

OUR COMMUNITY

CAPITAL REGION COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



DONORS

MEET THE GENEROUS PEOPLE
CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY
NOW AND FOREVER

GRANTS

BASIC NEEDS, THE ARTS, EDUCATION,
SENIORS — ALL KINDS OF PROGRAMS
ARE SUPPORTED BY CRCF'S GRANTS



Capital Region
community foundation
The Center for Charitable Giving

Welcome.

Whether you're a first-time reader or longstanding donor 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.



Contents

6 Legacy

Abe Wheeler and Rachel Minkin share their estate planning story

6



8



16 A big impact

Hosanna House of Michigan is creating housing opportunities for youth aging out of foster care

16



8 Agency funds

CRCF's agency funds provide perpetual support to nonprofit organizations

12 Reasons to give

Why some people who care about our community choose to give to and through the Capital Region Community Foundation

20 Give just 5 percent

If everyone left 5 percent of their estate to the community's endowment, that could mean more than \$44 million in grants every year

24 By the numbers

A look at our financial highlights from 2015.

28 Hands-on learning

Potter Park Zoo's FALCONERS program is geared toward autistic youth and their families



A look back at 2015

Growth and change marked 2015 for the foundation

We hope you will be inspired by these stories about programs serving every corner of our community and the generous donors who are making a positive impact today and forever.

We are honored to serve the Capital Region Community Foundation, an organization that has distributed more than \$45 million in grants and scholarships since 1990.

In 2015, the Community Foundation awarded more than \$3.3 million in grants and scholarships, including \$130,000 for two impact grants poised to bring real change to two organizations — Hosanna House of Michigan and the Bath Township Senior Center. Read about them starting on Page 15.

We saw a marked increase in giving in 2015 as well. We were honored to receive more than \$5.9 million in gifts, compared to \$3.2 million in 2014.

Perhaps most importantly, we took steps with our board of trustees toward taking a more active community leadership role. We're excited to see this new direction develop and flourish for mid-Michigan.

Please enjoy this look back at 2015, and join us as we continue to grow and improve our community in 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Dennis W. Fliehm
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Kira Carter-Robertson
CRCF 2015 board chair



On the cover

Students at Lansing's Post Oak Elementary School rehearse "Hakuna Matata" from their Disney Musicals in Schools production of "The Lion King." **Page 32.**

Photo by Eat Pomegranate Photography

Connect with us

330 Marshall St., Suite 300
Lansing, MI 48912
www.crcfoundation.org • info@crcfoundation.org
(517) 272-2870



Confirmed in compliance
with National Standards
for U.S. community foundations

Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™



For good. For ever.

**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.





“

The Community Foundation makes a difference in people's lives. It helps donors make a real impact even if they aren't giving millions of dollars.

Working with CRCF as a donor and a board member has really opened my eyes to all the need we have in our community. I'm humbled by the difference we've been able to make in people's lives. But there is more work to do.”



— Nancy Little, donor and professional advisor

ABRAHAM WHEELER ◀
and RACHEL MINKIN

Planning for their legacy

"This all started with us deciding, at 42, to actually become adults and get estate planning done," Abe Wheeler said, chuckling.

Wheeler and his wife, Rachel Minkin, both librarians at Michigan State University, have two young kids. They knew they needed to get some plans in order to make sure their children were cared for in the face of some unforeseen tragedy.

"Once we started with the estate planning, there were so many things to think about," Wheeler said. "We had to answer a lot of hard questions like, 'If you die, what happens?' and 'If the kids die, what happens?' And it came down to, 'What happens if all four of you die?' A lot of it was what do we do with our money?"

Their estate planning attorney, John Bos, helped them navigate the process. They have included the Community Foundation in their estate plan, which makes them members of the Legacy Society.

Wheeler and Minkin moved to Okemos eight years ago from the San Francisco Bay area. They've grown attached to their mid-Michigan community and liked the idea of making a difference locally.

"I had never heard of a community foundation," Wheeler said. "What I like about it is it removes the research aspect for us. With CRCF, I have an expert that can assess needs and know which organizations can actually use our money to its best effect."

"We feel very grown up now," Minkin said. "There's peace of mind in knowing our estate planning is done."



“ “ There’s peace of mind in knowing our estate planning is done.”

— Rachel Minkin, Legacy Society member



If your intended legacy is caring for the community beyond your lifetime, 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 in our membership, 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

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
 Laurie and John Baumer
 Dana and Kim Beaman
 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 Fliehm
 Betty Giuliani
 Camron and Lisa Gnass
 Billy Hanel
 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
 Gary and Jenny McCampbell
 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
 Ryan Robertson and Kira Carter-Robertson
 John and Debbie Sirrine
 Stuart D. Sleight
 Kathleen M. Soltow
 Heather Spielmaker
 Peggy A. Parke and Denis W. Sullivan
 Jesusa Vasquez and Gary Heilig
 Abraham Wheeler and Rachel Minkin
 Gary L. Witzenburg
 Raymond R. Ziarno

Your agency endowment



Ensure your nonprofit's future by establishing an agency endowment. 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. We also offer charitable gift annuities that benefit your fund.

Two steps to set it 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 more than 80 agency endowments for local nonprofits.

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

Let's work together.

American Red Cross Mid-Michigan Chapter Fund	David and Betty Morris Fund	Michigan Nurses Foundation Fund
The Arc Michigan Fund	ECCF Grand Ledge Education Foundation Fund	Michigan Physical Therapy Institute Fund
Arts Council of Greater Lansing Fund	ECCF Grand Ledge Educational Foundation — Dart Bank Grand Ledge Literacy Fund	Michigan Physician Assistant Foundation Fund
Autism Society of Michigan Fund	ECCF Grand Ledge Opera House Fund	Michigan Public Power Agency Fund
Big Brothers Big Sisters Michigan Capital Region Fund	ECCF Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital Fund	Michigan Wildlife Conservancy Fund
Boys & Girls Club of Lansing Fund	ECCF Heart and Hands Fund	Michigan's Children Fund
Burcham Hills Fund	ECCF Housing Services Mid Michigan Fund	Mikey's Eye Care Fund
Camp Grayling Officers Club Fund	Ele's Place Endowment Fund	MRPA - Raymond C. Davis Sr. Access to Recreation Fund
Capital Area Humane Society Fund	Engler Family Fund	MRPA - Timothy J. Doyle Memorial Fund
Capital Area Literacy Coalition Fund	EVE, Inc. Fund	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Michigan Fund
Capital Area United Way Fund	Expectant Parents Organization Fund	The Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project Fund
Carol J. Greer Community Learning Center Fund	Fenner Conservancy Fund	Okemos Community Church Fund
CASA of Ingham County, Inc. Fund	Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Michigan Fund	Okemos Education Foundation Fund
CAUW Volunteer Center Fund	Friends of Historic Meridian Fund	Old Town Commercial Association Robert P. Busby Memorial Fund
Chief Okemos Council, Boy Scouts of America Fund	Greater Lansing Food Bank John and Diane Dodge Fund	Opportunity Resource Fund
City of East Lansing Fund	Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra Fund	Ovid-Elsie Athletic Fund
CMA George W. Romney Fund	Haven House Fund	Ovid-Elsie Band Fund
CMA Michigan Campus Compact Fund	Highfields Inc. Fund	Ovid-Elsie Future Farmers of America Alumni Fund
CMA Russell G. Mawby Fund	The Hospice of Lansing Fund	Ovid-Elsie Information Center Fund
Community Mental Health Fund	Impression Five Science Center Fund	Ovid-Elsie WOES Fund
ConnectMichigan Alliance Fund	The Jack Bates Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation Fund	Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum Fund
Courthouse Square Association Fund	Jayne E. Rabeler Mathematics Memorial Fund	Peckham Fund
Cristo Rey Community Center Fund	Junior Achievement of Mid-Michigan Fund	Portland Foundation for Public Education Fund
DeWitt Area Community Fund	Laingsburg Educational Advancement Foundation Fund	School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan Fund
DeWitt Area Community Fund — All Kids Playground	Lansing Concert Band Fund	St. Johns Area Community Fund
DeWitt Public Schools Foundation Fund	Lansing Public Schools Educational Advancement Fund	St. Johns Schools Foundation for Excellence Fund
East Lansing Educational Foundation Fund	Legacy Endowment for Catholic Spartans	St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church Fund
East Lansing Public Library Fund	Library of Michigan Foundation Fund	St. Thomas Aquinas Faith Fund
Eaton Area Senior Center Fund	Loaves and Fishes Ministries Fund	St. Vincent Catholic Charities Fund
Eaton County United Way Fund	Lucinda Means Bicycle Advocacy Fund	State Bar of Michigan Access to Justice Fund
Ebersole Foundation Fund	Meridian Township - Meridian Dog Park Fund	Todd Martin Development Fund
ECCF Administrative Fund	Meridian Township Fireworks Fund	Tri-County Office on Aging Fund
ECCF Charlotte Public Schools Education Foundation Fund	Meridian Volunteer Council Fund	Williamston Area Beautification Fund
ECCF Eaton Rapids Education Foundation Fund	Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund	Williamston Schools Foundation Fund
ECCF First Congregational Church of Vermontville Fund	Michigan Community Service Commission	Woldumar Nature Center Fund
ECCF Friends of the Charlotte Performing Arts Center Fund	Michigan Disability Rights Coalition Jim Francis-Bohr Memorial Fund	Women's Center of Greater Lansing Fund
ECCF Grand Ledge Education Foundation —	Michigan Historical Center Foundation Fund	YMCA of Lansing Fund

Cheerleaders for community

Jack and Margaret Bates are fans of greater Lansing from way back.

She went to Sexton; he went to Eastern. He went to Michigan State University where he became an actual cheerleader in the 1940s. He's been in the life insurance business since 1955; she's worked as a volunteer at Sparrow for nearly 40 years. They've lived in the same house in East Lansing since Valentine's Day, 1964.

They love it here.

"East Lansing is friendly, it's easy to get around," Margaret said. "It's a comfortable place to live."

They speak with a fondness for greater Lansing as two people who have made it their mission to care for their community through their professional, social, religious and civic engagements.

"Our giving in dollars is modest compared to a lot of people, but giving our time is a labor of love," Jack said.

Jack has been a member of the Lansing Rotary Club for 43 years; he was instrumental in helping the club establish its own endowment fund with the Capital Region Community Foundation.

"The way our fund is set up through CRCF, people felt the money was well-guarded," he said. "Some hot-shot couldn't come along with a big idea, and all that money would go out the window."

Jack and Margaret recently became members of the Community Foundation's Legacy Society. During their lifetime, they focus their giving on Rotary, Sparrow Hospital and People's Church in East Lansing. Their estate planned gift will



“

Our giving in dollars is modest compared to a lot of people, but giving our time is a labor of love.”

— Jack Bates, donor and Legacy Society member



A student uses running water at a wash station at her school in Santa Maria de Jesus, Guatemala, that was made possible by a Rotary Foundation grant and local Rotary clubs.

Photo by Rotary International/Monika Lozinska

Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation



Through the Jack Bates Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation Endowment Fund, donors support the club's foundation, whose mission is to establish an enduring source of revenue for the club's charitable endeavors.

Jack Bates, former president of Lansing Rotary and 43-year club member, worked with Patricia Reynolds, then president of the Community Foundation, to establish the fund.

"The endowment wouldn't have ever come about without her help," Bates said. The fund started with a \$5,000 gift from the club; today, it holds nearly \$2 million in assets.

"An endowment fund is an important part of any organization," said Michelle Reynaert, president

of the Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation. "As the fund grows, so too will the impact of Rotary in our community."

Grants from the fund support projects that fall within the service areas important to Rotary: peace and conflict prevention/resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy and economic and community development.

In 2016, the Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation awarded \$20,000 in international grants and another \$35,000 in community grants.

In addition to its regular grant cycle, the foundation has committed \$250,000 to the Impression 5 Science Center for its new two-story, permanent "water park," combining play with education. Rotary International is involved in clean water projects around the globe.

"When this is completed, it will be the most significant project in the history of the science center," Impression 5's Erik Larson told the Rotary Club of Lansing.

support the Rotary Foundation's endowment fund.

"We came from very, very humble beginnings," Jack said. "Everything we have is a gift. There's so much you can give besides money. You can give a way of life, civility amongst

people. Giving, yes, is money, but giving is more than money. It just becomes a way of life."

Jack and Margaret love traveling in the country in their motor home — they've been to 40 of our 50 states — but they always enjoy coming home.

"We grew up with nothing," Jack said. "It made us appreciate everything we have. It's why I appreciate the Community Foundation. The Community Foundation is a force. Consider how much we can do when everyone works together."

10 REASONS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



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.



Our focus is local

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 in our region.



Innovative 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.



Connecting donors

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.



Multiply the impact

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

**FOR GOOD. FOR EVER.
FOR EVERYONE.**

Personal, 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.



One gift, many goals

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



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.



Maximum tax advantages

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



For good. For ever.

Through our endowment funds, your generosity will benefit our community for generations to come.



THE IMPACT OF OUR IMPACT GRANTS

The Capital Region Community Foundation's annual Impact Grants of up to \$75,000 support innovative and cooperative solutions to community problems. The grants are designed to fund projects that have the potential for transformative, sustainable community change. Here's a look at some of our past recipients:

2014

Ronald McDonald House

The "Heal the House" project at the Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan rehabilitated the 15-year-old house that hosts families who have critically ill children receiving medical treatment in our local hospitals and clinics.



2013

MGROW

Eaton Conservation District used its grant to build the capacity of the Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds. MGROW assists 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.



2011

ANC, REACH and GLFB

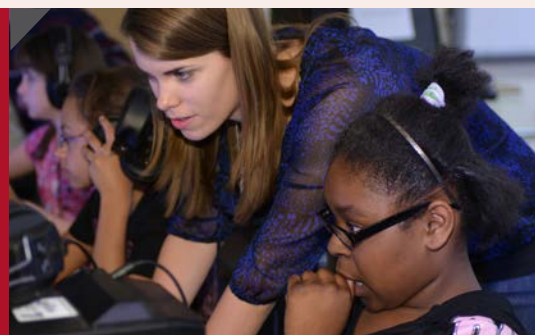
Allen Neighborhood Center used the award toward opening the Allen Market Place. REACH Studio Art Center used its grant toward purchasing buildings on a city block that more than tripled its existing space. And the Greater Lansing Food Bank's grant was put toward the purchase of refrigerators and freezers for many of the food bank's pantries and partners.



2010

Impression 5 and ITEC

Impression 5 used its grant to kick off the science center's reinvention, while ITEC Lansing's grant was used to establish its headquarters at the Foster Community Center.





2015 Impact Grant: Bath Senior Center, \$55,000



Bath Charter Township used its \$55,000 Impact Grant award to implement phase two of a major kitchen renovation of its senior center. Three days a week, the center serves nutritionally sound, home-cooked meals that consist of locally grown, fresh ingredients to seniors from Bath and the surrounding communities — all for just \$3 per person. Demand for the meals has grown steadily since 2012, and the center's tiny kitchen couldn't keep up. Imagine trying to prepare a Thanksgiving meal for 60 people in your home three days a week.

"The new kitchen means we won't have to cook in phases," said Karen Hildebrant, who handles administrative services for Bath Charter Township. "We won't be taking pans of au gratin potatoes over to the police department to use their oven so they'll be ready in time for lunch."

Hildebrant said the CRCF grant will enable them to better serve a growing population. "We've had to turn people away because we ran out of prepared food," she said. "With this renovation, our dream is to feed everyone who comes through our doors. This grant is the difference between seniors going hungry and having a place to gather for socialization and healthy meals."



BUILDING A FUTURE



Photos by Becky Shink

2015 Impact Grant: Hosanna House, \$75,000

Through a comprehensive, transitional living program, Hosanna House of Michigan supports youth who are aging out of the state's foster care system.

When co-founder and president Karen Bacon applied for CRCF's Impact Grant, only one shared-living residence in Lansing accommodated four young adults ages 18-24 and up to three small children. Bacon said there are more than 600 kids in foster care in Ingham County alone.

Hosanna House is using its \$75,000 grant to renovate three homes

purchased from the Ingham County Land Bank and Gateway Community Services.

Young adults who have spent two years in Hosanna House's shared residence will have the opportunity to move into their own two-bedroom home and receive two additional years of supportive services. Then they can purchase that home for \$25,000; Hosanna House will use that money to buy and rehabilitate another house.

"The program immediately becomes self-sustaining," Bacon said. "The money from CRCF will affect family



after family. Every two years it puts new families into two-bedroom homes of their own."

Bacon says Hosanna House's support gives the youth time to take the baby steps they need to live successfully independently. When they age out of the foster care system, they don't have a biological family to fall back on, or if they do, it's a potentially destructive relationship.

"They really are *kids*," Bacon said, "They've gone through so much at such a young age that children should never have to see.

"Our goal is to get them a safe, affordable place to live and teach them how to be successful,"

Bacon said.

"Keeping the monthly payment affordable is such an important part of this. The money from the Capital Region Community Foundation will affect family after family. Can you imagine how exciting it's going to be for them to move into their own house?"

The grant requires a one-to-one match, and Hosanna House has secured funds to buy and renovate four additional homes in Ingham County.

"After that, we will never need another penny for renovations. With our renovation cycle, we'll turn over five two-bedroom homes every year," she said.

“

The money from CRCF will affect family after family. Every two years it puts new families into two-bedroom homes of their own."

**— Karen Bacon,
Hosanna House executive director**

A legacy of education

Kathleen Ruff lived a simple life.

She was born in Detroit in 1944, one of three children of working-class parents.

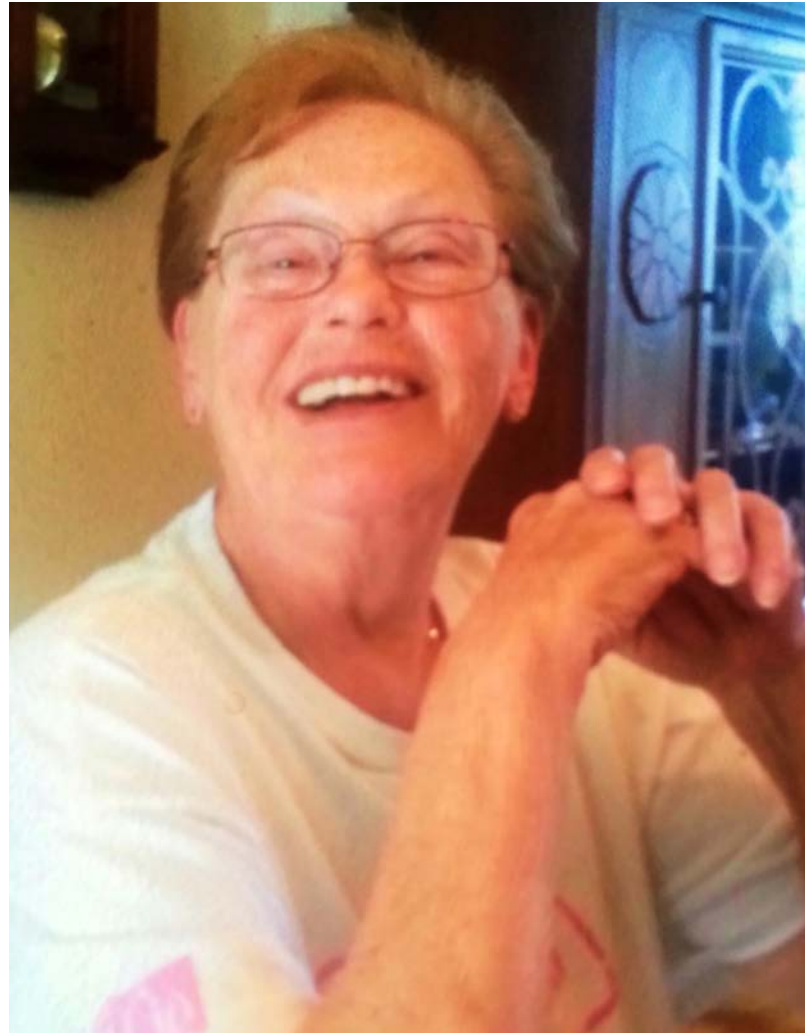
"Her parents made sure all the kids went to Catholic school," Ruff's best friend, Janice Graham, recalled. "It was an effort; Kathleen remembered how her parents were always counting their pennies. It was important to them their kids had a good, Catholic education."

Ruff never married, and she had no children. She worked for more than 50 years as a hairdresser in Farmington, played golf on her day off and taught herself how to paint.

She was frugal, and she knew how much her education meant to her. So in her will, she left half of her trust to set up the Kathleen A. Ruff Tuition Assistance Fund for St. Joseph Catholic School in Howell. The fund is administered by the Capital Region Community Foundation.

"If she hadn't planned for this, her estate would have gone to nieces and nephews she had no contact with," said Graham, who became friends with Ruff in the 10th grade and now serves as the estate's trustee.

"It's easy to save when you're saving for your children, but when you don't have any, and you amass enough so all your needs are met, but you keep saving to pass it forward to other people — that's impressive," Graham said.



“

Kathleen remembered how her parents were always counting their pennies.”

— Janice Graham

Thinking of starting a fund?

A community foundation is a single, trusted vehicle you can use to address issues that matter to you, while gaining the maximum tax benefit under state and federal law.

We augment your professional advisor's services, offering personalized attention, local expertise and community-wide reach.

Donor-advised funds eliminate the

need for a private foundation. You focus on giving to nonprofits of your choosing; we take care of the paperwork.

Our Community's Endowment enables you to make a meaningful investment, with grants going toward our region's greatest needs.

Field-of-interest funds allow you to concentrate your giving on a

particular issue or geographic area — such as ending hunger, protecting the environment or improving education. You direct your giving to the causes you care about.

Designated funds support your charitable organizations of choice.

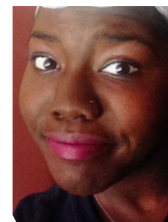
Agency endowment funds are set up by nonprofits to grow their assets and provide permanent sources of revenue.

H.O.P.E. Scholars



Breanna Riddle

When Breanna Riddle was a student at Lansing Eastern High School, her counselor encouraged her to apply for college scholarships.



Riddle

"It was kind of rigorous, and in the beginning I thought, 'This is terrifying!' But I'm so grateful she pushed me to look for scholarships and stay on top of my academics," she said.

Riddle, the daughter of two nurses, is now a sophomore at Lansing Community College, poised to enter the school's nursing program.

"H.O.P.E. has allowed me to not worry about the financial aspect of going to college that so many students get weighed down by, and it's given me an opportunity to focus on doing well."

The H.O.P.E. Scholarship Program is an education initiative in cooperation with the Lansing School District, the City of Lansing, Lansing Community College, the Lansing Police Department, the Capital Region Community Foundation, the YMCA, Michigan State University, and local businesses and private citizens.

The program offers Lansing School District and Lansing charter school youth an opportunity for a college education and a brighter future. Students are initiated into the program as sixth graders. Students promise to finish high school in exchange for eligibility to receive H.O.P.E. Scholar funding and/or services at Lansing Community College for two years upon completing high school.

"I'm grateful I don't have to work while I'm in school," Riddle said. "My parents had to work **and** they had children while they were in college. I don't know how they did it."

H.O.P.E. NUMBERS

Number of associate degrees earned as of spring 2016:

73

Number of certifications earned as of spring 2016:

74

Number of H.O.P.E. Scholars who transferred to 4-year schools:

74

H.O.P.E. Scholars enrolled in at least one or more classes at LCC since fall 2008:

1108



5 PERCENT FOR THE FUTURE

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.

When you give through the Capital Region 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 that's 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. Call us today. We can work with you and your financial advisor to benefit mid-Michigan forever.

Watch our "Give Just 5%" video at www.crcfoundation.org



LEAP

CRCF INVESTS IN GREATER LANSING'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Capital Region Community Foundation is a proud founding partner of LEAP, a coalition of area leaders committed to building a prosperous and vibrant region where businesses can thrive.

Since LEAP's inception in 2007, we have worked together to boost mid-Michigan's economic development and attract talent to Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties.

From 2012-15, LEAP projects have helped the private sector create 3,818 direct jobs and more than \$973 million in private investment.

In 2015 alone, LEAP projects created 470 direct jobs and \$137 million in private investment.

Among some of LEAP's highlights for our region in 2015:

- The New Economy Division had its best year ever, forming 30 startup companies with 62 jobs and \$1,050,000 in private investment, while tying for second place in the state for successfully writing Business Accelerator Fund grants for startups in our region.
- Jackson National Life opened its new national headquarters expansion, a \$114 million investment adding 1,000 jobs.
- GM completed its nearly \$1 billion total investment, beginning production of the Motor Trend Car of the Year, the Camaro, adding 500 jobs.
- Niowave opened its new \$79 million medical isotope production facility at the airport, adding 120 jobs.
- SkyVue began construction on Michigan Avenue of a mixed use, \$90 million, nine-story building, the tallest to be built in the Lansing area in more than 10 years.
- LEAP placed the 16th permanent public art piece in the community.
- LEAP kicked-off the highly successful program, Diversity Lansing, which provides training and discussions to increase corporate and community diversity techniques and best practices.
- Lansing Youth Startup Challenge Expo continued, with awards totaling \$13,000 to youth entrepreneurs of our region.

Donors

We are grateful for the support of all of our donors. Those featured in this list gave a significant gift to our Community's Endowment or operating fund in 2015.

Gerald W. and Sharon Ambrose
Thomas Amiss and Mary Ellen Sheets
Thomas and Sallee Mildred Anderson
Doris H. Asher
John and Patty Barnas
Joan Bauer
Rocky Ray Beckett and Julie Thomas-Beckett
Tony and Carmen Benavides
Kira Carter-Robertson and Ryan Robertson
Beverly Bonning and Jeffrey Lapinski
Dorean and Jim Brazier
David and Patricia Brogan
Greg and Christine Brogan
Ted and Maureen Buda
James D. Butt
Delois Whitaker Caldwell
Bruce and Joy Curtis
Tim Daman
MaryLee Davis
Dorrance Dean
Nancy Dixon
David and Connie Donovan
Thomas S. Eveland
Maxine A. Eyestone
Michael J. and Christina K. Ferland
Vincent Ferris Jr.
Dennis and Linda Fliehman
Michael E. Flowers
Phillip V. and Sylvia M. Frederickson
Baldomero Garcia
James R. Giddings
Roland and Mary Lou Gifford
Lynn Griffor
David and Margaret Holtschlag
Douglas and Katharine Johnson
Robert Kolt and Sue Wagner
Don P. LeDuc and Susan Coley



Marilyn Leighty
Bob Lendt
Rachel Lewis
Joe Lopez
Richard and Suzanne Lorencen
Katie Lynwood
Dale R. and Lynn H. Martin
Charles and Helen P. Mickens
Robert and Shelagh Miller
Nelson Missbach and Judy Tant
George and Marilyn Nugent
Gerald L. Olson
Mary Lind Olson
Dennis R. Pace and Anne L. Grofvert
Brian and Sara Priester
Veronica Resendiz
Jack and Peggy Roberts
Lolo Robison
Ryan and Danielle Robinson
Ruth L. Sablich
Denise Schroeder
Louis Shannon
Jeffrey B. Simbob Trust
John and Debbie Serrine
Mark and Mary Sisco
Justin and Marjorie Sleight
Stuart D. Sleight
James B. and Francine M. Sorber
James D. Spaniolo
Mary Stewart

Scott Swinton and Sylvia Morse
Marlaine Teahan
Robert and Kerri Trezise
Richard and Beverly Trumley
Ronald Uken and Suzanne Miel-Uken
Virginia Zynda Family Foundation
Donald M. and Sandra R. Walker
Steve R. Ware
Tom and Doreen Woodward
Edward and Dorothy Yoder
David Lee Zimmerman

Businesses and Organizations

Alerus Retirement Solutions
Andrews Hooper & Pavlik PLC
Auto-Owners Insurance Co.
Barry Eaton Health Plan
Consumers Energy Foundation
Dean Transportation Inc.
Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, PC
Fraser Trebilcock Davis & Dunlap, PC
Gannett Foundation, Inc.
Horizon Bank – Corporate Offices
IPEX, Inc.
Jackson National Life Insurance
Lansing Board of Water and Light
Lansing Economic Area Partnership
Louis Padnos Iron & Metal Co.
Michigan Nonprofit Association
MSU Federal Credit Union
Peckham, Inc.
Piper and Gold Public Relations
Plante Moran Financial Advisors, PLLC
Pray Family
Shaheen Chevrolet
Sparrow Health System
Two Men and a Truck

THREE WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Looking to make an impact in our community forever?

We have three easy ways you can give:



COMMUNITY'S ENDOWMENT

- Unrestricted funds
- Field of interest funds

DONOR SERVICES

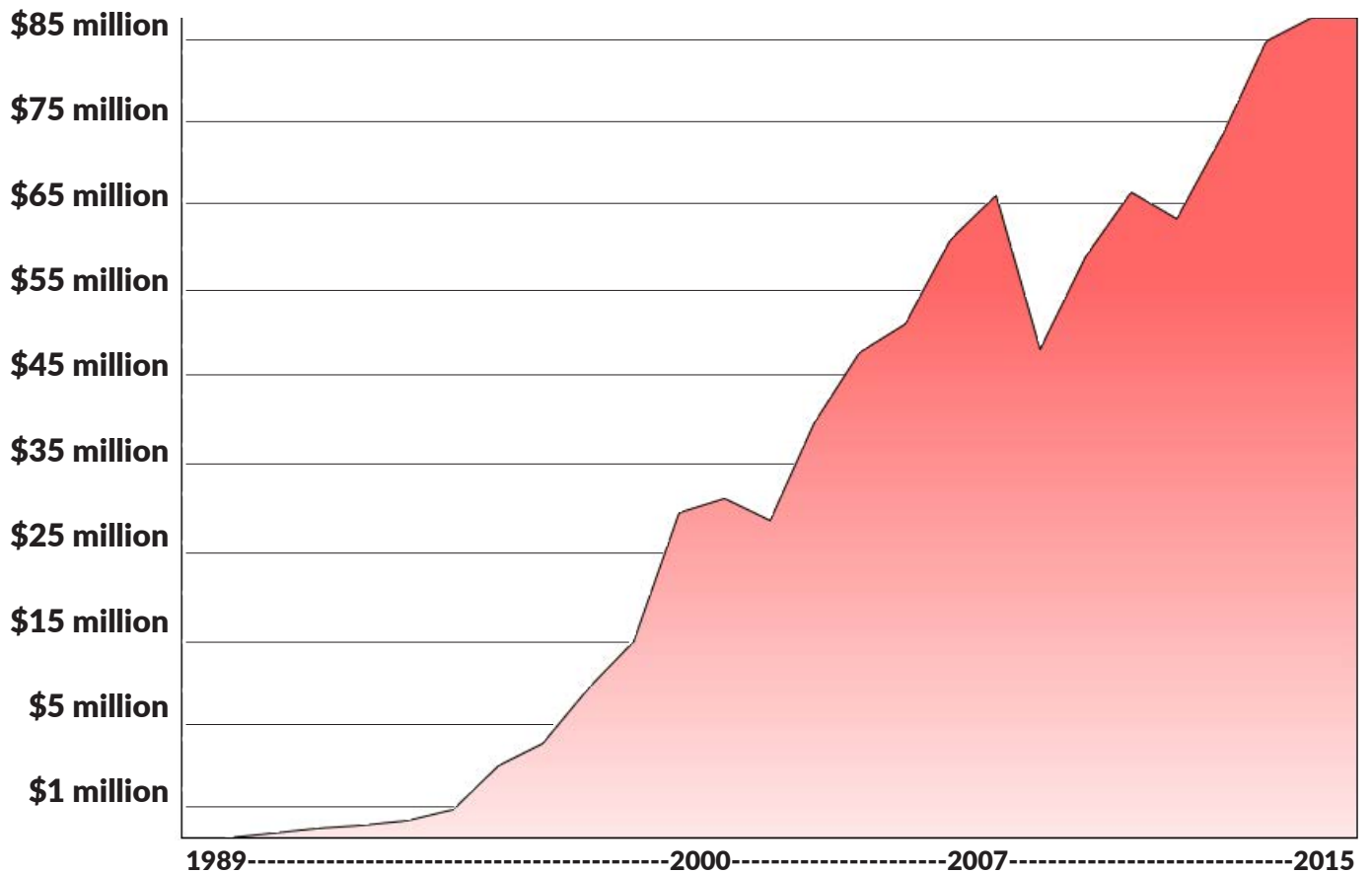
- Donor-advised funds
- Designated funds
- Agency funds
- Scholarship funds

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

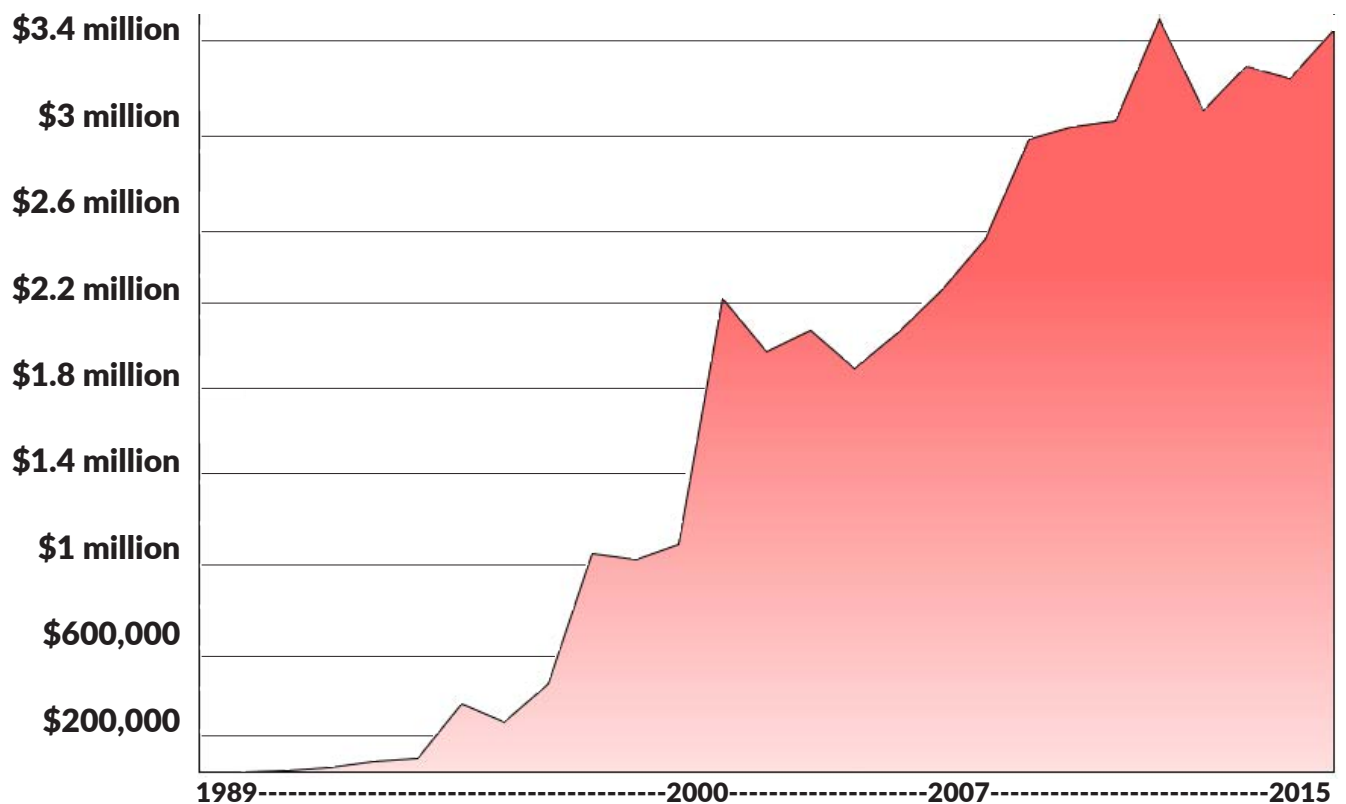
- Strategic initiatives
- Proactive grants

Choose one or a combination of ways to give through the Capital Region Community Foundation, and you'll be assured your gifts will benefit your wishes — and our community — forever.

CRCF history of total assets



Grants awarded annually



Gifts received:

\$5,861,349

Grants awarded:

\$3,310,383

Total assets as of
Dec. 31, 2015:

\$83,457,379

Find a complete list of our 2015 grants online at www.crcfoundation.org.**Assets by fund class**

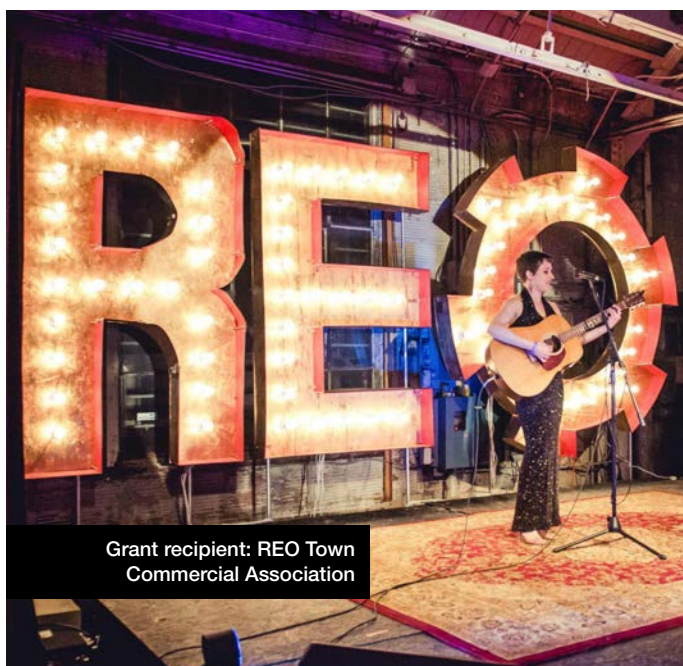
Agencies.....	\$28,806,580	Undesignated.....	\$7,514,283
Field of Interest	\$18,731,594	Donor-advised.....	\$6,803,600
Scholarship	\$8,834,506	Designated	\$3,820,312

CRCF's 2015 audited financial report

Assets	2015	2014
Cash and cash equivalents	\$999,143	\$956,147
Investments	\$82,336,237	\$82,371,175
Accounts receivable, net	\$3,055	\$6,738
Deposits	\$7,194	\$3,654
Property donation	\$32,600	\$33,300
Furniture and equipment, less accumulated depreciation	\$79,150	\$91,698
TOTAL ASSETS	\$83,457,379	\$83,462,712

Liabilities and net assets	2015	2014
Accounts payable	\$53,497	\$58,399
Accrued salaries and related	\$13,340	\$21,942
Grants payable	\$411,240	\$406,374
Funds held as agency endowments	\$8,217,630	\$8,594,488
Liabilities associated with gift annuities	\$148,691	\$212,405
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$8,844,398	\$9,293,608
Net assets: Unrestricted	\$74,612,981	\$74,169,104
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$83,457,379	\$83,462,712

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. A complete copy of our audited financial statement is available online at www.crcfoundation.org.



Underground of Good

In the fall of 2013, a group of young professionals got together in a basement to talk about all the work being done to make our community better. They talked about the money they spend in greater Lansing. And they wondered what would happen if they started investing in their community instead of just spending in it.

The Underground of Good was born.

The giving circle has met quarterly since December 2013. Each participant nominates a cause, and three are drawn to compete. After brief pitches, the group votes for the winner, and each person contributes \$100 to the chosen nonprofit. Already more than \$20,000 has been awarded to mid-Michigan organizations.

In the fall of 2016, the Underground will take its next big step — establishing an endowment fund with the Capital Region Community Foundation. The intention is to grow the next generation of philanthropists in mid-Michigan.

"I think of our community as a living entity," said Jen Estill, a member since the group's inception. "We're only healthy if every person is on solid footing, if every neighborhood is strong, if every need is met."

Estill said the Underground of Good is a fun way to give and a great way to learn about all kinds of nonprofits in our community. "It feels great to see what a big impact a group can make."

Rachel Lewis, a CRCF trustee, said she likes that the group intentionally draws the young professional crowd. "We can all make excuses regarding barriers to giving," she said. "The Underground of Good makes giving very affordable."

"A group like this is important to the community because it shows a younger generation of folks can intentionally invest in our community. We're not reinventing the wheel, but we're providing oil to the motor to keep the wheels turning."



Estill



Lewis

It's all about community

We think investing in people is a smart investment

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, making 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.





Potter Park Zoo received a \$15,000 grant for its innovative, new FALCONERS program for autistic youth and their family members



Inclusive activities for the family

A few years ago, Potter Park Zoo piloted a summer camp for children with autism.

"We learned a lot," said Dennis Laidler, the zoo's education coordinator. "We got feedback from the parents — they said they liked it, but what they lacked were things for the entire family to do."

Parents told Laidler they felt badly because siblings missed out on opportunities for public activities with the entire family.

Working with regional agencies and schools, Potter Park Zoo staff

and docents created FALCONERS: Families of Autistic Learners CONnecting Empathy, Responsibility and Stewardship.

The program is designed for kids and young adults with autism and their family to have an enriching, educational experience in a welcoming environment.

This isn't a one-size-fits-all program, either.

"We have participants from ages 2 to 22," Laidler said. "Depending on where they are on the spectrum, they may be low-functioning to really



high-functioning. We're planning for so many variables."

The Community Foundation's grant helped the zoo create programs running monthly throughout 2016. Each month focuses on a different theme and includes a hands-on project and a way for the participants to give back, working on crafts and projects to benefit the zoo's animals.

Laidler said the success and structure of the FALCONERS program can be replicated at other institutions in the community.

"Based on what we learn, we'll develop a toolkit to share so they can use it. A lot can 'accommodate' special-needs

groups, but that's not the same thing as designing things specifically **for** them," he said.

"Family members and teachers have commented on how engaged William is when talking about this experience," one parent wrote on an evaluation. "We're so grateful to everyone!"

Laidler said the zoo always has ideas for these kinds of programs on the back burner — things they'd love to do if they had the time and money to create them.

"This is one idea that has been hanging around for a while, so we're really grateful we were able to get the support from the foundation to make it happen."

“ Family members and teachers have commented on how engaged William is when talking about this experience. We're so grateful to everyone!”

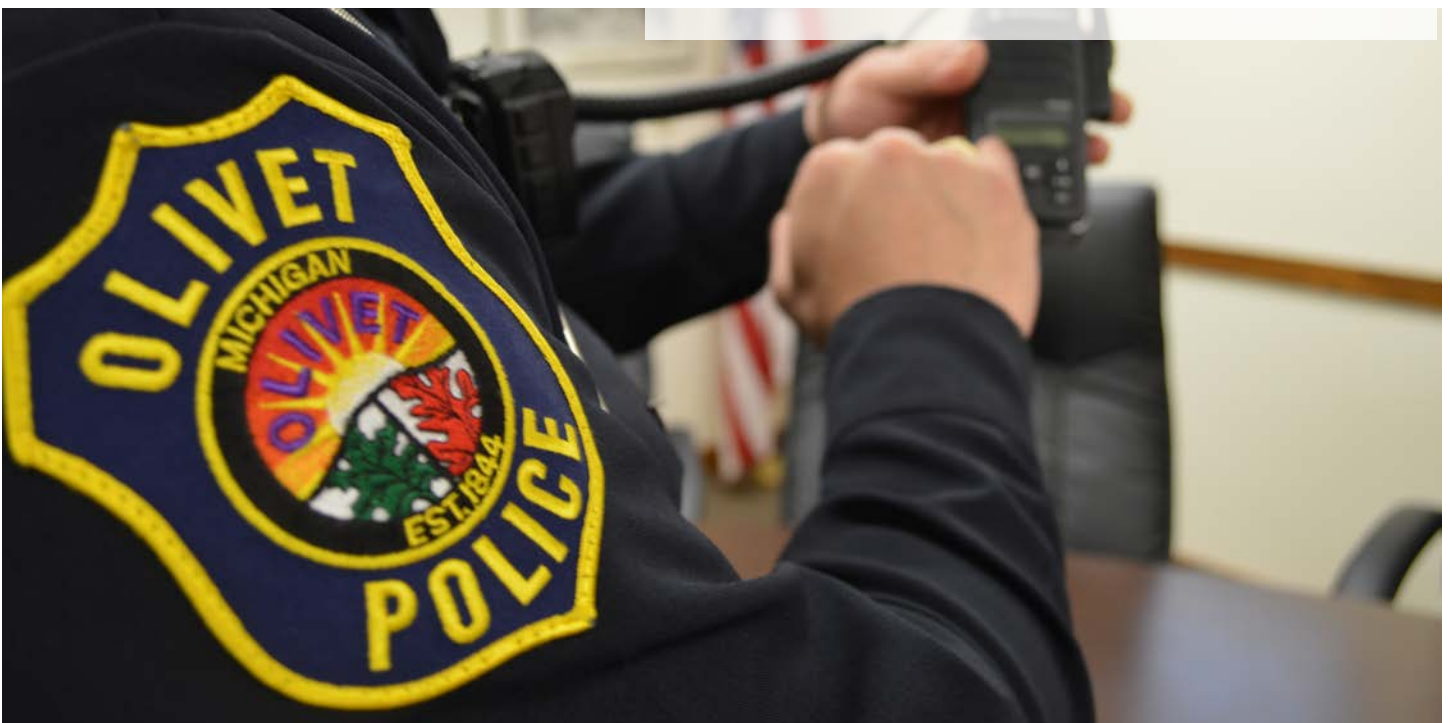
— Parent of a FALCONERS participant



City of Olivet PD

A grant for \$2,500 enabled the Olivet Police Department to buy handheld, two-way radios and body armor for three officers.

Olivet is considered a low- to moderate-income community by the State of Michigan's Economic Development Corporation. Budget cuts have made it difficult for the city to provide the police department all the equipment it needs. The Community Foundation's grant outfitted three officers with equipment to ensure they're prepared to serve and protect in life-threatening situations.





Child and Family Charities

Family Growth Center

Child and Family Charities' Family Growth Center provides free, drop-in respite childcare to families in crisis and parents who need a stress break.

The Community Foundation's grant of \$15,000 supports the hiring of qualified, licensed instructors to care for and work with children 6 weeks to 5 years old.

"We aren't a substitute for full-time or part-time child care," said Kathy Kelly, Child Abuse Prevention Services program director for Child and Family Charities. "We're here for parents who need to be in a class or need to drop off a well child so they can take a sick one to see a doctor."

The Family Growth Center also offers a tuition-free Great Start Readiness Program for 4-year-old children to prepare them to enter kindergarten, ready to succeed.

"What do grants mean to us?" Kelly asked. "Grants mean we stay in existence, that we can continue to offer this free resource to income-eligible families."





Hakuna matata! CRCF's \$8,160 grant helped MSU's Wharton Center bring Disney Musicals in Schools to Lansing students and teachers.



Immersed in the arts

MSU's Wharton Center for Performing Arts is one of only eight arts organizations in the nation — and the only in Michigan — to receive a \$100,000 grant from Disney to help bring its musicals to mid-Michigan elementary schools. CRCF's \$8,160 grant supports the implementation of the first year of the program.

The Disney Musicals in Schools program is designed to build sustainable theater

programs in under-resourced schools. Schools receive free performance rights, scripts and music for a 30-minute version of a Disney musical, written for elementary school performers.

Third- through fifth-grade students from Lansing's Post Oak and Lewton elementary schools worked in teams to develop a production throughout a 17-week residency, with Wharton Center's trained teaching artists at the

helm. They were given a list of several abridged shows to choose from, and both schools selected "The Lion King" as their debut production.

"It's exciting and challenging to have this experience with a group of kids and teachers who may not have done anything like this before," said Hollie Auten, the teaching artist hired by Wharton Center to work with Post Oak teachers and students.



Photos by Eat Pomegranate Photography

"Disney has made the show and program content very accessible to any level of experience, and watching the development of the cast and school team as they gain new skills and become more confident every week is its own reward," Auten said.

Post Oak, a Chinese immersion school, did some of their theater games in Chinese.

"I have found myself growing in every rehearsal," said co-director and Post Oak teacher Yu Qiu. "Disney Musicals in Schools pushes me to find the great potential in all of us."

Kris Koop Ouellette, associate director of education for the MSUFCU Institute for Arts and

Creativity at Wharton Center, said the program's goal is to teach self-confidence, focus and discipline to the students.

"Theater feeds the soul," she said. "It requires belief and imagination; you have to use your body to tell the story."

The program culminated with each school performing one number from its show on Wharton's stage.

"This program is so well-thought out in terms of building sustainability for the schools," said Kristen Calabrese, associate director of development at Wharton. "This is something that's really intended to support the school for a number of years. It's training the teachers as much as the students."

“It’s exciting and challenging to have this experience with a group of kids and teachers who may not have done anything like this before.”

**— Hollie Auten,
teaching artist**

New Digs for Dogs and Cats



FOR THE ANIMALS

A \$15,000 grant is helping the Capital Area Humane Society expand its facility by 9,000 square feet and renovate the building. When completed, CAHS will be able to take in more homeless animals from the community.

For nearly 80 years, the Capital Area Humane Society has cared for our community's abandoned animals, working hard to find every adoptable animal a new home. CAHS also provides a wide array of services and educational programs to community members as it seeks to advocate for animal health and safety throughout our region.

But the building in northwest Lansing is old, increasingly cramped and requires a more purposeful design.

"Our building was built at a time when unhealthy animals were euthanized, so there's no room for sick animals to be housed because they didn't get a chance," said Julia Willson, president and CEO of CAHS.

"Now, with 97.5 percent of our animals getting homes, we don't euthanize because an animal is sick, we treat them. We need space for the animals to have somewhere to go while they're being treated."

In addition to creating separate housing for healthy and sick animals, the \$3.9 million New Hope, New Home campaign also will reduce stress levels for animals in the shelter, better prevent the spread of disease, create a new animal intake area, add a new clinical center and change the building's facade.

"This is a positive place," Willson said. "When people come here, we want them to see it as a warm, friendly place to meet pets, not to drive by and think, 'Oh, that's a scary warehouse where they keep animals



nobody wants.’”

Cats who lived life outside will find safety in the new outdoor cat colony. Dogs will come out of fenced, cement runs and into spaces that replicate more of a home-like environment.

“Cages are not only offensive to humans, they’re incredibly stressful for dogs,” Willson said. “It’s not a home. We want to keep them as comfortable as possible while they’re here.”

Willson said mid-Michigan’s love for animals is fueling this multi-year project.

“We have tremendous community support, but it’s the grants we receive that really push these projects forward,” she said. “It’s so nice to feel supported by the community — not just individuals, but by groups that understand we’re providing a real service for people *and* pets.”



It's more than food.

Helping Hands of Eaton County provides a seven-day supply of groceries to people in need from the Charlotte and Vermontville area. But they need more than help with food. A \$5,000 grant from CRCF enables the organization to provide personal care items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo and toilet paper to its clients.

“When you have a Bridge card, you can’t buy things like soap with it,” said Phil Grimwood, director of the food pantry. He said although the economy is improving, the number of families Helping Hands serves each year keeps increasing.

“There’s a whole invisible society out there who need help. Grants like this are so important,” he said. “Life is tough enough without having to use bad toilet paper.”



Helping Hands Eaton County



Michigan History Minute



Did you watch “Night at the Museum” and dream about how great it would be if the exhibits actually did come to life at night?

You’re not alone. Moving pictures give stories dimension and drama that go beyond most museum exhibits. They can draw people into historic discoveries about themselves and their communities and dispel the belief that history is dull.

The Michigan History Foundation aims to increase awareness of our community’s heritage by producing short videos explaining key parts of our state’s history. The first video, “The Toledo War,” can be seen at <http://bit.ly/ToledoWar>. A CRCF grant of \$5,000 is helping produce a short film detailing how Lansing became Michigan’s capital.

“It’s challenging to tell any story that quickly,” Hales said. To make it all happen, the Michigan History Foundation is teaming up with Gud Marketing in Lansing’s Old Town to produce the videos.

“They have such a passion for this project too,” said Cindy Hales, director of the foundation. “They appreciate the importance of telling the stories in an innovative way.”

Hales said the long-term plan is to have a series of six to eight videos they can use with groups visiting the Michigan Historical Center. The videos also can be used by teachers in classroom presentations, and the foundation is building its online presence to connect with people who might never make the drive to Lansing to visit the museum, but still want to learn about our history.

“When you understand your community’s roots, you get an increased sense of belonging, an increase in community engagement,” Hales said.



Actress Jacquie Floyd shooting “The Toledo War” video.



Volunteers Steve Rall (background) and Al Swartz take turns reading live on the air for WKAR Radio Reading Service.

WKAR Radio Reading Service

A grant for \$11,294 helps ensure listeners across mid-Michigan have daily access to news and information



Steve Rall

WKAR Radio Reading Service is offered to people who are blind, visually impaired, or have other physical disabilities and handicaps that leave them unable to read. People like Susan Moss of East Lansing.

"I'm a unique listener because I'm not blind," Moss said. "I'm print-impaired because I can't easily hold paper. I have peripheral neuropathy in my hands, so holding a regular book or newspaper is not comfortable."

Moss listens several times a week, and has used the service as a much-needed distraction.

"When you have chronic pain, you feel very vulnerable, and all your energy goes into yourself to survive the pain," she said. "To have a voice to focus on is tremendously helpful."

WKAR has been providing this free service since 1973. Producer Brad Walker said it costs about \$120 per listener, annually, to provide the service. Today, they have about 750 listeners.

"We find people who need us don't know about us," Walker said. So some of the grant dollars go to outreach to promote the service. "Grants really keep us going. Knowing people are investing their money in us shows us we're making a difference. That feels good."



Volunteer Lynn Adsit



Photos by Eat Pomegranate Photography

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre received a \$4,000 grant to support a production of "Thumbelina" in collaboration with Riverwalk Theatre. The show featured the group's apprenticeship-style guild program which teaches youth how to work in all backstage activities for a theater production.

Sarah Willis



All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre has been giving local kids the soup-to-nuts experience of staging shows for more than 25 years. It was founded on the principle that, with supervision and instruction by adult mentors, youth can become responsible for all aspects of staging a play, on both sides of the curtain.

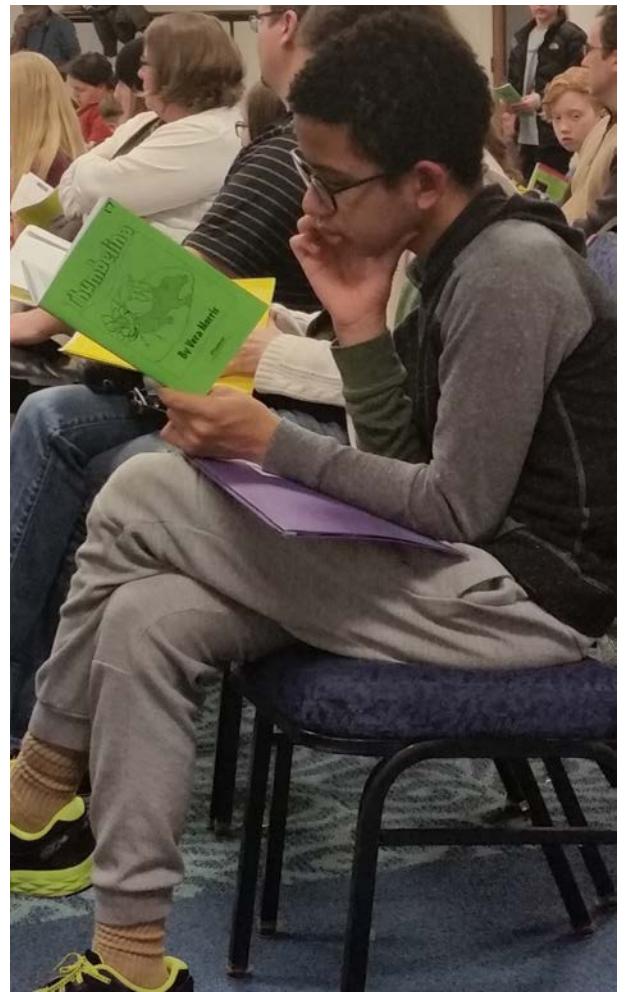
Sarah Willis grew up participating in the program. After studying film and theater at Grand Valley State University, she was hired in 2014 as the artistic director.

"I didn't know this was what I wanted to do with my life until I was doing it," Willis said, laughing.

In the past five years, the organization has received more than \$26,000 in support from the Capital Region Community Foundation, helping kids stretch and express themselves through the arts.

"The productions are magic for the kids," Willis said. Adults are brought in as helpers, but it's really the youth who are driving the production from start to finish.

"Grants are really the lifeblood of our productions," Willis said. "It's so rewarding to have the community support us the way they do."





East Lansing Public Library Maker Studio



The East Lansing Public Library was awarded \$15,000 to purchase equipment, furniture, STEM kits and software to expand the ELPL Maker Studio. Makerspaces are community centers with tools, supplies, computers and software that allow people to design, prototype and create manufactured works in a collaborative environment. Because they are zones of self-directed learning, the studios provide educational and creative areas for all ages and abilities.

"The new space, which will be ready at the end of September, will include 3-D printers, a community loom, a sound studio and so much more," said Phyllis Thode, the library's community development specialist. "We couldn't afford to buy all these things on our own. Every year, our budget gets tighter and we try to make due with less. Grants help us afford things that benefit the whole community. We're so grateful for the Community Foundation's support."





YAC ATTACK

The Youth Action Committee is a youth grantmaking body of the Capital Region Community Foundation. YACers serve their community by awarding grants from revenue earned on the youth endowment fund and by performing community service projects.

In 2015-16, our YAC awarded more than \$43,000 to nonprofits and elementary classrooms in mid-Michigan. Since it began in 1992, CRCF's YAC has distributed more than \$750,000 in grants.

Youth Action Committee: In their own words



Team-building

"One of the most memorable meetings was a simple game night because we all got to know each other better and became more comfortable together. Once we bond like this, it makes it really easy to feel confident as a whole and meet our goals of helping the community."

— Logan Jackson, East Lansing



CRCF donor event

"I had a great experience being recognized as a YAC member at CRCF's donor event and getting many compliments from all the people there. This was the second year I went to the event, and it had a huge impact on me. It's wonderful to see all the people who have donated come in and see the progress that the CRCF is making. I learned so much both times I went to this event as a YAC member, and I can't wait to go back next year!"

— Lucas Leak, Waverly



Ele's Place service project

"I coordinated a service project at Ele's Place, a center for grieving children. When we arrived, we were given a tour of the facility and an explanation of everything that goes on there. After the tour, we stuffed envelopes, along with some other tasks. The staff at Ele's Place was grateful for the help we gave them. I believe each YAC member gained some knowledge of what Ele's Place does for our community as well as the crucial role that volunteers provide for them."

— Thomas Burns, Lansing Catholic



Race for the House

"The Race for the House 2016 was held by the Ronald McDonald House to help families with ill children. The atmosphere of the race was very inviting, and it was fun to see how focused the racers were on their running. It was nice to see so many people running to raise money for people who need it the most. It made me think about how I volunteer for my community and how much I enjoy giving back to community, even if it is in a small form."

— Aliyah Henderson, Waverly



Leading their peers

"Through my leadership position in YAC, I have gained confidence in myself and my leadership abilities. I knew no one else when I joined, and through YAC I have become more comfortable approaching new people. YAC has granted me the unique opportunity to grow as a person and philanthropist while becoming a more involved member of my community."

— Grace McElhone, Mason

2015-16 YAC community service and site visits

Recycle-rama

"This April, YAC volunteered with Recycle-rama, performing tasks such as collecting people's old light bulbs and Styrofoam, and by directing traffic and taking surveys. This was YAC's first time volunteering for this event, and it was the perfect way to celebrate the glorious weather, as well as maybe get the first sunburn of the year, while helping to conserve our Earth."

— Gabby Kindig, Lansing Eastern



Volunteers of America

"Volunteering at the Volunteers of America community kitchen was a great experience! It showed me that many local people need a decent meal. The staff made us feel welcome and really appreciated the extra hands."

— Garrick Bradley, Waverly



Toys for Tots

"The Salvation Army Toy Distribution was a great event that impacted a lot of people. We were able to help parents choose gifts for their children, and they were so grateful for it. I love knowing that I helped make a child's Christmas special. This service event is one of my favorites, and I look forward to working at it again next year!"

— Arielle Barlage, St. Johns



Special Olympics

"In one of the most popular volunteer events of the year, YACers spend a Friday in May volunteering with the Area 8 Special Olympics track and field meet. They help with events such as the long jump, shot put, bocce ball and more. They record the athletes' performance, hand out ribbons and cheer on all the competitors. Hundreds of people from Ingham and Eaton counties come to Michigan State to participate in and watch this fun event."

— Mel Steward, YAC co-advisor



Serving on boards

"Serving as a student trustee on CRCF's board has provided me with an experience that will forever be rewarding. I had the opportunity to witness the function of board and the decision-making processes. I was able to build my public speaking skills when giving my YAC reports. I also formed relationships with many of the board members, and I was able to gain valuable resources."

— Camryn Turner, Waverly, CRCF student trustee 2015-16



2016 Capital Region Community Foundation Board of Trustees



Tina Ferland
Board Chair
Plante Moran



Brian Priester
Vice Chair/Secretary
Lansing State Journal



Kira Carter-Robertson
Nominating Chair
Sparrow Health System



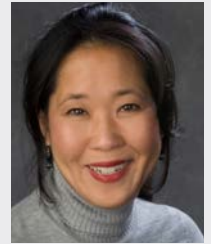
Rachel Lewis
Grants Chair
Bethany Christian
Services



Joe E. Pray
*Investment Chair/
Treasurer*
Pray Funeral Home



Jack Roberts
Audit Chair
Michigan High School
Athletic Association



Lolo Robison
Marketing Chair
CATA



Thomas Burns
Student Trustee-elect
Lansing Catholic
High School



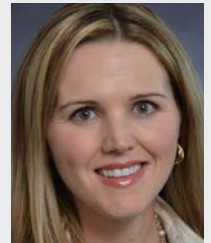
Tim Daman
Lansing Regional
Chamber of
Commerce



Michael Flowers
Board of Water
and Light



Bo Garcia
Lansing
Community
College



Katie Lynwood
Buhl, Little,
Lynwood &
Harris PLC



Helen Mickens
WMU Cooley Law
School, retired



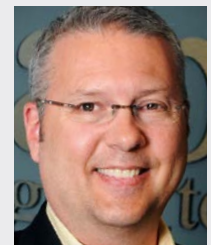
Danielle Robinson
Jackson National Life
Insurance Co.



Kate Snyder
Piper & Gold Public
Relations



Marlaine C. Teahan
Fraser, Trebilcock,
Davis & Dunlap, PC



Robert L. Trezise Jr.
LEAP, Inc.



Camryn Turner
Student Trustee,
Waverly High
School

Our headquarters:
The historic Marshall Street Armory

Our staff



Dennis W.
Fliehm
President & CEO



Laurie Strauss
Baumer
Chief Operating
Officer



Richard Comstock
Vice President
of Finance



Pauline Pasch
Senior Program
Officer




Kristin Rogers
Finance & Operations
Associate



Heather C.
Carrigan
Program Associate



Mara Wolke
Administrative
Assistant



It takes a noble man to
plant a seed
for a tree that will someday
give shade
to people he may never meet.

— *D. Elton Trueblood*

Thank you
*for the seeds you have planted
in our community.*



Capital Region
community foundation
The Center for Charitable Giving

330 Marshall St., Suite 300
Lansing, MI 48912

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 689



Our annual report is generously brought to you by



All-of-Us Express actors gather for their first rehearsal of "Thumbelina"

