

FALL 2021



YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR FOUNDATION.

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation News



Amy Glass, a recipient of a Workforce Ready Scholarship, as well as other scholarships through the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation. These scholarships enabled her to get her LPN and RN degrees, and she is back in school working her way towards a BSN degree. Way to go, Amy!



WORKFORCE READY SCHOLARSHIPS KEEP PEOPLE LIVING AND WORKING IN OUR AREA

The Workforce Ready Scholarships offered through the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation are scholarships focused on our local economy and workforce. These scholarships are awarded to local residents who want to continue to work and live in the Greater Itasca area. The goal is to strengthen our current and future workforce and the local economy.

In 2021, these scholarships became available year-round. Therefore, anyone who is interested in any type of education or training, which enables them to stay living and working in the Greater Itasca area, can apply for this scholarship at any time of the year. In 2021, we have awarded approximately \$46,600 in Workforce Ready Scholarships.

We also have great partnerships within our Workforce Ready Scholarship program. Jerry and Cathie (Saxhaug) Anderson started funding these scholarships in 2018, which has helped sustain these scholarships every year. They have a passion for economic development in their hometown area. The Grand Itasca Foundation, MDI, Northern Minnesota Builders Association, Industrial Lubricant, Northern Industrial Erectors, Inc and NE MN Office of Job Training have also been great partners and have helped fund scholarships. We would like to grow more partnerships with local businesses and have a plan to help connect those businesses more directly with potential employees.

If you know someone who lives in this area who would like to pursue education or training to increase their skills in their current job or qualify for a job in the Greater Itasca Area, please refer them to our website, www.gracf.org, to apply for a Workforce Ready Scholarship. If you are a business in the Greater Itasca Area and would like to contribute to the Workforce Ready Scholarship program, please contact Mindy Nuhring at the Foundation at mindy.nuhring@gracf.org or 218-999-9100.

NEW FUND SPOTLIGHT: K. ROGER BETZ VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Roger Betz was an educator who wanted to increase high school students' interest in the trades. He was instrumental in creating the layout at the Greenway High School for shop classes, started a carpentry program in Greenway, taught at Greenway for 23 years and now his family has established a scholarship fund with the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation to help Greenway High School students pursue two-year vocational/technical degrees. He wanted both boys and girls to pursue trade vocations and believed those careers would be rewarding for students.

Roger passed away on February 4, 2021, at the age of 89, at which time his family established the scholarship with the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation called the K. Roger Betz Vocational School Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to eligible Greenway High School students who will be pursuing a two-year vocational degree. Roger was an advocate for students who wanted careers in the trades and, in his lifetime, guided many students towards those degrees. Now, through his scholarship, he is still advocating for students and guiding them to pursue vocational/technical/industrial arts degrees. Roger was a true teacher, mentor, and supporter of students, and his legacy will continue through this scholarship.

This and many other scholarships are available during our Spring Scholarship Application period, which is open from February 1st through March 1st, 2021.

Applying for Scholarships is easy. Beginning February 1, 2021, applicants can go to our website, www.gracf.org, and click on Scholarships, Apply for a Scholarship and Apply Now. If you or someone you know is interested in pursuing their education, please refer them to our website.



Roger Betz's Woodworking Class



Roger's Fiberglass Class



Roger's Carpentry Class with the garage they built

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END OF YEAR GIVING IS HERE!

The last two years have been challenging on many levels. Local businesses and nonprofits have struggled, there is a workforce crisis, increased food and housing insecurity, and many hardworking people who have lost pay due to illness or multiple quarantines. But this is a great community that works together! So many good things happen every day here in the Greater Itasca Area. Here are a few reasons to donate to a local organization at the end of 2021:

1. Help your neighbor. Review the four funds on the back page or click on Donate on our website to search for other local nonprofit organizations and consider making a donation.
2. There may still be employer-matching donations or matching donations by other entities available, so your gift could make an even bigger impact.
3. Tax deductions. Remember to donate before December 31, 2021, to make sure your donation counts towards your 2021 charitable contribution. There may be special tax considerations per the Covid-19 Relief Act. Please contact a financial professional for more details.
4. You can make a donation to offset your IRA taxes. Again this year the CARES Act waived required minimum distributions for most retirement plans, for those over age 70 ½. Please contact a financial professional for more details.
5. Don't know what to give as a gift to someone? How about a gift to a nonprofit in their honor?
6. Sense of well-being. If there's one thing this year has taught us, it is that we need to help each other out in times of need. Giving in 2021 is a great idea and a great way to start off 2022!

New Funds

- Chad, Holly and Hannah Davis Memorial Scholarship
- Dr. Jack and Mary Margaret McMahon Donor-Advised Fund
- Giving Tree/Compassion Coalition
- GRHS Staff Climate Fund
- Judy Peura Hultquist Scholarship
- Tom Drazenovich Field Sign Project

*See www.gracf.org for more detailed fund descriptions.

Survey

The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation would like to know your thoughts. We will be sending out a survey via email to fund advisors, and would appreciate feedback from donors and community members, as well. Please aim your smartphone camera at the QR Code below and it will take you to the survey. The survey is also available on the Contact Us page on our website.



Important Dates

- National Community Foundation Week is November 12-18th and acknowledges our engagement with the community.
- Thursday, November 18th, is Give to the Max Day in Minnesota. It's a day where thousands of donors across Minnesota give to the charities of their choice.
- End-of-year giving should be made by December 31, 2021.
- Just an early reminder that Scholarship season is coming up! The application period begins on February 1, 2022 through March 1, 2022.

GRACF Open House Sept 3, 2021



Chris Lynch, Kevin Cash, Rhonda Cash, Mindy Nuhring and Becky LaPlant; Tristan Dobie, Susan Lynch, Brianna Spry, Melissa Weidendorf, and Sonia Merrill. Thank you to all those who stopped in and visited with us!



CRISIS FUNDING SPOTLIGHT: 4 FUNDS TO THINK ABOUT AS WINTER ARRIVES

Here are four funds that can be accessed year-round for individuals in crisis. If you know someone who needs funding for a crisis situation, especially during these winter months, or if you are interested in donating to a crisis fund that directly helps people in this community, please read more about our four funds that can help:

1. **Itasca County Sharing Fund:** The purpose of this fund is to serve immediate, last resort, crisis needs such as emergency shelter, utilities, healthcare, transportation and work clothing for residents of Itasca County. The grant applications are submitted through local nonprofit agencies, such as FirstCall 211.
2. **Herreid Deer River Fund:** The purpose of this fund is to benefit recipients in the Deer River Area, as roughly defined by the 56636 zip code, the southern half of ISD 317, and other territory generally considered to be the "Deer River Area." This fund is also to provide individuals crisis funding grants such as shelter, utilities and transportation. Again, the grant applications are submitted through local nonprofit agencies, such as FirstCall 211.
3. **Itasca Area Cancer Crisis Fund:** This fund supports crisis needs of individuals and families dealing with cancer. Grant applications can be submitted through our website, www.gracf.org, and click on Grants and Apply for a Grant.
4. **Blandin Employees for Life Fund:** This fund provides local individuals and families financial help with transportation needs to and from cancer treatments. This fund is open to all Greater Itasca area residents and not limited to employees of the UPM/Blandin Paper Company. Grant applications can be submitted through our website, www.gracf.org, and click on Grants and Apply for a Grant.

If you are interested in donating to any of these funds, please visit our website, www.gracf.org and click on Donate, Donate Now and search for these funds by name.



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GRAND RAPIDS AREA

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