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# Vision

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# Mission

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# Values

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## Vision

Southeast Michigan is a place where everyone thrives.

## Mission

We build the resources, relationships and expertise required to expand equitable access to opportunities. Our mission is to make southeast Michigan a desirable place to live, work and play for all residents, today and tomorrow.

## Values

- ▶ Innovation
- ▶ Leading change
- ▶ Operational excellence
- ▶ Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Trust and integrity

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard L. DeVore

Seeds planted in another season are unfurling today as vivid yellow and green splashes of spring throughout our region. A similar cycle of growth and change is underway at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

This year marks a historic period at the Community Foundation, as we celebrate our 40th anniversary and create a strategic vision for our future.

The Community Foundation was established in 1984 and has grown to be among the top 25 community foundations in the United States. During that time, together with our donors, we've granted more than \$1.4 billion to thousands of nonprofits in fields including arts, economic mobility, children and youth, health and human services, and the environment. We've convened partners to solve regional challenges and served as a trusted philanthropic advisor for thousands of donors who want to do good.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you, as well as our predecessors at the Community Foundation, for your deep commitment and generous contributions to our region's well-being.

## **Challenge and opportunity**

These past 40 years have been a time of pivotal changes in the wider world, as well. For example, back in 1984, the public internet and social media didn't exist, few people had cell phones, and many business records were scratched out by hand on paper. More recently, we've experienced the stress of a global pandemic, the climate crisis, and a national racial reckoning that exposed deep-seated, systemic disparities in our society.

These changes, which dovetailed with significant leadership shifts and staff growth at the Community Foundation, inspired us to evaluate our position and ensure we have the right priorities, strategies and technologies in place to lead our region into a brighter future.

That's why, in 2022, we embarked on a multiphase strategic planning process with deep reflection and thoughtful input from our Board of Trustees, donors, funders, professional advisors, community partners, staff, expert consultants and the Center for Effective Philanthropy.

We sought to adapt our approach to meet evolving community needs, align with advances in technology, and integrate diversity, equity and inclusion into all of our work.

## **Creating a strategic vision**

I'm pleased to share that on March 26 our Board of Trustees approved the framework for our new plan, "Thriving Together: Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Strategic Vision 2024-2034."

This initial framework includes a new vision and mission, as well as updated values. The framework will guide us as we complete our strategic vision and grantmaking strategy throughout the rest of this year:

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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## Our updated Vision, Mission & Values

**Vision:** Southeast Michigan is a place where everyone thrives.

**Mission:** We build the resources, relationships and expertise required to expand equitable access to opportunities. Our mission is to make southeast Michigan a desirable place to live, work and play for all residents, today and tomorrow.

## Values


- **Innovation:** We nurture cutting-edge ideas and respond nimbly to evolving community needs. We're a trusted partner for problem-solving in our region. We approach our work with creativity.
- **Leading change:** We lead with humility, empathy, curiosity and courage. We prioritize the well-being of our community. We identify and invest in regional solutions. We challenge the status quo.
- **Operational excellence:** We use data to guide our actions and measure our impact. We pursue continuous improvement and sustainable business practices. We grow endowments to create community capital today and for future generations.
- **Diversity, equity, inclusion:** We view southeast Michigan's diversity as a strength. We break down systemic barriers to expand equitable access to opportunities for all people. We welcome everyone to be their true self, so they can be their best self.
- **Collaboration:** We convene funders, foundations and nonprofit leaders to make measurable change around shared goals. We listen to and learn from our community.
- **Trust and integrity:** We are a responsible steward of our community's philanthropic dollars. We are transparent and share progress toward our commitments. We honor donors' intentions. We do what we say we'll do.

We will continue to communicate with you as our strategic vision is finalized, but I want to be clear that our commitment to southeast Michigan and our nonprofit partners is unwavering. The seeds our founders and supporters planted 40 years ago have grown deep, strong roots that now allow us to reach for the sun.

In this spring report, you'll learn how we support crucial work being done in the field of health and human services to ensure that southeast Michigan is a place where everyone thrives. Stories range from a feature on efforts to increase food access in our region to how we help nonprofits like Gilda's Club Metro Detroit create sustainable funding, and shine a spotlight on the healing cultural curriculum one nonprofit created to uplift urban Native youth.

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan believes that every person, family and community should have access to the resources they need. We invite you to join us in making our region a desirable place to live, work and play for all residents, today and tomorrow. ■

With thanks,



Richard (Ric) DeVore, President  
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan

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# DMC Foundation transition boosts Community Foundation commitment to health

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The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan envisions our region as a place where everyone thrives.

A key component to thriving is good health, which the Community Foundation promotes via grants from a set of endowed funds. These health-focused funds, which are invested for long-term growth, recently got a boost thanks to the former DMC Foundation.

Formerly known as the Health & Wellness Foundation, the DMC Foundation was incorporated in 2010 to receive certain charitable assets from the Detroit Medical Center following its sale to Vanguard Health Systems. In 2013, the Health & Wellness Foundation, under its assumed name, DMC Foundation, became a supporting organization of the Community Foundation to take advantage of our grantmaking and investment expertise.

As a supporting organization of the Community Foundation, the DMC Foundation promoted the well-being of people in metro Detroit by supporting health-related research, education and community benefit activities. Since 2013, the DMC Foundation awarded more than \$20 million in grants focused on improving the health of communities in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

- For example, a recent DMC Foundation grant to the Community Health and Social Services Center (CHASS) in Detroit was used to expand ultrasound access and launch mammography screening services for its uninsured and underinsured patients. These culturally and linguistically appropriate services directly impacted the health outcomes of women who received services at the center.
- Another example is the DMC Foundation's support for the Ruth Ellis Center, a metro Detroit nonprofit that creates a supportive community and provides trauma-informed services for LGBTQ+ youth and young adults of color.



The DMC Foundation partnered with the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan to support The Ruth Ellis Clairmount Center in Detroit. The integrated primary and behavioral health and wellness center for LGBTQ+ youth was completed in 2022.

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Funding from the DMC Foundation allowed the center to expand its behavioral health services and build a health clinic.

The DMC Foundation reached the end of its 10-year term as a supporting organization on Dec. 31, 2023. It was then dissolved, and its assets were distributed to the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

The Community Foundation will continue to honor the legacy and intent of the former DMC Foundation and the charitable purposes of its funds. The remaining funds will be used to augment existing health-focused funds of the Community Foundation, and will continue to benefit the changing needs and well-being of people throughout metro Detroit in perpetuity. ■



# Agency endowment helps cancer support nonprofit Gilda's Club secure its future

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has made grants to support Gilda's Club Metro Detroit, a nonprofit that works to uplift and strengthen people impacted by cancer. Past grants have helped Gilda's Club expand its programming, including its offerings for children. Recently, Gilda's Club established an agency endowment fund with the Community Foundation to build its long-term sustainability.

Nonprofit partners throughout southeast Michigan work tirelessly to transform our region into a place where everyone can thrive. They paint the murals, plant the flowers, repair the trails, make the music, uplift the youth and support the caregivers. They protect our health, nurture new businesses, tell our stories, fight for justice and so much more.

One way the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan supports these organizations is by helping them create a sustainable funding source through agency endowment.

## What is agency endowment?

Agency endowment works like this: A nonprofit makes an initial financial contribution to establish a fund, and then the Community Foundation nurtures it over time. A portion of the fund is made available annually to the nonprofit and the remaining assets are reinvested for growth in perpetuity. The Community Foundation offers marketing support and handles all of the agency endowment fund's administration, including gift processing, audit letters and investment management.

This frees up the nonprofit to focus on its work in the community, with the peace of mind that comes from knowing it will have funds to depend on in the future. More than 240 nonprofits throughout southeast Michigan benefit from agency endowment funds at the Community Foundation, including the cancer support organization Gilda's Club Metro Detroit.

## Endowment in action at Gilda's Club

Gilda's Club works to uplift and strengthen people impacted by cancer by providing support, fostering compassionate communities, and breaking down barriers to care. The Royal Oak-based nonprofit, which also has locations in Detroit and St. Clair Shores, provides free services to thousands of people each year.

Gilda's Club Executive Director and CEO Laura Varon Brown says the 2008 economic crisis, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, inspired the nonprofit to build its long-term sustainability so it can continue to serve clients and expand its services regardless of what the future brings.

*“Establishing the fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan stems from a strategic vision to enhance Gilda’s Club’s presence and efficacy within the local area. By partnering with a well-established, community-focused organization like the Community Foundation, you aim to leverage their expertise, networks and resources to amplify the impact of Gilda’s Club,”*

*– Randy Book, Gilda’s Club Board Member*

“When we had the downturn in 2008, we had to slow down our operating. We closed on Fridays and had to lay off several staff members. We don’t ever want to do that again,” Varon Brown says. “During COVID we got lucky with some of the emergency funds that helped keep nonprofits afloat — but, as you know, a lot of nonprofits didn’t stay afloat. We’re fortunate, but that may look very different if we had another issue.”

When Gilda’s Club regained its financial footing after the crises, its board of directors decided to pursue a multifaceted approach to sustainability. This included launching a capital campaign and developing multiple income streams, including endowment.

Longtime board member Randy Book, a cancer survivor with a deep personal commitment to the organization’s vision, advocated for Gilda’s Club to establish an agency endowment fund at the Community Foundation and generously contributed the seed money.

“Establishing the fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan stems from a strategic vision to enhance Gilda’s Club’s presence and efficacy within the local area.



Community Foundation partner Gilda’s Club Metro Detroit provides support, fosters compassionate communities and breaks down barriers to care for people impacted by cancer.

By partnering with a well-established, community-focused organization like the Community Foundation, you aim to leverage their expertise, networks and resources to amplify the impact of Gilda’s Club,” Book says. “This collaboration not only increases visibility, but also potentially opens up new avenues for growth, funding and community engagement, ensuring the support Gilda’s Club offers can reach a wider audience and be more deeply integrated within the community fabric.”

Visit [cfsem.org/agency-endowment](https://cfsem.org/agency-endowment) or contact Donor Services Coordinator Jen Femlee at [jennifer.femlee@cfsem.org](mailto:jennifer.femlee@cfsem.org) or 313-961-6675 to learn more about how the Community Foundation can help nonprofits develop a sustainable funding source through agency endowment. ■



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# Healing curriculum helps reconnect urban Native youth with cultural roots

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A Native American medicine pouch has deep cultural significance. Each pouch contains sacred items that have personal meaning for the wearer. These include tobacco, sweet grass, sage, cedar or other materials.

For the young people who make them during one of the Urban Native Youth Experience Curriculum's many lessons, the pouches also carry cultural connections that can boost their well-being.

American Indian Health & Family Services in Detroit developed the innovative curriculum, with financial support from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, to promote resilience among urban Native youth and to create a model that similar communities nationwide can utilize.

The nontraditional curriculum meets urban Native youth where they are to support their mental health, encourage their academic and career aspirations, and celebrate their culture's wisdom.

## **Nonprofit tackles systemic health challenges**

American Indian Health & Family Services, which developed the Urban Native Youth Experience Curriculum, was established in 1978. The nonprofit provides medical services, behavioral health care and community wellness programming, regardless of clients' ability to pay. It integrates traditional Native American healing and spiritual practices with contemporary Western medicine. American Indian Health & Family Services serves approximately 50,000 people from all seven counties in southeast Michigan, including residents of various underserved populations and members of more than 60 tribes.



Students display the medicine pouches they made as part of the Urban Native Youth Experience Curriculum at American Indian Health & Family Services in Detroit. The nonprofit developed the innovative curriculum with support from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

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During the past century, many Native Americans were forced to relocate to urban areas due to government policy, lack of economic and educational opportunities, and limited access to health care and other services. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, approximately 70 percent of Native Americans live in urban areas.

Compared to the general population, Native Americans living in urban settings have a 33 percent higher infant mortality rate and a 178 percent higher death rate due to alcoholism, and one-third of the population is affected by depression, according to the National Council of American Indian Health.

Despite these deep-seated, systemic challenges, less than half of 1 percent of all philanthropic spending went to Native Americans in 2019, according to Native Americans in Philanthropy.

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## **Community Foundation promotes racial equity**

Urban Native youth in Detroit and southeast Michigan are at particular risk for negative mental health and academic outcomes, in part because they are cut off from the cultural support they would have in a tribal community.

“Reconnecting Native American youth with their cultural traditions has been identified as an essential part of healing the intergenerational effects of forced assimilation policies,” says Hannah McLaughlin, who serves as program officer for Health and Human Services at the Community Foundation. “A reconnection to cultural identity and community bonding can serve as critical protective factors for well-being.”

That’s why the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan granted \$75,000 from the Virginia and Eugene Mitchell Fund to American Indian Health & Family Services to support the Urban Native Youth Experience Curriculum. The grant is just one piece of the Community Foundation’s larger commitment to promoting racial equity throughout southeast Michigan.

Virginia and Eugene Mitchell established the field of interest fund in 2018 with a gift of \$570,000 to support the Native American population in southeast Michigan, with a preference for projects that support mental health. The fund is endowed, which means the initial gift was invested, and a portion of its balance becomes available for grantmaking each year. This allows it to support Virginia and Eugene Mitchell’s philanthropic intentions in perpetuity.

## **Curriculum creates safe space to dream, connect**

The Urban Native Youth Experience Curriculum has a layered impact, says Nicole Hankus, who serves as youth development and planning manager at American Indian Health & Family Services.

The curriculum creates a sense of kinship between urban Native youth, who don’t necessarily attend the same schools

or have the same tribal affiliations. In turn, it creates a safe community where the young people can connect and explore their culture together.

“Having people who support them, whatever their goals and dreams are for the future, is a preventive piece for their mental health, as well as (providing) academic support,” Hankus says.

The curriculum was created for use with the Dream Seekers program, a free after-school group for youth ages 11–17 at American Indian Health & Family Services. The curriculum’s objectives are social-emotional learning, positive self-identity, life skills development, offering culturally safe spaces, and exploring academic and career pathways. Its lesson plans draw from Native American themes such as the Seven Grandfather Teachings, the Medicine Wheel Teachings, and moon and harvest teachings that are in sync with the four seasons.

For example, during one lesson, an elder taught the students Native American cooking, communication and crafting traditions. Together, the group made various artifacts, including medicine pouch necklaces.

The elder gave each youth four kernels of corn to put in their medicine pouch. The elder explained that if one kernel was planted each year, the resulting stalks would yield more kernels to plant the following year. By the fourth year, there would be enough corn to feed a community. It was a lesson in planning, patience, sustainability and collective well-being that resonates beyond an agricultural setting.

“I’ve seen one youth wearing their medicine pouch almost every time they come back to group,” Hankus says. “We did a college tour of Wayne State after that, and that student was wearing their medicine pouch on campus.

“It’s been pretty impactful to see them carrying that piece of their culture with them in their daily life,” she says. “They’re very proud of their culture.” ■



# Community Foundation, grant partners strengthen food security in our region

“While there are many misconceptions about food insecurity, one of the largest misconceptions is that only a certain population or type of person faces hunger,” says Katie Choate, senior director of Food Secure Livingston for Gleaners Community Food Bank, a Community Foundation partner. Families, children, seniors, veterans and others in our region face limited or uncertain access to healthy, nutritious food.

Can you envision a southeast Michigan where everyone has enough food to live an active, healthy life?

In this reality, no one would experience serious health struggles, increased absences from work or school, decreased attention for important tasks, or toxic stress resulting from sustained hunger and lack of nutrition. No older adult would have to choose between food and medicine. No parent would have to skip a meal so their child could eat.

Despite soaring food insecurity over the past few years, which has persisted into 2024, a future when our food system is equitable, sustainable and able to meet southeast Michigan’s needs is possible.

A safety net will always be needed, because there will always be emergency circumstances, even in the best economies. However, there are clear reasons to believe food insecurity is solvable. There’s a growing collective concern about the issue, coupled with a firm understanding of how to make food accessible. Addressing food insecurity also is more cost-effective than allowing it to persist, given food insecurity stresses our health care system, school districts

and economy.

That’s why the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan takes a multifaceted approach to food insecurity in the seven counties we serve. The Community Foundation supports nonprofits that meet emergency food needs, as well as innovative projects designed to increase food access, destigmatize food insecurity and provide education so individuals — and our entire region — can thrive.

## Food insecurity can happen to anyone

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as households that do not have access, at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.

In Michigan, nearly 12% of people face food insecurity, a figure that jumps to more than 13% among children, according to a Feeding America report released in 2021. However, these statistics don’t account for the consistent increases in food insecurity that food banks have observed since this data was collected, indicating the problem is more significant than these numbers reflect.

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A Community Foundation-led analysis of combined data from the U.S. Census Bureau, State of Michigan and Feeding America, combined with press reports, also shows vast racial disparities, with the food insecurity rate among Hispanic households hitting 16% and Black households at 26% in 2021.

Nearly 13% of all U.S. households were food-insecure during 2022, the USDA reports, including more than 17% of households with children. These rates were “significantly higher” than the year before, according to the USDA, and were driven largely by the expiration of expanded COVID-19 nutrition benefits just as inflation ramped up. Many families are still struggling to recover financially from the pandemic, and the cost of living remains higher.

People might face food insecurity for many reasons, including:

- **Systemic barriers:** Lack of access to employment or pathways out of poverty can trigger food insecurity.
- **Age:** Food insecurity is more prevalent among children and seniors.
- **Proximity to resources:** Nationally, nine out of 10 counties with high food insecurity are rural.
- **Short-term life disruptions:** Health care issues, unexpected employment changes or the loss of a main wage earner, and alterations in access to housing or transportation also can drive food insecurity.

“While there are many misconceptions about food insecurity, one of the largest misconceptions is that only a certain population or type of person faces hunger,” says Katie Choate, senior director of Food Secure Livingston for Gleaners Community Food Bank, a Community Foundation partner. “Anyone, at any time, can face challenges in their lives that lead to food insecurity.”

For example, a woman named Angie recently picked up milk, fruits and vegetables for her young daughters from Gleaners. Inflation and rising food prices were already straining her family’s grocery budget when her husband, the family’s main provider, was hospitalized after a heart attack. Not working during his recovery meant lowered pay on top of added

medical bills. As the family regains its footing, organizations like Gleaners help them fill the gap.

### **Community Foundation supports innovative programs**

The Community Foundation has a long history with Gleaners as well as other nonprofits, including Forgotten Harvest and the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, that serve as emergency food providers. But, a recent grant to the Livingston County Hunger Council spotlights how the Community Foundation also supports innovative projects to increase food access, destigmatize food insecurity and provide education.

The Livingston County Hunger Council is a coalition of individuals, businesses and organizations committed to building a community-based food system. One of its committees, Mission Nutrition Livingston, used the recent Community Foundation grant to bring food to students who need it.

Mission Nutrition Livingston, in partnership with Gleaners Livingston, provides monthly mobile food distribution to families in the Fowlerville, Hartland, Howell and Pinckney school districts.

Participating families receive a meal package of fruits and vegetables, protein, grains and dairy, including fresh milk. Each package includes recommended recipes, and additional nutrition education opportunities are available. To overcome the stigma around food insecurity and encourage participation, all school district families are invited to take advantage of the service.

“This project features a truly collaborative approach to the problem of children in Livingston County going hungry, and addresses it with a very direct solution: Get nutritious food to the county’s youth as effectively as possible,” says Greg Yankee, senior director of Program at the Community Foundation. “With council members representing service agencies, school districts, county departments and a variety of other nonprofits, this is an example of mission-driven expertise and resources that have been combined to tackle an issue.”

The grant is one of many the Community Foundation has made to increase food access in southeast Michigan.

- Another example is support for Eastern Market’s expansion of its Farm Stand program. The program brings affordable fresh produce, grown by local farmers, to popup sites throughout neighborhoods in Detroit and Wayne County.
- Still another grant helped the nonprofit Make Food Not Waste prepare up to 4,000 high-quality, nutritious and culturally appropriate community meals each week in Detroit, all from food that otherwise would go to waste.
- The Community Foundation also has supported the Fair Food Network, which aims to grow community health and wealth through food. One grant to this organization boosted its Double Up Food Bucks program in southeast Michigan, which has since become a national model. The program provides a dollar-for-dollar match on the purchase of fresh produce for shoppers using the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

### Collaboration is key to a brighter future

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan believes that every person, family and community should have access to the resources they need to thrive, and food is among the most vital.

Fortunately, food access can be improved by better coordinating support systems, enhancing existing programs and pursuing innovative practices to drive positive change. Central to this success is understanding people’s needs and fostering collaboration among partners within each community. No single entity can tackle the challenge of food insecurity alone.

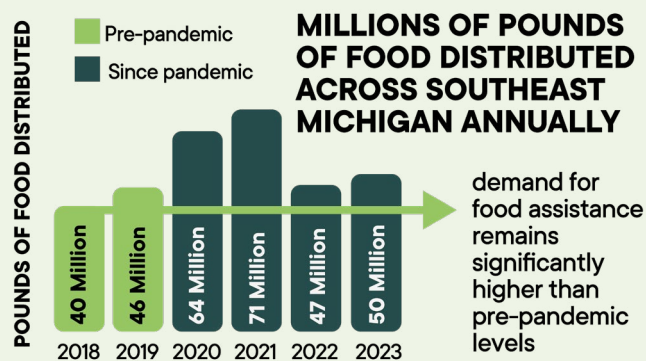
“People, households and communities are stronger when hunger is solved,” says Gerry Brisson, president and CEO of Gleaners. “When we help people know where their next meals are coming from, they feel empowered to pursue other opportunities in life and (are able to) spend time on the things that are important to them because that worry is off the table. We’re giving our neighbors the opportunity to thrive.” ■

## FOOD ASSISTANCE DEMAND STILL HIGH

The demand for food assistance remains significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels due to inflation, higher costs of living, recent labor challenges, political uncertainty and changes to support programs.

Data from Gleaners Community Food Bank, a Community Foundation partner that served nearly 800,000 households during its fiscal year 2023 across a five-county area of southeast Michigan, provides a snapshot of this increased demand.

- **Prior to fiscal year 2019\***: Leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gleaners distributed an average of approximately 40 million pounds of food across southeast Michigan annually.
- **2019**: Including the beginning of the pandemic crisis, Gleaners provided nearly 46 million pounds of food to its service area.
- **2020**: As the pandemic continued, Gleaners’ distributions increased dramatically to 64 million pounds.
- **2021**: At the height of its pandemic support, Gleaners provided a record-breaking 71.4 million pounds over one year.
- **2022**: As the pandemic crisis waned and food support programs ended, Gleaners still provided 47 million pounds of food to southeast Michigan.
- **2023**: In its most recent fiscal year, Gleaners distributed more than 50 million pounds of food.



\*Note: All years track with Gleaners’ fiscal year, which runs from October through September. Source: Gleaners Community Food Bank

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# Community Foundation News Briefs

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## Community Foundation networking event features Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha

In honor of Women's History Month in March, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan hosted a networking event to celebrate the ways women are central to the success of our region. The event featured remarks by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, associate dean for public health and C. S. Mott endowed professor of public health at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine. She's the founding director of the Pediatric Public Health Initiative, an innovative partnership of MSU and Hurley Children's Hospital in Flint. Hanna-Attisha and her team are reimagining how society can come together to eliminate infant poverty with a first-in-the-nation program, Rx Kids. Hanna-Attisha was named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World, and was recognized as one of USA Today's Women of the Century for her role in uncovering the Flint water crisis and leading recovery efforts. ■



Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion & Community Engagement Surabhi Pandit, left; pediatrician, scientist, activist and author Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, second from left; Community Foundation trustee Dr. Glenda Price, third from left; and Community Foundation Chief Operating Officer Nicole Sherard-Freeman connect during a Women's History Month networking event.

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## Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership works to address health care talent gap

A coalition of leaders spanning business, government and philanthropy throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties has united to launch the Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership, an initiative designed to create an equitable,

future-facing talent pipeline that will support a thriving economy in southeast Michigan. The regional initiative, which the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan manages, was developed with input from the Detroit Regional CEO Group and \$3 million in initial funding from The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. Health care is the first sector to work with the partnership to address a critical talent gap. Currently, there are more than 4,000 job openings in health care throughout our region. ■

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# Community Foundation News Briefs

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## Youth sports initiative Project Play entrusted to leave NFL Draft legacy

As part of festivities surrounding the NFL Draft, the Detroit Sports Commission has committed \$1 million to several southeast Michigan organizations — including Project Play, an initiative of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan — to ensure the event leaves a lasting impact on local youth. Project Play promotes equitable access to sports activities so kids in our region can live active, healthy lifestyles. As part of the NFL Draft festivities, Project Play is also proud to participate in DCLEATED, led by the City of Detroit’s City Walls Department. The project amplifies the mission of local nonprofits during the NFL Draft through the installation of 5-foot cleats in the designated NFL Draft zone. Project Play partnered with Detroit artist Phil Simpson to create a cleat that uplifts youth sports. Project Play’s cleat is located near Huntington Place in Detroit. The 2024 NFL Draft will take place April 25–27. ■



Artist Phil Simpson, left, poses with Project Play Southeast Michigan Director Pat Sharrow, center, and Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan President Richard (Ric) DeVore. They are seen with the artwork Simpson created on behalf of Project Play for DCLEATED, a citywide project featuring 5-foot cleats throughout the NFL Draft zone.

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## Foundations on the Hill event connects legislators with philanthropy sector

Community Foundation Donor Services Vice President Randy Ross and Governance and Operations Direct Matthew Lewis, together with representatives from 28 other Michigan

foundation partners, participated in the annual Foundations on the Hill event in Washington, D.C., in January. The event is the largest public policy and advocacy conference dedicated solely to the philanthropic sector. The purpose is to familiarize legislators with the work of many foundations and to share opportunities for offering support. Ross and Lewis met with the staff of every congressperson representing southeast Michigan. ■



# Donate to support health and well-being

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is committed to supporting projects that enhance the health and well-being of our region.

We recognize that our community's health is the cornerstone of its prosperity and vitality. We are proud to partner with donors and nonprofits that work to promote physical, mental and social wellness so all residents can thrive.

To give, visit [cfsem.org/health](https://cfsem.org/health).



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

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