We are all so excited to see that we are slowly moving forward beyond the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite all the challenges, we are pleased to report to you the activities of CommunityGiving’s Partner foundations and the incredible generosity of donors in the communities we served over the past year.

This was a year of responding. Responding to the needs of individuals and nonprofit organizations on the front lines, supporting our communities. We established Response Funds for each community, and collected almost $1 million in donations and distributed over $800,000 in grants.

This was a year of creativity and innovation. We pivoted from doing business as usual. We learned how to work remotely and connect across our communities using Zoom. Our community foundation partners discovered ways not only to conduct day-to-day business remotely but learned how to engage their communities virtually. We created a webinar series called CommunityConnections as a way to stay connected with our communities on important community topics.

This was a year for self-reflection. The murder of George Floyd, last summer, reminded us of the inequalities across our communities and the important work we need to do as individuals, organizations and communities to address the systemic issues of racism and its impact on our communities. We expanded our webinar series to focus on the role of race and the important need to have a racial equity lens in all our work.

This was a year of generosity. Despite the challenges of Covid, many donors added to their funds and new funds were created. Almost $17 million in contributions were received; and collectively the partner foundations and our donors granted out over $14 million.

This was a year with call-to-action. With deep divisions across our communities from the pandemic, politics, and economic and racial inequalities, we were reminded of the need to double down on “Creating Pathways...and Building Community.”

Truly it has been a memorable year. The path forward has been made easier, though, thanks to your generosity and the generosity of many who believe in supporting their local community. At CommunityGiving we are honored to assist and support those who care.

Sincerely,

Bruce Pohlig • Board Chair
Steve Joul • President & CEO

Thank you!

To all donors who supported the Response Funds during this past year.
Response Fund Grant Impact Areas

CommunityGiving and our partner foundations provided 189 grants to 501c3 nonprofit organizations, schools and governmental entities as they addressed the impact of COVID-19 on family, friends and neighbors. The chart below provides an overview of areas that were impacted and supported by funding.

Note: Grants funded a variety of initiatives and may fall under more than one impact area; therefore the percentage does not add up to 100 percent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basics Needs/Food</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPE</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Technology</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Services</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit Operation Support</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business Support</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Basics Needs/Food** — Response fund grants were given to organizations that provide basic needs such as food and clothing as well as serving victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** — PPE, cleaning supplies and sanitizers for essential workers, volunteers and critical organizations in need.

**Youth** — Grants supported programming and education to continue for young people across our communities.

**Access to Technology** — Providing access to technology for youth to continue education and those in need, as many services switched to online, as well as supporting social connections for elderly.

**Housing** — Grants to provide emergency financial support to secure housing for those experiencing homelessness and/or housing insecurity.

**Elderly** — Response fund grants supporting programs that ensured elderly had access to food, services and social connections during the pandemic.

**Mental Health Services** — Providing support to those experiencing isolation including access to technology, telehealth and support for seniors.

**Nonprofit Operation Support** — During the pandemic, nonprofits had to revamp how they provided services, continue operations and safely support those in need. Some had to shut their doors for months on end. Some were essential and had to switch gears overnight. These grants supported nonprofits in a number of ways including for operational and staffing support.

**Childcare** — When the stay-at-home order went into effect, many families across the state were put into situations of uncertainty regarding care for their children. Some kept their children home while essential workers had to maneuver finding care for their family while continuing to serve those in need. Response fund grants were provided to organizations that stepped into the role of providing care, as well as to intermediaries who distributed funds to in-home providers who had to purchase PPE and take health precautions.

**Small Business Support** — Response Fund grants provided support to intermediaries who distributed support to small local businesses who needed help with PPE, technical assistance and access to government support programs.
We awarded grants in the areas of PPE/supplies, mental health/telehealth, childcare assistance and technology/social connectedness, but the majority supported basic needs such as food, shelter and emergency needs. Our hope is that the grants we awarded helped nonprofits create pathways of service to their clients and helped build and strengthen our community.

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

Thank you for having such an indispensable and essential impact on the lives of some of Minnesota’s most disadvantaged persons during this particularly difficult time. This help is greatly appreciated.

~ ANNE M. HOEFGE, Executive Director of the Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota
A Collaborative Effort

When the triple crises of a pandemic, recession and race relations hit our country and communities in 2020, BLACF joined with local community leaders to collaborate and coordinate responses and activities.

We partnered with other local funders, sharing information on activities, funding and hearing from nonprofit providers on the increased demand for services, food or supports. This collaboration reduced duplication of funding and filled current gaps to help our neighbors in need. In our case, we created the Brainerd Lakes Area Response Fund (BLARF) and raised over $100,000, including a collaborative effort among financial institutions, for grants to address needs.

In April, a group of community leaders from Brainerd area businesses, health care, government, media, nonprofits and philanthropy (our role), met regularly to hear from our health care providers about COVID-19 and the government response. Again, this led to effective partnering, collaborating and grants from the BLACF to strengthen our community and provide aid to those impacted by the pandemic.

Years from now what will we remember from this past year when our world virtually shut down? I will remember how we rose up to support each other and asked, how can we help? Together, as a community we united and met immediate needs to take care of our community members and neighbors.

~ SHANE RIFFLE, CEO, YMCA

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

Other collaborative efforts BLACF organized and took part in were State of the Lakes, for the Gull Lake and Whitefish Chain residents and seasonal visitors, informing them of activities and services available in our community. We joined with other funders to hold Lunch ‘n Learn webinars for nonprofits on facing the challenge COVID presented. We held estate planning and year-end giving workshops for professional advisors and potential donors in partnership with area law and CPA firms.
Supporting The Most Vulnerable

The CFCC Response Fund has made significant grants aimed at helping nonprofit work severely impacted by the pandemic. The CFCC has granted over $46,000 to support local nonprofit work impacted by COVID-19 with a Response Fund it established.

One example of the work supported through the Response Fund is that of MRCI, which employs handicapped adults. Their ability to provide support to their disabled clients has been greatly impacted because their funding has been so negatively affected to the extent they had to furlough or lay off many employees. This results in our disabled community having few employment options available to them. Businesses that had employed these disabled adults are suffering the economic challenges of the pandemic and don’t have the same ability to employ these people.

I am so thankful for the support I received from the organization. The support group meetings helped me gain enough courage and support to be able to follow through with selling my house and getting out of a toxic relationship. This group has helped me tremendously and I am very thankful that they are available to help those of us that have nowhere else to go and understand.

~ CLIENT, Local non-profit

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

In times of disaster, generous donors provide resources to support those in need and this has truly been evident in our community over this past year. Together we raised more than $268,000 to distribute 58 grants to 45 local nonprofits. These grants were provided through the Central Minnesota Community Foundation’s (CMCF) Response and Recovery Funds. Dollars raised went toward a variety of community needs including financial recovery, healthcare, childcare, food assistance and others.

So many times when disaster strikes, those who already deal with disparity find that the divide grows even wider. Many nonprofits focused their efforts on those growing and sometimes unique challenges. At CMCF, our Response and Recovery Funds were distributed to help in these efforts. Beyond the broader categories, grants helped support those with disabilities, mental health initiatives, youth education programs as well as creating marketing materials for non-English speaking individuals, so they could stay informed with the latest COVID-19 information.

Within CMCF, the Foley Area Community Foundation, also helped provide grant dollars to support COVID-19 relief. A total of $2,000 was granted to the C.A.R.E — Community Action Respecting Elders — organization. All funds went to support their senior food program.

We have delivered hundreds of hot meals to our seniors and increased the COVID-19 health and safety awareness in our community. Our seniors thank you, our community thanks you, and we thank you!

— MOHAYADIN MOHAMED, President of the Islamic Center of St. Cloud

We believe that all of the work that has been done, along with the support that has been provided, wouldn’t be possible without a community of people looking to rise up and lend a hand to those who needed it the most. We sincerely thank our donors, nonprofit partners and community as a whole for their support.
As the COVID-19 pandemic started to spread across our nation in March, the Willmar Area Community Foundation (WACF) established the COVID-19 Leadership Team. This team is made up of local social service and civic organizational leaders across our community, convened weekly, to bring forth opportunities to develop, assist and collaborate in services to address unmet needs that have become evident as the pandemic continues to impact the Willmar area.

Projects and partnerships that came to fruition from the COVID-19 Leadership Team include the YMCA Feeding Program, Carris Health Conversation Line for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities, telehealth opportunities, mental health and homeless support groups, collective and inclusive positive community messaging and information regarding the coronavirus, a COVID-19 navigator that creates pathways to connect needs with resources for families across Kandiyohi County, and personal protective equipment supplies across the Willmar Lakes Area.

Not only did programs come into existence from the leadership team, but it has also allowed for new connections and resources, in addition to enhancing partner relationships.

The Willmar Area Community Foundation thought outside the box to put this COVID-19 Leadership Team together, really thought about what the community needs are, and who should be included to help.

— ALANA ZIEHL, Executive Director, Kandiyohi County Food Shelf

# of Grants from WACF Response Fund

$158,500

Dollars granted out of the WACF Response Fund

We would like to thank not only the COVID-19 Leadership Team, but Kandiyohi County as a whole for showing the power of community and stepping up to the plate to help create new pathways to support and build our community in times of crisis.
Caring for Youth and Elders

During this past year, the Paynesville Area Community Foundation (PACF) has focused many of its efforts on supporting one of the most vulnerable populations, elder adults, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the Paynesville Area Response Fund, two grants were awarded, totaling $5,000, to help provide meals to seniors in the community. These meals were allocated during the heart of the pandemic, where many elderly people often didn’t leave their homes. The Meals on Wheels program, as well as the ROSE (Reaching Out to Seniors Effectively) Center in Paynesville provided the meals.

The Paynesville Area School District also received assistance through the Response Fund, to help get funding for a Student Engagement Liaison. This position helps students get reacclimated to all aspects of in-person learning and general student life. The district received a grant of $3,000 to help create the position.

PACF would like to thank the community for its support during the pandemic.

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The Partnering of Three Communities

The ROCORI Area Community Foundation (RACF) provided assistance to Richmond, Rockville and Cold Spring during the COVID-19 pandemic. RACF prioritized funding to assist with child care. Dei Spring Academy and Child Care Center received a $3,000 grant. Funding of $3,000 was also provided to both the ROCORI Area Food Shelf and ROCORI Senior Center to help with programming.

Grants were also given to support local businesses. The cities of Richmond, Rockville and Cold Spring worked with RACF through their Economic Development Authority or Civic and Commerce division to obtain grants to help fund outdoor seating infrastructure for restaurants. Just under $4,000 was granted to support area restaurants. These grants were used to help make outdoor seating more inviting for the community.

During the pandemic the ROCORI Area Community Foundation reminds us all what it means to truly, “be in this together.”

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**OUR RESPONSE IMPACT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong># OF GRANTS FROM</strong></th>
<th><strong>DOLLARS GRANTED OUT OF</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PACF RESPONSE FUND</strong></td>
<td><strong>THE PACF RESPONSE FUND</strong></td>
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<td>$8,000</td>
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To learn more about the Paynesville Area Community Foundation including board members, staff, list of funds and more, visit www.communitygiving.org/PACF.

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**OUR RESPONSE IMPACT**

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong># OF GRANTS FROM</strong></th>
<th><strong>DOLLARS GRANTED OUT OF</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RACF RESPONSE FUND</strong></td>
<td><strong>THE RACF RESPONSE FUND</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>$12,541</td>
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</table>

To learn more about the ROCORI Area Community Foundation including board members, staff, list of funds and more, visit www.communitygiving.org/RACF.
Five Years of Creating Pathways

On November 19, 2020 the Sauk Centre Area Community Foundation (SCACF) celebrated their five year anniversary with a mission to facilitate philanthropy locally, make impactful grants, foster a sense of innovation and collaboration and contribute to a sense of community pride for those who call Sauk Centre home.

The SCACF continues to build pathways for their donors to help support reinvestment in the community through funds that support local non-profit organizations and fuel community efforts. Since inception, the foundation has made 57 grants totaling over $133,000 to 22 local non-profits and community organizations across Sauk Centre. Over the past half-decade, the foundation has been instrumental in the development and execution of several projects, including the community garden, the vision to build the upcoming fitness playground, aiding first responders and medical personnel as the local hospital became a COVID care facility and has supported the town’s business district in partnership with the Sauk Centre Chamber of Commerce. As of today, 38 local businesses have been awarded micro grants totaling over $30,000 to support relief and recovery due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We would like to thank all of the Sauk Centre community for their commitment to supporting new pathways that only continue to build our community for the better.

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.
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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