Building connections in today’s world happens with a click of a mouse. It is not uncommon on social media today to have 500, 1000 or more “friends” or “connections.” Unfortunately, the challenge with all these “friends” and “connections” is that all too often these relationships are transactional in nature, lacking depth without truly knowing and understanding the other person. In a hyper-connected environment like today, building trust and relationships—the work of philanthropy and building community—is more challenging and truly more important than ever.

We are pleased to share with you the most recent Annual Report for CommunityGiving and our Partner Foundations. Every day we see glimmers of hope in the many donors and fund holders who aspire to impact their local communities. We are honored they have selected their LOCAL community foundation to be their partner. We are united across all the communities we serve in a fundamental belief that connections and relationships, the work of building community, matters.

The following pages highlight just a few of the stories of how this happens and illustrates philanthropy at work. The past fiscal year was another year of tremendous growth and impact. THANK YOU for being a part of it and for what you continue to do to BUILD COMMUNITY for all!

Sincerely,

Bruce Pohlig • Board Chair
Steve Joul • President & CEO

WHERE DID OUR GRANTS GO?

Animals • $36,815
Arts & Culture • $134,513
Civic Affairs • $595,581
Diversity • $39,000
Education • $2,886,542
Health • $1,111,510
Human Services • $3,556,319
Religious/Ministry • $2,140,047
Scholarships • $217,025
Youth • $2,424,290
Miscellaneous • $137,999

Our year at a glance

Philanthropy at work

Dear Friends,

As of June 30, 2019

Total funds
Total assets
Total contributions
Total grants awarded 2018-2019
Grant $s distributed 2018-2019
Total grants awarded in Minnesota
Donors • 575
Volunteers • 2,219

Donors • 575
Volunteers • 2,219
CommunityGiving unites the Alexandria, Brainerd, Carver County, Willmar, greater St. Cloud areas and beyond under a single framework to create efficiencies that maximize donors’ impact. This partnership is built on three core values: respect for the autonomy of each of the partners, a focus on economies of scale to achieve greater operating efficiencies and a willingness of all partners to collaborate with one another. CommunityGiving allows us to help donors achieve their charitable goals and ensure their legacies are remembered for generations to come. We envision a family of thriving communities that find inspiring ways to turn goodwill into great success stories.

2019 - 2020 BOARD
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Caryl Turnow  •  Executive Director of CMCF
Elise Wiener  •  Director of Finance and Investments
Holly Witt  •  Executive Director of AACF

ENGAGING PEOPLE. BUILDING COMMUNITY.

To learn more about the Alexandria Area Community Foundation including board members, staff, list of funds and more, visit www.communitygiving.org/AACF.

Partnership Brings a Housing Unit to Alexandria

By the spring of 2020 the new two unit townhome being built by the Alexandria HRA should be ready for families to move into. A partnership between Alexandria HRA and West Central MN Communities Action (WCMCA) called “Launch Pad” is a great example of how the private sector and public sector can work together to make a dream reality. The Alexandria Area Community Foundation (AACF) gave a $30,000 grant toward the project in 2019 through the Difference Maker grant round.

The Alexandria HRA is building the townhome and will serve as landlord. WCMCA will rent from HRA and will select the families to temporarily live in these homes. While families stay in the home, WCMCA will work closely with them to help with employment and housing long term. The purpose of these homes will be to provide a safe home and the resources and encouragement families need to be a “launch pad” into their future.

To learn more about the Alexandria Area Community Foundation including board members, staff, list of funds and more, visit www.communitygiving.org/AACF.
To learn more about the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation including board members, staff, list of funds and more, visit www.communitygiving.org/BLACF.

To learn more about the Central Minnesota Community Foundation including board members, staff, list of funds and more, visit www.communitygiving.org/CMCF.

True Community Builders

Jim and Linnea Anderson spent their careers building a business, building roads and building communities through volunteerism in their younger years and through philanthropy as they aged. Jim and Linnea owned Anderson Brothers Construction in Brainerd. Through their Donor Advised Fund with the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation (BLACF), they’ve supported a number of local organizations. Some of their favorite charities are The Shop, a teen drop in center; Kinship Partners, youth mentoring program; MN Teen Challenge, adult and teen treatment center; and New Pathways, assistance for homeless families.

In 2019, on what turned out to be her last community-building effort, Linnea, with Jim’s assistance, set up a fund called Linnea’s Helping Hands Fund. Linnea passed away only two days after the fund agreement was signed, but was able to identify the types of projects she wanted to support, including helping families and individuals in financial emergencies, disadvantaged youth and the arts. Linnea’s gifts and fund will be a legacy to her life, her giving heart, gentle spirit and generous nature.

An Unlikely Tool for Building Community

One of Central Minnesota Community Foundation’s (CMCF) best tools to build a strong community is a bus. The objective is to connect local donors with emerging needs. Three years ago CMCF, in partnership with United Way of Central Minnesota, started offering bi-annual “Get on the Bus” tours. Site visits are made to organizations that are combating some of the most pressing issues for the St. Cloud area. Participants learn and see for themselves what challenges the community faces and how nonprofits are working to address them. The event continues to build relationships and strengthen the connections that residents have to both CMCF and United Way as well as to their community as a whole.

Learning how these programs are supporting our community has been impactful for the bus attendees and garnered more support for the nonprofits doing this important work. The “Get on the Bus” tours continue to play a key role in how CMCF constructs a future that we can all be proud of.
In the fall of 2019, the Community Foundation for Carver County (CFCC) built community with their friends and neighbors in the town of Cologne by hosting a community gathering. The purpose of the event was to bring people together to learn and share with business owners, government officials, nonprofits and other citizens about the current happenings of the community. The Cologne Community Fund is a fund of the Community Foundation for Carver County. With the unique setting of the gathering, which was held at Modern Design Cabinetry, over 65 community members attended, learned and enjoyed an ice cream sundae.

Projects that have previously been supported by the Cologne Community Fund include the Benton Lake Garden, which was established to beautify the city of Cologne. Another project was the Benton Lake Conservancy, which was established to help restore the lake to its natural beauty, restock fish and install a fishing dock in Benton Lake.

To learn more about the Community Foundation for Carver County including board members, staff, list of funds and more, visit www.communitygiving.org/CFCC.

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Work around the Opportunity Gap continues to be a focus area for the Willmar Area Community Foundation (WACF), which refers to vast differences in opportunities available to poor and well-off children and families nationwide. Being a tool and resource for the Opportunity Gap brought the idea of having a competition to help expand and grow local nonprofit programs in relation to helping our kids succeed.

WACF invited four area initiatives to create 60 second videos to highlight their program and participate in a social media contest. With almost 500 votes cast online, two finalists, Miles 4 Mentors and the Kandiyohi County Area Family YMCA Youth Feeding Program, were presented and voted on live by 300 guests at the WACF Awards in Philanthropy celebration. The runner-up was Miles 4 Mentors which engages and enriches kids’ lives through sports. The grand prize winner was the YMCA Youth Feeding Program which works to provide safe and caring communities for our children. WACF was ecstatic with how the competition went, not only in building awareness for the Opportunity Gap, but also for our local partners.

To learn more about the Willmar Area Community Foundation including board members, staff, list of funds and more, visit www.communitygiving.org/WACF.
Paynesville is a rural community that thrives on agricultural, manufacturing and trade businesses. In the past decade, there has been a decrease in the number of students going into these professions. Understanding the importance of these professions, Paynesville Area Community Foundation (PACF) took the initiative to build a better future for the community.

The PACF partnered with the school district and other local businesses to establish the Paynesville Vocational and Career Training Fund. The Paynesville Area School purchased new automotive repair equipment, formed the first robotics team of the district and added over a dozen high school courses to the curriculum.

Building a Brighter Future

The Community Gardens was among one of the recipients of the 2019 ROCORI Area Community Foundation (RACF) Community Builder Fund grant round. They used the grant funds to purchase a permanent underground water source for the gardens. They make gardening available to community members of all ages, which helps provide fresh fruits and vegetables to the community as well as educating children on healthy dietary habits. With the help of the RACF, the Community Gardens are building a brighter future for everyone in the community. To this date, the RACF Community Builder Fund has been able to provide over $50,000 to local programs, projects and needs in the community.

From the Ground Up

Youth remain at the forefront of the Sauk Centre community and the Sauk Centre Area Community Foundation (SCACF). One of the fastest growing amenities in outdoor recreation are obstacle courses and "ninja warrior" playscapes. Designed to engage upper elementary children, teenagers and families together, it is a perfect way to encourage multi-generational fitness and outdoor recreation.

Together with Community Connections of Sauk Centre, the SCACF committed a matching grant of $25,000 to make the Sauk Centre Obstacle Fitness Challenge Park a reality for the community. The community is nearing the finish line on reaching that $50,000 match and making this park a reality.
Contributions Since the Beginning of the Foundation in 1985

CommunityGiving 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
Jack and Jackie Lotsch
Mary and Bruce Logan
Morgan Family Foundation

Gayle and Vincent Pahl
Sam and Sally McFadden
Scott and Maryann Mckinney

$1,000,000+
Anonymous
Antioch Company

Merle J. and Kathy Felling

$500,000+
Anonymous


$250,000+
Dean and Gail Anderson


$100,000+
Keith Adams
Kathleen E. Allen
James and Linnea Anderson
Lee and Penny Anderson/API Group, Inc.
Nathan and Erica Anderson
Anderson Trucking Service, Inc.
Ruby Anderson Trust
Anonymous (5)
Ginny and Virginia Arvig
Eliane and Jerry Bauder
Rick and Helga Bauder
Paul Becker and Martha Heymans-Beekler
Myron and Myra Bohl
Tim and Ann Begin
Kason J. and Dr. Jen Bemick
Kathleen Crawford Bemick and Mark Bemick
Tim and Sharon Berscheid
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation
Joan Brien and Steve Nelson
Adelle Burris
Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, Inc.
CentraCare Health
Central Minnesota Noon Optimist Club, Inc.
Tim Chinhart and Jeanne Solem
City of St. Cloud
City of Willmar
Kevan and Terry St направите

$2,000,000+
250,000+
Anonymous

CommunityGiving.org/cumulativegiving.
GRANTS
The “Impact Drill” of Your Community Foundation

NEWCOMERS CLUB
Through the Brainerd Lakes Area Grant Round, $3,000 was awarded to support the Newcomers Club whose purpose is to help new residents feel more welcome in the community thus supporting BLACF’s focus area of developing, attracting and retaining a quality workforce for the community.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB YOUTH ARTS INITIATIVE
The Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota received a $5,500 grant from the Central Minnesota Arts grant round. The grant will support programming that includes visual arts, sewing, digital video and music production and dance.

WEST STEARNS CEO
The West Stearns CEO program is a collaboration between the Sauk Centre, Melrose and Albany school districts to offer students the opportunity to learn what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur. The Sauk Centre Area Community Foundation granted $5,000 to support this program in its first year.

GIRLS WHO CODE
The Girls Who Code program at the Shop received a $5,000 grant from the Brainerd Lakes Women’s Fund. The Girls Who Code program aims to support and increase the number of women in computer science.

CYBER SENIORS
The Dethlefs Community Center in Spicer received a $5,000 grant from the Willmar Area Community Foundation for their Cyber Seniors Mentoring project. The project connects seniors with area high school students to help improve the senior’s use of technology and social media to help reduce isolation and increase their world experience.

NLSAF
Firefighters for the City of New London were awarded a $3,500 grant from the New London-Spicer Area Fund to help equip new firefighters with structural firefighting personal protective equipment.