



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

GRAND RAPIDS AREA

FALL 2023

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation News



Reif Establishes Art for All Fund at Foundation

The Reif Center draws annual audiences of 25,000+ each year for live arts events, but an even bigger impact can be found through The Reif's education and outreach efforts. The "Art For All" Fund was established to reduce or remove financial barriers related to participation in dance, theater, music, and film classes at the Reif Performing Arts Center.

This fund also supports daytime, bus-in field trips for regional school students to experience live arts events at The Reif. Furthermore, it provides access to live performances for community seniors in assisted care and other settings, persons of different abilities, and for those with low to moderate household income. Shantel Dow, Reif Executive Director, says, "The arts are for everyone to enjoy, regardless of age, socioeconomic status, or any other factors that may inhibit one's involvement. We are proud to partner with GRACF and their amazing network of generous donors to help bring live arts and arts education opportunities to all persons in our region."

Thank you to those who have already donated to this fund! For those interested in helping, please mail or drop off donations to the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation or donate online www.gracf.org.



\$50,000 Matching Grant for Great Tails Animal Rescue Building Fund still open Until November 30, 2023!

Great Tails Animal Rescue, a nonprofit organization in the Itasca County Area with the mission of providing temporary shelter and veterinary care for stray, abandoned, and surrendered animals of Itasca County, received a challenge grant for their building fund this summer. An anonymous donor will match donations up to \$50,000 for Great Tail's Building Fund from August 15, 2023, through November 30, 2023.

Great Tails has raised over \$1,148,000 between matching challenges, private donors, and donations from our community members and businesses. The estimated cost for completion of the building is \$2.3-2.5 million dollars. This summer Great Tails started their capital campaign to secure the remaining funds to start their building with a proposed ground-breaking in spring of 2024. If needed, the building will be built in phases.

Lacey Paulley, Great Tails Board Member, says, "Great Tails has several fundraising events coming up this fall. Please check out our Great Tails Animal Rescue Facebook page for more information on those events!"

Every animal that Great Tails saves is a life transformed, and you can help the Great Tails Animal Rescue mission by donating to their building fund and joining them in making the world a better place for animals...one rescue at a time. Remember, donations can be matched through November 30, 2023! There is still a way to go to hit the \$50,000.

You can donate online at www.gracf.org/donate and search for Great Tails Animal Rescue Building Fund or mail or drop off a check to GRACF at 350 NW 1st Avenue, Suite E, Grand Rapids.



Proposed Building Drawing



NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS

~ MARGARET MEAD

Leaving a Legacy: Why Planned Giving Matters

One of the things that makes the Greater Itasca Area stand out in the world is the amount of community members who are willing to donate their time and money to improve the quality of life in this area. It is extraordinary.

When considering our impact on the world, it's only natural to wonder how we can leave a lasting legacy that continues to make a positive difference long after we're gone. One powerful way to achieve this is by leaving a planned gift to a charity. By including philanthropy in our estate plans, we can create a ripple effect of change, support causes close to our hearts, and leave behind a legacy that truly matters. Here are some compelling reasons why leaving a planned gift is an extraordinary act of generosity and why leaving a planned gift to the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation Fund will allow the Community Foundation to keep serving the Greater Itasca Area into the future.

- 1. Perpetuating Your Values and Passions:** By making a planned gift, you have the opportunity to perpetuate the values and passions that define who you are. It allows you to support causes or organizations that have profoundly touched your life or have made a significant impact on society. Whether it's helping those in crisis, promoting education, supporting the arts, or conserving the environment, planned giving ensures that your core values continue to shape the world for generations to come.
- 2. Creating Meaningful Impact:** A planned gift to the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation has the potential to create a significant and lasting impact on the community and causes you care about. It provides stable and long-term funding for the Foundation that can fuel transformative initiatives, create scholarships, establish endowments, or sustain critical programs. By choosing to leave a planned gift, you become a catalyst for change, enabling the Community Foundation to expand its reach and address community challenges with greater efficacy.
- 3. Leaving a Legacy:** Leaving a planned gift is an opportunity to leave behind a meaningful and enduring legacy. It allows you to make a mark on the world, ensuring that your values and philanthropic vision continue to shape the future. Your planned gift can serve as an inspiration for others to follow, encouraging them to consider their own charitable legacies. By leaving a legacy of generosity, you empower others to make a difference and contribute to the greater good.
- 4. Tax Benefits and Financial Advantages:** Planned giving offers various tax benefits and financial advantages that can enhance your overall estate planning strategy. Depending on your jurisdiction, your planned gift may qualify for significant tax deductions, providing potential savings for you and your heirs. Consulting with financial advisors and experts in charitable giving can help you navigate the complexities and identify the most advantageous strategies for your specific circumstances.
- 5. Personal Fulfillment and Satisfaction:** The act of leaving a planned gift can bring immense personal fulfillment and satisfaction. Knowing that you are making a lasting impact and positively influencing the lives of others in your community can be deeply rewarding. Planned giving allows you to align your personal values with your financial resources, enabling you to make a meaningful difference even beyond your lifetime. This sense of purpose and fulfillment can bring immeasurable joy and contentment to your life.
- 6. Recognition and Gratitude:** The Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation express their appreciation for planned gift donors by offering recognition and gratitude. They may provide opportunities for naming scholarships, buildings, programs, or endowments in honor of the donor or their loved ones. This recognition serves as a testament to your generosity and can inspire others to follow in your footsteps.

Leaving a planned gift is an extraordinary act that transcends time and creates a profound impact on the Greater Itasca Area. It allows you to perpetuate your values, make a meaningful difference, leave a lasting legacy, and experience personal fulfillment. By considering planned giving as part of your estate planning, you can contribute to the causes you hold dear and ensure that the positive change you envision continues to shape the world for generations to come. Embrace the opportunity to create a lasting impact through planned giving and leave behind a legacy that truly matters.



MDI awards \$57,000 in scholarships to area students



Blake Davis, Arionna Doerr, Camey Kuck of Deer River High School and Alice Prtine of MDI



Samuel McKinney, Charlie Cullen, Marija Isaacs, Brittany Wohlsdorf of Northern Lights Community School (Keara Applebee, not pictured), and Mindy Nuhring of GRACF.

In 2023, MDI has awarded \$2,000 higher education scholarships to 26 graduating high school students across Minnesota, as well as donating an additional \$5,000 to area students through the Workforce Ready Scholarship program at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation.

The MDI scholarship program is for applicants between the ages of 18 and 21 who live in or near the communities the nonprofit manufacturer serves (Minneapolis, Hibbing, Grand Rapids and Cohasset). This is the most scholarships MDI has awarded since the founding of its scholarship program 11 years ago.

"MDI is deeply committed to supporting the communities where we live and work – and that includes investing in our youth," said Eric Black, president and CEO of MDI. "Our annual scholarship program opens the door to greater educational access and creates a pathway to success for future leaders in our communities. Congratulations to our recipients!"

The scholarship program is one of several MDI initiatives that help grow talent in the communities it serves. The organization's mission is to provide meaningful employment for people with disabilities, as nearly half of its employees have a disability. The Workforce Ready Scholarship program is intended for students who want to live and work in the Greater Itasca Area. It is also intended to grow the local workforce and help students pursue education that will increase their career opportunities and earning potential.

MDI is a leader in manufacturing custom plastic packaging solutions, production assembly and environmental services. With approximately half of its employees identifying as having a disability, MDI's mission is to offer inclusive employment and opportunities for people with disabilities. The organization is committed to improving workforce development by empowering employees through self-sufficiency, with a goal of positively impacting 2,500 lives by 2026.

MDI is a trusted Minnesota manufacturer and nonprofit social enterprise with the mission to provide employment opportunities and services for people with disabilities. We create high-quality plastic containers to ship, pack and store products, and offer unparalleled product assembly and packaging services for organizations across the country, from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies. By offering an inclusive workplace that allows employees to build confidence, independence and purpose, MDI's work results in dedicated employees and satisfied customers. To learn more, visit mdi.org.

If you would like more information regarding the Workforce Ready Scholarship and how you can help the local workforce, please contact the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation.

Help Support Mental Health Education by Donating to NAMI Scholarship

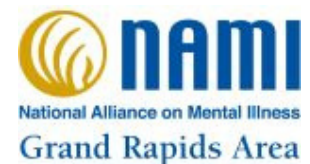
NAMI Grand Rapids Area is a local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This local chapter of NAMI was a grass roots organization that was started about 20 years ago by several area parents with young adult children with mental illness. NAMI Grand Rapids Area is a nonprofit whose mission is to provide support, education, and advocacy for children and adults with mental illness and their families.

Mental health issues have increased and become more apparent since the COVID-19 pandemic. NAMI Grand Rapids Area board members want to improve access to mental health providers. There has been a shortage of practitioners and professionals for several years and the mental health field needs more mental health practitioners. One way to help that need is to help students obtain the education needed to become a mental health professional.

To help with this, NAMI Grand Rapids Area developed a \$2000 scholarship for a student pursuing a Human Service Associate in Arts at MN College North Itasca Campus during the 2023-24 academic year. NAMI provided the money for this year's scholarship through partnership with the Grand Rapids Community Foundation and Itasca Community College Foundation. The 2023 recipient of the Mental Health Education Scholarship was Camryn Arola, a local graduate. They expect to add another scholarship next year.

Going forward, NAMI hopes to improve access to mental health treatment with continued collaboration and more scholarship funds for local students.

If you would like more information about NAMI Grand Rapids Area, you can email them at gr.mn.nami@gmail.com or call 218-999-7658. If you would like to help area students pursue education in a mental health career, you can donate to the Mental Health Education Fund at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation.



Camryn Arola, 2023 Scholarship Recipient

NEW FUNDS:

- Art for All Fund
- Community Foundation Impact Fund
- Healthy Financial Futures Program Fund
- Itasca Vintage Car Club Scholarship
- Mary Snustad Preschool Scholarship Fund
- Northern Star Cooperative Community Stewardship Fund
- Peter and Charlotte McDermott Fund



GARDEN GALA EVENT

Thank you to our Sponsors!!

- RBC Wealth Management
- Grand Rapids State Bank
- NoPo Kitchen
- Dave and Elena Cowan
- North DQ
- Park State Bank
- Clifton Larson Allen
- Dermatology Professionals
- Jamie Brown
- Mangseth Painting
- North in Bloom
- Reif Center



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For more information or to donate, call
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