

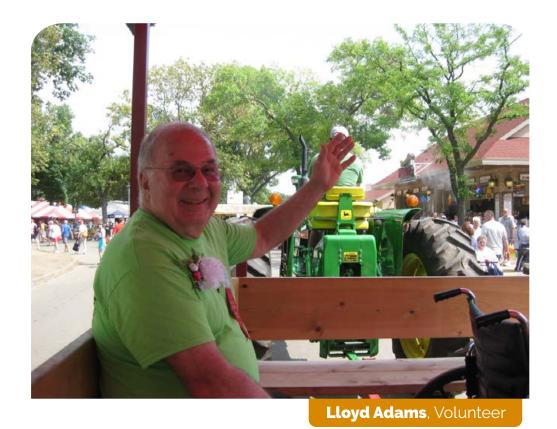
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About the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

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.



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.

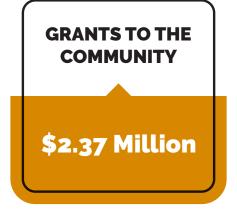
Rhett Johnson 2020 Board Chair

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Investing in our Community

















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



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 Donald Gillman Sarah Gioia Go Green Lawn Care MN Jim & Deanna Gorder Willet Gorham & Judith Mullins Medical Staff Continuing Medical Education Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital Grand Itasca Foundation Grand Rapids Amateur Grand Rapids & Greenway Grand Rapids Area Football 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 Grand Rapids State Bank Grand Rapids Veterinary Clinic Grand Rapids Wellness Center John Graves Sydney Gray Green Again Lawn & Aeration, Inc Robert Greifzu **Bruce Gross** Willard Grossell Merle & Joan Gunderman Ryan & Lucinda Gunderson Cricket Guyer Pat & Tessie Guyer Tom & Peggy Hagen Frieda & Scott Hall Leroy & Margie Halvorsen Dale & Carolyn Hanka Martin Hansen Fred & Margaret Harris Susannah & Cress Hart Hawkinson Sand & Gravel Christopher & Jessica Henrichsen Bradley & Emma Hess Hill City Lions Club

Dale & Deloris Hillstrom

Bob & Patty Holycross Jim & Kathy Hoolihan 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 Reliable Insurance Agency Glenn & Jean Johnson J Curt Johnson & Jennifer A McInerney Julie Johnson Kurt & Kathy Johnson Lawrence Johnson & Catherine Davies Lisa Johnson Shawn & Tammy Johnson Susan Johnson Thomas & Rita Johnson William Johnson James & Beverly Jones Peter & Barbara Jones Terence & Janice Kangas Kelly Kellar George & Carolyn Kernkamp James King Darla & Kent Kirwin Kelly Kirwin Wade L Klennert Ronald & Amy Koebke Kevin & Ann Koetz Lloyd & Amber Kongsjord Steven & Shana Kongsjord Corey Kosak Chuck Koss

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





New Funds



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 Richard & Jennifer Kyllander L&M Supply - Grand Rapids Chari LaDuke-Clark 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 Michael & Martha Lentz David & Susan Lick Becky Lien Orville & Donna Lind Marlene Lofrano Donna Lovinger-Sipe Kent & Judy MacAlpine Mackey Auto Repair Theresa Major Angie MaKarrall Timothy Mandel Diane & Bruce Mangseth Manns Theatre Maple Woods, Inc. Margaret A. Cargill Foundation Cynthia & Daniel Margo Katie Marshall Matteson L&M Del & Jessi Matteson Shawn, Kristi, & Duncan Terry & Muggs Matteson Betsy McBride Peter & Charlotte McDermott Bryan & Karin McGinnis McGregor Baking Co. & Cafe Inc McMahon Linsey McMurrin

MDHA - Riceland Whitetails Chapter

MDHA - Central Minnesota

MDHA - Des Moines Valley

MDHA - Jim Jordan Chapter

MDHA - Snake River Chapter Patrick & Donna Medure Arthur L Merrill Margaret Merrill & Paul Lundquist Patricia J Mester Midwest Values PAC Qualified Marsha Miller and John Chell Millersberg Construction Minnesota Power Foundation Minuteman Press Cleanna (Niki) Mistelske James & Mary Ann Monge Teresa Morrison Thomas & Patricia Mortenson Lisa M Mueller Mark & Judi Munroe Nashwauk Township Nelson Wood Shims J. Thomas Nelson & Janet Rajala Jerome & Patricia Nelson Thomas & Marilyn Newman Holly & Mike Newton Nielsen Builders, Inc Nistler Plumbing & Heating, Inc. Northview Bank Mindy & Jon Nuhring 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 Paul Bunyan Communications Sarah Pecore

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!







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 Kelli Peters Carl Peterson& Nicole Wiekamp-Peterson D. Scott & Jeri Peterson Myrna Peterson Hope Phillips Brian & Jodi Piekarski Plackner Tree Care Plaisted Companies Daniel & Molly Prokott Arianne Pyke Quality Refrigeration & Heating, Inc Roger & Nancy Ralston Range Bottle and Gas Co Jennifer Raushel Nancy Raymond Naj Regguinti Christopher & Kathleen Reilly Michelle & Roman Reis Richard & Mary Reynolds Fred & Kristan Rice Ken & Jeanne Ricker Randy Rios Mary Ritter RK Construction Services, Inc. Petra Rodriquez Ron's Korner Market Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Stan & Nancy Roth Round Lake Resort & Bar LLC Joe Rubado Frank & Jean Russ Bill Rutherford David and Susan Ruzek Saint Paul & Minnesota Robert J Salmi Jan Sandberg Barb Sanderson William & Catherine Sayward Kate Schaefers Sandy Schildt

Kendall Schoolmeester Schroeder Family Dentistry Todd & K Schultz SCI Broadband Ruth Sejnoha Daryl & Janice Severs Charlie & Judy Sherman George & Cathryn Shields Mandi Shimek Shelby N Shinabargar Broc & Abby Siems Mary Beth Sigfrinius Chad & Dana Simons Maira Simonson Anne Sitek Mary Claire Sitek Tim & Barb Skelly Kenneth & Patricia Smith Loren & Joan Solberg Donita Soucek Dennis & Janice Sowada Curtis Sparks Kevin & Caroline Springer Theodore & Darlene Squillace Mark & Barb Stafford Star of the North Lions State of Minnesota - IRRR Jacqueline Joanne Steele Jessica Sterle Daniel & Mary Strand Mary & Don Streufert Richard & Harriet Suomala Karyn Surface Tamarack Pest Control Lynda Tarbuck Gina Tennison Linnea Tennison The Evergreen Foundation Russell & Betty Thompson **Thrivent Choice** William & Jeanne Tix Anne Tofte 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.





















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.



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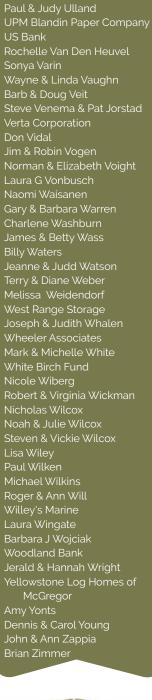


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Shannon Benolken Steve Burggraf





Derek & Betty Troumbly Michael & Debra Troumbly

Paula & Jeff Troumbly

Troy & Melissa Ugrich



Kelly Kabotoff



Isaac Meyer



Jerry Ophoven



Julie Wilcox



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

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation 350 NW 1st Avenue, Suite E Grand Rapids, MN 55744 218-999-9100 www.gracf.org