Dear Friends,

Being a part of community is not easy. It takes effort. Especially during difficult and challenging times. It is so easy for us at one time or another to look out for ourselves with little or no regard to what is happening around us. And yet, when we look out for the good of the whole, we inevitably help ourselves. This is at the core of community building—often taking the high road and contributing to the good of others—even people we don’t know.

We are so fortunate to work with so many selfless individuals, families and generous local businesses who put the needs of others and their communities ahead of themselves. For some, it is through sharing financial resources, and for others it is sharing expertise or time. For still others, it is sharing a talent or gift they have been given. What the common denominator is they are willing to forego certain personal benefit or pleasure to make their community a little bit better off for EVERYONE.

As we begin 2022 and assess what we learned during these challenging times of 2020-21, let us remember with grace the importance of coming together for the good of the whole. We can disagree but not be disagreeable. We can challenge one another but not see each other as enemies. We can have different thoughts and opinions but still believe in strengthening our communities.

So much good has happened thanks to our generous donors and wonderful nonprofit partners. This report is a brief glimpse into what we learned and accomplished together during FY 2020-21.

Thank you for YOUR generosity and selfless sharing with others. Thanks to YOU, our communities are better for all.

With gratitude and looking forward to the coming New Year,

John Herges • Board Chair

Steve Joul • President & CEO
Better Together
CommunityGiving is a group of community foundations working collaboratively together. By sharing resources, each local foundation is able to operate more efficiently and focus on local philanthropy, needs and donors.

Benefits of being a partner of CommunityGiving:

- Shared education and understanding of community foundations and their potential to impact local communities.
- Shared marketing, technology, human resources and financial services including shared investment pools and investment oversight.
- Support of a twenty person team to assist donors, nonprofits and professional advisors as they make charitable gifts, receive grants and help their clients with their philanthropic goals.

Our Year at a Glance
As of June 30, 2021

- 906 Total Funds
- $201M Total Assets
- $24.9M Total Contributions
- 2,238 Total Donors
- $15.4M Grant $s Distributed 2020-2021

- 26.71% of all grants awarded stay in Minnesota
- 86.8%

- Animals • $48,755
- Arts & Culture • $523,054
- Civic Affairs • $923,727
- Diversity • $84,833
- Education • $1,914,412
- Health • $1,645,018
- Human Services • $2,803,709
- Religious/Ministry • $2,755,963
- Scholarships • $203,225
- Youth • $4,118,812
- Miscellaneous • $398,728
Ruth McDonald: A Lasting Legacy

At the AACF, you will hear the name Ruth McDonald. Ruth was a public health nurse who moved to Alexandria and fell in love with the community. Ruth chose to leave a lasting legacy by setting up a fund with the AACF to support health programming and families living in poverty.

At the direction of Ruth through her fund, every year the foundation hosts a grant round and awards grants to local organizations that support the causes Ruth cared about most. In 2020 grants were awarded to Central Minnesota Elder Network for their iPad Technology Program to expand and enhance outreach efforts for seniors; Life Connections & Love INC. for their Kicking Butts, smoking cessation program and the Alexandria Education Foundation to help fund their Meals with Care Fund for students in need (pictured above).

Ruth is also remembered through our annual award in philanthropy which is named after her. The award recipients for 2020 (but recognized in 2021) were Vern & Judy Anderson and Jeanne Batesole. We recognize and honor these community members who have given so much to their community, just as Ruth did! To watch the legacy videos of our award recipients, scan the QR code to the right.

To learn more about the work of the AACF, visit www.communitygiving.org/AACF.
Community Connector

We honored some amazing individuals with Legacy Hero award recognition at our annual dinner. These recipients are great examples and inspiration of how generous people can change lives and communities through philanthropy. Some of these legacy gifts supported projects such as:

- providing meals and sending underserved kids to camp
- introducing high-school students to the construction trades
- helped create a community garden and horticulture and cooking trades opportunity
- supported a program to help welcome new residents and encourage an increased workforce

BLACF is proud to be a community connector and to help match donors with identified community needs. When partnering with BLACF, charitable dollars are, in essence, multiplied because of following the increasingly popular, “buy local” philosophy, all while helping our neighbors in need and the nonprofits who work with them. We thank our donors who have charitable funds and those who have left a lasting legacy through planned gifts. We invite you to partner with us to help change lives and our community through philanthropy.

To learn more about the work of the BLACF, visit www.communitygiving.org/BLACF.
Building Connections Via Social Capital

Whether it’s volunteering at a local nonprofit or help a neighbor shovel their driveway, social capital is all around us. At the Central Minnesota Community Foundation, we believe that social capital is the glue that holds us together as a community. We are better together when we can build bridges with people from different backgrounds and create bonds with those who are similar.

During this past year, we’ve released our Social Capital Survey. Since 2004 we’ve conducted a survey to show how Central MN is doing in the areas of community engagement, building relationships, trust and health & wellness. These areas of social capital help measure our community’s strengths and weaknesses so we can plan to address needs of the present as well as needs of the future.

If you would like to learn more about social capital and how you can get involved, scan the QR code or visit communitygiving.org/socialcapital.

To learn more about the work of the CMCF, visit www.communitygiving.org/CMCF.
A Year of Growth

When asked where Carver County is, most Minnesotans probably wouldn’t be able to pick it out on the map (unless you mention that it's the home of Prince). But our quiet little county has earned a number of new titles in the last year including eighth healthiest county in the United States and our own Chanhassen was named “Best Place to Live in America.” It’s no wonder that with such a high quality of life, Carver County was the fastest growing county in Minnesota!

At the Community Foundation for Carver County, we are also growing and have had our own excitement in the last year. We welcomed Khai Tran as our new Executive Director and are very excited for dedicated staff to work with the community. We are eager to continue to build relationships throughout the county to connect our very strong philanthropic culture with our changing community needs.

To learn more about the work of the CFCC, visit www.communitygiving.org/CFCC.
Creating Pathways to Break Barriers

Barriers in relationships are caused by miscommunication and levels of understanding. By creating new pathways and inviting everyone to the table, you start cultivating relationships and take steps to build a stronger, healthier community.

The pandemic amplified barriers for new American neighbors within our community. The Willmar Area Community Foundation saw this persisting need and took action to help address these barriers.

With a grant from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, WACF partnered with United Community Action Partnership to create the Community Navigators program. This program supports Kandiyohi County’s diverse population of immigrants and new Americans via liaisons who assist in a multitude of arenas guiding our new neighbors to the services offered within our community. By having these valued specialists for our new American populations, it has created pathways and deepened understanding that contributes to the overall well-being of everyone. Hear more of the story by scanning the QR code.

To learn more about the work of the WACF, visit www.communitygiving.org/WACF.
The Paynesville Area Community Foundation’s Vocational Career and Training Center Fund is a growing endowment focused on preparing students for vocational and technical career fields. This fund has aided in the creation of the career and technical addition at Paynesville High School as well as the purchasing of various tools and equipment for hands on training.

The RACF Community Builder Fund provides funding for projects or initiatives that will build our communities by bringing about lasting, positive change to the ROCORI area. This fund has supported the Firefighters Splash Pad, Junior Achievement Program, ROCORI First Robotics and more.
In the summer of 2021, the Sauk Centre Area Community Foundation was excited to announce the grand opening of the Sauk Centre Obstacle Challenge Park. It is an obstacle course play space that is the 6th of its kind in the state and the very first to be located in central MN. The Foundation was proud to be a catalyst in this project and is excited to offer an alternative option for our youth and adults to be able to play together and promote overall wellness for all.
Community Giving

Contributions Since the Beginning of the Foundation in 1985

Community Giving donors are recognized for their cumulative lifetime gifts to the foundations that we serve. This includes gifts to the foundation and gifts to funds that are managed by the foundation. Their sustained giving is important to the overall mission and vision of our organization.

$5,000,000+
Anonymous (2)
Jim and Lois Anderson
William E.† and Virginia† Clemens
Alice Cox†
Nancy Ehlen
Norman C. Skalicky Foundation

$2,000,000+
Harold† and Jeanette† Anderson
Anonymous (3)
Bernick’s
Otto Bremer Foundation
Merle J. and Kathy Felling
Thomas† and Helen† Krebsbach
Jim† and Marion Miller
Marvin Otto†
Thomas Ritsche†
Joyce and Tom Schlough
Bob and Sandy† Sexton

$1,000,000+
Elaine M. Adams†
Anonymous (1)
Antioch Company
John and Nancy Bartlett
Sharon and Mike Bauerly
Mimi and Dick Bitzan
John† and Cindy Clemens
Charles Ehlen
Dr. Philip Halenbeck†
Leo T. Henkemeyer†
G.R. Herberger’s, Inc.
Andy† and Carol Hilger
Kevin and Teresa Hilger
Dr. Severin† and Ruth† Koop
Hope Lindman†
Leo and Luella Louis
Patrick Lynch
Gordon and Michelle Meyer
Morgan Family Foundation
Harlan and Jeraldene Palm
Tom and Theresa Ryan
Leander† and Mary Torborg
George† and Shirley† Torrey
John and Mary Weitzel
Dennis† and Karen Zaan

$500,000+
Anonymous (4)
Dorothy† and Norman† Barthel
Corey J. Bartlett
Dorothy Becker†
Kenneth and Alix Behm
Bush Foundation
Manlyn Covey Estate
Mark and Kimberly Doman
Roger and Betty Duininck
Catherine Gustafson†
Marion Jagielski†
Jennie-O Turkey Store, Inc.
Arnie and JoAnn Johnson
Reynold W.† and Eleanor D.† Larson
Evelyn Lenander†
Cheryl Lightle and Wade Skaja
Fred Nolan and Ellen Siewert
Park Industries
Jim and Denise Potter
Wayne and Juli Schluchter
St. Cloud Area School District 742
Robert Sullivan†
David and Darlene Thiessen
Phil Thometz Estate
Michael and Ann Tighe
Tony and Joyce Tillemans
Dennis Watkins†
Bob and Penny White
Dr. Joseph Zeleny†

$250,000+
Dean† and Gail Anderson
Irma Anderson†
James and Linnea† Anderson
Nathan and Erica Anderson
Anonymous (8)
The Antioch Charitable Foundation
Viola Ness Ausherman†
Banker Systems, Inc.
Tim and Kristel Barber
Bremer
Tim Chirhart and Jeanne Soleim
Kevin and Teresa Close
Bob Coborn
Joanne and Paul Dorsher
Wait† and Reanna Gislason
Glenn Metalcraft Inc.
Granite Partners
Barbara and Dennis Gregory
Janet and Tom Grones
Don and Arlene† Helgeson
Janet and Jim Knoblach
Mary and Bob Kevell
Mark and Kathleen† Krebsbach
Scott and Dorrie Larson
Leonore T. Mahowald†
Maryanne and John Mahowald
Ruth McDonald†
McKnight Foundation
Optimist Club of Saint Cloud
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RLD Enterprises
Bernie and Linda Roberts
Gordon Rosenmeier Trust
Michael and Laurie Sattler
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St. Cloud Rotary Foundation, Inc.
Bob† and Mary Stangler
John† and Mildred Sullivan
Mark and Ann Thelen
Bob and JoAnn Thueringer
Mark Traut
Tim Wensman and Janet Fischels
Wensman
Brad and Kathy Wheelock
Sheelah and Gene Windfeldt
Wolters Kluwer Financial Services

† Deceased

To view the entire Cumulative Giving List, visit www.communitygiving.org/cumulativegiving.
PARTNER FOUNDATIONS
Alexandria Area Community Foundation
Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation
Central Minnesota Community Foundation
Community Foundation for Carver County
Willmar Area Community Foundation

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CommunityGiving.org