

Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

REPORT

Volume 35 / Issue 2
November 2021



FOSTERING HEALTHY LIVING
IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

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Community Foundation
 FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

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The Community Foundation’s success and growth has always been a reflection of the community we serve.

We could not have blossomed into a community foundation that grants over \$100 million annually to support our region without the generosity of our donors, a world-class board, a committed group of foundation and nonprofit partners, and a community known for its strength, resiliency, and spirit.

After 36 years at the Community Foundation, this is my last President’s letter — and this is an opportunity to thank you for your trust, your philanthropy, and your ideas. I’m incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together as a community during my time here, and I’m equally excited to see what the Community Foundation will achieve in the years to come through your support and partnership.

When we started in 1984, we had a simple mission: enhance the quality of life for residents of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair, and Livingston counties. Since then, we’ve distributed more than \$1.3 billion to nonprofits throughout these counties and beyond.

Those are staggering numbers when you consider that we started with \$1 million. But it speaks to the spirit of our community — and to the importance of endowment.

At the time of our founding, southeast Michigan relied heavily on annual gifts to support our nonprofits. There was no substantial base of endowments to help our community when the economy was struggling, or to make long-term investments in improving our region.

Today, philanthropy in southeast Michigan is much more diverse. We have a number of newer private and family foundations and generous individual donors. Our business community looks different. These donors support our nonprofits and serve as important partners in our work. And, of course, we now have a thriving Community Foundation, with assets exceeding \$1.2 billion and active partnerships with philanthropy, the business community, nonprofits, and donors who tackle our region’s immediate and long-term challenges.

In this newsletter, you’ll find stories that illustrate the power of endowment and the spirit of cooperation that exists in our community. You’ll explore how the Community Foundation is focusing on health by working with other foundations, nonprofits, and government to curb the devastating impact of opioid use disorder. In another example, a partnership with the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and several local and national organizations are helping children in our community access resources to help them be physically active and healthy.

Additionally, you’ll read about how the Community Foundation — along with the Hudson-Webber Foundation, Ballmer Group, and Oakland County — is working to bring law enforcement and the community together to improve policing and public-safety services.

Finally, the Community Foundation is partnering with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to support local theaters in their efforts to engage audiences during the COVID-19 pandemic through a creative partnership that provides ongoing support and resources for their leaders.

We are proud to play a key role in each of these endeavors, which create a more vibrant southeast Michigan. We also recognize that our community needs us to continue to do more, especially in the face of the ongoing pandemic, calls for racial justice, and growing income, housing, health care and educational disparities.

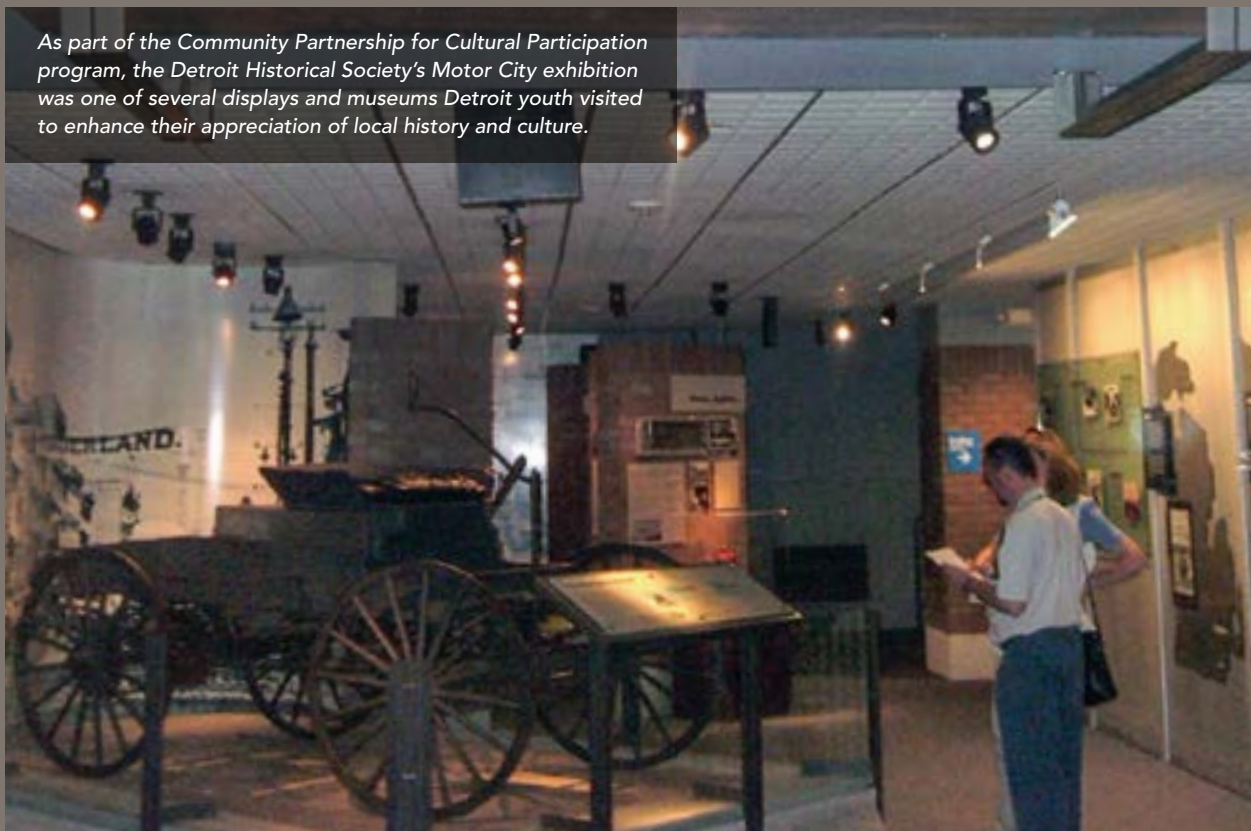
Together, we have come a long way. But, in many ways, our work is just beginning.

I’d like to thank you for your support during my time with the Community Foundation — and for your continued support during the journey ahead.

Sincerely,

Mariam C. Noland
 President

TIME CAPSULE



As part of the Community Partnership for Cultural Participation program, the Detroit Historical Society's Motor City exhibition was one of several displays and museums Detroit youth visited to enhance their appreciation of local history and culture.

INCREASING ACCESS TO THE ARTS

The arts and culture institutions we are fortunate to enjoy in southeast Michigan are vast — ranging from museums to theaters to churches. The Community Foundation has long been a supporter of the arts, and that continues today. In 1996, a special initiative called the Community Partnership for Cultural Participation was started, with a focus on increasing the number and diversity of people participating in cultural organizations in southeast Michigan. An intensive six years of work, and \$5.4 million from 17 local and national foundations, resulted in significant increases in diverse participation in cultural organizations and new collaborations. Today, the Community Foundation continues to significantly invest in arts and culture — one of the sectors most highly impacted by the pandemic — and in 2020 alone we provided more than \$10 million to organizations in the region.

IMPROVING OUR HEALTH: SUPPORTING BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Our region's behavioral and mental health have been severely challenged since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Isolation caused by social distancing and the ongoing stress created by the many ways people have been impacted by the disease have led to a greater awareness of the importance of behavioral and mental health. Behavioral health encompasses both physical health and mental health, while mental health focuses solely on someone's psychological state.

The Community Foundation's work to support behavioral and mental health began long before the pandemic. Since our earliest days we've played a role in forming partnerships with other funders, nonprofits, and government to address substance use and support programs that aim to help youth, adults, and older adults.

One early — and enduring — example is our work on addressing substance use. In the late 1980s, the Community Foundation launched Project Prevention — a program primarily supported by an investment of more than \$700,000 from the Ford Foundation, Skillman Foundation, the Philip L. Graham Fund, and The William Randolph Hearst Foundation to focus on substance use prevention in our region.

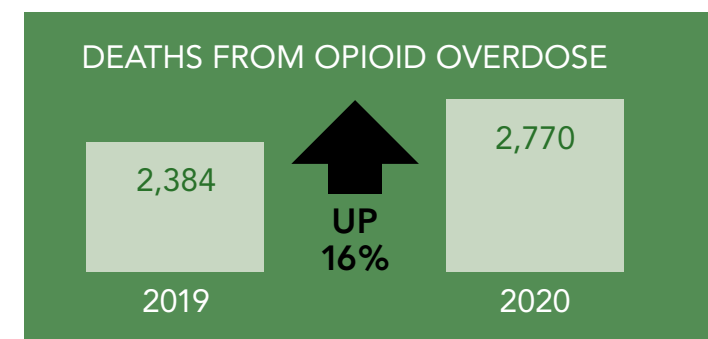
An endowment fund was established in 1988 for Project Prevention, which has supported the Community Foundation's substance-use prevention efforts for more than three decades. This endowed fund — started with an initial investment of \$500,000 — has now provided nearly \$600,000 to organizations in our region and has grown through investment to more than \$1 million. This fund will help the Community Foundation provide assistance for substance use prevention now and in the future.

Battling Opioid Use

Much of the Community Foundation's current work on substance use is centered around curbing the devastating impact of opioid use disorder in Michigan, and the need has never been more urgent. In 2020, the number of individuals in our state who died from an overdose rose 16 percent, from 2,384 in 2019 to 2,770.

The Community Foundation serves as the home of the Michigan Opioid Partnership — an innovative statewide effort that brings together philanthropy, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and health care providers. This initiative is working to aggressively attack a problem that kills more than twice as many people annually as traffic accidents in our state.

The Michigan Opioid Project's impact stretches well beyond our region. For example, in the Upper Peninsula — where access to treatment is limited — the Michigan Opioid Partnership has provided the resources to establish a new clinic at War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie. The clinic provides ongoing treatment for patients with opioid use disorder, many of whom are identified through the hospital's emergency room.





War Memorial Hospital in Sault Ste Marie, Mich., has received support to establish a new clinic for patients with opioid use disorder.

The opioid epidemic continues to challenge our community and our nation, but the Michigan Opioid Partnership provides hope for thousands of individuals who now have resources to get the treatment and support they need to battle their addiction.

Addressing the Pandemic

COVID-19's toll on behavioral and mental health has been severe — and extends beyond opioid addiction. The toll has been especially great on our most vulnerable populations. Social isolation has had a tremendous negative impact on our elderly and our young. And the stress of life during the pandemic has been especially intense for people of color, families living below the poverty line, and single parents.

Throughout the pandemic, the Community Foundation has been investing in programs that support the mental health of those most at risk. This includes help for older adults and their caregivers through grants to

the Senior Alliance, which is working to address isolation among older adults and those with dementia, and to Universal Dementia Caregivers, a nonprofit that educates and assists caregivers who help loved ones who have Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

Support to Ele's Place is helping children learn to grieve in healthy ways and heal from the trauma of losing a loved one. COVID-19 interrupted the nonprofit's ability to offer programs in person, forcing Ele's Place to adapt its programming to help children and teens virtually. With funding from the Community Foundation, Ele's Place has been able to continue its work and hire clinical mental-health professionals to facilitate grief support groups.

The Community Foundation will continue to build on its longstanding expertise and investments in behavioral and mental health to continue to meet the changing needs of our community.



With funding from the Community Foundation, Ele's Place in Ann Arbor, Mich., has continued its work to virtually support grieving children and teens.

GET OUT AND PLAY! SPORTPORT ENCOURAGES YOUTH IN OUR REGION TO STAY ACTIVE AND HEALTHY

When people have safe, inviting ways to get outside, connect with the natural world, and stay active, we create the conditions for a healthier community.

Regular physical activity is proven to help prevent and manage noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer. It also helps prevent hypertension, maintain healthy body weight, and can improve one's mental health, quality of life, and well-being.

Researchers have found that although all Americans have become physically more active since the outbreak of COVID-19, the pandemic has also exacerbated inequities in physical exercise. The gaps in physical exercise have widened substantially between men and women, whites and nonwhites, the rich and the poor, and the educated and less educated.

Improving health outcomes for all residents in the region is the focus of one of the Community Foundation's signature projects — SportPort, which encourages children between the ages of 5 and 13 to be active for at least an hour a day by providing free equipment and opportunities to play sports such as baseball, frisbee golf, and football.

Good for the Body ... and the Mind

When the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation partnered with the Community Foundation in 2019 to launch the SportPort equipment-sharing program, it had a simple goal: to give more children throughout southeast Michigan the resources to get active for at least one hour per day.

What's good for the body is also good for the mind, and the Aspen Institute's Project Play reports that children who are physically active receive higher grades and test scores, and are more likely to go on to college. Staying active also has a positive effect on personal development in areas like self-esteem, goal-setting, and leadership.

While the benefits of being physically active are clear, the cost of sports equipment is high. So, too, is the cost of taking part in recreational and sports programs.

SportPort aims to remove those barriers by giving children and parents the chance to borrow equipment such as baseballs, basketballs, soccer balls, and frisbee golf.

The equipment is available at libraries and community centers across our region including Chelsea, Detroit, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Hartland, Highland Park, Marysville, Mount Clemens, Pinckney, Pontiac, Port Huron, Wyandotte, and Ypsilanti and is free to everyone in the community. For those who do not have access to the lending sites, the program also has mobile units, which give children opportunities for free play and demonstrations on how to use equipment.

When COVID-19 hit Michigan, Project Play faced a new challenge.

Because of social distancing, many youth sports leagues, practices, and competitions were canceled. What's more, the model behind SportPort — which involved borrowing sports equipment in the same way one would borrow library books — was difficult to sustain during a pandemic.



In response, the Project Play team developed take-home Play Kits — which included basketballs, jump rope, sidewalk chalk, and other equipment — to encourage at-home recreation.

Thanks to donations by the Detroit Pistons, the Detroit City Football Club, Playworks, and the Detroit Boxing Gym — along with financial support from DTE Beacon Park, Quicken Loans, Humana, and Grow Detroit's Young Talent — nearly 12,000 kits were distributed across our region in just four weeks.

A second phase of the project — supported by ESPN and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation — helped distribute more than 12,000 additional kits.

SportPort is helping young people across southeast Michigan create healthy habits they will carry with them throughout their lives, and offers a powerful example of what's possible when our community comes together to make a difference.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND PARTNERS LAUNCH COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVE

Following the national conversation about racial disparities in policing practices in 2020, the Community Foundation partnered with the Hudson-Webber Foundation, Ballmer Group and Oakland County to launch the Community Policing Innovations Initiative.

The Initiative aims to develop community-driven changes in the way that policing and public safety services are provided by offering guidance and support to help local communities and law enforcement agencies develop partnerships.

The Community Policing Innovations Initiative is the first of its kind in the region to support the training and technical assistance of police and community together, in order to make progress toward the creation of public safety models that represent each unique community's needs. It gives the selected organizations the technical assistance they need to listen, serve, and build trust in their communities. Over time, they will be positioned for community/police collaboration and change.

The partnerships that are supported through the Initiative focus on one of five discrete pillars of the Community Policing Innovations Initiative:

- Use of force,
- Officer accountability,
- Disparate enforcement and treatment,
- Reimagining public safety, and
- Truth and reconciliation.

These pillars were identified following a study of critical feedback provided to national experts in law enforcement by community stakeholders throughout the country on the barriers in community and law enforcement problem-solving.

As stated in the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing Report, building trust and nurturing legitimacy

on both sides of the police/citizen divide is the foundational principle that leads to improved relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

The following partnerships are the first to receive support for technical assistance:

- Canton Township Police Department and Canton Coalition for Inclusive Communities (CCIS)
- City of Detroit/Detroit Police Department
- East Downtown Dearborn Development Authority and Black Legacy Advancement Coalition (BLAC)
- Inkster Police Department
- Beloved Community Initiative and First AME Church of Farmington Hills
- Pontiac Community Foundation/City of Pontiac/Oakland County Sheriff
- City of Ecorse/Ecorse Police Department
- Eastern Michigan University Department of Public Safety/Public Safety Oversight Committee/Washtenaw County
- City of Ann Arbor/Ann Arbor Police Department/Ann Arbor Independent Community Police Oversight Commission
- City of Hamtramck/Hamtramck Police Department/Warriors on Wheels/ARC Detroit

The Community Policing Innovations Initiative is chaired by Barbara McQuade, professor, the University of Michigan Law School, and former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. She also serves on the boards of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and the Hudson-Webber Foundation.

Organizations in Oakland County can apply for a grant through December 31, 2021, by visiting cfsem.org/initiative/innovative-policing/.



The Black and Brown Theatre recently received funding to expand its digital and in-person performances.

STAGING CHANGE DETROIT HELPS 10 PROFESSIONAL THEATERS INNOVATE DURING A TIME OF TURBULENCE

Theater organizations play an essential role in our community — bringing joy to audiences, sparking ideas, giving voice to communities, and teaching us about other cultures.

Through Staging Change Detroit — a program launched by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Community Foundation — Detroit theaters are getting tools and support to help them innovate, reach new audiences, and enrich our community.

Prior to the pandemic, professional theaters in Detroit took part in a series of workshops in which they were able to share ideas about innovating in the theater space. The workshops — led by New York-based arts organization EmcArts — addressed issues and situations theaters face when dealing with complex challenges, and helped them develop and strengthen their communication skills, leadership skills, and overall organizational awareness.



The Black and Brown Theatre is working to reach new audiences, including children, families, and educators.

Staging Change also helped participants build a sense of community, which has been helpful in brainstorming new events and developing new connections with audiences.

Shakespeare in Detroit, for example, used what it learned through Staging Change to introduce a new program — a series called Inebriated Reading — that paired Shakespeare performances with themed cocktails. The program, which launched prior to the pandemic, was wildly popular and helped the theater connect with new audiences.

Now, Shakespeare in Detroit is using a new Staging Change grant to support the return of in-person, on-stage performances, and to improve its fundraising practices.

Another Staging Change Detroit veteran, the Black and Brown Theatre, was recently awarded a new grant to support the digital and in-person expansion of a theatrical series targeted toward children, families, and educators. The Black and Brown Theatre works to create opportunities for artists of color to pursue their craft and reach diverse audiences.

A vibrant theater scene is vital to our economy and has several additional benefits to the residents of southeast Michigan. The talent and innovation in the local arts sector during the pandemic is a tribute to the strength and commitment of the participants in the Staging Change program.

Staging Change Participants

- Black and Brown Theatre
- Carrie Morris Arts Production
- Detroit Public Theatre
- The Hinterlands
- A Host of People, Matrix Theatre Company
- Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit
- Planet Ant Theatre
- Plowshares Theatre Company
- Shakespeare in Detroit



Shakespeare in Detroit is connecting with audiences in new ways, thanks to support from the Staging Change program.



Support Your Community

Support needs in your community, realize tax benefits, and receive fixed payments for life. A Community Foundation Charitable Gift Annuity provides fixed-income payments regardless of changes in the economy and creates a permanent legacy in your community. For information, call the Community Foundation at 313.961.6675 or email pervices@cfsem.org to receive an illustration of what this could mean for you.

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WAYNE BROWN AND LACASA RECOGNIZED

The Community Foundation announced that Wayne S. Brown, president & CEO of the Michigan Opera Theatre, is the recipient of the 2021 Mariam C. Noland Award for Nonprofit Leadership, and that the LACASA Center in Livingston County is the winner of the 2021 Richard F. Huegli Award for Program Excellence.

The Mariam C. Noland Award for Nonprofit Leadership honors 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.

Brown was recognized for his personal contributions to the local nonprofit sector, his work in redefining the role of a regional arts institution in the community, and for championing racial equity in the arts.

The Richard F. Huegli Award for Program Excellence honors a nonprofit that reflects its namesake's high

standards in human services programming and belief in human potential.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, LACASA was among a cohort of domestic violence organizations across the region that received special support from the Community Foundation, as the impact and stress of the pandemic caused increases in the rates of domestic violence.



Wayne Brown, President & CEO, Michigan Opera Theatre



Bobette Schrandt, President & CEO of LACASA Center

THANKING RETIRING TRUSTEES

The Community Foundation would like to thank two of our Trustees who, after years of dedicated service, have completed their service to the Board.

George G. Johnson, managing director of George Johnson Consultants, LLC, joined the Board of Trustees in 2008. Prior to becoming a Trustee, Johnson was a member of the Community Foundation's Detroit Economic Club Scholarship Fund Advisory Committee. Johnson served on numerous committees and, in 2013, he also joined the DMC Foundation Board of Directors.

Bruce D. Peterson, former senior vice president and general counsel, DTE Energy, joined the Community Foundation Board in 2016. He served as a member of the Governance Committee and as a Board member of the DMC Foundation.

We are grateful for both Johnson's and Peterson's service and their commitment to improving the quality of life in our region. We wish them well.

CARLA WALKER-MILLER AND DAVID P. LARSEN JOIN BOARD



Carla Walker-Miller

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is pleased to welcome Carla Walker-Miller and David P. Larsen to its Board.

Walker-Miller is the founder and CEO of Walker-Miller Energy Services (Walker-Miller). Her firm helps electric and gas utilities achieve mandated energy-reduction goals that reduce energy waste, create local jobs, decrease the energy burdens on families, and reduce harmful greenhouse gases.

Larsen is a senior partner in the Detroit law firm Bodman PLC, working in its High Net Worth Practice Group. Notably, he advises a number of high-net-worth families and their family offices, and is involved in many aspects of their businesses, transactions, and operations.



David P. Larsen

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION STAFF NEWS

Kamilah Henderson was promoted to the role of director, PEDALS Michigan, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. Prior to this, she served as the senior program officer for arts and culture, as well as education. The PEDALS Michigan program has grown and, with dedicated leadership, it can impact the lives of more children in our region in the years to come.



Kamilah Henderson

Surabhi Pandit, senior program officer, has been promoted to director, Human Services Initiatives. She joined the Community Foundation in 2014. Pandit's promotion was in recognition of the increased scope of her portfolio, which builds on the ongoing management of human services-related grantmaking, including the Immigrant & Refugee Funder Collaborative, the Michigan Justice Fund, and the HOPE Fund.



Surabhi Pandit

Greg Yankee joined the Community Foundation as senior program officer. Yankee was executive director of Little Forks Conservancy in Midland, Mich. He was also active on advisory committees for several local arts organizations in Midland. Yankee previously served as policy director and then executive director of the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts.



Greg Yankee

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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.



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