

Community.

Impact.

Legacy.

**Grand Rapids Area
Community Foundation**



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Our 2020 Donors

A & M Electric of McGregor, Inc.
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Anderson Family Dental
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David & Mardell Bevacqua
Big Sandy Lake Association
Sarah & Paul Bignall
Peter M Birkey
Shirley & Michael Bjellos
Blandin Foundation
Barbara Blank

About the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation is a public charity that connects people who care with causes that matter. Founded in 1994, the Community Foundation helps donors meet local needs in the Greater Itasca Area by targeting grants and scholarships towards our community's most pressing needs and promising opportunities.

The Community Foundation manages a collection of charitable funds, scholarship funds, and endowment funds that were created by different donors at different times and for varying purposes. Donors may create funds during their lifetimes or by bequest, for general charitable purposes or for a particular purpose that they specify. We provide services to help individuals, families, businesses and other groups pursue their charitable interests easily, effectively and with maximum tax benefits.



Lloyd Adams, Volunteer

Letter from the Board Chair

Dear Friends,

Our communities faced incredible challenges during 2020 due to the COVID-19 public health and economic crisis. You, our area businesses, nonprofits, and individuals, came together to help each other and protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

This year, the Foundation played a prominent role in addressing the needs of those most impacted by the COVID-19 virus. Our grantmaking efforts were strategically aimed at assisting individuals and area nonprofits who were struggling to make ends meet. Our Community Response Fund mobilized \$156,000 and 28 grants for area nonprofits affected by the pandemic and our Sharing Fund provided \$101,000 and 213 grants for individuals in the community that experienced crises during 2020. In addition, we were able to carry on with our normal scholarship and grant cycle. None of our work during this year would have been possible without committed donors and dedicated community partners from every sector.

The last year was also a year of change for the Community Foundation as we welcomed new leadership; Susan Lynch as the Foundation Director and Mindy Nuhring as Chief Development Officer. We are confident they will manage the changing needs of the Foundation exceedingly well and continue its critical community impact work into the future.

Thank you for your continued partnership and unwavering commitment to our community. Because of you, we can continue to serve our community's needs, while building a more vibrant tomorrow for all who call this area their home.



Rhett Johnson
2020 Board Chair

- Elizabeth Bogdanovich
- Edward Bolf
- Lisa Bolton
- Joan Sailer Bond
- Tim & Joan Bonner
- Chere Bosarge
- Jason Boser
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- Matt & Charity Branstad
- Nan Brierley
- Sheila Brogger
- Amy Sader Brown
- Levi Brown
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- BSN Sports
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- Kelly Buckley
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- Dee Clausen
- David & Nancy Claussen
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- Jill N Claypool
- Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation
- CLK Management Co., Inc.
- Clover Technologies Group LLC
- Mary Kate Cole
- William Coleman
- Cole's Hardware
- Sean & Sherry Colter
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- Robert Czernemius
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- Clare Croteau
- Beverly Culver
- Richard & Sandra Curry
- Josephine & Travis Czerny
- Sondra Dahl
- David W. Claypool Trust
- Jacqueline & Andrew David
- Ryan Davies & Michelle Arnhold
- Dawnette Davis
- Paul & Donalyn Dealy
- Dede Emerson Foundation
- Deerwood Bank - Baxter
- Deerwood Bank - Grand Rapids

Investing in our Community

**GRANTS TO THE
COMMUNITY**

\$2.37 Million

**DONATIONS
RECEIVED**

\$3.58 Million

**NUMBER OF
GRANTS**

956

**NUMBER OF
DONORS**

568

**NUMBER OF
FUNDS**

283

ASSETS

\$25 Million

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED**

\$165,000

**NUMBER OF
SCHOLARSHIPS**

139

David DeLawyer
Kent & Patricia Demarais
Jeffery & Brenda DeMars
Jaqueline Denucci
Casey & Melissa Dezelske
Robert & Mary Lou Dezelske
Karen Diver
Kathy Dodge
Jill Doerfler
Patrick & Deanne Doherty
Don & Nancy Doll
Mary Donnellan & Mike Hagley
Jacqueline H Dowell
Ariel Dowling
D'Pointe Designs
Daniel & Denise Drennen
Gerald & Mary Drewes
Charles P Driscoll
Barbara Dubovich
Ruth H Dukelow
Thomas & Maria Dunstan
Shelley Duoos
Carolyn Eck
Boris & Kathleen Elich
Nick Eltgroth
Encompass Real Estate
Investment Services
Terrell & Debra Enger
Deanna Ensley
Audrey Erdman
Anne-Marie Erickson
Carla Erickson
Kyle Erickson
Ken Ericson
Kenneth B Ericson
Gerald & Kimberly Ernst
Linda Ewald
Gregory Ewen
EyeCare Centers of Aitkin &
McGregor
Brady & Simone Fairbanks
Leroy A Fairbanks
Shannon Fairbanks
Fairview Health Sevices
Tom & Jeanne Fasteland
Fat Boy Motor Sports
Kris Ferraro
Louise Koglin & Jim Fideldy
Kelly Fider
Daniel & Beccy Fillman
Einar P Finnvik
First National Bank of Coleraine
Elaine Fleming
Martha J Flinck
Floe International Inc
Patrick Thomas Forcica
Forward Health Foundation
Frank Fowler
Joseph Fowler
Timothy & Lisa Fox
Fraternal Order of Eagles
Julie Freie
Chris & Johnnie Fulton
Gaalaas Orthodontics
Robin & Tom Gangl
Luella Gannarelli
Jason & Renae Garski
Bob & Bonita Gernander

The Itasca County COVID-19 Community Response Fund

The Itasca Area Community Response Fund is a collaborative effort between the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation, United Way of 1000 Lakes and other community funders who came together to provide support to local nonprofits or other area organizations that work with people and communities that were negatively impacted by the health and economic crisis of COVID-19.

The fund supports the work of area nonprofit organizations who are providing direct services to families, including access to food and supplies, healthcare, childcare, housing, utilities, employment, transportation or other needs that arose because of the pandemic. There were four phases of funding that addressed both the acute, immediate needs, as well as the longer-term impacts of the outbreak and recovery. The final phase concluded in January 2021.

**NUMBER OF GRANTS
ISSUED TO AREA
NONPROFITS**

28



**GRANTS AWARDED
IN 2020**

\$156,000



Edge of the Wilderness Discovery Center

- Dale & Karen Gessell
- Cami & Tom Gibbons
- Mary Jo Gibbons
- Renee Gibbons
- James Phillip Gibeau
- Kara Gilbert
- Donald Gillman
- Sarah Gioia
- Glorvigen Tierney Families
- Go Green Lawn Care MN
- Jim & Deanna Gorden
- Willet Gorham & Judith Mullins
- Julie & James Gram
- Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital
Medical Staff Continuing
Medical Education
- Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital
- Grand Itasca Foundation
- Grand Itasca Volunteer Services
- Grand Rapids Amateur
Hockey Association
- Grand Rapids & Greenway
Volleyball
- Grand Rapids Area Football
Association
- Grand Rapids Evangelical
Free Church Missions Fund
- Grand Rapids Farmers Market
- Grand Rapids Hockey Golf
Classic Fund
- Grand Rapids Kiwanis Club
- Grand Rapids Public Utilities
Commission
- Grand Rapids State Bank
- Grand Rapids Veterinary Clinic
- Grand Rapids Wellness Center
- John Graves
- Sydney Gray
- Green Again Lawn & Aeration, Inc
- Robert Greifzu
- Kristin Grill
- Bruce Gross
- Gerald & Diane Gross
- Willard Grossell
- Merle & Joan Gunderman
- Ryan & Lucinda Gunderson
- Cricket Guyer
- Pat & Tessie Guyer
- Tom & Peggy Hagen
- Frieda & Scott Hall
- Christine Halverson
- Herb & Jean Halverson
- John G Halvorsen
- Leroy & Margie Halvorsen
- Dale & Carolyn Hanka
- Martin Hansen
- Brian Hanson
- Fred & Margaret Harris
- Susannah & Cress Hart
- Hawkinson Sand & Gravel
- Terri Hedblom
- Christopher & Jessica Henrichsen
- Bradley & Emma Hess
- Rick Hietalati
- Hill City Lions Club
- Jan & Kara Hill
- Zachary & Thersa Hillman
- Dale & Deloris Hillstrom

The Itasca County Sharing Fund

The Itasca County Sharing Fund was started at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation in 2010. The purpose of this fund is to provide crisis funding for families, children and individuals in the Itasca County area. Because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, local donors generously increased the funding for the Itasca County Sharing Fund due to the increased need in this area.

**NUMBER OF
GRANTS ISSUED**

213

GRANTS AWARDED

\$101,000



Denise Hintermeister Glarner
Terrance & Marcelyn Hodder
Don & Nell Hoey
James Edward Hoey
Franklin & Elizabeth Hoffman
Bob & Patty Holycross
Jim & Kathy Hoolihan
Jean Hoshal
Robbie Howe
John & Theresa Howrey
David & Marilyn Hrouda
Larke Huntley & Lana Bjorgum
Joel & Jane Hurley
John D. Illies
Iron Country Electric & Repair
Itasca County Democratic
Farmer Labor Party
Itasca Driftskipper Snowmobile
Club, Inc.
Itasca Reliable Insurance Agency
Itasca Unitarian Fellowship
Mary & Mike Ives
Martie & Wayne Jacobson
Duane & Frances Jedlenski
Carey Jensen
Jerry Betzler Secure Insurance
Lee & Mary Jo Jess
Brianna Johnson
Cavour Johnson & Roberta Smidt
Glenn & Jean Johnson
J Curt Johnson
& Jennifer A McInerney
Julie Johnson
Kurt & Kathy Johnson
Lawrence Johnson
& Catherine Davies
Lisa Johnson
Nancy Johnson
Shawn & Tammy Johnson
Susan Johnson
Thomas & Rita Johnson
William Johnson
Jeanne Jondreau
James & Beverly Jones
Peter & Barbara Jones
Bernadine Joselyn
Terence & Janice Kangas
Karen Karls
Keewatin Sinclair
KEGO Township
Kelly Kellar
Daniel Kelly
Vicki Kemppainen
George & Carolyn Kernkamp
Kathy Kimball-Hunt
James King
Gabriel & Kambri Kingbird
Darla & Kent Kirwin
Kelly Kirwin
Wade L Klennert
Ronald & Amy Koebke
Kevin & Ann Koetz
Judith & John Kolb
Lloyd & Amber Kongsjord
Steven & Shana Kongsjord
Corey Kosak
Chuck Koss
Becca Krause

New Funds

17

NEW FUND SPOTLIGHT

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it," Proverbs 22:6. This was a favorite Bible verse of Ardell Simonson, a Grand Rapids native who passed away in July 2020 after dedicating his life to educating young people. Ardell's sisters, Betty (Jim) Wass and LuElla McDowell recently established a scholarship fund in Ardell's honor at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation. The Ardell Simonson Memorial Scholarship is for Itasca County area students that intend to obtain a degree in Elementary Education.

Betty Wass says Ardell was a man who started out with nothing and didn't do a lot of things for himself throughout his life, but he saved what he had and was able to leave a legacy for young people. He was always helping and serving others – it's "just who he was." This scholarship for young students to pursue their dream of getting an Elementary Education degree would have been exactly what he wanted.



Jim and Betty Wass, LuElla McDowell, and Susan Lynch of GRACF

Betty Wass, Ardell Simonson and LuElla McDowell

- Adam Krook
- Andrew S Kuehn
- Richard & Jennifer Kyllander
- L&M Supply - Grand Rapids
- Chari LaDuke-Clark
- Ladyslipper Fund
- David & Kathryn LaFond
- Lake Country Furniture, Inc.
- Lake Country Power
- Jon & Rochelle Langlois
- Mariah LaPatka
- Rebecca LaPlant
- Bob & Kim LaReau
- Dawn Renae Larson
- Jane Latimer
- Latvala Lumber
- Mary Jane & Robert Latvala
- Terrance & Kathleen LaValle
- Leech Lake Housing
- Michael & Martha Lentz
- Don & Sandra Ley
- David & Susan Lick
- Lidahl Dental P. C.
- Becky Lien
- Donald & Judith Lind
- Orville & Donna Lind
- Marlene Lofrano
- Donna Lovinger-Sipe
- Mark Lueck
- Susan & Chris Lynch
- Mak Lynn
- Kent & Judy MacAlpine
- Jean MacDonell
- Molly F MacGregor
- Mackey Auto Repair
- Theresa Major
- Angie MaKarrall
- Timothy Mandel
- Diane & Bruce Mangseth
- Samantha Mankovich
- Manns Theatre
- Maple Woods, Inc.
- Margaret A. Cargill Foundation
- Cynthia & Daniel Margo
- Katie Marshall
- Jim & Cheryl Martinetto
- David & Sharon Marty
- Matteson L&M
- Del & Jessi Matteson
- Shawn, Kristi, & Duncan Matteson
- Terry & Muggs Matteson
- Betsy McBride
- Tom & Leanna McBride
- Peter & Charlotte McDermott
- LuElla McDowell
- Bryan & Karin McGinnis
- McGregor Baking Co. & Cafe Inc
- Jack & Mary Margaret McMahon
- Linsey McMurrin
- MDHA - Central Minnesota Chapter
- MDHA - Des Moines Valley Chapter
- MDHA - Jim Jordan Chapter
- MDHA - Riceland Whitetails Chapter

New Grant Spotlight

Reif Dance Company Endowed Scholarship

The Reif Dance Company has had a scholarship fund at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation and every year the fund would award scholarships to Reif Dance students for their education post high school. However, without continued donations the fund was starting to diminish. Then in 2020, something wonderful happened. Jerry and Shirley Miner, local citizens who are highly community-minded and always thinking philanthropically, decided that they were interested in growing the Reif Dance Company Scholarship Fund. They had four grandchildren who had been in Reif Dance and knew what a benefit Reif Dance was to those grandchildren. In February of 2020, Jerry and Shirley donated \$100,000 to create the Reif Dance Company Endowed Scholarship. This means that the Reif Dance Company Scholarships will be available to Reif Dance Company students for the foreseeable future. Thank you, Jerry and Shirley Miner!

MDHA - Snake River Chapter
MDI
Patrick & Donna Medure
Sonja Merrild
Arthur L Merrill
Margaret Merrill & Paul Lundquist
Frank Merry
Patricia J Mester
Isaac Meyer
Midwest Values PAC Qualified
Multicandidate Committee
Irene Mikkelson
Marsha Miller and John Chell
Millersberg Construction
Loree Miltich
Minnesota Power Foundation
Minuteman Press
Miskovich Dental Clinic
Joe & Sue Miskovich
Cleanna (Niki) Mistelske
James & Mary Ann Monge
Teresa Morrison
Thomas & Patricia Mortenson
Lori Moss
Lisa M Mueller
Robert & Janey Muirhead
John & Mary Ann Muldoon
Mark & Judi Munroe
Kristian Myers
NAMI
Nashwauk Township
Nelson Wood Shims
J. Thomas Nelson & Janet Rajala
Jerome & Patricia Nelson
Sandra Nelson
Thomas Nelson
Thomas & Marilyn Newman
Holly & Mike Newton
Nielsen Builders, Inc
Mike & Dar Nielsen
Nistler Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Mark Nohre
Gregory Nordstrom
North Homes Inc
Northern Minnesota Builders
Association
Northland Lions Club
Northview Bank
Mindy & Jon Nuhring
John & Patricia Nystuen
Bruce & Karen Ogle
Kelly Ohman
Michael & Joan Oja
Audra Olson
Chad Olson
Elizabeth Sawdey Olson
Kenneth R. Olson
Larry & Carol Olson
Larry & Michelle Olson
Marybeth Olson
Sara D Olson
Jerry & Molli Ophoven
W. Fred Ott
Thomas & Annette Pagel
Roberta R Palen
Paul Bunyan Communications
Sarah Pecore



Scholarship Spotlight

Sarah Jensen—Recipient of the Dr. and Mrs. Kelly Scholarship Awards Medical Scholarship 2020

"My story is one of which I am very proud. I am a wife and a mother of three beautiful children. I have worked very hard to be where I am today. I was born and raised here in Grand Rapids and in 2008, after graduating high school, I moved to the Twin Cities. I worked full-time, and was in school full-time. I had to put my education on hold in 2012 when I had my first child. Life was a struggle; I had to work many jobs to support us. I decided that I needed to make a change and challenged myself to get back to school to provide a better life for my daughter. I started classes that spring at Dakota County Technical College. That fall was when I met my now husband and moved back to Grand Rapids where I enrolled in the Practical Nursing Program at Itasca Community College.



I now work at KOOTASCA Community Action and I am proud to be able to help support my community in the way my community supported me. I am back in school and finishing my prerequisites for the RN program at Northwest Technical College. My goal is to become a Licensed Public Health Nurse and School Nurse. I want to use my education and skills to help my community by finding more resources and access to routine medical care and help in the fight to end poverty and homelessness.

I want to keep setting an example for my kids that, no matter your circumstances, with hard work and dedication you can overcome anything. I want them to remember watching me walk in my graduation ceremony and be proud of who their mother is and where she came from, and what it took to get there."

Dr. and Mrs. Kelly Scholarship Awards Medical Scholarships

The Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kelly Scholarship was established in May of 1999 to support local adults interested in pursuing and continuing education in the medical field. Many people remember and love Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kelly and can fondly picture them walking through Grand Itasca Clinic or the old Hospital. Kelly Kirwin, former Executive Director of the Grand Itasca Foundation notes, "We are so pleased to be able to bring the legacy of Donna and Dr. Kelly full circle – every year – through Grand Itasca. Because we have a scholarship at the Community Foundation, we can honor the life and legacy of the Kellys, provide for better educated and trained professionals at the clinic and hospital, and support our local workforce and families, right here in rural Minnesota."



Thomas & Kathy Peltier
Ray & Mary Helen Pelton
Delores Peluso
Pengilly Booster Club
Justin & Lindsey Peratalo
Patti Perreault
Patrick & Candace Perry
Kelli Peters
Carl Peterson & Nicole
Wiekamp-Peterson
D. Scott & Jeri Peterson
Myrna Peterson
Hope Phillips
Brian & Jodi Piekarski
John & Barbara Pilney
Judy Pittack
Plackner Tree Care
Plaisted Companies
Satrina Powers
Frank Praver
Daniel & Molly Prokott
Arienne Pyke
Quality Refrigeration &
Heating, Inc.
Roger & Nancy Ralston
Range Bottle and Gas Co
Jennifer Raushel
Nancy Raymond
Berenice E Reader
Naj Regguinti
Christopher & Kathleen Reilly
Michelle & Roman Reis
Richard & Mary Reynolds
Ardis Rhoades
Fred & Kristan Rice
Ken & Jeanne Ricker
Randy Rios
Mary Ritter
William & Patti Riviere
RK Construction Services, Inc.
Petra Rodriguez
Ron's Korner Market
Ross Resources
Rotary Club of Grand Rapids
Stan & Nancy Roth
John & Rose Rothstein
Round Lake Resort & Bar LLC
Janice Rourk
Rowe Funeral Home
Wendy & Denny Roy
Joe Rubado
John & Kathleen Rubesh
Frank & Jean Russ
Bill Rutherford
David and Susan Ruzek
Michael Ruzek
Jonathan M Ryan
Saint Paul & Minnesota
Foundation
Robert J Salmi
Jan Sandberg
Barb Sanderson
William & Catherine Sayward
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William & Keller Jean Schmid
Bud & Therese Schneider

Kendall Schoolmeester
 Schroeder Family Dentistry
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 Holly Severson
 Robert & Carole Shankland
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 Sara A Simmons
 Chad & Dana Simons
 Maira Simonson
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 Lewis Smiley
 Gwenn Smith
 Kenneth & Patricia Smith
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 Jim Stauff
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 Daniel & Mary Strand
 Mary & Don Streufert
 Richard & Harriet Suomala
 Superior Fuel Company
 Karyn Surface
 Vicki Lynn Sutherland
 Tim Swanson
 Tamarack Pest Control
 Lynda Tarbuck
 Gina Tennison
 Linnea Tennison
 The Evergreen Foundation
 The Loyal Order of Moose
 Russell & Betty Thompson
 Thrivent Choice
 William & Jeanne Tix
 Anne Tofte
 Robert & Karen Tok
 Brian & Cynthia Toms
 Mandy Tran
 Amy Trast
 AJ & Lisa Troumbly
 David & Theresa Troumbly



Community Funds

at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation houses five Community Funds. Community Funds are permanent endowment funds designated to support and provide positive impact in a specific community for the long-term. These Community Funds enjoy the benefit of the Community Foundation's investment policies and practices to ensure that the Fund can keep benefiting their community into the future. These funds provide a way for people and businesses with a passion for their community to give back; to ensure that community stays a great place to live, work and play. You can learn more about each Community Fund by going to our website www.gracf.org and clicking on Area Funds.



Deer River Area Community Fund



Greater Itasca Area Community Fund



Greenway Area Community Fund



Hill City Area Community Fund



Nashwauk Area Community Fund



Board of Directors 2020

The Board of Directors of the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation assure that the Foundation's resources are used effectively and efficiently to accomplish our mission and vision.



Rhett Johnson,
Chair



Cynthia Margo,
Chair Elect



Kristian Myers,
Vice Chair



Amy Trast,
Treasurer



Kathy Dodge,
Secretary



Kelly Kirwin,
Past Chair



Shannon Benolken



Steve Burggraf



Kelly Kabotoff



Isaac Meyer



Jerry Ophoven



Julie Wilcox

Derek & Betty Troumbly
 Michael & Debra Troumbly
 Paula & Jeff Troumbly
 James Rudolph Tuorila
 Troy & Melissa Ugrich
 Paul & Judy Ulland
 UPM Blandin Paper Company
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 Jeanne & Judd Watson
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 Wheeler Associates
 Mark & Michelle White
 White Birch Fund
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 McGregor
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 John & Ann Zappia
 Brian Zimmer



COMMUNITY
 FOUNDATION

GRAND RAPIDS AREA



What are you passionate about? Where will you make your mark? Whose lives will you touch?

We hope you were inspired by this report and we invite you to call us at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation to help you plan your legacy of giving. We are here to answer questions and would like to connect with donors, advisors and anyone interested in making this area a better place to work and live. For more information, please visit our website www.gracf.org.

And We Thank You

We know that you love our community as much as we do. We thank you for the countless ways you give back each and every day.



From the Staff

Susan Lynch, Executive Director
Mindy Nuhring, Chief Development Officer
Brianna Spry, Program Administrator
Cathy Sayward, Administrative Assistant

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