

# Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

# REPORT

Volume 34 / Issue 2  
September 2020



LOOKING  
AHEAD DURING  
COVID-19

Volume 34 / Issue 2 / September 2020

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**Community Foundation**  
 FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

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Over the past six months, amidst COVID-19, each of us has faced challenges we never could have expected. Almost overnight, we shifted to virtual classrooms, testing sites, and social distancing from family and friends. Others faced one of the greatest challenges of all: unexpectedly losing a loved one.

As we often do in southeast Michigan, we pulled together and were reminded that we can't lose hope. At the Community Foundation, we are surrounded by partners, nonprofits, donors, and community members whose work reminds us not to be defined by the challenges we face, but how we grow from them and move forward together.

With the help of so many contributors, we have worked over the last six months to respond quickly and effectively. Through mid-July, the Community Foundation raised \$12 million in gifts to our COVID-19 funds. In turn, nearly \$20 million has been granted — roughly \$10 million from the COVID-19 funds and an additional \$10 million in donor advised fund grants for COVID-specific needs, including access to testing, health care, food, education supplies, mental health programming, and more.

We know there is much more work to do on issues like COVID-19 and racial justice. We know we must continue to address how COVID-19 is disproportionately affecting people of color in our region, especially African-Americans. Systemic racism, which Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recently declared a public health crisis, is a contributing factor to that disparity, as well as to other disparities Black residents of our region face beyond health care.

In the face of these obstacles, we remain confident that by working together, listening to each other, and providing resources where they are needed, we can create the change we collectively seek. At the Community Foundation, we are also looking at ourselves and our practices. We work every day to serve all those in the seven counties of southeast Michigan.

As we take this moment to reflect on how we've responded to COVID-19 so far, we hope you see — as we have — that the people of this region have tremendous capacity to create change. To be sure, there is still much progress to be made, but to make it, we must continue to look ahead, where there is opportunity, growth, and — above all — hope.

As always, we appreciate your support, and we encourage you to connect with us to help build the safe, healthy, equitable community that every citizen of southeast Michigan deserves.

Sincerely,

Mariam C. Noland  
 President

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Team members of the Michigan Primary Care Association attending a conference last fall in Bay City.

# PROVIDING RELIEF DURING COVID-19

In the past few months, public health data has supplied us with answers to several questions surrounding coronavirus, while many remain. We have learned how critical it is for health systems to be fully stocked with proper equipment and testing supplies, which businesses and industries have been most negatively affected by the pandemic, and how the people of Michigan are faring during these tumultuous times.

The Community Foundation continues to learn where and how it can be most helpful and make the greatest impact. We also continue to rely on data as it becomes available to determine where needs are most critical in key focus areas.

Across every sector, one data trend has become unequivocally clear: communities of color are

disproportionately affected by the coronavirus — especially African-Americans.

Living conditions, work circumstances, underlying health conditions, and less access to health care are all key issues that have been identified as factors contributing to racial disparities in COVID-19 infection and death rates. Consequently, nonprofits that primarily serve communities of color and those led by people of color have been severely affected by the pandemic.

African-Americans comprise 15 percent of Michigan's population but represent 35 percent of people diagnosed with coronavirus. African-Americans in Michigan are 133 percent more likely to contract COVID-19 relative to their percentage of the state's residents, and account for 40 percent of all deaths

statewide. In Detroit, where the population hovers around 80 percent African-American, the effects of the virus are strongly felt.

The Community Foundation, through its COVID relief funds, has distributed more than \$10 million in grants to date to support COVID testing, community-based clinics, hospital workers, and more throughout the region. Through that support, the Community Foundation has been working closely with organizations in the seven-county region of southeast Michigan.

Examples of recent grantee activities to combat COVID-19 among communities of color include:

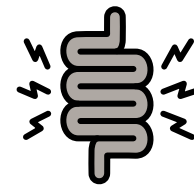
- New Detroit**  
 The Community Foundation distributed a grant to New Detroit to support ongoing racial understanding and racial equity work. For more than 50 years, the organization has been working to advance equity and inclusion in Detroit, and during the pandemic, New Detroit is also tackling racial violence through a public health lens.
- Michigan Primary Care Association**  
 Based in Lansing, MPCA advocates for health policies that benefit Michigan residents. A recent grant from the Community Foundation supported the initiation and expansion of COVID-19 testing
- Detroit Public Schools Foundation**  
 As schools across the country work to develop safe and viable back-to-school plans, unforeseen needs continue to arise. In June, the Community Foundation deployed a grant to Detroit Public Schools' Connected Futures program. This is an effort to get all Detroit public schoolchildren computers and internet connection for digital learning due to COVID-19.
- Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network**  
 Due to quarantine and the pandemic, many young people and families are struggling with isolation, grief, fear, anxiety, depression, substance use, trauma, job losses, and uncertainty about the future. The Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) has focused on expanding support to individuals impacted by the virus who are often overlooked or underrepresented. Funding from the Community Foundation is supporting the COVID-19 Virtual Therapy Program, Reach Us Detroit (reachusdetroit.org), providing free behavioral health support and counseling to those who do not have access to care.

## SIGNS OF ANXIETY

It is normal to be worried and stressed during times of crisis. While worry is a part of anxiety, people with anxiety tend to experience more exaggerated feelings of worry and tension. Some common symptoms include:



UNCONTROLLABLE WORRY OR DREAD



STOMACH AND DIGESTION PROBLEMS



TROUBLE WITH CONCENTRATION, MEMORY, OR THINKING CLEARLY



INCREASED HEART RATE



CHANGES IN ENERGY AND DIFFICULTY SLEEPING



IRRITABILITY AND/OR RESTLESSNESS

In extreme cases of anxiety, people may experience a panic attack. Panic attacks are often mistaken for heart attacks at first, but usually go away when people are able to talk to someone else to calm their fears and practice deep breathing.

## Supporting the Arts and Culture Community

The Community Foundation has also prioritized working with the arts and culture community to help organizations adapt their business models and reach audiences, especially among communities of color.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau Small Business Pulse Survey, the arts and recreation sector reported the second highest negative impact due to COVID by industry. Nationally, financial losses to nonprofit arts organizations are estimated to be about \$5 billion to date.

Through WolfBrown's research... the COVID-19 Arts and Creative Community Assistance Fund and its partners are learning where needs are most critical during the crisis.

These organizations have also lost hundreds of millions of admitted patrons due to canceled events, resulting in a \$6.7 billion loss in event-related spending by audiences. Additionally, two thirds of the nation's artists are now unemployed as sector jobs quickly shrunk by 54.5 percent.

In recognition of the needs of the arts and culture community, and in partnership with CultureSource, a regional association that serves more than 150 organizations, the Community Foundation launched the COVID-19 Arts and Creative Community Assistance Fund. Key to this partnership is the active participation of the foundations and other donors with CultureSource's leadership. To date, nearly \$1 million has been raised to provide relief and resiliency for arts and culture organizations.

As the first action of the fund, the Community Foundation provided \$110,000 to CultureSource to retain cross-disciplinary consultant group WolfBrown. WolfBrown is a national cultural consulting firm

specializing in work with nonprofit organizations and government agencies in the areas of arts/culture, education, and social service. Through WolfBrown's research, which involved a needs assessment of 46 local organizations, the COVID-19 Arts and Creative Community Assistance Fund and its partners are learning where needs are most critical during the crisis.

CultureSource also led the fund's first round of grants that provided immediate relief to local arts organizations. With the recommendations of the fund partners, 50 grants were awarded in May. Arts and culture organizations receiving funding ranged in

budget size from \$10,000 to \$35 million. Recipients include smaller groups such as Ypsilanti's Youth Arts Alliance and the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, which has begun offering virtual programming and workshops for youth. Others are larger institutions such as the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, which launched a series of free, outdoor, socially distant performances in August. (A full list of all 50 grantees can be seen at [cfsem.org/covid19-arts-creative-grants](http://cfsem.org/covid19-arts-creative-grants))

### COVID-19 Arts and Creative Community Assistance Fund

- The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
- John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- DeRoy Testamentary Foundation
- Kresge Foundation
- Peck Foundation
- Leinweber Foundation
- Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- William Davidson Foundation
- Individual donors

*Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians perform during one of the organization's outdoor, socially distanced summer sessions in Detroit's Sosnick Courtyard.*





While the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum is currently closed until further notice, staff members are offering free weekly virtual programs to connect with children and families.

### Navigating Uncertainty: Supporting the Nonprofit Sector during COVID-19 and Beyond

In addition to supporting individual organizations representing distinct industries during COVID-19, the Community Foundation is committed to the vibrancy of our region's nonprofits. To bolster capacity and unlock practical solutions that immediately help organizations during this uncertain time, in late July, a grant of \$150,000 was made to the Michigan Nonprofit Association, in partnership with Michigan Community Resources, Nonprofit Enterprise at Work, Community Development Advocates of Detroit, and Co.Act Detroit to support the needs of nonprofit organizations during the pandemic.

Funds from the grant are intended to help a collaboration of these organizations, which serve as hubs and intermediaries for nonprofits in their region.

Nonprofits operate on a model that can feel financially fragile during times of crisis. Organizations working to increase the sector's resilience are developing systems

of support to ensure that, even in spite of the financial challenges of COVID-19, the sector remains vital.

Together, they have organized services and resources and connected with local leaders and nonprofits to help inform funding decisions and giving strategies. The collaborative is currently meeting every week to keep pace with evolving needs and to strategize around a continued response.

While organizations across sectors adapt to the impact of the pandemic, the Community Foundation continues to rely on community members, nonprofits, and other voices to learn where needs are most vital. The Community Foundation's ability to respond quickly to the needs of southeast Michigan residents stems from its strong partnerships and guidance from trusted partners.

To help us determine where the Community Foundation can make the greatest impact, and for more information on our COVID efforts, visit [cfsem.org/coronavirus](https://cfsem.org/coronavirus).

# SUPPORTING AN INCLUSIVE VISION FOR THE CITY OF PONTIAC

In recent years, community members in Pontiac, a city that's home to 60,000, have spearheaded redevelopment efforts. Pontiac is a resilient and impassioned community, and its network of grassroots organizations, advocacy groups, businesses, government leaders, and nonprofits have long been working to improve the quality of life for residents and change negative and uninformed perceptions about the city.

In early 2020, the Community Foundation joined with eight other funders to launch the Pontiac Funders Collaborative. Together, they are working in close partnership with residents, civic leaders, K-12 leaders, business executives, university leaders, and nonprofit executives to build a shared, community-driven vision for the city that ensures all residents and community members have the access, opportunities, and resources needed to thrive.

This cross-sector partnership is working to develop a common agenda, align efforts, and use common measures of success to improve outcomes related to quality of life, prosperity, and education. The coronavirus pandemic has created a greater sense of urgency as Pontiac organizations work together to

respond to both urgent and long-term needs.

As the partnership grows, the Pontiac Funders Collaborative has begun to distribute funds in the community. In April, \$150,000 was provided to critical human service agencies to support their COVID-19 emergency aid efforts. In June, the Collaborative established a Small Business Relief Fund, which provided \$200,000 in grants to 56 Pontiac businesses with 10 employees or fewer, ranging from auto repair shops to barbers to fitness centers.

Looking ahead, the Pontiac Collaborative intends to focus on local nonprofit organizations through a capacity-building grantmaking program designed to strengthen skills among leaders and organizations in the city. To that end, a first round of grants was awarded in June; 16 Pontiac-based nonprofits received a total of \$100,000.

Several organizations that received capacity grants included Centro Multicultural La Familia, which provides comprehensive family support services primarily for residents of Hispanic descent; Growing Pontiac, which aims to strengthen the local food system in Pontiac and surrounding neighborhoods;





The Dr. Gary Burnstein Health Clinic in Pontiac is one of several local organizations that received a capacity grant during the COVID-19 pandemic.

and the Dr. Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic, which provides health and dental services to low-income individuals, the uninsured, and other vulnerable populations.

The Collaborative's work is made possible by the financial support and active participation of the Ballmer Group, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the Flagstar Bank Foundation, General Motors, the New Economy Initiative, the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, the Tauber Family Foundation, the William Davidson Foundation, and the Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation.

The Collaborative will continue to be informed by the collective impact process and the individuals, stakeholders, organizations, and institutions that support the vision for a community where everyone has equitable opportunities to thrive.

To learn more about the Pontiac Funders Collaborative, visit [cfsem.org/initiative/pontiac](http://cfsem.org/initiative/pontiac)

### THE PONTIAC COMMUNITY

#### INFRASTRUCTURE AND EVALUATION STORYTELLING

##### STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

- Support for Key Community Institutions
- Civic and Community Capacity-Building
- Support for Local Entrepreneurial Ecosystem
- Workforce Development
- Support for Public Spaces

informs

amplifies

#### COLLECTIVE IMPACT PARTNERSHIP

##### PONTIAC COLLECTIVE IMPACT LEADERSHIP GROUP

##### BACKBONE PARTNERSHIP

**Anchor Institution** = Fiscal Agent  
**Other Organization(s)** = Host / Communication / Data Support / Community Engagement / Advocacy & Policy Change / Fundraising & Development / Convene Networks

##### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Leadership / Strategic Planning / Governance Partnerships / Data-Driven Decisions / Human Capital Communication / Financial Management / Operational Management / Fundraising

# CONTINUING TO SUPPORT IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES DURING COVID-19

For generations, thousands of immigrants and refugees have chosen to call southeast Michigan home. In fact, according to a scan commissioned by the Community Foundation published in 2019, more than 70 percent of Michigan's foreign-born residents live in our region. Today, that tradition continues, but because of COVID-19 and the recent calls for racial justice, many immigrants and refugees are facing new and unforeseen obstacles.

In August, the Community Foundation deployed 23 grants totaling more than \$200,000 to nonprofit organizations through its Southeast Michigan Funder Collaborative — a project that seeks to address a needs gap among the region's refugee population.

The rapid response grants, which range from \$5,000 to \$10,000, are designed to support nonprofits that are working to meet emerging needs in the southeast Michigan immigrant and refugee communities due to both COVID-19 and the recent outcry against racial injustices that have occurred nationwide.

Grants are supporting programs such as:

**1 Michigan for the Global Majority Inc.**, to provide support for COVID-19 response efforts focused on undocumented community members in metro Detroit.

**Leaders Advancing and Helping Communities (LAHC)**, for support to provide mental health programming for Arab-American middle and high school students.



Zaman International's founder and CEO, Najah Bazzy.



Courtesy of Farmworker Legal Services of Michigan

**Michigan Advocacy Program**, for Farmworker Legal Services to establish training for medical professionals and outreach workers who provide COVID-19 support services to migrant and immigrant farmworkers.

**Oakland Literacy Council**, for a virtual, peer-learning education system navigation program for English-limited K-12 families in Oakland County.

**Zaman International**, to support digital literacy services to assist immigrant and refugee students in the organization's workforce development programs.

Since the Immigrant and Refugee Funder Collaborative was formed in 2019, it has made more than \$500,000 in grants to organizations that assist immigrants and refugees as they make this region their home.

For more information on the Immigrant and Refugee Funder Collaborative or to see the complete list of grantees visit [cfsem.org/initiative/immigrants-refugees](http://cfsem.org/initiative/immigrants-refugees).

The Southeast Michigan Immigrant and Refugee Collaborative includes:

- Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees
- The Kresge Foundation
- The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
- The Ford Foundation



# ASPIRING ATHLETES PLAY ON WITH EQUIPMENT KITS FROM PROJECT PLAY

Over the past few years, the Community Foundation, the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, and the Aspen Institute Sports & Society Program have partnered on Project Play — a program that encourages youth to engage in healthy lifestyles through sports and other forms of recreation.

Now, in the age of social distancing, many youth sports leagues, practices, and competitions have been canceled, presenting a challenge for children stuck at home who want to remain active, as well as parents who rely on sports to keep kids motivated and engaged during the school year.

In response, the Project Play team has developed free themed sports kits containing basketballs, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, and other equipment to encourage at-home recreation.

During the first four weeks that Project Play kits were made available, 17 sites distributed 11,900 kits across seven counties thanks to donations from the Detroit Pistons, DTE Beacon Park, Quicken Loans, Humana, and Grow Detroit's Young Talent.

The donations included kits for soccer courtesy of the Detroit City Football Club, basketballs from the Detroit Pistons, jump ropes and free play activities



from Playworks, and strength and conditioning bands from the Detroit Boxing Gym. All kits included information on skills and drills, as well as online videos from each week's partner. These sheets and videos are still available for all to use at [projectplaysemi.org/parents](http://projectplaysemi.org/parents).

Additional funds from ESPN were provided to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, which funded the YMCA so it could extend the distribution of Project Play kits for four more weeks at 15 SportPort sites. The YMCA has begun coordinating the distribution of the Project Play kits and picked up where Project Play SEMI left off. In total, with funding from the Community Foundation, the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, and the YMCA, Project Play will have helped get 20,400 kits to families across southeast Michigan.

As the program continues, more kits featuring the Detroit Tigers, Detroit Lions, and Detroit Red Wings will be developed and available for socially-distanced distribution at outlets throughout southeast Michigan.

To learn more about the Project Play kits or where to get one visit [cfsem.org/initiative/projectplay/](http://cfsem.org/initiative/projectplay/)



## ESTABLISHING YOUR LEGACY

Whether your interests are in health care, the arts, education, the environment, or another critical cause, the Community Foundation can ensure your wishes are carried out in perpetuity.

With all the current uncertainties, if you are creating or renewing your estate plan, consider working with the Community Foundation to continue the support of your charitable interests.

We can guide you through different giving avenues to take care of your family and those close to you, while also supporting your philanthropic interests. We can explore a planned gift and various tax-efficient ways to maximize the ultimate benefits of your estate. Our core is to build flexible endowment to improve the overall quality of life for all.

For example, years ago, we worked with a Community Foundation donor who was interested in several organizations. In her estate plan, she named the Community Foundation to receive gifts out of two remainder trusts. In those trusts, she irrevocably designated gifts to support endowments at the Community Foundation for several specific charities she loved. She knew the organizations would benefit

from a match to these endowments through the Community Foundation's Touch the Future matching gift campaign. Having continued to stay in touch over the years, she later designated a percent of her remaining trust assets to fund endowment at the Community Foundation for several additional purposes. One was to support the arts and cultural field in the southeast Michigan region, and the second was to support a fully flexible endowment the Community Foundation's Board could use to meet changing needs over time. Not too long ago, she passed away. We are now carrying out all of her interests, and we are extremely grateful for her generosity. Little could she predict the impact the pandemic is having on the organizations and community she cared about so deeply.

This is just one way a caring individual built a legacy that will multiply in value and continue to make a lasting impact.

Please let us know how we can help you establish your philanthropic legacy. You can reach us at 313.961.6675 or at [cfsem.org](http://cfsem.org).



## MARK DAVIDOFF JOINS THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Community Foundation recently welcomed Mark Davidoff as its newest Trustee. Mr. Davidoff currently serves as the president and CEO of The Fisher Group. Previously, he served as Deloitte's Michigan managing partner and held various leadership roles in the health care and nonprofit sectors at Henry Ford Health System, Mercy Health Services, and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. His commitment to community has been noted through various recognitions, including the prestigious Michiganian of the Year Award presented by The Detroit News, which he received in 2016. Mark serves on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations and is currently the chair of the board of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.



## PAMELA LEWIS NAMED BROOKINGS INSTITUTION FELLOW



Congratulations to Pamela Lewis, director of the New Economy Initiative, who has been named a Nonresident Senior Fellow of the Metropolitan Policy Program of the Brookings Institution. The Metropolitan Policy Program works closely with city and metropolitan leaders to translate research into insights that lead to practical solutions that can be adapted and scaled nationally and internationally. In addition to serving as a local and state expert for Brookings, Ms. Lewis will contribute to the Institution's research.

## JENILYN NORMAN JOINS STAFF



Jenilyn Norman has been appointed vice president finance and administration of the Community Foundation. She succeeds Karen Leppanen, who will retire at the end of the year. Ms. Norman previously served as the chief financial officer for M-1 Rail and was a senior manager for Rehmann Group. She also served as director of accounting and financial reporting with the Charter County of Wayne, Michigan.



# Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

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Detroit, MI

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.

