michigan. Over 70 percent of those individuals live in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, and Genesee counties. The ultimate mission of the Michigan United program is to put as many women as possible on a path to accreditation with the Department of Justice. Equipped with the proper education and credentials, they can perform immigration filings here in southeast Michigan.

By equipping immigrant women in their communities with training and professional development, Michigan United hopes that women who have firsthand experience with the country’s immigration system will be able to assist fellow community members with a variety of immigration services. Participants in the program receive intensive biweekly training in the following areas: community outreach; conducting know-your-rights training; counseling parents on their options; Immigration 101; conducting intake and assessment for basic forms of immigration relief; giving referrals to external agencies for additional



social services that Michigan United cannot provide; and/or providing more advanced legal services.

As the needs in our communities change over time, gifts like the Women’s City Club Endowment Fund enable the Community Foundation to make tremendous impact. To learn how you can assist other organizations supporting leadership and creating positive change among women in your community, visit cfsem.org/give.



A member of the Community Navigators program works with a local resident during a Michigan United event.

EUGENE HOWE: A ONE-OF-A-KIND PHILANTHROPIST

Type in “philanthropist” to a Google image search, and you see a lot of familiar faces: Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Oprah Winfrey. All of those people fit the standard image of wealth that we typically tie to philanthropy, but that picture isn’t always accurate. For every Gates or Winfrey, there are hundreds of lesser known — and far less wealthy — benefactors helping to make change in their communities. One local example: Little-known Detroiters Eugene Howe.

A resident of Detroit’s Cass Corridor from the ’70s into the ’90s, Eugene Howe lived modestly. He typically wore a ragged shirt and tattered pants, which were covered on one leg with rubber bands and a long, white sock on the other. Neighbors could often find him, with his wiry frame and scraggly beard, at local soup kitchens, churches, and shelters, taking math lessons and playing pool. Surprisingly, one could also find him at the Community Foundation.

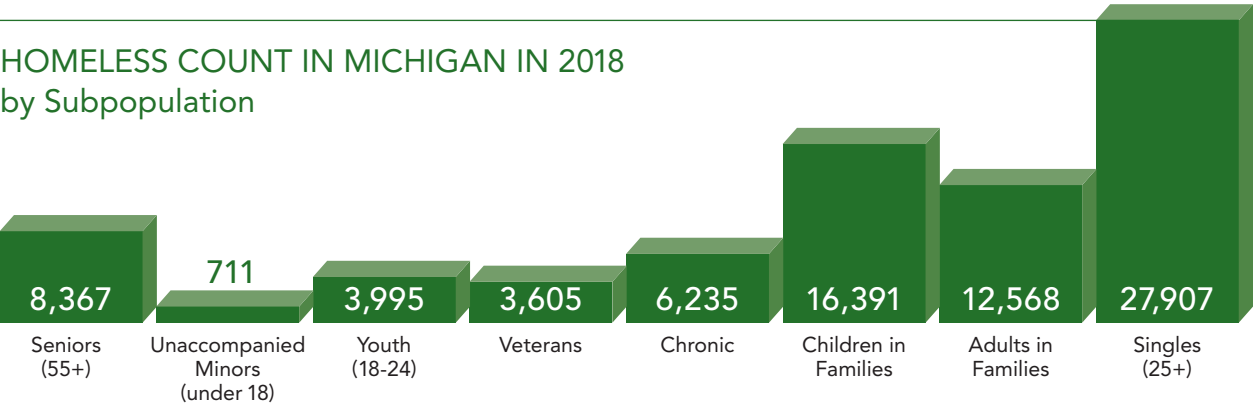
Starting in the late 1980s, Howe began making frequent visits to the Community Foundation, where he’d drop in for a cup of coffee. But Howe wasn’t just there for a hot coffee; he also had business plans. He explained to Community Foundation staff that he was

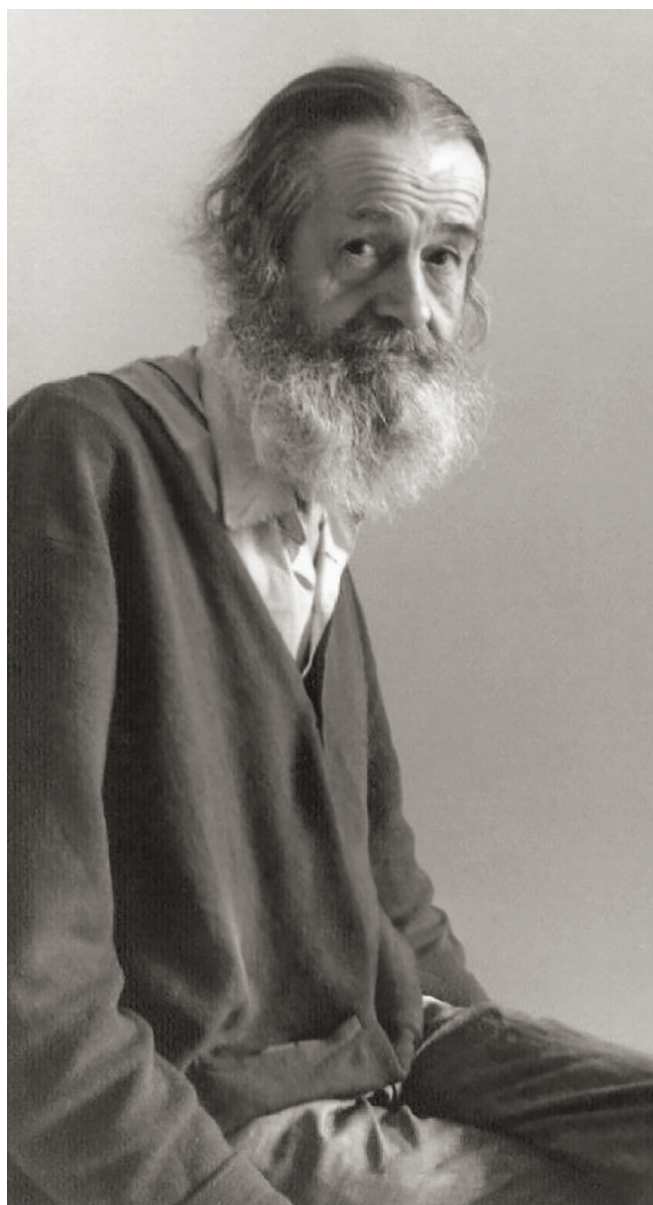
working with a lawyer and he wanted to “start a fund like Mr. Rockefeller” — a seemingly odd mission for a person who, on the outside, appeared to be an individual looking for help rather than someone devoted to helping others. Nonetheless, Howe had a clear vision for the impact he wanted to make in the community: Help homeless people resume productive lives.

When Howe died in 1992 at age 74, he left a six-figure gift to the Community Foundation as part of his estate. We’ll likely never know what motivated Eugene Howe’s generosity. We also don’t know his full life story or why he lived as he did. What we do know is that he was a man who cared for others, and who had a larger vision for the impact he could have on his community.

Per his wishes, in 1992 the Foundation established the Eugene A. Howe Endowment Fund — a permanent endowed Community Foundation fund. Since then, Howe’s bequest has helped countless individuals experiencing homelessness in the metro Detroit area become self-sufficient, independent, contributing members of society — a task that remains vital to the southeast Michigan community.

HOMELESS COUNT IN MICHIGAN IN 2018
by Subpopulation





He explained to Community Foundation staff that he was working with a lawyer and he wanted to
"start a fund like Mr. Rockefeller..."

In recent years, homelessness in Michigan has remained a complex issue and continues to increase in some communities. In 2018, a report from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority counted 65,104 homeless individuals in the state (defined as individuals and families residing on the streets, in emergency shelters, or in other places not fit for human habitation). That number includes a variety of distinct groups including seniors, veterans, and children (see population breakdown at left). The work the Community Foundation enables as part of Howe's mission is undoubtedly helping to address the needs of each of those subpopulations.

Most recently, the Community Foundation awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS), partially supported with Howe Fund dollars. The grant will help provide coaching and mentoring for homeless children in the Detroit area as part of COTS' mission to serve the homeless in its emergency

shelter and through its transitional and permanent housing programs. The Foundation also gifted a \$20,000 grant to Ozone House in Ann Arbor, a group that provides a variety of services for homeless youth such as shelter, housing, counseling, and food service. A \$30,000 grant was also presented to SOS Community Services in Ypsilanti, which aims to prevent and end family homelessness in Washtenaw County.

As an endowed fund, Howe's original gift has allowed the Community Foundation to assist programs combating homelessness throughout the seven counties it serves. As the capital generated by the fund grows, it will continue to help local nonprofits make significant progress toward reducing the number of homeless individuals across southeast Michigan in perpetuity — and challenge the recognizable image of "philanthropist" in the process.

ACCELERATING GIVING AND ADVANCING FAMILY LITERACY

For many donors, there comes a time when they feel their gift could accomplish even greater goals. They may discover an organization that's working in a field that aligns closer with their passion, find opportunities to increase the amount they can give, or learn more about a community issue where they believe they could make a more lasting impact. For Janet Rex, longtime donor to the Community Foundation, it was a little of all three.

Recently, Rex felt a desire to make a more powerful impression by creating a new fund to improve literacy rates. After conversations with Community Foundation staff, volunteers, and other community members, she created the Rex Family Fund for Literacy to do just that.

The fund, which is permanently endowed, will allow the Community Foundation for Livingston County to support innovative programs that build literacy skills for young children and their families. To start, the Community Foundation has partnered with the Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA), which is leading the charge to make improving early literacy skills a community-wide campaign.

To date, the Community Foundation has issued two grants totaling \$100,000 to LESA to help launch the *Talking is Teaching* campaign. The funding has allowed Livingston County to become just the second county in Michigan to launch the national program, which empowers families to turn everyday interactions into learning opportunities.

"We know that parents are their children's first teacher," said Sean LaRosa, assistant superintendent of early learning at Livingston ESA. "Helping them with simple tips to inspire confidence in themselves and their children will help to develop those early literacy skills."

In 2017, more than 2 in 5 Livingston County third-graders were scoring below proficiency in literacy. LaRosa is working to change those statistics. Her goal is to enlist the entire county in supporting these efforts to boost literacy and make it an imperative for everyone. "Our community is already rising up to the challenge — we have volunteers becoming 'Trusted Messengers,' to spread the word of *Talking is Teaching*, and businesses and community groups are sponsoring books for classrooms."

When Rex learned more about her community's literacy challenges, and efforts by nonprofits to address the issue with both young children and their families, she decided to take action. She had already included the Community Foundation in her estate plan, but she decided to accelerate her giving.

Rex gifted assets from an individual retirement account to set up the new fund — commonly referred to as an IRA charitable rollover. Knowing the urgency of the issue, she also asked the Community Foundation to put a large portion of the funds to use right away.

"It is such a delight to be able to witness these efforts to increase literacy," Rex said. "The materials and

"It is such a delight to be able to witness these efforts to increase literacy."



messages for parents are so beautifully done, and the information is so inspirational."

To date, the campaign has trained a team of more than 200 "Trusted Messengers" such as librarians, home visitors, health department workers, and community leaders to help encourage parents and caregivers to promote reading. The campaign has placed high-quality promotional materials in public locations, conducted public outreach at community events, funded public service announcements, distributed more than 4,000 books to preschool children, and even created a podcast.

Rex's commitment to the Community Foundation spans more than two decades, including several years when she served as a member of the advisory board for the Community Foundation for Livingston County.

Now, with the creation of the Rex Family Fund for Literacy, she is ensuring that her philanthropy will have a permanent, positive impact on her community. The generosity of Janet Rex will benefit young children and their families — many who may never know her — for generations to come. She is thrilled to see the progress today that is already taking shape through the *Talking is Teaching* campaign.

The Community Foundation for Livingston County is an affiliate fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, which provides administrative support including gift and grant processing, investing, and staff support. All of its funds are restricted to causes within Livingston County. To learn more, visit cflivingston.org. For updates about *Talking is Teaching* Livingston, visit their Facebook page.

THREE REASONS TO START A DONOR ADVISED FUND

As we approach the holiday season, year-end giving will become a topic of conversation at home with family members and in consultation with your professional advisors.

Consider starting a Donor Advised Fund. You create a fund with a minimum gift of \$10,000, and recommend grants over time from the fund to charities of your choosing. The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan provides administrative support and oversight of the investment of the fund, which can grow tax-free.

Here are three benefits of establishing a Donor Advised Fund with the Community Foundation:

1. POWERFUL

We know southeast Michigan and nonprofits. We can also advise you about grantmaking to organizations across the country.

2. SIMPLE

You can start a Donor Advised Fund in one day. After the fund is created, you can recommend grants online anytime.

3. TAX SMART

You get an immediate deduction for your entire gift to the fund.

The Community Foundation has over three decades of experience in managing Donor Advised Funds and charitable giving. We have strong connections with the charities in our region and a deep understanding of needs in all areas including education, arts and culture, health and wellness, environment, youth, human services, and the regional economy.

Consider the Community Foundation as your partner in your year-end giving. Our philanthropic services team is always available at 313.961.6675 or at cfsem.org. We welcome the opportunity to help you simplify your charitable giving and achieve your goals.



TWO NEW BOOKS SHOWCASE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN AS THE FRESHWATER CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Throughout the year, the Great Lakes and their shorelines are bustling with freighters, boaters, and other signs of life in Michigan. But in the not so distant past, the Great Lakes — the world's largest freshwater ecosystem — have often gone overlooked by policymakers, city planners, and the general public as unique social, natural, and economic resources. In two new Community Foundation-supported books, authors Dave Dempsey and John Hartig explain how residents of southeast Michigan can learn from a history where the Great Lakes were filled with pollutants, industrial waste, and environmental mistreatment, and how we should define the region as a global freshwater hub.

In his book, *The Heart of the Lakes: Freshwater in the Past, Present, and Future of Southeast Michigan*, author and conservationist Dave Dempsey explores the settlement, development, abuse, recovery, and preservation of the Great Lakes in southeast Michigan. Dempsey, who has helped shape Great Lakes policy for more than 30 years, suggests that the southeast Michigan community, with its rich history of freshwater management, is poised to serve as an international leader regarding water use. The book "travels down the water trail that defines southeast Michigan, occasionally paddling upriver in place and time, tracing history's ebb and flow, leading to the confluence of past and future." Having witnessed several waves of environmental degradation and neglect, Dempsey demonstrates that southeast Michigan has an opportunity to learn from the misuse of its natural resources and "become a hub for dealing with humanity's water challenges — if it acts now." As Dempsey writes in the preface to the book, the story he tells is one of "development, exploitation, decline, and rebuilding — and a fateful choice in the immediate future. That choice: allow events to

control southeast Michigan's water destiny or harness a community vision and energies to catapult the region to international water resource leadership."

In *Waterfront Porch: Reclaiming Detroit's Industrial Waterfront as a Gathering Place for All*, Dr. John Hartig, an award-winning Great Lakes scientist and visiting scholar the University of Windsor, documents the history of Detroit's riverfront and examines its recent revival as a crucial component of the city's social and economic revival. Hartig has spent decades championing the Detroit River as an American Heritage River and an International Wildlife Refuge, while also penning numerous books on the Great Lakes on conservation in urban environments. The rebirth of Detroit's waterfront, Hartig shows, serves as a success story in sustainable redevelopment, waterfront revitalization, and place-making for all.

Both books, published by Michigan State University Press, were financed by grants from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. To learn more about the books or purchase copies, visit: msupress.org/books.



CENSUS GRANTEES EXPAND OUTREACH IN KEY UNDERCOUNTED COMMUNITIES

Over the past year, through the Southeast Michigan Counts campaign, the Community Foundation has worked to promote and prepare for one of the most complex and critical projects impacting our community: the 2020 census.

This year’s census is especially important as it will be the first to collect data primarily online, which may make it more difficult for historically undercounted communities to participate — especially those without reliable internet access.

Census undercounts can have a detrimental impact on both individuals who benefit from federal programs and organizations (government, businesses, nonprofits, etc.) that rely on census data to make decisions about investments, resources, and community needs. A recent study estimated that, on average, for every person who goes uncoun­ted, a state will lose \$1,800 in federal funds. Since census counts are conducted just once every decade, an undercount can have long-lasting effects on the future of our communities.

To help support a fair and accurate count in southeast Michigan, especially among historically undercounted groups, the Community Foundation distributed grants to more than 30 organizations that are educating residents on the census, familiarizing communities with the census process and new changes, and developing and implementing effective strategies to boost participation and support communities beyond the life of the project.



Inkster hip hop artist J Reed performs at a Wayne United 2020 Census Concert in August — an event held to raise awareness about the impact of the project.

Examples of recent grantee activities include:

Wayne County

As the most populous county in Michigan (and one of the most diverse), Wayne County faces an array of challenges surrounding the 2020 census. Wayne United — an initiative launched by the Wayne County Executive’s office — is working to address those challenges by implementing a 2020 #BeCounted Campaign, consisting of social media outreach and county events that are designed to educate and engage historically underrepresented Wayne County communities including Highland Park, Hamtramck, Detroit, River Rouge, and Ecorse. The Community

IN MEMORIAM

The Community Foundation was sad to learn of the passing of Peter Thurber. Thurber served on the Board of Trustees from 1990 to 2000. During his tenure, he was on the Asset Development Committee, Audit Committee, Executive Committee, Legal Financial Committee, and Program and Distribution Committee. He was very instrumental in the growth of the Community Foundation and was a loyal supporter of our activities for many years.

We will miss his willingness to serve the residents of southeast Michigan and the Community Foundation.

Foundation distributed \$75,000 to Wayne County for its census outreach program, helping to equip the county with the resources to serve as a central hub for information, resources, and communication about the census.

Association of Chinese Americans Inc.

To boost representation of Chinese Americans and other communities that rely on their services in the 2020 census, the Community Foundation granted \$30,000 to the Association of Chinese Americans (ACA). The grant will help the ACA leverage its long-standing history and prominent position within the community to implement a targeted outreach program with four major program components:

1. A promotional campaign leading up to the census that centers on spreading the word through social media, large-scale community events, and festivals;
2. Educational and training workshops at each of ACA's four service locations (Detroit, Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties) that serve people from many racial/ethnic backgrounds;
3. Workshops at senior apartments, schools, churches, and visiting local businesses and restaurants to reach immigrants; and
4. Open access and assistance at ACA's centers for anyone who needs it during the census.

Centro Multicultural La Familia

With recent changes around immigration and citizenship status in the country, the census is understandably a complex subject for many members of the Hispanic community. To help address those changes and articulate the risks of both census participation and census non-response, Centro Multicultural La Familia in Pontiac (CMLF), is using a \$30,000 grant from the Community Foundation to train local leaders on the importance of census participation.

CMLF's leaders will provide bilingual census presentations at communal sites, such as schools, religious institutions, social and recreational sites and shopping centers to educate and engage individuals about the benefits of being counted. CMLF will also facilitate monthly discussions of the Pontiac Latino Leadership Group to monitor any challenges experienced by partner agencies or volunteers, develop a census fact sheet in Spanish describing why it's important to answer the survey and answer questions about the confidentiality of the census, and help the leaders feel confident about advocating for census participation.

To learn more about census participation and how you can help, visit cfsem.org/census.

Community Foundation
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

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

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The Community Foundation creates permanent, positive change in southeast Michigan through thoughtful philanthropy.

With generous support from thousands of donors, the Community Foundation is building permanent endowment for the region and helping individuals, families, and businesses fulfill their charitable goals.