# 2021 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

MATCHING CHARITABLE INTENTIONS WITH COMMUNITY NEEDS

# GRAND RAPIDS AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

### BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



2021 Chair, Cynthia Margo, and Executive Director, Susan Lynch

Dear Friends,

Over the past two years, we have all been impacted in some way by COVID-19. Our experiences may have been different, but our community came together to help each other through the crisis. In response to the pandemic, the Itasca Area Community Response Fund was formed, a collaborative effort between the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation, United Way and other community funders. This fund provided over \$198,000 to area nonprofit organizations that faced hardship during the health and economic crisis of 2020 and 2021.

This is an example of why the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation exists. Since 1994, the Community Foundation has worked to bring people and resources together; matching charitable intentions with community needs. This means that no matter your passion, we want to help you contribute to the vitality of the community in ways large and small.

This annual impact report features the influence that the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation, our donors, and partners have had on the Greater Itasca Area in 2021. These stories highlight the importance of your support and how it enables us to be responsive to all kinds of situations and represent the communities in the Greater Itasca Area.

In 2022, the Community Foundation is not only focused on recovery from the pandemic, but on building upon our strengths and striving to improve our communication with donors on the needs and assets of the community. We will also be working to create opportunities for both our donors and the community as a whole to invest in effective solutions to meet community needs.

The generosity of our donors, fund holders and community partners continues to surpass our expectations. We want to thank all of you for your wonderful support of our community.

Cynthia Margo 2021 Board Chair Susan Lynch Executive Director

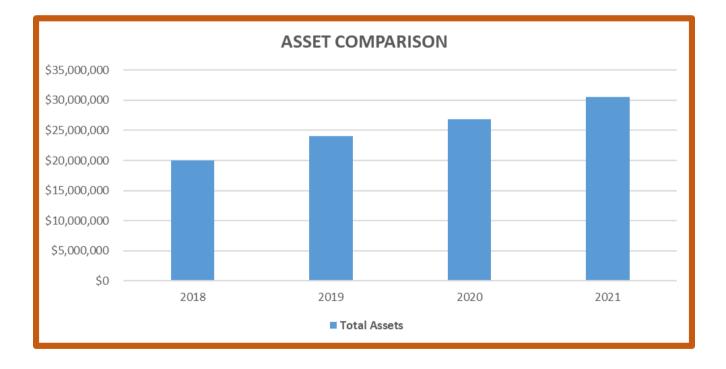


GRAND RAPIDS AREA

# 2021 AT A GLANCE

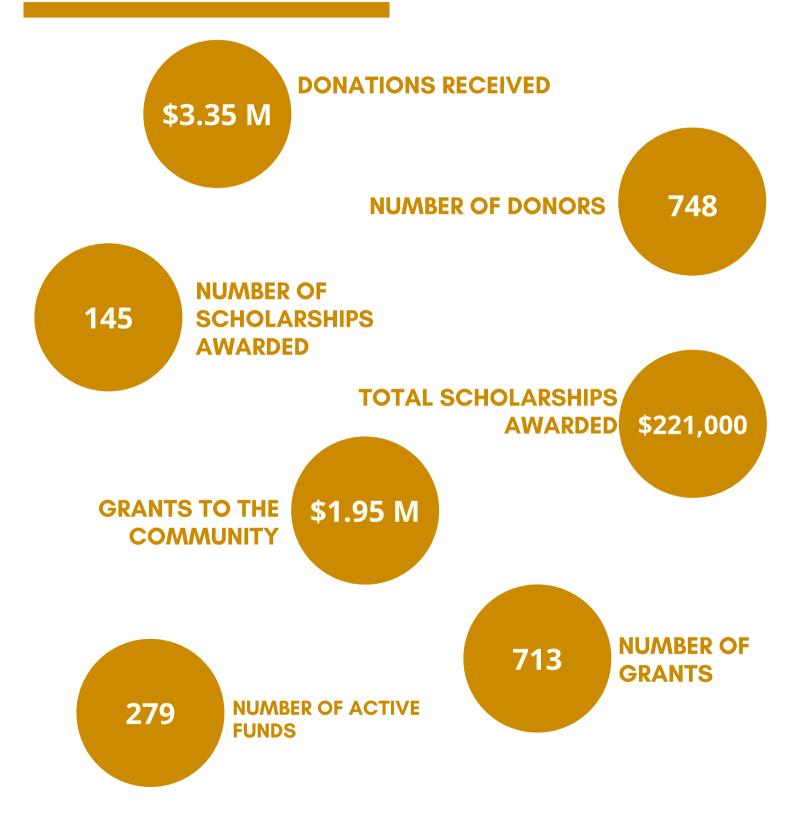


#### FOUNDATION ASSETS AS OF 12/31/2021



The financial data for 2021 has not yet been audited. The most current annual audit and Form 990 are available by calling us at 218–999–9100. You can also access audit information and Form 990 online at Guidestar (www.guidestar.org).

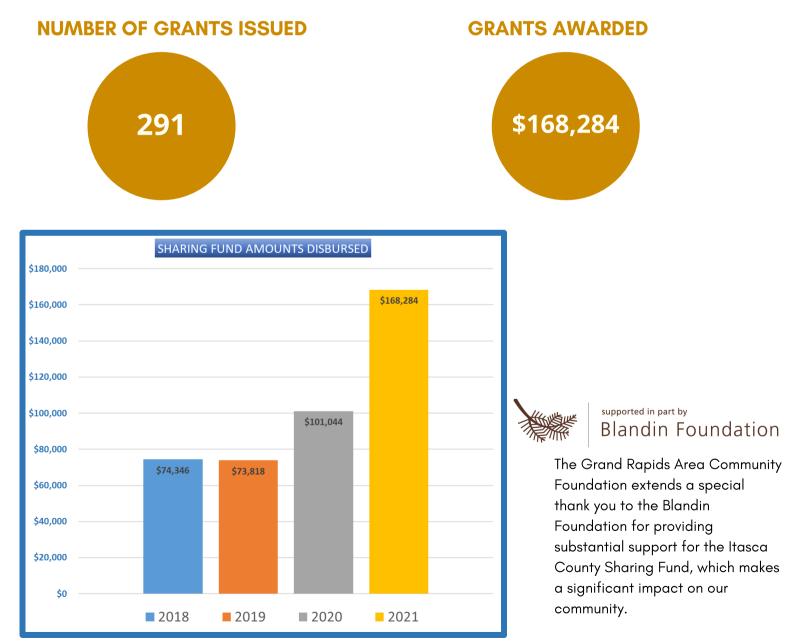




## THE ITASCA COUNTY SHARING FUND

The Itasca County Sharing Fund was started at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation in 2005. The purpose of this fund is to support people with immediate, last resort, crises needs such as emergency shelter, utilities, healthcare, transportation and work clothing. Grants are intended to give the assisting agency some extra time to find more permanent solutions for their clients. Since the pandemic began in 2020, this fund was utilized more than ever before.

"Thank you for helping me fix my vehicle. I just got this car that was my mother's and also just received my license and after a week and a half the car died. I'm working on getting more hours to make more money but at the moment I have money to live day to day. My goal is to become more self-reliant and having a vehicle will help me move into that direction. It is with your help that I'm able to fix my vehicle and have opportunities to find more work and make more money. I appreciate the money that you gave me to fix my vehicle. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you." Recipient of an Itasca County Sharing Fund crisis grant.



## ANNUAL GRANT CYCLE

The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation provides an open, annual grant cycle for non-profit organizations that runs from July 15 – August 15 each year. Our communities thrive with the hard work and dedication of nonprofit organizations. The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation helps nonprofits to carry out their important work by awarding them grants, creating community partnerships and educating donors about organizations that are most aligned with their charitable interests. The generosity of hundreds of donors help make these grants possible. Depending on the type of fund, grant recommendations and decisions are made by donors, advisory committees or the Community Foundation staff and board.

The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation looks for projects and programs where a moderate grant can significantly impact a community.

The Foundation supports projects that:

- Significantly benefit the community for the resources invested
- Are creative, innovative and address community needs
- Eliminate duplication of services and encourage cooperation
- Increase volunteer involvement and commitment to community needs
- Leverage other resources

In 2021, the annual grant cycle provided over \$190,000 in 43 grants to 32 area nonprofit organizations and groups that serve the Greater Itasca Area. This last year was another challenging year for local nonprofits who continue to navigate through the pandemic.

An example of a local nonprofit that was awarded grants in 2021 through our annual grant cycle is the Community Café of Deer River and Grand Rapids. The Community Café is a local non-profit organization. Their purpose is to provide children, adults, the elderly, low income families, and people with disabilities, a free, healthy meal with a sense of social connection. In addition, the Community Café provides meals to other area organizations such as the GRACE House homeless shelter and the Boys and Girls Club of Deer River. In a normal month, the Community Café serves 1500+ meals to those in need at the Grand Rapids location and 1000+ meals at the Deer River location.



# GRANT SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Jack and Mary Margaret McMahon have quite a history of giving back to their hometown communities in northern Minnesota. They have donated generously to the new McMahon Student Center at Itasca Community College, the Nashwauk Area Community Fund and most recently, the Reif Arts Council for the Reif Center in Grand Rapids. The Reif has named their box office "McMahon Box Office" in their honor. The Reif has already been using the McMahon's generous donation to host events at the theater. In February 2022, the Reif had nearly 700 students attend a daytime event of "Dinosaur World Live." Jeremy Dewey, Reif Development Director, says, "This marks the first time since the pandemic that we have been able to fill our auditorium with young students – many of whom attended their very first live arts event because of the McMahon's thoughtful and important contribution. We are so thrilled to see these funds continue to make a difference in the lives of our local youth." The McMahon's gift will allow students, and others, to experience the Reif Center and all it has to offer.



Dr. Jack and Mary Margaret McMahon





THE REIF

# NEW FUND SPOTLIGHT

#### GIVING TREE/COMPASSION COALITION



In November 2021, a group of local citizens created a fund at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation called the Giving Tree/Compassion Coalition. The purpose of this fund is to encourage local citizens to give \$100/quarter (plus a \$20 annual administration fee) which will then be distributed to local nonprofit agencies selected by the Coalition. The group has been growing and they made their first grant to a local nonprofit in March 2022. Giving Tree/Compassion Coalition awarded \$2,000 to Circles of Support who provide an opportunity for people in poverty to build skills, social assets, and engage in community life. The Coalition has also designated Boys and Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids and Greenway as their next award recipient.

"Our goal is the lifting of all boats; transforming and building community," says Jim Crecelius, Giving Tree/Compassion Coalition member. Anyone in the community can join this group of caring individuals. The group meets once per quarter and decides on the next award recipient. Their goal is to reach 100 people giving \$100 each quarter which would allow them to donate \$10,000 each quarter. Please contact the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation for more information on how to give to this fund or how to join this group.

#### **NEW FUNDS 2021**

- 1. Ardell Simonson Memorial Scholarship
- 2. Chad, Hollly and Hannah Davis Memorial Scholarship
- 3. Corey Bakken Speech and Debate Memorial Scholarship
- 4. Dr. Jack and Mary Margaret McMahon Fund
- 5. Foster Love Closet
- 6. Giving Tree/Compassion Coalition
- 7. Great Tails Animal Rescue Building Fund
- 8. GRHS Climate Fund
- 9. Inger Local Indian Council (LIC) Fund
- 10. Judy Peura Hultquist Scholarship
- 11. K. Roger Betz Vocational School Scholarship
- 12. Mike Washburn Memorial Scholarship Fund
- 13. S. Lake Local Indian Council (LIC) Fund
- 14. Tim Murphy Memorial Donor Advised Fund
- 15. Tom Drazenovich Field Sign Project



Duffy with Susan Lynch in honor of Great Tails Building Fund

# **FUND SPOTLIGHT**

The last two years have been challenging for everyone, but area school faculty, staff and students had some unique challenges. With going to distance learning, then a hybrid of in-class and distance learning, and then masking, there were a lot of twists and turns. Two funds were created during this time period designed to promote school building pride and community and to promote positive relationships between school staff, faculty and students. Those two funds are the GRHS (Grand Rapids High School) Climate Fund and the RJEMS (Robert J. Elkington Middle School) Climate Fund. These funds are meant to provide extra funding to support positive environments in the two schools. The funds were started by outside organizations, but anyone can donate to the funds.

If you would like to do more for faculty, staff and students at RJEMS and GRHS, these two funds might be your answer. Please contact Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation for more information or to donate.



**Grand Rapids High School** 





**Robert J. Elkington Middle School** 



### SCHOLARSHIP FUND SPOTLIGHT

#### JUDY PEURA HULTQUIST SCHOLARSHIP



Judy Peura Hultquist, a Hill City graduate, knew that she wanted to help young people in the Hill City area for many years and was looking for a way to do that. When Judy learned about the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation (GRACF) and ways to create a fund through them, it led her to establish a new scholarship fund at GRACF in 2021 for Hill City High School graduates.

Judy's \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to an eligible Hill City High School student who will be pursuing a two-year vocational/technical degree. Judy knows that getting a vocational/technical degree can enable students to get good paying jobs in Northern Minnesota. "I want young people to be able to stay and work in Northern Minnesota and earn good wages," says Judy, "and I'm thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity to Hill City students."

This is one of the 87 scholarships that the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation has available for students.

40

### THE POWER OF ENDOWMENT

The power of endowment is in its continuity. When you create an endowed fund here at the Foundation, you ensure lasting positive impact through a permanent charitable gift. Endowment funds are invested to grow over the long-term and the funds are pooled for maximum benefit. The principal remains intact and only the earnings on the fund are used to make charitable distributions each year.

A charitable gift made today can significantly multiply in value if established as a permanent endowment. The graph illustrates how a \$50,000 gift can grow exponentially in just 50 years. By year 50, this endowed fund's cumulative charitable impact would increase from \$50,000 to almost \$325,000, tripling in size and having granted to the community more than three times its original fund value. Keep in mind that, over the last ten years, GRACF endowed funds have averaged a 9% rate of return and we have a 4.5% annual spending rate.



Assuming a 4% annual spending rate and a 7% rate of return

## COMMUNITY FUNDS

There are five area Community Funds and the McGregor Lakes Area Foundation that provide a way for citizens and businesses in those areas to give to their local community. Each Fund has an advisory committee of volunteers that oversee grants for programs and activities throughout their communities. Annual earnings derived from the invested endowment fund are granted to local non-profit organizations and provide charitable support for area citizens. The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation is the financial managing agent for these Community Funds.

The Deer River Area Community Fund includes areas within and surrounding Deer River School District 317. The Greater Itasca Area Community Fund is available in Bigfork, Blackduck, Cohasset, Grand Rapids, Northome, Remer, Warba and all other townships and cities within School District 318. The Cities of Coleraine, Bovey, Taconite, LaPrairie, Marble, Calumet, Pengilly and Taconite and the Townships of Trout Lake, Greenway, Lawrence Lake, and Nashwauk are the areas served by the Greenway Area Community Fund. Hill City Area Community Fund serves Jacobson, Swartara, Palisade, Hill City, and Spang Township. Nashwauk Area Community Fund serves Nashwauk, Nashwauk Township, Buck Lake, Pengilly, Swan Lake, Keewatin and Goodland Township areas. The McGregor Lakes Area Community Foundation covers territory that is geographically similar to the McGregor School District.

These organizations awarded 38 grants totaling over \$56,000 to programs and activities in their communities in 2021.



Deer River Area Community Fund



Greenway Area Community Fund











Hill City Area Community Fund











## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021**



Cynthia Margo Chair



**Kristian Myers** Vice Chair



**Shannon Benolken** Treasurer



Kathy Dodge Secretary



Julie Wilcox Chair Elect



Kelly Kirwin Past Chair



Christina Andersen



Sarah Anderson



Kyle Erickson



**Diane Larson** 



Kelly Kabotoff



Isaac Meyer



Jerry Ophoven



Josh Skelton

We would like to pay tribute to Secretary, Kathy Dodge, a long-term board member of Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation, who passed away March 19, 2022. Kathy served on the GRACF Board from 2017 through 2021. She was very involved in the community, believed in giving back, and always led by example.

### **OUR 2021 DONORS**



Aalto, Joseph and Karen Adams, Rebecca Adams, Thomas and Maureen Aguirre, Margaret Aitkin Services LLC - Thrifty White Albers, Garth Allen, Katherine and Joseph Allen, Kirby and Marklie Almen, Mary K American Legion Post 122 AMVETS Post 12 Andersen, Erik and Christina Anderson, Bruce and Michelle Anderson, Gail L Anderson, Gary and Jody Anderson, George and Sandie Anderson Glass Company, Inc. Anderson, Jacquelyn and Darwin Berhow Anderson, Jerry and Cathie Saxhaug Anderson, Jim and Judy Anderson, Keith and Janet Anderson, Michael Anderson, Phil and Pat Anderson, Rick & Patti Anderson, Rolf Anderson, Sandra Anderson, Sarah Anonymous Anthony, John R **Aplin Family Foundation** Assembly of God Aune, Elaine



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McGregor Lakes Area Community Foundation donation to the Food Shelf

### **2021 IN PICTURES**



Itasca Area Cancer Crisis Fund Volleyball Fundraiser at GRHS



Great Tails Animal Rescue Building Fund



Northland Scholarship Fund



Ardell Simonson Memorial Scholarship Fund



Greenway Area Community Fund Year of Giving Award



Inspire Fund Iron Range Resources ISD #318 Itasca County Family YMCA Ives, Mary and Mike



Jackson, Allen and Carmen Jackson, Cory Jacobson, Shirley Janecek, Jerome and Marie Janecke, Todd and Jodi Janicke, Phil and Carole Jarva, Perry Jasper, Thomas Javorina, Michelle M Jedlenski, Duane and Frances Jenkins, Roxane Landrus Jensen, Carey Jerome, Paulette Jester, Richard and Frances Johanson, Roxanne and Ronald Johnson Hometown Realty Johnson, Bruce W Johnson, Jack A Johnson, John Carl Johnson, Lisa DDS Johnson, Rhett and Kimberly Johnson, Susan Johnson, Tammy Johnson, Thomas Johnson, William and Kristin Johnston , Bonnie L Joselyn, Bernadine



Kabotoff, Kelly Kangas, Maureen Y Karges, Tom and Tina Karls, Karen Kaupang, Denise Kautto, Mary Kautto, Patty and Charles Kavanagh, Margaret

Keewatin 4th of July Committee Keewatin Sinclair **KEGO** Township Kelly, Daniel Keranen, Brenda and James Kimball Hunt, Kathy King, James Kinnunen, Thomas and Constance Kirwin, Kelly Klennert, Bill Kleven, Jerry Klingman, Kay and Ronald Klinker, Charles and Mary Alice Klinker, Robert and Doris K-M Corner Store **Knoble Family Trust** Knolls, Sandi Knuckleheads LLC Komulainen, Patti Kongsjord, Ray and Diane Kooda, Karen Kortekaas, Bert Kosak, Corey Kosak, Mary Kriesel, Kevin Krook, Mike & Peggy Kruse, Jennifer and Ryan Kula, Michael and Alison Kuzlik, Dan



L&M Supply LaFond, David and Kathryn Lake Country Power, Mountain Iron L'Amie, Ron and Deborah Lange, David Langford, Chris LaPlant, Chuck and Rita LaPlant, Becky LaReau, Kim Larson, Bruce and Bette Larson, Tim and Diane Lathrop, Lois Latimer, Jane Lavalier, Stephen and Kathryn Layer, Debra Layman, Sandy Lee, David and Jodi Lee, Kathy E. Lentz, Michael and Martha Lewis, Anne and Nord, Peter Ley, Don and Sandra Lick, David and Susan Liebe, Michael and Carolyn

Lien, Becky Lillesve, Karen M. Linnell, Lisa Loggy Dome Fund Long, Norma J Loomis, Rebecca and Steve Ewens Lowry, Cotty and Laurie Jacobi Lucachick, Todd and Karen Lue, Mary C Luedke, Cindy J. Luoma, Bette and Michael Luoma, Jim Lynch, Chris and Susan Lyon, John and Theodora



Maas, Greg and Lynette MacAlpine, Kent and Judy MacNeil, Janet Malley, Craig R. Margo, Cynthia and Dr. Daniel Mark's Bar Marshall, Bill and Margaret Marshall, David and Laurie Marshall, Virginia Martin, Darcy Marty, David and Sharon Mathre, Amy and Paul Hedman Matteson, Del and Jessi Matteson, Shawn, Kristi and Duncan Matteson, Terry and Muggs Mattson, Susan McCabe, Patrick McDermott, Peter and Charlotte McDonald, Heather McGinnis, Bryan and Karin McGregor Ace Hardware McGuire, Tracy Lessman McMahon, Jack and Mary Margaret Medure, Patrick and Donna Melin, Jean and Steven Members Cooperative Credit Union Menozzi, Lynne R Merrild, Sonja Merry, Frank Meyer, Isaac Midwest Manufacturing & Mechanical, Inc Mikkelson, Irene Miland, Janice Miller, Kathleen J Miller, Kathy and Charles MIller, Thomas and Patricia Miltich, Loree



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Olson, Audra Olson, Kenneth R. Olson, Winifred Ophoven, Jerry and Molli Ormand, Thomas and Jolene Osell, Don Ostrander, Scott



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Second Harvest Food Bank Pop-Up Pantry



Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation Open House



Nashwauk Area Community Fund donation to N-K Library



K. Roger Betz Vocational School Scholarship



Deer River Area Community Fund donation to Music Boosters Fund



2021 Scholarship Recipient

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Schmid, William and Keller Jean Schmidt, Ed and Rose Schneider, Bud and Therese Schulze, E W Schwabenlander, Marc Schwindeman, Allison Schwindeman, James Scott, Lorraine and James Second Wind Harmonica Band Secter, Emily Security State Bank Sejnoha, Ruth Shaw Florists Sherman, Charlie and Judy Shevich, Wendy Shoaff, Victor Shockency, Gene A Showen, Debra Sigfrinius, Mary Simons, Chad and Dana Skelly, Tim and Barb Skelly, Tim and Diane Skelton, Josh and Maggie Smith, Bob and Marney Smith, Darcy A Smith, Gwenn Smith, Jim and Nancy Snustad, Mary and Jerry Sobolik, Grace Solberg, Loren and Joan Sondrol, Jackie Soucek, Donita Sparks, Curtis and Julianne Spartan Fitness Inc Sprague, Liz Spry, Brianna and Andy St. Joseph's Catholic Church Stachnik, James and Sharon Stanley, Cynthia and Christopher Stanley, Marilyn Greta Star of the North Lions Starr, Lee H. Staydohar, Lori Stephens, Teresa Steve, James and Dana Streufert, Mary and Don Stricker, Jessica M Stricker, Kim Mikkelson Sumner, Kirk Swedean, Hildy Swedean, Richard and Joyce Sweet, Christy Ann



Tammi, Mindy and Travis Tarbuck, Lynda Tennison, Gina Tennison, Linnea Terrana, Dante The Clinton Family Fund The Craft House The Evergreen Foundation The Saloon Theisen Vending Company Thompson, Brent Thompson, Christopher and Korbi Thompson, Russell and Betty Thousand Lakes Chapter of DWF **Tidholm Productions** Tinquist, Karen Tobeck, Justin and Angela Tok, Robert and Karen Tommerdahl, Travis Toven, Michelle Town of Lima Tribby, Dale Tuorila, Dr James R Turner, Sheryl Tweed, Susan



Ukura's Big Dollar Store Ulland, Paul and Judy Underhill, Bob Up North Riders, Inc. UPM Blandin Paper Company



Valmet Van Den Heuvel, Rochelle VanHandel, Joe Vaughn, Wayne and Linda Veit, Barb and Doug Venema, Casey and Kim Vergin, Mary Voigt, Elizabeth and Norman Vonbusch, Laura G



Wagner, Chip and Nancy Waaner, Joe Waisanen, Naomi Ward, Carolyn Washburn, Charlene Watson, Rebecca T Weber, Cindy & Mark Weber, Terry and Diane Weiss, Father Jerry Welch, Sandi Pittack Westberg, Susan and Daniel Wheelock, Gary and Lynn White Earth Tribal Council White, Cyrus White, Mark and Michelle Wickman, Robert and Virginia Wilcox, Noah and Julie Wilcox, Steven and Vickie Rasmussen Wiley's Marine Wilkus, Kathryn L Will, Kathryn Arleen Williams, Mary Prax Williams, Susan K Wingate, Laura Winkler, Carey Winkler, Judith C Wirtz, Erin and Steve Wojciak, Barbara J Woodland Bank



Yaggie, Elaine and Charles Yee, Lucy Yellowstone Log Homes of McGregor



Zappia, John and Ann Zorbaz On the Lake - Grand Rapids Zorbaz on the Lake - McGregor Zwonitzer, Ron and Nancy

## **THANK YOU!**

"Here at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation, 2021 was a year of growth. New faces on the board of directors and staff; eighteen new funds; new policies and practices; and a new-found commitment to support our community's philanthropic efforts.

Thank you for being along for the ride. We appreciate the donors, volunteers, grantees and friends we have made along the way. It's your community. Your foundation." Warmly, Susan Lynch, Executive Director

The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation has been connecting donors' charitable intentions to community needs for over 25 years. For more information or to donate, visit our website at www.gracf.org or schedule a visit by calling (218) 999-9100.



**From the staff** Mindy Nuhring, Chief Development Officer Susan Lynch, Executive Director Brianna Spry, Program Administrator Rhonda Cash, Office Manager



**350 NW 1st Avenue, Suite E** Grand Rapids, MN 55744 218.999.9100 www.gracf.org info@gracf.org



Excellence. Accountability. Impact."