

FOR GOOD.
FOR EVER.
FOR EVERYONE.



CAPITAL REGION
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
2015 Annual Report

Welcome.

Whether you're a first-time reader or longstanding contributor to the Capital Region Community Foundation, we hope the stories in our annual report will inspire you to help us continue to improve the quality of life for everyone in mid-Michigan.

By giving through the Community Foundation and joining hundreds of other donors, your contribution will go far in addressing the most pressing needs and the most promising opportunities in our communities today ... and forever.

Won't you join us? Together, we're changing lives.



**The mission of the
Capital Region
Community
Foundation
is to serve the
charitable needs and
enhance the quality
of life in Ingham,
Eaton and Clinton
counties.**

**We serve and seek out
a wide range
of donors to build
permanent
endowments that
are used to meet
the changing needs
and interests of our
community.**

Contents

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Meet our donors

When you partner with CRCF, you are joining a family of donors united in their desire to strengthen our community.

In this annual report, we're pleased to introduce you to some of the people who are committed to making a difference in mid-Michigan. We hope they inspire you to do the same.

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Is an agency fund right for you?

Agency endowment funds are set up by nonprofits to grow their assets. Through their fund, their generous donors provide permanent sources of revenue for those organizations.

At the Community Foundation, we hold nearly 100 such funds for nonprofits working to benefit our community.

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The impact of the impact grant

Since 2009, the Capital Region Community Foundation has annually awarded \$75,000 to a mid-Michigan nonprofit to take on a program or project that will transform our community.

Take a look at some of the organizations that have received the grant and the good work they're doing with it.

online



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Follow us on Twitter

[@givelansing](https://twitter.com/givelansing)

on the cover

Photo by Eat Pomegranate Photography



The All Kids Playground in DeWitt benefits from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association's endowment fund.



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connect

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From our board chair

Our community is better for everyone because of the vision and generosity of our donors. Thank you.



In this annual report, I hope you will find the same inspiration I have found serving as chair of the Capital Region Community Foundation's board of trustees. I'm honored to be part of an organization that has distributed more than \$42 million in grants and scholarships since 1990.

That's a lot of impact.

Speaking of impact, in 2014 we were proud to produce and share a video highlighting "The Impact of Our Impact Grants." Read about the large gifts we've given annually since 2009, and find a link to watch the video highlighting some of the projects on Page 20.

The Community Foundation ended 2014 with a record \$83 million in assets, awarding more than \$3.3 million in grants and scholarships to benefit every corner of our community.

In 2014, we were proud to unveil our donor recognition wall. The beautiful wood and metal "forest" adorns the wall of the Armory's community room, where people can see the names of the people and organizations dedicated to the growth and prosperity of mid-Michigan forever. See what the wall looks like on Page 6.

If there is a cause you care about, I urge you to consider making a difference through the Capital Region Community Foundation. Together, we're changing lives.

Denise Schroeder
2014 Board of Trustees Chair

If your intended legacy is philanthropy for all time, we can help you with that.

Make a bequest or other planned gift to the Capital Region Community Foundation and you join our Legacy Society, a group of other like-minded individuals intent on ensuring a better future for our community.

Becoming a Legacy Society member is simple: include the Capital Region Community Foundation in your estate plan through your will or trust, or make a contribution via a charitable gift annuity, life insurance, retirement fund assets or a charitable remainder or lead trust.

Then, notify us of your plan so we can include you on our membership rolls. And you're done.

As beneficiary of your deferred gift, the Community Foundation is charged with

the trust and responsibility of carrying out your wishes. CRCF has a permanent commitment to recognize and address community needs and to take advantage of high-impact funding opportunities.

Your gift helps us achieve that.

Of course, we respect your wishes regarding privacy, too. You are welcome to remain anonymous in your giving. However, participation in the Legacy Society can be an inspirational experience and may motivate others.

Legacy Society members

The Arens Family
Sam M. and Mary E. Austin
Jim and Nancy Ballard
Paul J. Ballard
Jack E. and Margaret J. Bates
Doris H. Bauer
Robert and Jane Becker
John E. and Jewel T. Bos
Eleanor A. Doersam
David and Connie Donovan
Ronald and Sue Eggleston
Thomas S. Eveland
Dennis and Linda Fliehman
Betty Giuliani

Camron and Lisa Gnass
Michael and Deborah Harrison
C. Richard and Susan Herrold
Thomas E. and Lynne M. Hoffmeyer
Meegan Holland
Mark and Marcia Hooper
Beth M. Hubbell
Charley and LeaAnne Janssen
Robert Kolt and Sue Wagner
Paul and Evie McNamara
Thomas J. Messner
Charles and Helen P. Mickens
Betsy and Robin Miner-Swartz
Carol and Leon Monroe

Patricia K. Munshaw
Gerald L. Olson
Richard and Lorayne Otto
Nancy Passanante
Pamela A. Paul-Shaheen
Joe E. and Lori Pray
Frank H. and Patricia Reynolds
Jack and Peggy Roberts
Stuart D. Sleight
Kathleen M. Soltow
Heather Spielmaker
Peggy A. Parke and Denis W. Sullivan
Jesusa Vasquez and Gary Heilig
Raymond R. Ziarno



It's about community

We know you love your community.

We know you have ideas about how to make it even better.

We make it easy for you to do that.

Since 1987, the Capital Region Community Foundation has been growing a pool of philanthropic resources supported by thousands of donors and benefiting scores of charitable organizations dedicated to improving life in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties.

We are an independent, tax-exempt public charity managing a permanent pool of more than 400 charitable funds on behalf of thousands of donors.

And we need you.

When you give through the Capital Region Community Foundation, you join a network of others as committed to creating change as you are. Together we feed hungry families, fund nature centers, support refugee youth in their pursuit of a GED, protect our region's waterways, parks and trails, and much more.

Through the Capital Region Community Foundation, you can establish a fund or pool your donation with others to support local nonprofits and charities working in the arts, education, the environment, employment training, health care and other areas.

No gift is too small.

Our annual report highlights the exciting, innovative ways people are bringing about change in our community. Won't you please consider the many ways you, too, could make a difference?

We'd love to work with you.



Give just 5 percent of your estate and you'll change lives. Believe it.



In the next 25 years, people in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties will leave more than \$17 billion to their children, grandchildren and relatives through their estates.

And if everyone — including you — leaves just 5 percent to the community's endowment, we can change the future of the capital region.

Just 5 percent would result in \$879 million in charitable gifts over the next 25 years.

That's almost a billion dollars.

And that amount of money could yield almost \$44 million in grants for our community. Every year.

What could that mean for our community? So much. Consider the possibilities:

We could ensure that every child entering kindergarten is ready to learn and succeed.

We could support mental health services for everyone in need.

We could feed 12,000 hungry families for an entire year.

We could change the future of the capital region. We can't imagine a better return on investment than that.

5 percent for the future

In the capital region, the greatest wealth transfer likely will happen between

“I just want to leave the world a little better than I found it, and that’s my goal in life.”

— Armand Hammer



2015 and 2040. Much of this wealth is currently invested in family and vacation homes, retirement accounts and other appreciated assets — some of which may be heavily taxed if given to heirs.

When you give through the Community Foundation, you can establish a fund in your family’s name, in the name of a loved one or in the name of a cause important to you. Endowed funds last forever and grow over time. Earnings are used to make grants in the name of your fund — creating a legacy of giving in and for our community.

We have a plan for every major asset:

Estate plan: Create or update your estate plan to include a bequest to the Capital Region Community Foundation. Have your professional advisor use our giving guide to consider the full range of options available to you.

Life insurance policies: Designate the Capital Region Community Foundation (Tax ID Number 382776652) as a beneficiary.

Retirement accounts: An IRA, 401(k) or other retirement account may lose up to 70 percent of its value through taxes when passed to heirs. Calling your plan administrator to update your beneficiary

designation does not require modifying your estate plan.

Investments: Make a gift of cash, stocks or bonds. You may consider establishing a charitable annuity or trust today and receive income for life, while accomplishing your charitable goals for the future.

And, we can get creative, too. You may have other assets, such as real estate, to consider gifting or you may wish to combine the options above. Talk to us and to your professional advisors to learn about all your giving options and choose the one that’s right for you.

Watch our “Give Just 5%” video at www.vimeo.com/givelansing



“We are kids of the Depression, so we think carefully about what we want to spend money on. Now that we have money to give, we’ve chosen various community activities we feel are worthy of our support.”

— Mary Austin, Legacy Society member and donor

Sam and Mary Austin grew up on farms in Wisconsin. They made their way to East Lansing in 1965, when Sam was hired as an associate professor of physics at Michigan State.

“We didn’t plan to stay for a long time, but I guess we did,” Mary said, smiling.

In their 50 years in our community, the Austins have raised two daughters, had fulfilling careers at MSU (Sam is now a university distinguished professor; Mary is retired from academic advising) and found lots to love about their “adopted” home.

“It’s an easy place to live,” Sam said. “There’s a lot to do, we don’t mind the cold, and you don’t have the hassle of the big city.”

“We don’t have to travel for an hour to get to the theater or a concert,” Mary added. “I rather like the unpretentiousness of what is essentially a blue-collar, civil-service and university town. People here can lead a balanced life.”

As do the Austins.

They’ve traveled the world, sometimes for months at a time on sabbatical, and they love to explore. But they love to come home, too.

They generously support the causes they care about — namely, the Meridian Historical Village, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra and music and theater in general, including Peppermint Creek Theatre Company.

For the Austins, “support” goes well beyond giving annual gifts to nonprofits. They’ve established several

testamentary funds that will benefit their chosen organizations forever, and by doing so are members of the Community Foundation’s Legacy Society.

“We are so fortunate to have arts supporters such as Sam and Mary Austin in our community,” said Chad Swan-Badgero, founder of Peppermint Creek.

“As a small nonprofit theater company, Peppermint Creek relies heavily on donations from individual patrons. But the Austins are unique and valuable because they donate, but also *attend* performances and actively advocate to the rest of the community about the work we’re doing,” Swan-Badgero continued. “The Austins have made it possible for us to grow and thrive in Lansing.”

The Austins also have been ardent supporters of MSU’s Summer Circle Theatre since they arrived in town and were instrumental in the creation of a permanent home for it. Their lead gift resulted in the recently completed, state-of-the-art \$1.2 million outdoor theater.

“If you enjoy something about the community,” Sam began, “or see something the community needs,” Mary added, “you should support it if you can,” he finished.

Donor Spotlight:

Sam & Mary Austin

John and Jewel Bos love East Lansing. They've spent decades building a life and raising a family in the community, and they've made sure the causes they care about will always be supported.

Through their estate plan, John and Jewel will continue to help the nonprofit organizations they feel are vital to our community — the East Lansing Public Library, Haven House, Ele's Place and the Capital Area Humane Society.

“We've always given over the years,” John said. “We tend to be involved with organizations we really feel connected to, such as the East Lansing library, which we use all the time. Organizations that are ‘local-local’ and really benefit our community, that’s what we feel strongly about.”

“Mr. and Mrs. Bos fully appreciate the importance of a good, strong and well-funded public library to a community,” said Kristin Shelley, director of the library. “Their commitment to the library makes ELPL a place where ideas happen and the possibilities are unlimited.”

Jewel grew up in Pigeon, in Michigan's Thumb, and John grew up on Lansing's east side. They met as students at Michigan State University and have been East Lansing residents for more than 40 years, raising three children here.

“We really enjoy this community, and we want to see it thrive,” Jewel said.

From their volunteer involvement — Jewel with Sparrow Hospital, John with the YMCA, and many other organizations through his business — the Boses know firsthand the difference nonprofit organizations are making in mid-Michigan.

“We've seen a lot of diminished spending on social programs at the state and federal level,” John said. “Charities, in many cases, are trying to step in and make the difference. We think it's important to help with that.”

John also is a significant ambassador for the Community Foundation in his work. Nicknamed “the father of elder law,” John works for Chalgian & Tripp in East Lansing as an estate planning attorney, and he helps his clients see the benefit of leaving a legacy through endowment.

“It's incumbent upon me to introduce the topic of charitable giving with my clients,” John said. “I show them how they can leverage their dollars to make a big impact. I'll say, ‘Let's make your gift out of retirement assets so it's 100 percent useful to the charity, whereas, if you leave that to your kids, they're only getting 60 cents on the dollar.’”

John says endowment funds are critical for organizations because of their permanence.

“I think \$1,000 in an endowment fund is better than \$1,000 in their general fund because the organization will benefit from that \$1,000 forever.”

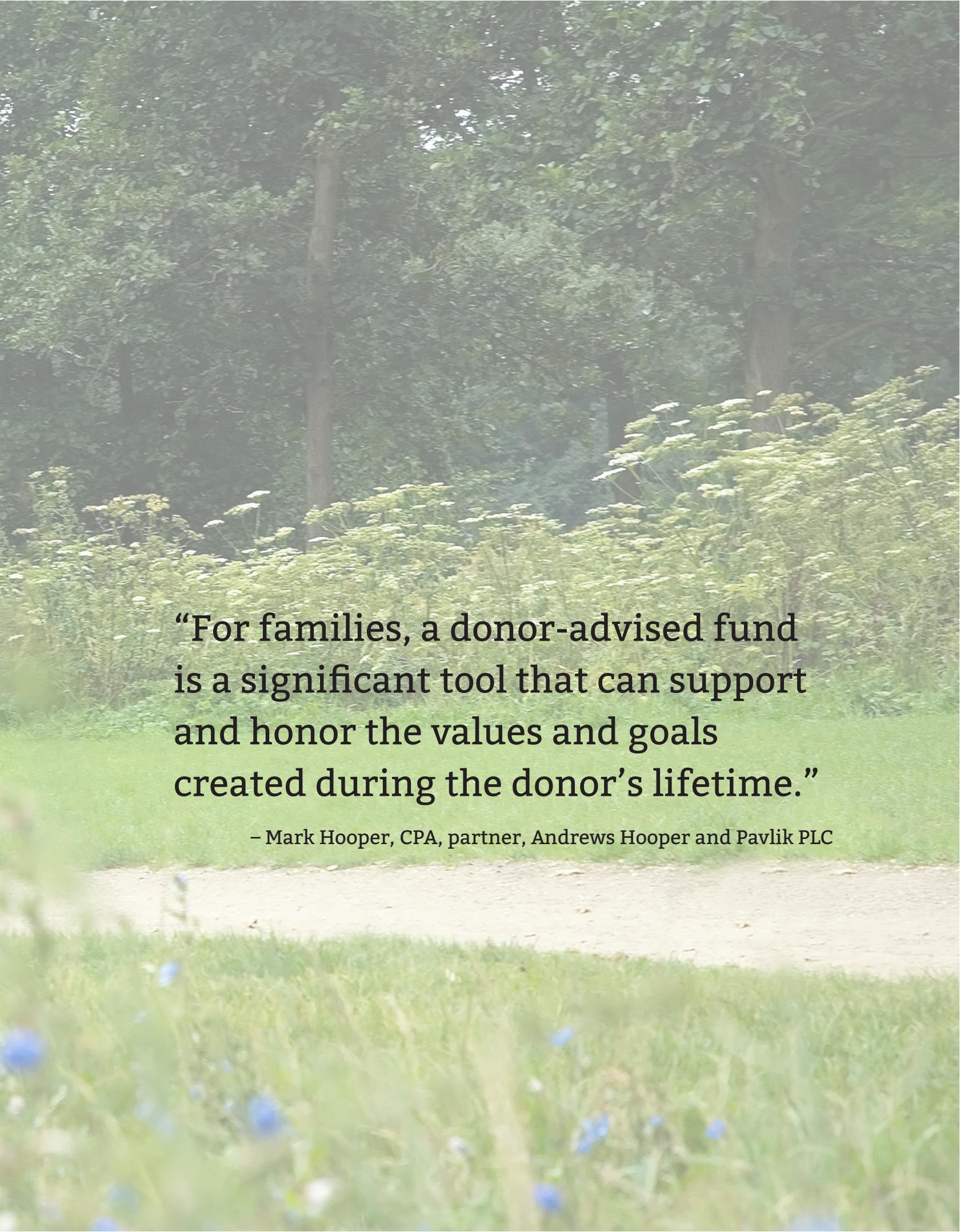
Donor Spotlight:
John & Jewel Bos



“I strongly recommend clients consider naming CRCF as their manager of charitable gifts because endowment funds are guaranteed to remain forever, and CRCF maintains sound stewardship principles for the funds under its management.”

— John Bos, estate planning attorney and donor

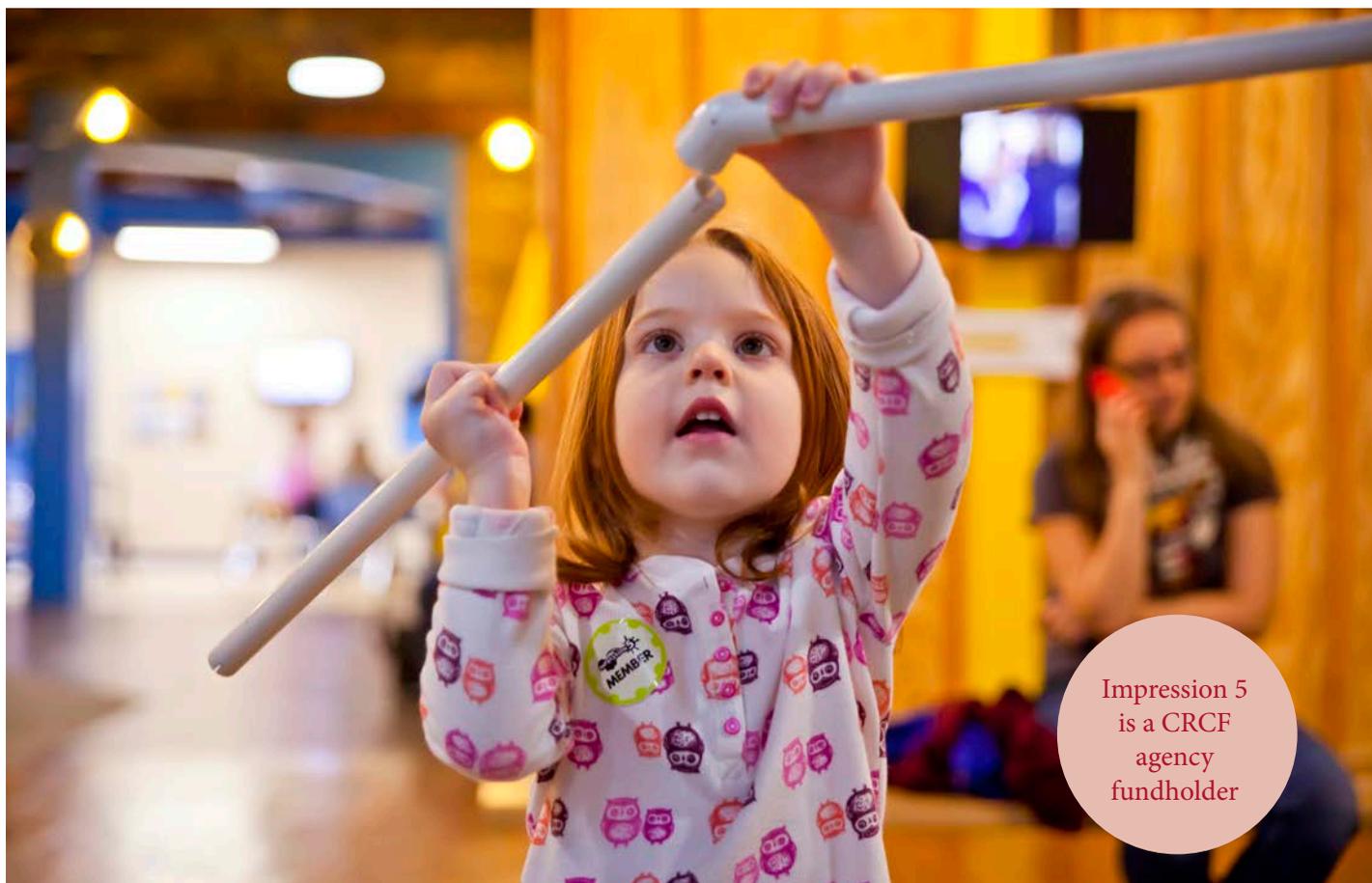


A lush green landscape with a dirt path, trees, and wildflowers. The scene is bright and natural, with a mix of green foliage and a clear sky. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

“For families, a donor-advised fund is a significant tool that can support and honor the values and goals created during the donor’s lifetime.”

– Mark Hooper, CPA, partner, Andrews Hooper and Pavlik PLC

Ensure your nonprofit's future by establishing an agency endowment fund.



CRCF's agency funds provide perpetual support to nonprofits, allowing them to concentrate on the good work they do.

An agency fund is a simple, efficient way to develop sustainability for your organization. We handle investment management and administrative responsibilities related to the endowment.

Your donors can make bequests or other planned gifts through the Community Foundation to benefit your organization perpetually and create a personal legacy. No gift transaction is too complex. We also offer charitable gift annuities that benefit your fund.

Two steps to set up

Your board determines how much you would like to invest. Your organization works with our staff to set up a fund in the name of your agency.

That's it.

Your gift is placed into an endowment that is invested over time. Earnings from your fund are yours to use for your organization's charitable work.

We'll handle all the administrative details, including investment management and tax receipting. You'll receive regular status statements on the fund, and donors may add to your fund at any time. You're in good hands; we manage nearly 100 agency endowments for local nonprofits.

You're the expert at managing your cause. We're experts at managing endowments.

Let's work together.



The Lansing Concert Band is a community band with a rich history, spanning more than 50 years in mid-Michigan.

Today, the all volunteer, 75-piece, adult concert band is a first-class performing ensemble, appearing in many concerts, festivals and civic functions throughout the year. This nonprofit organization's mission is to serve Lansing and the surrounding communities by providing quality musical entertainment and a vehicle with which adult musicians can continue to perform and expand their musical horizons.

They do it all on an annual operating budget of about \$35,000. Thinking creatively, the band looked into establishing its own endowment fund with the aim of building it up to a level that it would cover the annual budget and beyond.

"The endowment would enrich the activities of the band," said Jeff Padden, a trombone player with LCB who helped champion the fund. "It would allow us to commission new works to be created for concert band, to bring in guest artists we otherwise wouldn't be able to afford, and support more staffing for the band to take the burden off the tremendous volunteers we have."

The band stepped up, Padden said, raising the \$10,000 needed to start the fund. And now, the fund has its first estate planned gift, from percussionist Diedra Garlock, a retired chemist who's been with the band since 1972.

"I'm retired from the state, I have no children," Garlock said. "When Jeff started talking about a fund with CRCF, I thought the band has been such a big part of my life, why not help them?"

Garlock made a provision in her trust for a planned gift to the Lansing Concert Band.

"You don't have to have a big stash of money to make a difference," she said. "Every little bit adds up over time."

"You don't have to have a big stash of money to make a difference."

— Diedra Garlock
*Lansing Concert Band
performer and donor*

We think investing in people is a smart investment.



We typically receive applications requesting nearly four times the amount of money available for grants from unrestricted funds.

The flexibility of unrestricted gifts allows us to use our expertise to make the best possible community investments.

People are why we do what we do at the Capital Region Community Foundation. They're why we make grants to nonprofits and give scholarships to promising college students.

The Community Foundation builds flexible community endowment to ensure there are philanthropic resources available for future generations to meet the community's most pressing needs and promising opportunities.

We can't predict the future, but we can prepare for it.

Many of the solutions our charitable dollars make possible now are the result of gifts made by yesterday's donors — people who recognized today's needs may not be tomorrow's. Unrestricted gifts require not only generosity, but also donors' confidence, trust and vision for the future.

Giving is very personal; we all have specific causes and charities we're passionate about supporting. At the same time, we feel part of a larger community and want to see it thrive. For more than a generation, thousands of people like you, giving gifts ranging from \$5 to \$5 million, have pooled their resources in our community's flexible endowment. By giving together, they have achieved greater impact today and for future generations.

These unrestricted dollars are the heart of our competitive grantmaking. The Community Foundation typically receives applications requesting nearly four times the amount of money available for grants from unrestricted funds.

The flexibility of unrestricted gifts allows the Community Foundation to use our expertise to make the best possible community investments.

For donors interested in general causes, field-of-interest funds let them identify an area of personal passion — such as human services, the arts, the environment, youth, seniors, economic development, animal welfare or housing. Within that area of interest, the foundation will identify the best philanthropic use of the fund's distributions.

Since we began awarding grants in 1990, the people of mid-Michigan have relied on the Community Foundation as an effective, trusted hub of philanthropy. We work with people, nonprofits, businesses and community partners to promote effective philanthropy and connect people who care with causes that matter.

In this annual report, you'll see how those grant dollars are making a significant difference, from helping kids grow healthy food in their classroom to providing a quiet, natural learning environment in the woods. Each grant fulfills a need. Each grant makes a difference. Each grant was made possible by our generous donors.

Won't you join us? Together, we're changing lives.



Making an **impact**

In 2009, the Capital Region Community Foundation proactively awarded its first Impact Grant of \$75,000 to organizations that would create a program to fill a necessary gap in the tri-county region.

2009

The Listening Ear

Open since 1969, the Listening Ear provides confidential crisis services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. With our inaugural award, the Listening Ear was able to purchase a building which now also houses the Capital Area Sexual Assault Response Center, a community-based rape crisis center. By moving to their own building on Michigan Avenue, the Listening Ear has increased its visibility in the community and drawn more volunteers to assist people in crisis.

2010

Impression 5 Science Center and the Information Technology Empowerment Center of Lansing

Impression 5 used the grant to kick off the science center's reinvention, transforming the guest experience and increasing the science center's capacity for providing meaningful engagement in STEM education.

ITEC's grant was used to establish its headquarters at the Foster Community Center, including network and electrical upgrades to two computer labs and purchasing computers and desks for the labs.

2011

Allen Neighborhood Center, REACH Studio Art Center & Greater Lansing Food Bank

ANC used the grant toward opening the Allen Market Place, housing an online wholesale market for local food vendors, a licensed incubator kitchen, rental space for events and meetings, and a year-round farmers market.

REACH used its grant toward purchasing buildings on a city block that more than tripled its existing space in south Lansing's REO Town.

The Greater Lansing Food Bank's grant was put toward the purchase of refrigerators and freezers for many of the food bank's pantries and partners, which will enable the food bank to make larger, less-frequent deliveries, thereby saving money.

The Community Foundation's Impact Grant award is designed to support the local collaborative efforts that have the potential for transformative and sustainable community change. While grants are made to individual agencies, the demonstration of authentic and sustainable partnership for collaborative problem-solving is a key factor in the award.

“ I see Capital Region Community Foundation as the conductor of the community orchestra. They're supporting programs that make sure people have access to food, they're supporting programs to make sure people have clean water, they're supporting programs like ours that deal with the life of a child and it changes the trajectory of a community.”

— Phil Knight, former executive director, Big Brothers Big Sisters: Michigan Capital Region

**Watch a video highlighting “The Impact of the Impact Grant”:
www.vimeo.com/givelansing**

2012

Big Brothers Big Sisters: Michigan Capital Region

BBBSMCR used the grant for its newly created Tri-County Quality Mentoring Demonstration Project. It is leading a collaboration with the Yes Center in Eaton County, the Turning Point of Lansing and MSU Extension 4-H in Clinton County to match at least 70 new children with one-on-one mentors who will change their lives for the better, forever. BBBSMCR targets youth who are most at risk and prioritizes those from low-income, single-parent households.

2013

Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW)

The Eaton Conservation District is using its grant to build the capacity of MGROW to assist local watersheds and water quality programs struggling to meet the needs of their citizens. The Grand River watershed includes more than 1.25 million acres in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties and is the second largest and most populous watershed in Michigan. This grant provides the experienced, professional staff necessary to address the specific needs identified by each local watershed and water quality programs MGROW serves.

2014

Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan

The “Heal the House” project at the Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan is a cohesive plan to rehabilitate the 15-year-old house that hosts families who have critically ill children receiving medical treatment in our local hospitals and clinics. The grant enables the transformation of the house into a place that keeps parents in a positive, proactive mindset to help their children heal. It also will enable more family members to stay at the house.

**Read more about this project on
the next page.**



CRCF's 2014 impact grant helps 'Heal the House' for families of ill children.

The project is a cohesive plan to rehabilitate the 15-year-old Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan that hosts families who have critically ill children receiving medical treatment in our local hospitals and clinics. It will transform the house into a place that keeps parents in a positive, proactive mindset to help their children heal.

The cost of this major rehabilitation project accounts for half of the house's annual operating budget, so the \$75,000 impact grant from the Community Foundation was essential.

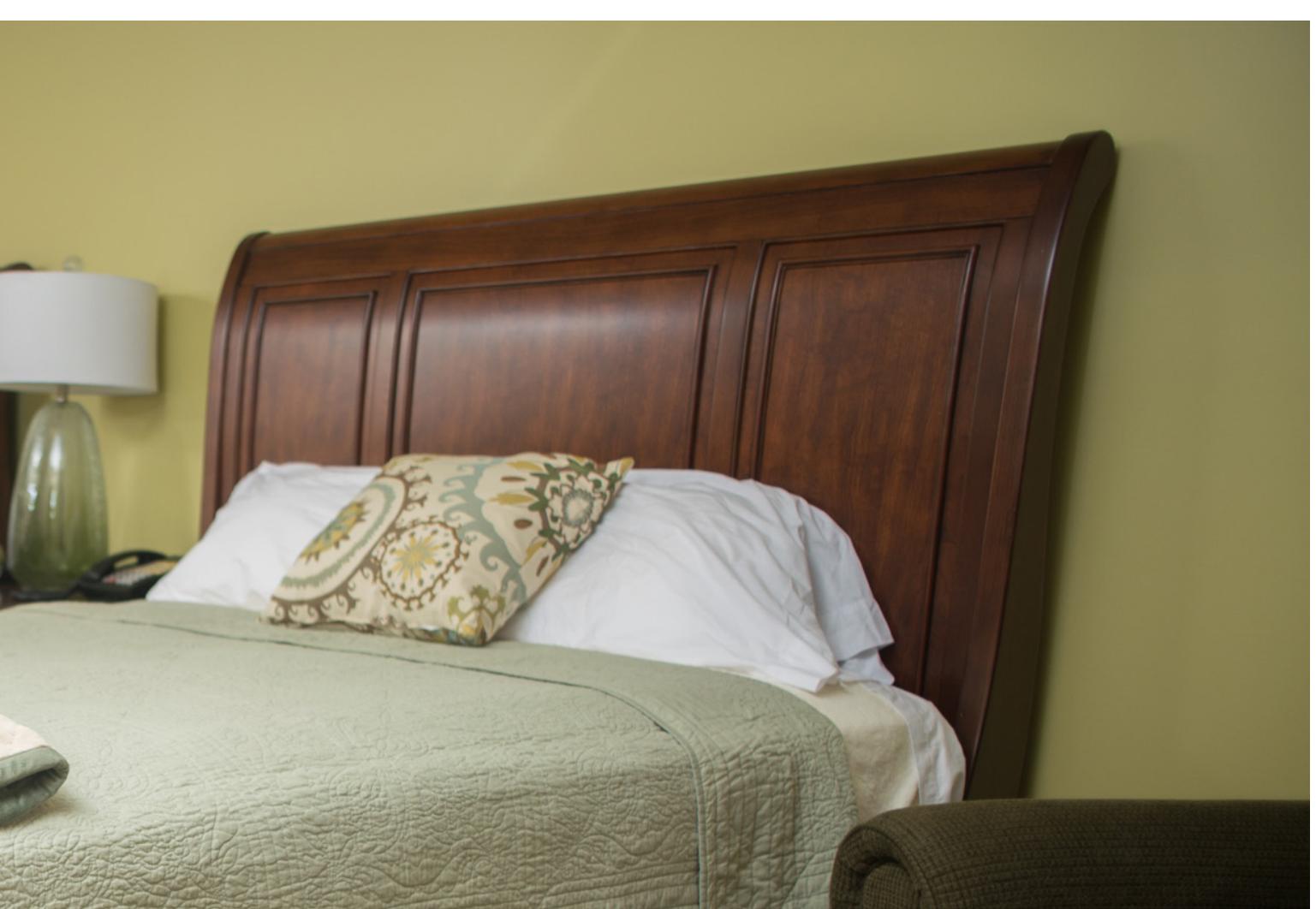
"We're honored by this recognition and generosity," said Matt Dugener, executive director of the Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan. "The impact grant will have a huge effect on the house and the families we serve."

The impact grant requires the nonprofit to secure an additional \$75,000 in matching funds, doubling the impact to \$150,000 for the organization. Those matching funds came from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Outstate Michigan.

"This transformation is going to have an immediate impact on families in our region," said Dennis Flieman, president and CEO of the Community Foundation.

"We're impressed by the Ronald McDonald House's work and we're grateful for what they do to support families as they navigate through health challenges. We're eager to see this project completed."

One of the house's eight guest rooms already had undergone a dramatic renovation. This project focused on the remaining seven guest rooms and all of the flooring in the common areas, where thousands of people have paced the floors. An unveiling of the finished project is set for fall 2015.



The Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan is a home-away-from-home for the families of seriously ill children who are hospitalized or receiving treatment at Lansing area hospitals and clinics. It offers an inexpensive, comfortable and private place for families to sleep, eat and relax. Here, families find a caring atmosphere where they receive support and encouragement from others who are also going through difficult times.



Photos by Luke Anthony Photography

Lewton Elementary School's hydroponic garden grows into a learning — and eating — opportunity.

**Swiss chard. Bok choy.
Lettuce. Fresh herbs.**
**These aren't typical
kid-favorite foods.**
**But get kids involved
in the growing process,
and suddenly they're not
only excited about them,
they're eating them.**

That's what special education teacher Kathleen Schultz is making happen in her Lewton Elementary School classroom in Lansing.

With the help of an \$8,000 grant from the Capital Region Community Foundation, what started as a garden club on one strip of dirt beneath her classroom window has grown into four large, hydroponic tower gardens inside her classroom.

Walk into Schultz's room, and it's like stepping into a sunny spring day.

Everything is bright, green and fresh. Healthy, robust plants spill out of four growing towers, reaching toward the panels of grow lights.

"This project promotes a different way of learning and gives students the opportunity to apply what they have learned in a hands-on way, giving them an up-and-moving educational experience," Schultz said.

Hydroponic gardening allows for several controllable factors. It offers an endless growing season and tremendous



“This project promotes a different way of learning and gives students the opportunity to apply what they have learned in a hands-on way, giving them an up-and-moving educational experience.”

— Kathleen Schultz, teacher

customization — you can grow anything and adjust the nutrients in the water to adjust the taste of the vegetables.

It takes up far less space than an in-ground garden, and the lighting system can be put on a timer, so school vacations and long weekends don't require someone to care for the plants. All are ideal conditions for growing in a classroom environment where no one is around at night or on weekends.

Another bonus is an accelerated growing season. Lettuce typically takes

60 days to go from seed to harvest; with hydroponics, it takes 30 days.

Lewton's hydroponic garden farm-to-school project allowed Schultz to expand her garden to give students access to fresh, highly nutritious vegetables to supplement the federal food program currently in place in the school, which provides mostly prepackaged foods.

And the benefits just keep piling up. The project addresses a number of core science objectives, giving students

meaning to what they already were learning in their classrooms. Biology, chemistry, physical science and environmental science concepts can be taught using hydroponics. The hands-on learning increases their engagement and provides much-needed relevancy for the kids.

A few other school districts in Michigan have hydroponics programs, but this is the first in the Lansing School District.

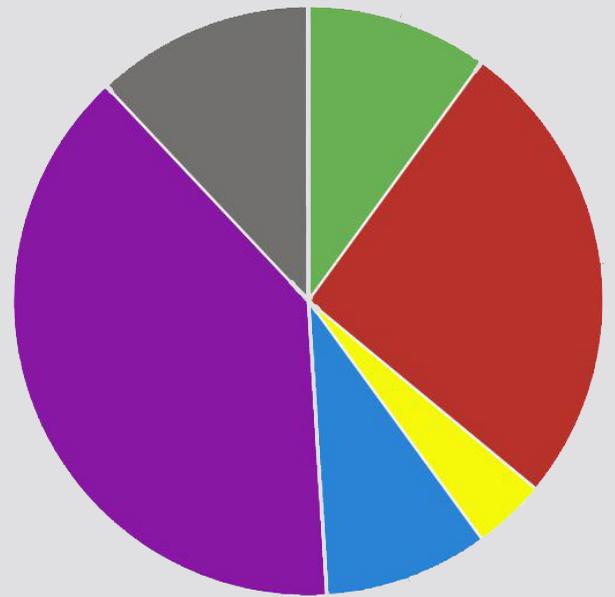
And the ultimate benefit? “Students get to eat what they've grown,” Schultz said.



2014 BY THE NUMBERS

Net assets by fund type:

Undesignated:	\$7,540,224
Field of interest:	\$19,079,372
Designated:	\$2,906,939
Donor-advised:	\$6,923,480
Agency:	\$28,806,580
Scholarship:	\$8,912,509



GIFTS RECEIVED

1,127

We are grateful to each and every one of our donors. Because of your generosity, our community will continue to grow and thrive forever. Together, we're changing lives. Thank you.

VALUE OF GIFTS

\$3.2M+

The accounting firm of Maner, Costerisan & Ellis, PC, annually audits the Capital Region Community Foundation's financial statements and has once again expressed an unqualified favorable opinion.

TOTAL ASSETS AS OF DEC. 31. 2014

\$ 83,460,000

Grants

In 2014, the Capital Region Community Foundation distributed **659 grants totaling more than \$3.3 million** to support many worthy causes and make our community a better place.

From scholarships and after-school programs to health screenings and housing assistance, those charitable dollars are making a real difference, helping improve the lives of thousands of people in mid-Michigan.

Since we began making grants in 1990, the Community Foundation has distributed **more than \$42 million**.

The Community Foundation holds a collection of **more than 400 charitable funds** created by individuals, families, businesses and organizations. In 2014, we added **21 new funds**.

Find a complete list of our 2014 grants and donors as well as our full financial report online at www.crcfoundation.org.

2014 grants
awarded
\$3.3M

Grants
since
1990
\$42M+



New funds
created
21

62,712

Capital City Bird Sanctuary

features diverse habitats, quiet trails.

Located along the meandering Grand River in Lansing, the Capital City Bird Sanctuary provides a variety of habitats for birds and other wildlife in an otherwise suburban landscape. From open meadow to flood plain forest, the sanctuary features diverse niches that attract migrating warblers and resident sparrows, woodpeckers, songbirds, turkeys and a beloved red-tailed hawk for which the sanctuary was nicknamed “Hawk Valley.”

The donor of this unique property, Carl Haussman, strived to create wildlife habitat on the property and passed the sanctuary on to Michigan Audubon to continue this admirable work.

Michigan Audubon opened the Capital City Bird Sanctuary in May 2015 as a place for birds and wildlife to thrive and for humans to safely observe and learn about bird-habitat relationships.

Thanks to a \$9,000 grant from the Capital Region Community Foundation, plans for the sanctuary include upgrading the existing minimal trail markers to enhance visitor experience and navigation, installing educational signage for the nest box trail, adding educational signage for the demonstration native plant gardens and transforming the currently blighted construction area where a house was recently demolished.

Educational signage will describe the various nest box and native garden styles to show visitors a variety of

options for providing habitat for birds on their own properties. This suburban sanctuary on the outskirts of Lansing is an ideal location to bring birds and people together — and that's what Michigan Audubon is all about.

The sanctuary provides habitat for more than 130 species of birds as well as numerous flowering plants, mammals, turtles, frogs, snakes, butterflies and dragonflies.

“We are proud of the diversity of flora and fauna that call the sanctuary ‘home,’ but we want to share this unique green space with others,” said Rachele Roake, conservation science coordinator for Michigan Audubon.

“These projects will help to enhance visitor experience and inspire others to replicate our work on a small scale, within their own yards. With support from the Capital Region Community Foundation, the Capital City Bird Sanctuary will provide an exemplary habitat for birds and people to connect.”

Photos by Eat Pomegranate Photography



**“With support from
the Capital Region
Community Foundation,
the Capital City Bird
Sanctuary will provide
an exemplary habitat
for birds and people to
connect.”**

— Rachele Roake, Michigan Audubon



Capital City Bi



Bird Sanctuary



Meet the four winners of our 25th anniversary Facebook grant contest.

In honor of our 25th year of grantmaking, we awarded four \$2,500 grants through votes on our Facebook page. Thousands of people voted. Four organizations won. But, truly, those served by these nonprofits are the real winners. Here's a little bit about the work they do.

QUARTER 1:

The Firecracker Foundation

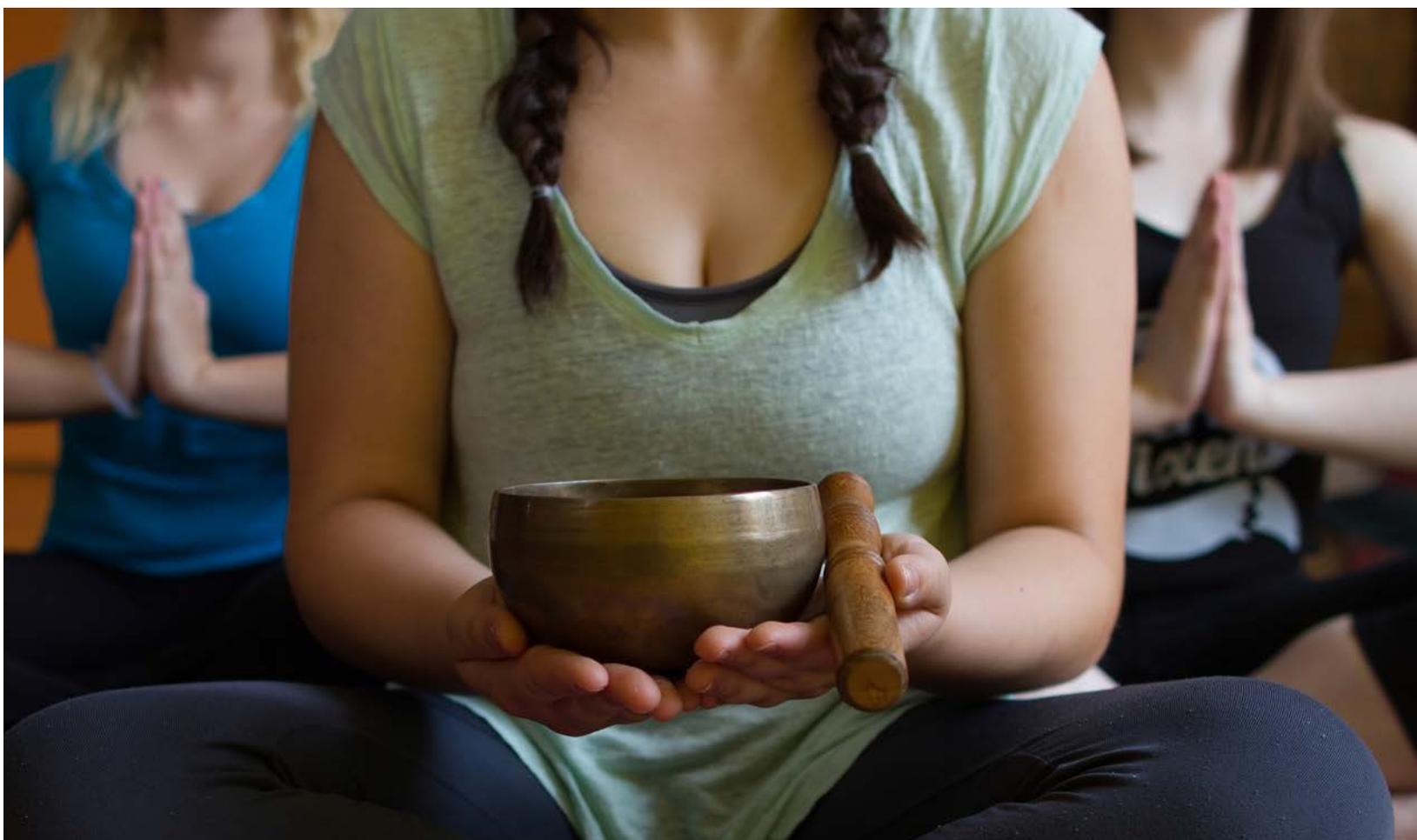
This Lansing nonprofit organization works to honor the bravery of children who have survived sexual trauma by building a community invested in the healing of their whole being.

Therapists qualified to treat pediatric sexual trauma survivors are contracted to provide services for children 18 and younger. Yoga classes for survivors between the ages of 5 and 18 are taught by instructors trained to provide trauma-sensitive yoga therapy.

Therapeutic services are provided at no cost to children whose families are unable to afford care elsewhere.

The Firecracker Foundation was founded in 2013 by Tashmica "Firecracker" Torok, a survivor of childhood sexual abuse.

Like her explosive Lansing Derby Vixens roller derby name, Torok is a powerful force in advocacy and awareness. In two short years, she has quickly grown her foundation into a vital resource for the greater Lansing community and the children in need of access to healing services.



QUARTER 2:

Williamston Theatre

Mid-Michigan’s only professional theater, the Williamston Theatre has been staging shows that excite and engage audiences since its founding in 2004.

The organization has played a significant role in the revitalization of downtown Williamston, invigorating the local economy with an entertainment attraction that draws both local residents and cultural tourists.

The theater aims to be an integral part of the cultural fabric of Michigan, to do theater for, by and about the people in this part of the world, to pursue innovative collaboration in every aspect of their work, to establish a home for Midwest artists, and to engage audiences of diverse ages, cultures and economic backgrounds.



CHRIS PURCHIS/Williamston Theatre

QUARTER 3:

Homeless Angels

The Homeless Angels is a street-based outreach organization in Lansing, with an affiliate in Detroit.

Founded by Mike Karl and Jessep Magoon in 2013, they use the power of social media to help greater Lansing’s homeless population.

“People want to see that they’re actually making a difference,” Karl said. “With social media, we can show everyone how their donations are helping.”

The organization helps homeless people in a variety of ways, including assistance with enrolling for benefits, access to resources and temporary shelter. The organization partners with other volunteer groups to assist in providing food and clothing and connecting people to job opportunities.



ROD SANFORD/Lansing State Journal

QUARTER 4:

Capital Area Humane Society

Since its founding in 1936, the Capital Area Humane Society has grown exponentially. CAHS says their continued passion to serve both pets and people is exceeded only by the passion of the mid-Michigan community that supports them.

More than 2,500 active volunteers devote 32,000-plus hours each year to ensure the animals are properly socialized, exercised and loved.

More than 10,000 animals come through their doors each year, and all are provided food, medical care, a safe place to live and plenty of TLC.



Capital Area Humane Society

Thanks for voting!



Lansing Art Gallery's after-school art club gives students a chance to express themselves

The Lansing Art Gallery collaborated with city of Lansing Parks and Recreation to provide elementary students with a visual arts experience in neighborhood community centers. The free art club program provided an arts-based learning opportunity with professional artists and addresses the limited arts experience for children in the Lansing School District. On the day we visited, students drew two-dimensional figures on the chalkboard and then were given modeling clay to turn those 2-D drawings into 3-D creations. The young artists were practically vibrating with excitement and pride as they worked.

CRCF's \$7,150 grant helped 74 students have access to art classes.



MSU Neuroscience Fair

More than 500 people attended the MSU neuroscience program's annual fair this spring. It featured fun and educational hands-on activities, including dissecting a cow eye, seeing a neurological exam, climbing inside a "brainarium," examining human and animal brains, and more. Each activity was designed to teach something about how the brain and nervous system work.

The Community Foundation's \$6,000 grant funded the entire event.

Jenny Taylor, an academic specialist in the neuroscience program who organized the fair, said her favorite part is seeing the kids get excited about the brain.

"This event helps them see science is really accessible, and hopefully it inspires them to go on to study the brain or become medical doctors," she said.





MRPA's endowment fund helps build accessible parks and recreation experiences for all.

Founded in 1935, the Michigan Recreation and Park Association provides advocacy, resources and professional development opportunities to a devoted and diverse membership of park and recreation agencies, professionals, vendors and advocates.

MRPA's Raymond C. Davis Sr. Access to Recreation Endowment Fund started in 2008, and the organization uses its grants to support accessible projects for communities across the state.

In 2014, thanks to its endowment fund with the Community Foundation, MRPA had nearly \$13,000 available to support accessible projects.

Whether it's a playground open to visitors of all abilities or a mobile, accessible hunting/nature viewing stand that allows people with disabilities the opportunity to return to the great outdoors, MRPA aims to keep people engaged with nature.

"Parks and recreation matter in our state," said Ann Conklin, COO of MRPA. "It's our job to share that message, to educate people and officials about the value of parks in people's lives in their community."

John Snowden is a Clarkston hunter who became paralyzed from the waist down after falling from a tree while hunting. He's been able to return to hunting using the Huntmaster Tower Stand purchased by MRPA. He rolls his wheelchair into the stand which is lifted high into the air to serve as an elevated blind.

"This has been a fantastic opportunity for me to continue my hunting career," he said.



“Our endowment fund with the Capital Region Community Foundation positioned our organization for longterm sustainability.”

— Ann Conklin, COO, Michigan Recreation and Park Association



Eat Pomegranate Photography



ITEC's iMath is expanding

Since 2008, the Information Technology Empowerment Center (ITEC) has been working to prepare today's students for tomorrow's careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

ITEC's iMath program offers after-school math tutoring and education that combines innovative online programming with in-person, one-on-one support.

iMath has been expanding since 2012. It was originally piloted at Sheridan Road and Lewton Elementary schools during the 2012-13 academic year. In 2013-14, iMath added Pattengill Middle School. During the 2014-15 academic year, it grew to include Mt. Hope STEAM Magnet School, and Wexford Montessori Magnet School.

The Community Foundation's \$12,160 grant paid for one instructor at one school for 12 months.

New learning technologies complement, but can never replace, a good teacher or good teaching. By identifying and combining educational resources, this program helps increase math exposure and practice. Students make gains in math competence, regardless of whether they are starting below, at, or above grade level.



Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center offers Michigan's only clinical driving simulator.

Each year at least 1.7 million people experience a traumatic brain injury. A substantial number of those people resume driving whether or not they receive an evaluation or recommendation from a professional. Research indicates those with severe TBI are at greater risk for accidents. Thus, it is important to thoroughly assess and retrain driving ability during the rehabilitation process.

Thanks to a \$7,750 grant from the Community Foundation, Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center in Mason now offers a cutting-edge driving simulator.

The only one of its kind in Michigan, the CDS 200 Clinical Driving Simulator is used to evaluate the driving skills of people with traumatic brain injury. It's also being used to evaluate the aging population and people with cognitive, perceptual and motor impairments.

Grant dollars from CRCF, combined with funds from AAA Insurance and Origami's Unfolding Potential Fund, enabled the center to purchase this essential piece of equipment.

Simulator evaluations help determine whether a person is safe to continue driving, should no longer be driving due

to safety concerns or could benefit from training that could lead to the ability to return to the road.

"Because of the generous donation our facility received, we have been able to implement state-of-the-art technology into everyday practice," said Natasha Huffine, an occupational therapist and certified brain injury specialist at Origami.

"This evidence-based equipment is helping people in the capital region gain independence and quality of life each day. It also plays a large role in keeping our local roads and people safe."

Since the installation of the simulator, dozens of people have been evaluated, and many have received treatment to remediate their skills for safe and defensive driving.

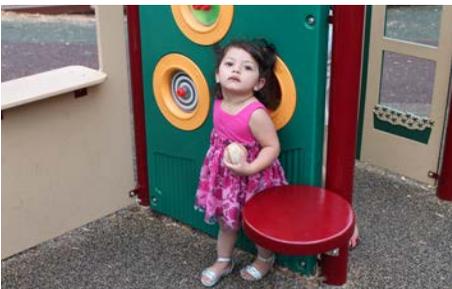




Playground in the Park ‘Re-Imagined’

This project was the result of a partnership between the Rotary Club of East Lansing and the city of East Lansing. The new, modern 1.2-acre playground in East Lansing’s Patriarche Park features an eco-friendly design that is fully accessible and supports youth fitness.

The playground includes a variety of colorful play equipment, a poured-in-place playground surface, a rain garden, a brick entry plaza, walkways and more. The Community Foundation’s \$10,000 grant contributed to the playground’s accessibility for all.





Alastair Muir

Eye for Broadway gives local students the opportunity to create art inspired by musicals.

Eye for Broadway is an arts education program that connects students and their visual art to touring Broadway shows at MSU's Wharton Center.

This season-long program encourages teachers and students to explore themes within Broadway productions and create artwork to be displayed at Wharton Center.

The Community Foundation's \$3,000 grant was used to purchase art supplies for the program.

In its fifth year, Eye for Broadway gave students the opportunity to create art around the themes of three Broadway musicals: "Annie," "Pippin" and "The Phantom of the Opera" (pictured). Dozens of students from Okemos Hiawatha Elementary, Bath Elementary, Williamston Explorer Elementary and Okemos High School participated in the program this year.

Artwork was displayed at a public reception prior to each Broadway production. All works were for sale,

and the revenue will support Broadway education student art initiatives. More than \$600 was raised through the sale of students' artwork.

Award-winning Okemos art teacher Eric Staib played a key role in launching the program and this year helped his fourth graders learn about "Phantom."

"Students learned through creative problem-solving the ins and outs of mask making," Staib said. "They proudly modeled them through the hallways of the school."



Our work would not be possible without the generosity of our donors — people like you, deeply invested in the community, demonstrating their commitment through philanthropy.



Scholarships change lives

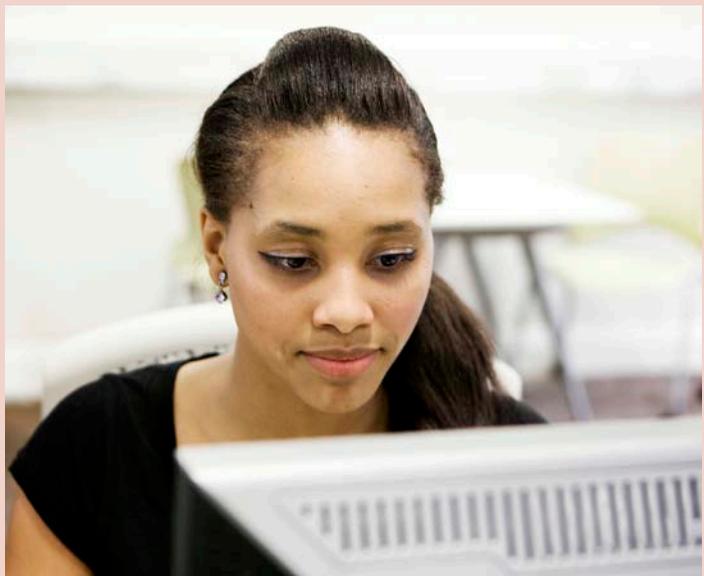
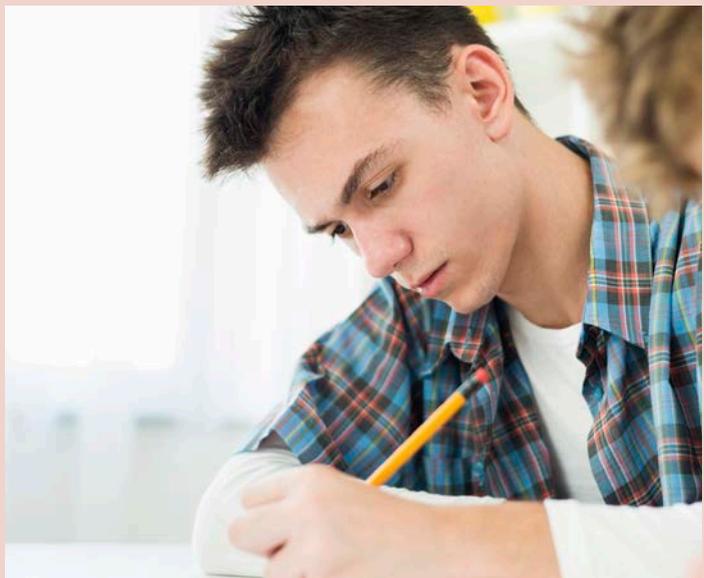
Establish a scholarship at the Capital Region Community Foundation and you inspire young people while investing in our community's future.

Higher education is one of the surest paths to opportunity. Unfortunately, many people who could benefit the most from a college education are least able to afford it. Work with the Capital Region Community Foundation and make college a bit more affordable for deserving students while creating a lasting legacy in your name or in the name of a loved one.

The benefits of establishing a scholarship:

- You receive tax benefits in the year your gift is made.
- You establish the selection criteria when you set up a fund.
- Scholarships can be awarded to graduating high school seniors or current college students.
- Recipients live in the Community Foundation's geographic service area of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties.
- We take care of all the paperwork.

Of course, the true benefit is in helping deserving students. We can help you find them, and we handle all administrative details, including working with schools to set up a committee to review the applicants. You can get as hands-on as you wish in the selection process, or you can choose to sit back and watch the impact of your gift.





There are dozens of groups of teen philanthropists all over Michigan working through community foundations to help young people in need — people they don't even know — have access to healthy food, tutoring, arts opportunities and recreational programs.

The groups, called Youth Action Committees (YACs), started in the 1990s when the W.K. Kellogg Foundation issued a challenge to Michigan community foundations: For every \$2 raised for unrestricted and field-of-interest endowment funds, Kellogg gave \$1 to a youth endowment fund so teens could award grants forever. Today, the collective assets of Michigan's youth funds are nearly \$40 million, providing \$2.5 million to Michigan communities every year.

Each regional committee is made up of high school students committed to changing their communities through philanthropy. They learn about fund development, youth empowerment and grantmaking. They volunteer with nonprofits helping other young people. Thousands of teens have served on YACs across the state.

The Capital Region Community Foundation's YAC has more than 30 students, representing a dozen high schools in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. These kids serve meals in shelters, volunteer at nature centers and fundraising races, and work throughout the school year to make our community better for all kids and teens.





In 2014, our YAC awarded \$43,950 to 24 nonprofits in mid-Michigan. An additional \$4,137 went to 16 local elementary and middle school classrooms for environmental and anti-bullying projects.





10 REASONS TO GIVE

through your
community foundation

At the Capital Region Community Foundation, we have the privilege of working with thousands of donors whose generosity make our work possible.

Though we understand there are many reasons people who care about our community choose to give to and through the Community Foundation, 10 specific themes always emerge.

1. Trust.

We provide wise stewardship of the gifts entrusted to us — through the grants we make and professional investment management of our donors' charitable funds.

2. Our focus is local. We know our community well.

With deep roots in our community, we have a broad understanding of local needs and where there are opportunities to invest in innovative solutions that create lasting change.

3. Innovative community partnerships.

We bring community leaders together and work closely with other local funders, nonprofits, public officials and businesses to coordinate resources to maximize community impact.

4. We connect donors to the causes that matter.

In helping generous people fulfill their charitable goals, we have the



ability to connect donors to grant opportunities that ensure their gifts provide the greatest good.

5. We multiply the impact of donors' gifts.

We have the ability to leverage donors' gifts with other public and private resources to magnify the impact of our grant awards.

6. We provide highly personalized and flexible service.

We are available online and in person to help donors determine and fulfill their philanthropic goals. We accept a wide variety of assets and are able to facilitate even the most complex forms of giving.

7. One gift can fulfill many philanthropic goals.

Whether supporting a specific cause, a local or national nonprofit, or CRCF's grant programs, one gift can accomplish multiple charitable goals.

8. We build endowment.

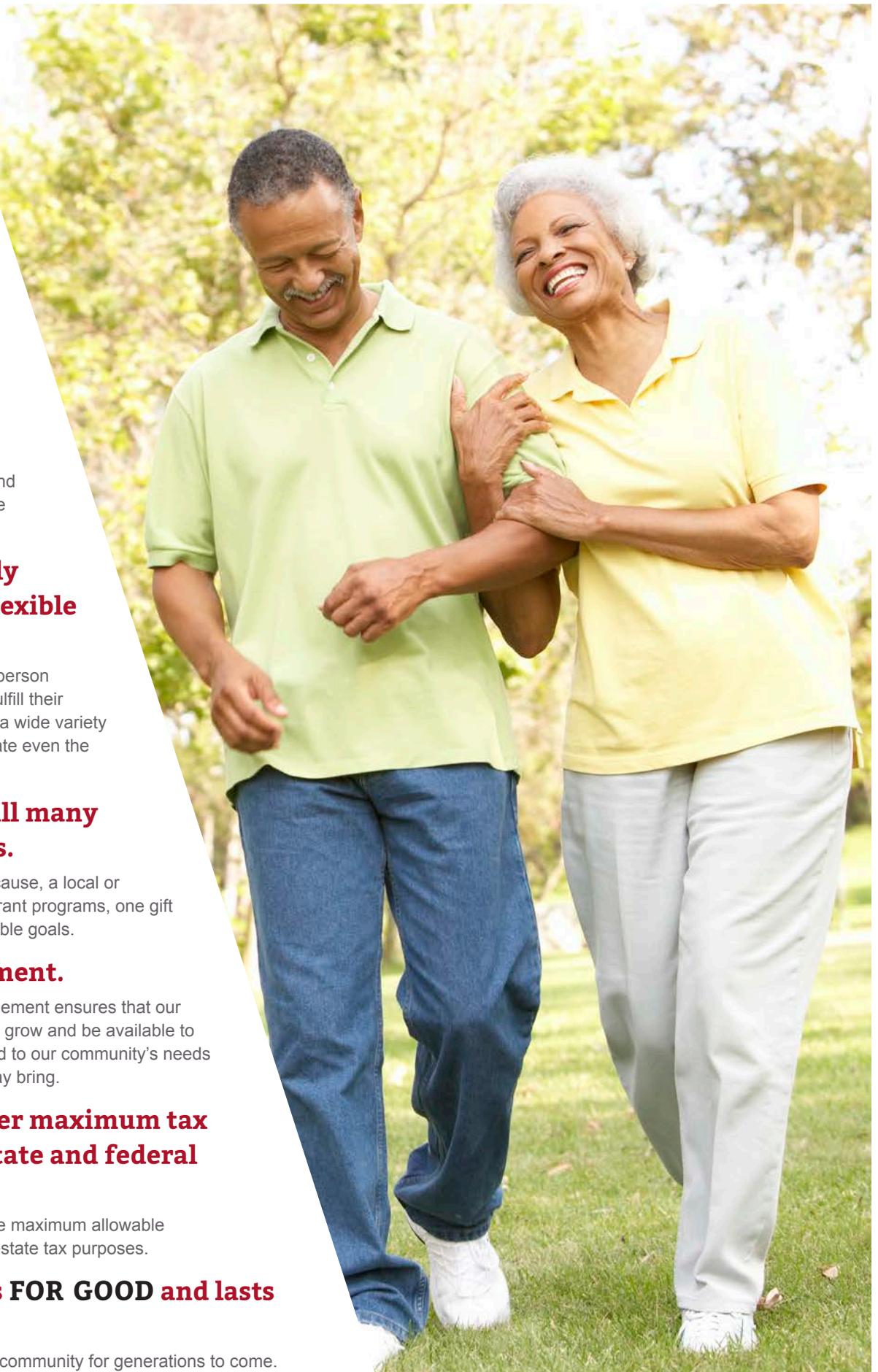
Professional investment management ensures that our charitable funds will continue to grow and be available to invest in new ideas that respond to our community's needs — no matter what the future may bring.

9. Gifts to CRCF offer maximum tax advantage under state and federal law.

Your contributions qualify for the maximum allowable deduction for income, gift and estate tax purposes.

10. A gift to CRCF is FOR GOOD and lasts FOR EVER.

Your generosity will benefit our community for generations to come.



“It is such a pleasure to team with the exceptional staff at the Capital Region Community Foundation when I’m developing and implementing my clients’ charitable goals. The foundation is an invaluable — and, I think, underutilized — resource in mid-Michigan. They make it easy for my clients to go from being well-intentioned, check-writing supporters of causes they care about to being philanthropists for our community.”

— Charles Janssen, attorney and shareholder, Foster Swift





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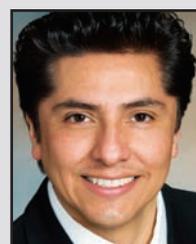
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