

Focus on **Community**

2025 Impact Report

Community
Foundation
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN



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Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Vision

Southeast Michigan is a place where everyone thrives.

Mission

We build the resources, relationships and expertise required to expand equitable access to opportunities. Our mission is to make southeast Michigan a desirable place to live, work and play for all residents, today and tomorrow.

Letter from Leadership

Since 1984, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has worked diligently to build the resources, relationships and expertise needed to pursue its mission of making our region a desirable place to live, work and play for all residents, today and tomorrow. Since our founding, these efforts, coupled with the generosity and commitment of our donors, have led to the distribution of \$1.4 billion through more than 90,000 grants to nonprofit organizations making a difference in communities throughout our region.

In 2024 alone, the Community Foundation awarded 4,700 grants totaling just over \$128 million and welcomed new gifts of \$113 million, closing the year with \$1.3 billion in assets under management. We are proud to partner with more than 5,000 donors — including 12 major philanthropic foundations — and the more than 250 charitable organizations that are building endowments with us. We also welcome partnerships with hundreds of nonprofit organizations that receive support from our grants programs each year.

We began 2025 with new leadership* that has embraced the responsibility of carrying forward the legacy of our previous leaders, Mariam Noland and Ric DeVore. To do so, we have invested in operational excellence to ensure that the Community Foundation remains strong, agile and resilient — ready to face today's challenges and seize tomorrow's opportunities.

During the past year, we've been intentional about bringing two dimensions of our work into focus: data and front-line engagement with our partners. We've invested in a data warehouse that holds thousands of important pieces of information about our region, and we've hosted major

in-person visits and events to better understand the key issues and trends emerging around the region. Taken together, our continued focus on data and information alongside front-line engagement events for trustees, donors, emerging donors and staff have already started to pay the dividends of deeper insights and greater expertise on the issues that matter most in southeast Michigan.

This year, we also were pleased to launch MyCF, a new digital hub for our donors, nonprofit grantee partners and nonprofit endowment fund holders. This platform makes it simpler and easier for our partners to track their grant activity, recommend grants from donor-advised funds, obtain information about their funds, and stay connected with the Community Foundation.

As the funding and operational landscape for our community partners rapidly changes, our capacity to function at a high level becomes even more critical. We take our role in community problem-solving seriously, and we have an infrastructure our local partners can count on.

As we pursue strength, agility and resilience in everything we do, we invite you to lend your support with a gift to our Southeast Michigan Forever Fund.

Thank you for your trust, partnership and dedication to creating a thriving southeast Michigan — in 2025 and beyond.

Yours for the region,



David T. Provost
Board Chair



Nicole Sherard-Freeman
President and CEO

* Nicole Sherard-Freeman was appointed the third president of the Community Foundation, succeeding Richard L. DeVore, effective Jan. 1, 2025.

| 2024 By the Numbers



\$1.3 Billion+
in Total Assets



5,000+
Donor
Relationships



250+
Nonprofit Endowment
Partners



\$128 Million
Grants Distributed



4,700+
Grants Made



\$113 Million+
New Gifts

2025 Annual Meeting Highlights

Community in Action: The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan hosted our 2025 annual meeting on the historic campus of Marygrove Conservancy in Detroit, which is home to several of our grantee partners.



Partner Panel: Listening to and learning from our grantee partners is one of the most interesting parts of our work. During our annual meeting, then-Associate Vice President of Community Impact Greg Yankee, right, led a panel conversation with Marygrove-based grantee partners, from left: Marisa Nicely, COO of Starfish Family Services; Anthony White, artistic director and president of the Detroit Youth Choir; and Sam White, founding artistic and executive director of Shakespeare in Detroit.



Mariam C. Noland Award: The award recognizes a nonprofit executive in southeast Michigan whose service exemplifies the importance of leadership in their organization and the nonprofit community. In 2025, it was presented to Cindy Eggleton, co-founder and CEO of Brilliant Cities.



Richard Huegli Award for Program Excellence: The award honors a nonprofit that demonstrates high standards in human services programming and a belief in human potential. In 2025, it was presented to Forgotten Harvest and accepted by Forgotten Harvest CEO Adrian Lewis.



Allan D. Gilmour Award for Community Leadership: This award recognizes a member of the Board of Trustees for their exemplary volunteerism and philanthropy, both to the Community Foundation and the broader community. In 2025, the award was presented to Andrew Camden.

Strategic Plan Update

One important element of our 10-year strategic vision, “Thriving Together,” is to become a better reflection of what we hear from our donors, grantee partners and community members. During our 2025 annual meeting, we were proud to share that — in response to feedback we’ve received and data we’ve gathered throughout our strategic planning process — we’ve made several key changes to how we operate:

- We **streamlined our grantmaking process** to create efficiencies for grantseekers and staff, including a simplified, time-saving application process where grantseekers submit a simple proposal request before being invited to apply.
- We **aligned our community grantmaking strategy with five focus areas**, each grounded in our pursuit of a strong, agile and resilient southeast Michigan.
- We renamed our Program department the **Community Impact** team to more clearly reflect the essence of our work.

Each story in this report highlights a different focus area and how our support for it impacts the community. We believe our region thrives when people have access to opportunities, essential services and vibrant public spaces. This is the theory of change behind our work. More plainly put, it’s the reason we believe our five focus areas will work in tandem to help create a thriving seven-county area.

Focus Areas

- **Economic Opportunity:** Creating pathways to stable employment, entrepreneurship and financial security for individuals and families
- **Health Equity:** Increasing access to quality health care, improving health outcomes and providing essential services to meet basic needs
- **Youth and Education:** Supporting literacy, youth development and lifelong learning — from early childhood to adulthood
- **Arts and Culture:** Strengthening creative contributions to the civic, social and cultural infrastructure that enhances the region’s vibrancy
- **Public Space and Environment:** Investing in parks, trails and climate-smart infrastructure that improve environmental health and quality of life



See our recent grants list.

| Impact Stories



Focus on Economic Opportunity

Dutton Farm helps adults with disabilities find employment

Tim Kassa felt like he almost had it all — a loving family, a longtime girlfriend, an active social life — but something important was missing from his life.

For years, Kassa had searched for a job. His dream was to work with animals. Then, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, further complicating his search. That's when he reached out to Dutton Farm for help.

Dutton Farm is a Rochester Hills-based nonprofit whose mission is to empower and support adults with disabilities so they can live a life of purpose, inclusion and dignity. It offers a variety of programs including Adult Education, Community Involvement, Art Without Limits and Workforce Development.

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan recently made a \$50,000 grant to help expand the Workforce Development program at Dutton Farm. The grant aligns with our Economic Opportunity focus area, which creates pathways to stable employment, entrepreneurship and financial security for individuals and families. In addition to making community grants in this area, we also manage related initiatives including the New Economy Initiative and the Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership.

The Dutton Farm program connects participants with competitively paid employment opportunities that align with their strengths and interests, and then provides on-the-job support to help them succeed.

“The unemployment rate of people with disabilities is astronomical. When you tease out the developmental disabilities population, it's upward of 80% unemployment,” Dutton Farm CEO Jenny Brown says. “We're able to partner with businesses that have a staffing problem and pair them with a pool of talent that's eager, ready and excited to fill these positions. So, we're able to meet a need in the business community that uplifts the entire economy.”

With a 63% labor participation rate in southeast Michigan, according to the American Community Survey, employers often struggle to fill open positions. Meanwhile, adults with disabilities frequently face barriers to employment that keep them from joining the workforce. These include discrimination, lack of support and accommodation, limited access to training and education, social stigma, and financial challenges such as limited access to transportation or affordable housing.

The Workforce Development program at Dutton Farm, with support from the Community Foundation, breaks down these barriers and narrows the talent gap between employers and adults with developmental disabilities in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties.

In June, Dutton Farm helped Kassa land his dream job at Companion Pet Lodge in Waterford Township. For four hours a day, three days a week, Kassa cleans bowls, does laundry, fills water, plays with the dogs and performs other vital tasks at the busy boarding facility.

“These are my babies. They call me Uncle Timmy,” Kassa jokes as the delighted dogs chase a ball he's thrown for them. “I love this job. It's the best job I've ever had. All the people love me here, and I have the best boss in the world. I feel grateful. I'm blessed.”

Kassa's employers, Bill and Debby Lawrence, say having him on staff has been a win-win.

“It's been huge because this is a family business, and there's a lot of responsibilities,” Bill Lawrence says. “Tim taking care of the little dogs lifted such a burden off of us. It's freed up a lot of time to help us grow. It's exciting to see we can help people like Tim and Dutton Farm, while they help us.”

Pictured: Dutton Farm participant Tim Kassa works at Companion Pet Lodge in Waterford Township.

Focus on Health Equity

Forgotten Harvest mobile markets expand access to nutritious food

On a sunny morning in Dearborn, shoppers lined up to take their turn selecting healthy food from Forgotten Harvest's Community Choice Mobile Market.

At their appointment time, each shopper chatted with a volunteer before rolling their grocery cart into a 29-foot trailer to make their selections from shelves stocked with canned goods, bread, milk and more. Designed to provide a grocery store-like experience, the Community Choice Mobile Market increases access to nutritious food for children, families, seniors and veterans who may face barriers to accessing established emergency food distribution sites.

"Transportation is one of the things that we're trying to solve for. If they can't come to the food, then we bring the food to them. It also is different than our regular options because they can choose what they need based on health conditions like diabetes," says Chief Operating Officer Sheila Marshall.

"Then there's the side benefits, like the sense of community that it builds," Marshall adds. "A lot of people love the mobile market experience because they get the one-to-one communication and they get the one-to-one connection. Some of these seniors live alone. They don't have many people, and they just want to talk. We know that when people are engaged in community, they live longer, happier lives."

Operating the Community Choice Mobile Market is just one way Forgotten Harvest pursues its mission to relieve hunger in metro Detroit and prevent nutritious food waste. It also rescues surplus perishable food from 700 donors, harvests more than 650,000 pounds of food annually from its farm and supplies a network of food relief agencies. The 35-year-old, Oak Park-based nonprofit serves 450,000 people each year.

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan recently made a \$75,000 grant to help Forgotten Harvest expand its Community Choice Mobile Market pilot. The nonprofit's goal is to operate five mobile market units providing distributions five days a week throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, with one unit solely serving seniors.

The Community Foundation grant aligns with our Health Equity focus area, which aims to increase access to quality health care, improve health outcomes and provide essential services to meet basic needs.

According to the 2024 American Community Survey, 581,444 people in the tri-county area — or approximately 15% of the total population — live in poverty, with that percentage more than twice as high in some communities. This leaves them at high risk of hunger and the serious long-term effects of chronic under-nutrition. It also forces many people to make tough decisions about whether to buy food or pay for essential medications.

Forgotten Harvest President and CEO Adrian Lewis says more people are facing these difficult decisions since the COVID-19 pandemic due to inflation and the rising cost of living. At the same time, federal cuts to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits have caused a surge in demand for emergency food assistance, even as Forgotten Harvest and other nonprofits face reductions in government funding that helps support their operations, Lewis says.

"We're not here to be in a panic mode or to paint a picture of doom and gloom," he says. "We're here to be activated for what we know we have to do."

Marshall and Lewis agree it will take a village to meet this challenge: Only by collaborating with its agency partners, its pool of 35,000 volunteers and funders like the Community Foundation will they all be able to scale and adapt to evolving community needs.

"The Community Foundation helps make Forgotten Harvest's mission possible," Marshall says. "The ongoing support that you give for projects like the Community Choice Mobile Market and the partnership that you give — our work can't be done without it."



Pictured: A support team is on site to operate one of Forgotten Harvest's Community Choice Mobile Market units in Dearborn.



Pictured: An educator reads to children at the Marygrove Early Education Center in Detroit, run by Starfish Family Services.

Focus on Youth and Education

Starfish Family Services expands early childhood education access

Roxanne Brinkerhoff says it's harder for families to access high-quality early childhood education than at any time during her 25-year career — despite its impact on children's school readiness and long-term success and parents' ability to stay in the workforce.

"It's been a challenge for years, but it feels like it's getting worse. We are seeing an increased need for infant and toddler care," says Brinkerhoff, who is the CEO at Starfish Family Services in Inkster.

The nonprofit operates 14 early childhood education centers and provides behavioral health services for more than 3,000 children and families in Wayne County. It also is one of the largest local providers of Head Start, a federal program that prepares the most vulnerable young children to succeed in school and in life.

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has made a number of grants to Starfish under the umbrella of our Youth and Education focus area, which supports literacy, youth development and lifelong learning. In addition to making community grants in this focus area, we also manage initiatives like Project Play and special funding opportunities like our Youth Advisory Committee and the Detroit Auto Dealers Association Charitable Foundation Fund.

A recent \$50,000 grant from the Community Foundation allowed Starfish to expand access to its Marygrove Early Education Center (EEC) for families with children ages 0-3 who don't qualify for state or federal assistance but can't afford the full cost of tuition.

In 2021, Starfish was selected to operate the Marygrove Early Education Center on the P-20 campus of Marygrove in Detroit. The campus, which is recognized as a national model, offers a continuum of support for families, from prenatal partnership to K-12 and pathways beyond.

It is the kind of setting many parents dream of for their children's home away from home.

Desks are tiny, and natural light streams into the well-equipped classrooms. Outside, children explore nature under the shade of mature trees, supervised by nurturing adults. A team of

educators and therapists provides attentive care inside a state-of-the-art building. An app keeps parents connected to events, resources and ways to build community.

It was everything Lidi Armenta-Keys and her husband, Jesse Armenta-Keys, wanted for their daughter, Xiomara. The Marygrove Early Education Center is one of few local options where she can receive disability accommodations through Early Head Start and Starfish's infant behavioral health services. Xiomara, affectionately known as Xi Xi, was born with Down syndrome, and her parents knew early interventions would be vital to helping her thrive.

"Marygrove is a family. You're greeted when you walk in. The staff is extremely friendly," Lidi Armenta-Keys says. "Everybody knows Xiomara. Everybody says, 'Hi, Xi Xi!'. Everybody's so warm and friendly. She just lights up the minute she goes in there."

Lidi Armenta-Keys says the relief was palpable when her family confirmed Xiomara qualified for Early Head Start, which serves certain children from birth through age 3, and would receive federal funding to attend the Marygrove Early Education Center that Starfish runs.

However, education choices are limited for many families with infants and toddlers who don't qualify for Early Head Start yet can't afford the full price of tuition.

The cost of providing licensed caregivers, federal spending cuts, and the facts that fewer schools offer an early childhood education curriculum and fewer young people are going into the field all contribute to the shortage of options and the high prices many parents face.

Despite these barriers, Brinkerhoff says all children deserve access to high-quality early childhood education that sets them up for success in life and allows their parents to stay in the workforce — and the Community Foundation grant is helping them get it.

"The Community Foundation has been extremely helpful in understanding the needs of not just Starfish, but also what the families need," Brinkerhoff says. "This support directly impacts individuals. That is something that's very important to us."

Focus on Arts and Culture

Enter Stage Right in Port Huron builds community through theater

It's the last dress rehearsal before opening night of "King Lear" at Enter Stage Right in Port Huron, and the theater is buzzing with anticipation.

Executive Director Regina Spain commands the stage, clipboard in hand, delivering final notes to the cast and crew, who offer each other words of encouragement and share nervous laughter. Soon, the audience will pour into the venue and take their seats. Together, they will create not only an unforgettable theatrical experience, but also an enduring sense of community.

"I look forward to every rehearsal, to every show, because it's my way to express parts of me that I can't necessarily do in my everyday life. For some people, this is their outlet that they go to versus bottling it up inside," says Talia Bulgrien, who played both Lady Cordelia and The Fool in "King Lear."

"I think the importance of having community theater is also giving that sense of a place for people to go, to meet new people, to form new relationships, to experience something new," she says. "Live theater, especially versus TV or a movie, you go and you become part of the story. You're not just sitting there watching. You're in it, and it gives you that elevated feeling of being a part of something."

That sense of community is exactly what Spain and her husband, Brian Spain, hoped to create when they moved Enter Stage Right into the 100-seat Citadel Stage facility in 2016, with a goal to keep prices low and ensure the theater's shows are accessible to as many people as possible.

Since then, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has provided Enter Stage Right with grants from the Stebbins Family Fund (to install a wheelchair lift in the historic building), as well as operations grants from the Inclusive Arts Fund.

A current grant of \$25,000 provides support for Enter Stage Right's year-round theater productions and core community programming. It aligns with the Community Foundation's focus area of Arts and Culture, which aims to strengthen creative contributions to the civic, social and cultural infrastructure that enhances our region's vibrancy.

"We're trying to corral this herd of cats here and figure out how do we make this sustainable," says Brian Spain, who serves as chair and secretary of the Enter Stage Right Board of Directors. "Your operations grants help us run some programs that we wouldn't do otherwise."

Enter Stage Right currently runs a 10-show annual production calendar, theater-based workshops, events in collaboration with other local theaters and performers, and outreach programs. It serves 4,500 people each year and, according to St. Clair County Convention & Visitors Bureau statistics, patrons spend nearly \$350,000 on retail and dining while visiting the theater.

Regina Spain says the Community Foundation's support has helped Enter Stage Right survive and thrive despite the COVID-19 pandemic and multiple rent increases. In fact, the theater has been so successful that it's outgrown its current space and is now considering a move to south Port Huron, where Enter Stage Right would anchor a city revitalization project along the Bridge to Bay Trail.

The move would be another opportunity for Enter Stage Right to achieve its mission of bringing powerful theater to entertain, enlighten and inspire the community.

As the "King Lear" dress rehearsal wraps up, Regina Spain reflects: "After opening night, after everybody goes home, I dim the lights and sit in the front row and soak it in. It feels like such a gift, every opening."

Pictured: Talia Bulgrien plays Lady Cordelia in the Enter Stage Right production of "King Lear."





Focus on Public Space and Environment

Community shapes Stoudamire Park revitalization project

When Stoudamire Park reopened in 2025, it had been transformed from a grassy field with a few dilapidated picnic tables into a busy community gathering space featuring a walking path, exercise equipment, a playscape, a basketball court, a pavilion and a memorial garden.

The park's revitalization demonstrates what community, philanthropy and government can accomplish when they work together, and serves as a fitting legacy for its namesake, Marlowe Stoudamire.

Stoudamire was a beloved figure in Detroit, known for his boundless ideas, inclusive leadership, wide smile, effervescent personality and tireless advocacy on behalf of his hometown. He envisioned a thriving Detroit shaped by Detroiters for Detroiters and still welcoming to everyone.

After he passed away from COVID-19 in 2020, leaving behind his wife, Valencia, and their two young children, Stoudamire's family petitioned to rename Troester-Hayes Park on Detroit's east side in his memory. The petition received 700 signatures and, in 2023, the City Council approved the request. The renaming was folded into a nearly \$1 million collaboration to renovate the park.

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan contributed \$500,000, and the project also received \$250,000 from the Gilbert Family Foundation and \$150,000 from the City of Detroit. Plans were developed with input

from residents, who shared their wishes for the type of park they wanted to see in their community. The project fit neatly under the Community Foundation's focus area of Public Space and Environment, which invests in parks, trails and climate-smart infrastructure that improve environmental health and quality of life.

"The space honors Marlowe's vision to create 'organic social collisions' within our communities, in a neighborhood his family once called home," Valencia Stoudamire said during an emotional ribbon-cutting event.

"Marlowe believed in connecting people from all backgrounds to find common good, solve problems and create a positive impact," she said. "It was important to him that Detroiters tell their own stories and not let others who aren't from here do it for them."

Community Foundation President and CEO Nicole Sherard-Freeman noted that public spaces are dynamic community assets that can change to meet residents' evolving needs, if we just listen.

"The transformation and renaming of Stoudamire Park are a prime example," she said. "Today and into the future, children in this neighborhood will have a safe, accessible space for spending time outdoors — a fitting tribute to Marlowe Stoudamire's tireless work to make the city he loved a better place."

Pictured: Young people enjoy the playscape at Stoudamire Park in Detroit.

Photo courtesy of City of Detroit

Community Foundation Highlights

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan manages a number of initiatives and targeted grant opportunities, several of which are highlighted below.

Pontiac Funders Collaborative celebrates \$1 million Rx Kids milestone

The Pontiac Funders Collaborative marked a significant milestone for Rx Kids in Pontiac during October, with cash prescriptions to participating families surpassing \$1 million. Originally launched in Flint in 2024, Rx Kids offers cash payments to pregnant mothers with no strings attached, providing an initial \$1,500 during pregnancy and an additional \$500 per month throughout the baby's first year of life. The transformative initiative aims to strengthen families and reduce childhood poverty. Rx Kids — in partnership with the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, the City of Pontiac, Oakland County, The Alix Foundation, Total Health, the Priority Health Foundation and the Pontiac Funders Collaborative — announced its expansion into Pontiac in March, with \$8.5 million contributed to ensure its success



during the first two years. The Pontiac Funders Collaborative contributed \$1 million toward the expansion. So far, the program has supported more than 400 families and 250 babies in Pontiac.

Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership releases strategic plan, transportation study

The Detroit Regional Workforce Partnership (DRWP) shared its inaugural strategic plan in 2025, charting a course for its work to build a stronger regional talent ecosystem through 2027. It also launched its Breaking Down Barriers series, which explores the key challenges limiting employment access in southeast Michigan. For the first installment, the DRWP team worked with employer partners from across the region to share insight, data and case studies that highlight how transportation plays a large role in preventing residents from sustaining employment. The report indicates that one in four Michigan residents cite transportation insecurity — which leads to absenteeism and turnover — as a major concern. It also examines ways employers can help close this gap, from aligning work shifts with bus schedules to providing support for vehicle access.

New Economy Initiative launches free MI Small Business Helper digital platform

The New Economy Initiative (NEI) aims to grow a strong community of entrepreneurship in southeast Michigan that benefits all residents and strengthens the regional economy. In 2024, NEI granted \$5.6 million via 41 grants and assisted 8,278 companies. The New Economy Initiative recently launched the MI Small Business Helper, a free digital platform that connects southeast Michigan entrepreneurs and founders to trusted local resources, guides and programs — all in one easy-to-use place. Features include a searchable directory of resources, step-by-step business guides, a running list of grant opportunities, a library of downloadable resources, a curated events calendar and key regulatory information. Together, these features make MI Small Business Helper a one-stop platform for small-business owners, entrepreneurs and founders at any stage of their journey.

Michigan Opioid Partnership concludes emergency department initiative

The Michigan Opioid Partnership concluded its Emergency Department Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (ED MOUD) Initiative on Sept. 30. The six-year effort helped hospitals across the state explore, implement and sustain evidence-based treatment in emergency departments. After the initiative launched in 2019, six emergency departments participated during its first year. Over the next five years, participation grew to include more than 75 emergency departments — more than half of Michigan's emergency departments. During this time, hospitals reported providing more than 2,400 patients with buprenorphine, while more than 3,000 patients were able to connect with a social worker or receive a peer-based service consultation. This progress was made possible by a significant investment from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the dedication of funders, health care providers and community partners. While the ED MOUD Initiative at the Community Foundation has concluded, the Michigan Opioid Partnership's commitment continues. The team is working with trusted partners to carry forward hospital-based technical assistance, training and statewide coordination, while also continuing to serve as a convener of community organizations and funders to advance effective treatment and harm reduction strategies.

Wilson Legacy Funds distribute grants totaling more than \$1 million to 42 organizations

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation announced grants totaling more than \$1 million to 42 organizations in 2025 through the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds. The endowed funds focus on regional caregiving, design and access to public spaces, youth sports, and the Grosse Pointe communities. The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation established the funds at the Community Foundation to support issues that were important to the late Ralph C. Wilson, Jr., a Detroit native, former Grosse Pointe resident, and the founder and longtime owner of the Buffalo Bills football team. Endowed funds at the Community Foundation are designed to grow over time and provide funding in perpetuity for charitable causes according to the donor's wishes.

Michigan Justice Fund celebrates five years of impact, adds two new funders



The Michigan Justice Fund (MJF) marked its five-year anniversary in 2025 with \$1.7 million in new grants and the addition of two new funders: the McGregor Fund and the Navigation Fund. Since its inception in 2020, the Michigan Justice Fund has deployed more than \$20 million across the state, stimulating the work of its grantee partners, strengthening the advocacy ecosystem and fostering partnerships across sectors. Through its dynamic funding and engagement strategy, MJF has established itself as a national leader and a model for philanthropic efforts in criminal legal reform.

Focus on Giving

Trustee Andrew Camden masters the fine art of philanthropy

"I remember when I graduated from college and got my first job, my father said, 'I want you to get your checkbook and bring it up, and we're going to sit down and talk.' I said, 'OK,' and I went and brought my checkbook."

"He said, 'You're going to write a check to the Allied Jewish Campaign.' I said, 'Why am I going to do that?' He said, 'Because you went to college. You did not have to pay a nickel to do that. You live comfortably. You have never been in want for anything. There are a lot of people that do not have those advantages. We need to help the people that need support in some way or another.'"

That formative conversation inspired a lifetime of giving for Andrew Camden, an ardent supporter of the arts and one of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan's greatest champions.

Meeting a need in the community

Camden and his late wife, Gayle, have donated more than \$2.3 million to the Community Foundation, including establishing a donor-advised fund and an endowment to benefit the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). As a vocal Community Foundation advocate and an active member of our Legal Financial Network, Camden has connected the organization with dozens of donors. He also has been a Community Foundation trustee since 2005, serves on the Program and Distribution Committee, and co-chairs the Asset Development Committee and the Legal Financial Network.

"Gayle and I were among the first signers of the donor-advised fund program at the Community Foundation, and I really believed the program was filling a huge need in the community. That was before Fidelity and Vanguard and all those places had their own funds," Camden says. "I still believe the program we run and the way we manage it is far superior to any commercial program that's run by a brokerage firm."

Outside of the Community Foundation, Camden has built a successful career as an expert financial advisor and is currently managing partner of Kercheval Financial Group in Grosse Pointe Farms. He also serves on the Chautauqua Foundation's board, is chair emeritus and director of the Museum Trustee Association, and is a lifetime board member of Planned Parenthood of Southeast Michigan. He is well-known for his love of the arts, which started early in his career. The first nonprofit board he was a member of was the Detroit Artists Market — which is where he met Jean Hudson, wife of founding Community Foundation Chair Joseph L. Hudson, Jr.

A world-class collector in his own right, Camden has been a steadfast supporter of the Detroit Institute of Arts, where he served as a trustee for more than 28 years and continues to serve as a trustee emeritus and as recent chair of the museum's Friends of Modern and Contemporary Arts. Along with his late wife, Camden has donated several works to the permanent collections at the DIA, Cranbrook Art Museum and other museums.

Camden sees the Community Foundation as the ideal partner for supporting his charitable intentions, which is why he chose to establish an endowment fund that will benefit the DIA in perpetuity.

"There is no more credible organization than the Community Foundation, with an interest in making sure that your individual giving needs are responded to properly," Camden says. "I can attest to that because of what the Community Foundation has done with me, with the DIA."

Celebrating a lifetime of service, generosity

In June of 2025, the Community Foundation presented Camden with the Allan D. Gilmour Award for Community Leadership. The award recognizes a member of the Board of Trustees for their exemplary volunteerism and philanthropy, both to the Community Foundation and the broader community.





The Allan D. Gilmour Award comes with the ability to recommend a \$5,000 grant to a nonprofit of the awardee's choosing. Camden chose to establish an endowment fund with the Community Foundation that supports Detroit Public Theatre, a nonprofit theater company that produces nationally recognized plays and programs that attract audiences from throughout southeast Michigan to the heart of Midtown's thriving cultural district. Camden hopes others will be inspired by the Detroit Public Theatre and support the endowment to continue the nonprofit's work in perpetuity.

"If you contribute to a nonprofit because you care about the work they do and want to ensure that work goes on into the future, endowing is the way to make it happen," Camden says. "Nonprofits always have needs right now, and the challenge of putting money aside for the future and putting it into an endowment for them is tough. The benefit of doing endowments at the Community Foundation is that you will protect the charity, knowing they've got money set aside for the future."

Camden's endowment advocacy creates beautiful symmetry with the advice his father gave him years ago: Charitable giving can be a meaningful way to pay forward your good fortune and create a legacy of positive impact.

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“(My late wife) Gayle and I were among the first signers of the donor-advised fund program at the Community Foundation, and I really believed the program was filling a huge need in the community. That was before Fidelity and Vanguard and all those places had their own funds. I still believe the program we run and the way we manage it is far superior to any commercial program that's run by a brokerage firm.”

- Community Foundation Trustee Andrew Camden



An evening of art and conversation: Live Coal co-founder and CEO Yvette Rock chats with artist Ed Fraga during the Arts & Culture Conversation event, which was held in September at Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Trustee Andrew Camden's beautiful, art-filled home in Grosse Pointe. Guests heard from Camden and several Community Foundation grantee partners including Live Coal, the Detroit Artists Market and the Detroit Institute of Arts.



Imagining possibilities: Community Foundation President and CEO Nicole Sherard-Freeman connects with Trustee Andrew Camden and Senior Program Officer Leah Counts during the event. At the Community Foundation, we know that investing in arts and culture drives economic development within our region.



Community in focus: Community Foundation Trustee Wendy Batiste-Johnson and her husband, Rodney Johnson, share a laugh with another guest. The Arts & Culture Conversation event highlighted that support from our donors ensures artists and cultural organizations have the funding they need to provide access to innovative and affordable community programming.





See our recent donors list.

Pictured: Darlene Garland, left, and her daughter, Natasha Smith, celebrate the legacy of their loved ones Clarita Mays, lower left, and Obie Hunt Harbin.

Focus on Giving

Donor's love of learning lives on across generations

While sorting through her late sister's belongings, Darlene Garland found an incredible treasure: a brittle, water-stained journal from 1965 titled, "My Own Poems."

The collection contained poetry that her sister, Clarita Mays, had started writing in elementary school. Growing up in Detroit, as her siblings raced around outside on their bikes, Mays would be inside writing poetry or devouring books that took her on adventures around the world.

"Clarita would read books and put herself in the story," Garland says. "So, as she got older, if she read something about the Great Wall of China, she'd go to China to experience what she read. She's been in pyramids and hot air balloons, to the Taj Mahal and Brazil — you name it. That's why she always gave my kids books, because she said it helps to broaden your horizons and maybe one day you can go see those places that you read about."

Sharing her love of learning was a lifelong quest for Mays. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan, where she worked in the School of Social Work and as an assistant dean in the Office of Student Services. She was known for always having an open door and a kind word for students. After her retirement in 1999, she continued to participate in her prayer group and enjoyed taking classes, traveling, reading and learning new things.

She also began to think about leaving a legacy — not just for herself, but for someone close to her, too.

Creating a family legacy

Obie Hunt Harbin, who was Garland and Mays' aunt, was more like a grandmother to them. She and her husband, Tom, had no children of their own, so they doted on their nieces and nephews. In turn, Mays cared for her aunt as she grew older. Hunt Harbin lived to be 106 years old and always hoped to leave something behind that would benefit children in the future. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to realize that dream.

"So, when Clarita set up her living trust, she wanted to incorporate a vision that her and my aunt had together, because her and my aunt were the same way — well, my parents were the same way, too," Garland says with an affectionate laugh. "We love to reach back and reach forward to those who are in need, to help if we can."

In 2018, shortly before she passed, Mays established the Clarita Mays and Obie Hunt Harbin Intergenerational Fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, where she once worked as a program officer with responsibility for youth grantmaking programs. Now, her endowed field of interest fund supports opportunities for youth and adults in our region to come together across multiple generations for growth, learning and community improvement.

"What Clarita believed in, she supported wholeheartedly with her time, with her money, with her love, with her encouragement," Garland says. "So, for her to choose the Community Foundation for her fund, you know she loved them. She knew it would impact future generations."

Fund keeps donor's dreams alive

Today, Garland lives out the principles of the Clarita Mays and Obie Hunt Harbin Intergenerational Fund with her daughter, Natashia Smith.

Together, they've compiled a collection of poems they found in Mays' childhood journal in a book they've called "Because Kids Like Poetry Too." In addition to poetry, the book features several blank pages where young readers can write their own poems. It also includes a special dedication to the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan that explains how to give to the fund Clarita established.

"Sometimes we think that their dreams die with our loved ones," Smith says. "But Clarita inspired my mom to continue to honor her and to love her well enough that she just didn't let her dreams go dormant. Even now, kids and people that Clarita hasn't even met are getting a sense of who she was."

Focus on Giving

CARES in Farmington Hills fights suburban hunger

Todd Lipa needs people to understand: Suburban hunger is real.

As executive director of CARES in Farmington Hills, he has received tearful calls from parents who have lost their jobs and seniors who cannot make ends meet on Social Security. Often forced to choose between keeping the lights on, paying for vital medication or putting their next meal on the table, clients turn to his nonprofit for help.

“It’s really important for us to give dignity, honor, respect and compassion. The folks that we deal with — the 800-plus households that come through each month — they’re coming through with a lot of worries,” Lipa says of CARES, which serves Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Redford, Livonia, Northville, Novi and West Bloomfield.

The nonprofit provides comprehensive support services including food assistance, recovery programs and help navigating the health care system to ensure families and individuals can obtain the necessities they need to thrive.

“If you look at the communities we serve, most people would say those ZIP codes can’t have hunger issues. Well, they do,” Lipa says. “Where we’re seeing the biggest need in food insecurity is folks who are still working but just can’t make ends meet.”

Lipa says the need is surging. Since in-person operations resumed in 2022, the number of clients CARES serves has more than doubled. The rising cost of living, stagnant wages, state and federal aid cuts, and economic uncertainty all contribute to the increased demand, Lipa says.

CARES’ goal is to meet this need through an innovative model. It operates a low-cost public grocery store on its campus that accepts state food assistance cards.

The profits are then reinvested in a complementary food pantry that’s free for people in need. Both markets offer fresh produce, canned goods and more. Clients are encouraged to supplement the groceries they receive from CARES with support from other organizations, such as Gleaners and Forgotten Harvest, that also fight food insecurity.

Lipa understands suburban hunger better than most. After his mom passed away when Lipa was 10 years old, his family relied on a food pantry that the late Rev. James B. Wright, aka “Father Jim,” ran at the Servant Church of St. Alexander in Farmington Hills. The church closed in 2014, leaving Lipa, other former parishioners, community members and leaders concerned that the food pantry would no longer be available to serve people in need. So, they banded together in 2017 to form CARES and bought the building and 10.5-acre property.

In 2024, CARES established a nonprofit endowment fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan so its donors could continue to support Father Jim’s legacy. A portion of the fund will be made available annually to CARES for its operations, and the remaining assets will be reinvested for growth in perpetuity.

This arrangement frees up CARES to focus on its work in the community, with the peace of mind that comes from knowing it will have funds to depend on in the future. The fund also provides donors with a way to include CARES in their estate plans.

“The bottom line is we want everybody to put their footprint on this 10 and a half acres, because once they do, they can see that it’s more than just a food pantry,” Lipa says. “CARES is truly a campus of hope.”



See our recent funds list.

Pictured: CARES in Farmington Hills Executive Director Todd Lipa says the demand for food assistance is surging.



Nonprofit Endowment by the Numbers

\$39M+

funds held as
nonprofit endowments

\$10K

minimum to establish a
nonprofit endowment fund

~250

nonprofit endowment funds

Engagement Highlights

President, CEO Nicole Sherard-Freeman activates expats at Detroit Homecoming



During Detroit Homecoming XII in September, Community Foundation President and CEO Nicole Sherard-Freeman joined Crain Communications veteran Mary Kramer to talk about the good work of community foundations in general, and the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan in particular. The event attracted more than 600 participants, including hundreds of Detroit leaders, changemakers, founders and innovators. Among them were more than 200 returning Detroiters, who traveled from across the country for three powerful days of inspiration, reconnection and action. Sherard-Freeman shared with the attendees how leveraging dollars within a community foundation model can make an exponentially greater impact in our region.

Advancing Macomb Community Summit highlights power of collaboration

Community Foundation President and CEO Nicole Sherard-Freeman was the keynote speaker at the 2025 Advancing Macomb Community Summit. The annual event is focused on improving collaboration across the county and providing participants with actionable tools for engagement. Sherard-Freeman shared how the Community Foundation has engaged community partners who are conservative and liberal, young and old, rural and urban, wealthy and of modest means to make progress toward our common goal of improving the quality of life in our region. The Community Foundation has distributed millions of dollars in grants and scholarships throughout Macomb County.

Community Foundation trustees get sneak peek at Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park



Community Foundation trustees and donors joined us for a social hour, presentation and tour of the new Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park. The park, which opened in October, is a transformational 22-acre green space located along the Detroit River. It has been thoughtfully designed to inspire play, wellness and connection for people of all ages. Children, families and individuals will be able to enjoy gigantic animal-shaped slides, an active Sport House for year-round recreation, a serene water garden and beautifully landscaped trails. The Community Foundation managed a \$35 million pooled fund

that was created in 2024 after a fiscal crisis at the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. It is because of the trust the Community Foundation has earned, and the relationships we've built over the past 40 years, that we were able to ensure the work on this jewel of southeast Michigan continued.

Trustee, donor engagement bus tour showcases community impact, builds relationships



Community Foundation staff members led a trustee and donor engagement bus tour in February that was designed to bring the impact of our work to life. Facilitated by Detroit City Institute, the tour began at Eastern Market and then visited the future Detroit Horse Power stable site, Forgotten Harvest and the Downtown Boxing Gym. Guests had the opportunity to hear directly from grantee partners and Community Foundation staff about how our organization serves as a bridge-builder throughout the region.

Retreat energizes, inspires Community Foundation staff



The Community Foundation hosted a retreat in April to give staff an opportunity to reconnect, reflect and focus on expanded ways to serve our region. The event, held at Velocity in Sterling Heights, kicked off with opening remarks themed “Strength, Agility & Resilience: Meeting the Moment as Bridge-Builders for the People and Places We Care Deeply About.” The retreat featured educational content, large group discussions, and team activities designed to energize and inspire staff. Associate Vice President of Community Impact Greg Yankee moderated a panel conversation with grantee partners Jenny Brown, CEO of Dutton Farm; Sommer Dawson, executive director of Accent Pontiac; and Leona Medley, executive

director of the Joe Louis Greenway Partnership. Hearing firsthand from grantee partners made the impact of our work tangible for staff members across the organization.

Mackinac Policy Conference panel celebrates community foundations



Community Foundations are among the nation’s best-kept secrets, built to represent the charitable interests of donors and to make communities stronger. Our team shared this message in May during the 2025 Mackinac Policy Conference, hosted by the Detroit Regional Chamber. During the annual convening, we sponsored a panel titled “Community Foundations Building Civic Infrastructure.” The discussion explored how community foundations serve as nonpartisan bridge-builders and convenors, fostering partnerships and enhancing economic opportunities through cross-sector collaboration. Nick Khouri, former State of Michigan treasurer and a current Community Foundation trustee, moderated the conversation

with Community Foundation President and CEO Nicole Sherard-Freeman and Dan Kildee, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

Financials

Our continued contribution to a thriving southeast Michigan relies on having a sustainable financial foundation, guided by our values of operational excellence, trust and integrity. During 2025, in sync with our 10-year strategic plan, we implemented several changes to our investment program that position us to move forward with confidence as a responsible steward of our community's philanthropic dollars.

The Community Foundation transitioned to a new investment advisor, Fund Evaluation Group (FEG), following a thoughtful and thorough review of our investment strategy and future needs. This change reflects our commitment to aligning investments with our mission and values, enhancing transparency, and supporting long-term impact. FEG also brings us the benefit of having deep experience with community foundations. With this transition, we're strengthening trust with our donors, standing apart as a forward-thinking foundation, and ensuring the long-term growth of the resources entrusted to us — all in pursuit of a stronger, more resilient region.

We're honored that, in 2025, Community Foundation Trustee and CEO of the Renaissance Venture Capital Fund, Chris Rizik, succeeded Ken Whipple as chair, while Community Foundation Trustee and former State of Michigan Treasurer Nick Khouri became the committee's vice chair. Rizik and Khouri bring years of experience to their roles on our Investment Committee, and we believe they're the perfect leaders to help the Community Foundation navigate through periods of economic uncertainty and beyond.

We're also pleased that Linda Lutz joined the Community Foundation team as chief financial officer in 2025. Lutz's previous role was as vice president and chief financial and administrative officer of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, where she played an integral role on the senior leadership team, contributing to the organization's strategic direction and operational excellence.

"Linda's deep expertise and commitment to both financial stewardship and community impact are exactly what we need to move our organization forward," Community Foundation President and CEO Nicole Sherard-Freeman says. "As we double down on our strategic vision to meet changes in community needs and enhance our own fiscal stability, Linda's skills and experiences will help to ensure we're managing and growing assets that our partners have entrusted to us with thoughtfulness, care and prudence."

The Community Foundation appreciates the dedication, integrity and support of our full financial team, volunteer committee members and advisors in protecting the assets that donors have entrusted us with to grow in support of a thriving southeast Michigan.



Chris Rizik
Chair, Investment Committee

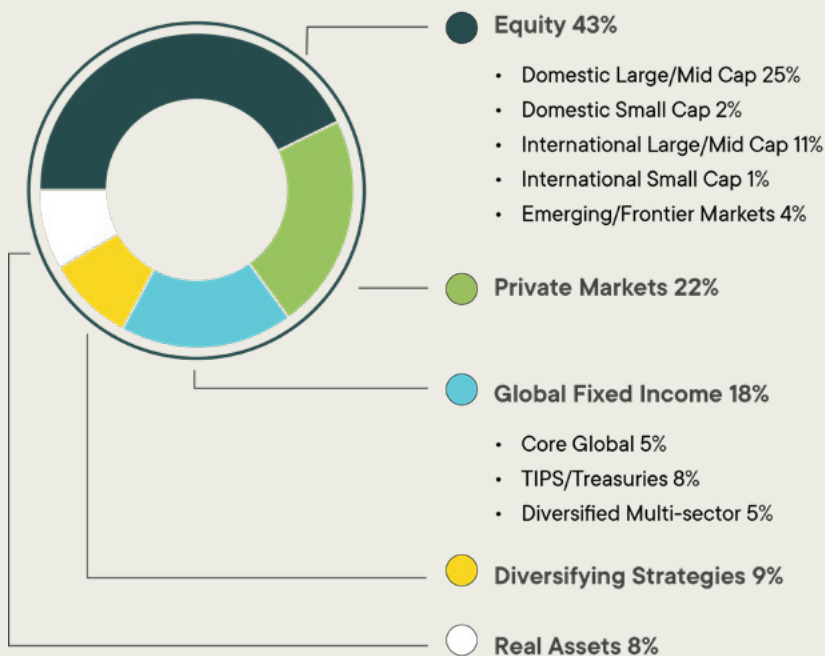


Nick Khouri
Vice Chair, Investment Committee



Linda Lutz
Chief Financial Officer

Endowment Pool Target Asset Allocation



Endowment Pool Investment Management

The endowment pool is managed with a long-term perspective where principal is preserved and enhanced over time. The primary goal is total return, which is consistent with prudent investment management.

Funds invested in the endowment are subject to a spending policy that makes a percentage of the funds’ rolling 12-quarter average market value available for grants each year.

Investment Consultant

FEG Investment Advisors

W. Quincy Brown,
Managing Director

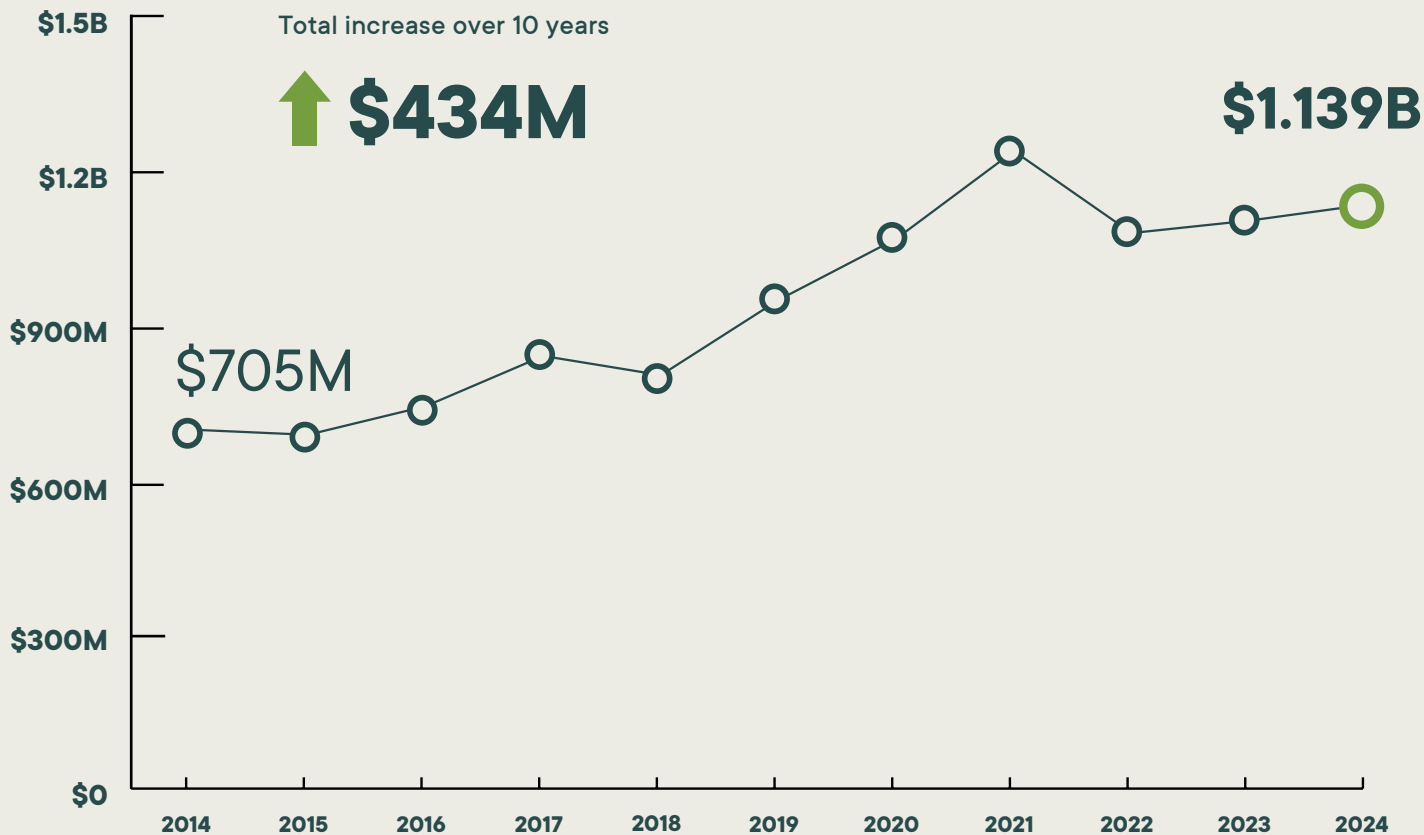
Kevin Kelly,
Senior Institutional Portfolio Analyst

Investment Committee

Christopher L. Rizik, Chair CEO Renaissance Venture Capital Fund	Angela J. Buk Vice President Benefit Funds Investment 3M	Jeffrey C. Littmann Life Trustee Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation	Sean K. Werdlow Senior Managing Director and COO Seibert Cisneros Shank & Co., LLC
Naif (Nick) A. Khouri, Vice Chair Former Treasurer State of Michigan	Daniel Feder Senior Managing Director of Investments University of Michigan	Jack Martin Chairman Martin, Arrington, Desai & Meyers, PC	Ken Whipple Former CEO and Chairman Consumers Energy
Thomas C. Buhl Partner Legacy Wealth Management	Phillip Wm. Fisher Founder Mission Throttle L3C	David T. Provost Retired Chairman TCF Bank (now Huntington Bank)	

Financials

Endowment Pool 2014-2024



Investment Returns

As of Sept. 30, 2025, net of fees:

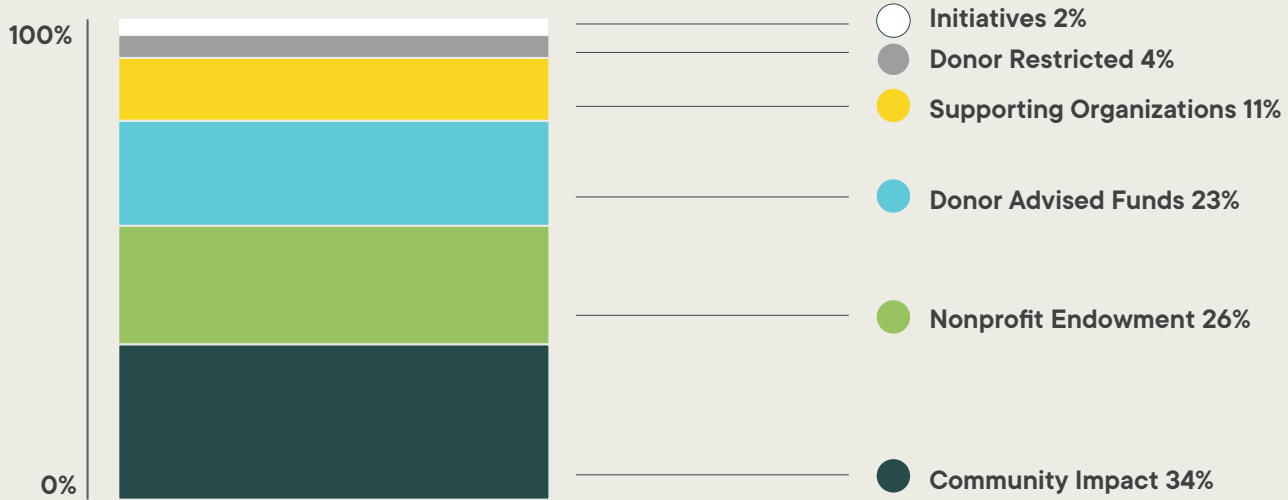
Period	Return
1 Year	9.7%
3 Years (annualized)	11.1%
5 Years (annualized)	8.2%
10 Years (annualized)	7.8%

Scan the code to view more financial details, or visit cfsem.org/financials.

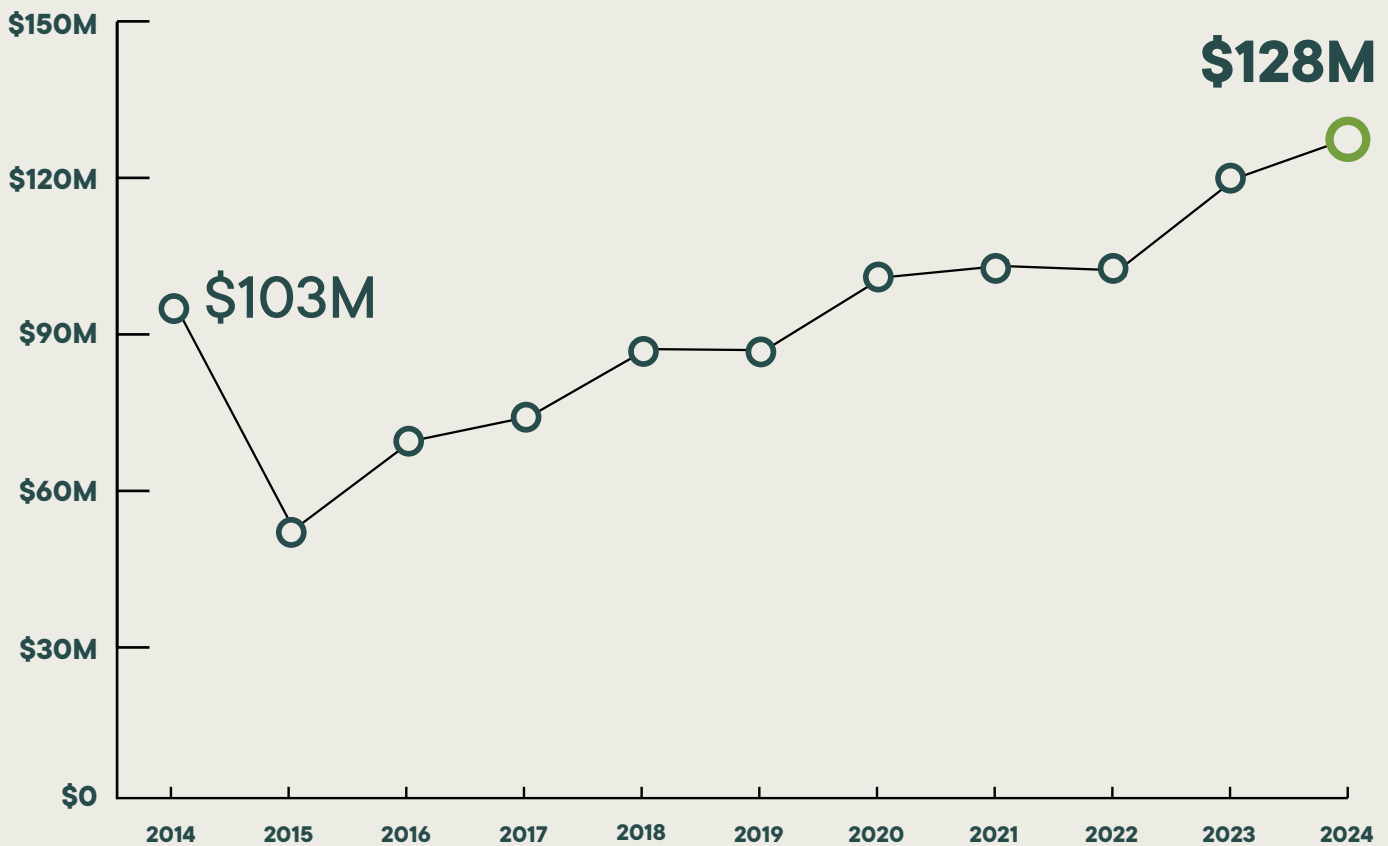




Total Assets: \$1.3B as of Dec. 31, 2024



Annual Grant Dollars Distributed



Affiliated Foundations

The following affiliated foundations are administered as part of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. Each affiliate is dedicated to building charitable resources for a particular geographic area within southeast Michigan, and to investing those resources in programs and organizations that are working to enhance the quality of life in that area. An advisory committee of civic leaders leads each affiliate and is supported by local individuals, families, businesses and nonprofit organizations committed to building a strong and vibrant community. Community Foundation staff members assist each affiliate in making effective investments in local nonprofits and helping donors fulfill their charitable interests.

Chelsea Community Foundation

The Chelsea Community Foundation was formed by the Foundation for Community Care and the Civic Foundation of Chelsea and became affiliated with the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan in 1995.

Advisors

- Anne Merkel, Chair
- John Daniels, Vice Chair
- Peter M. Feeney, Vice Chair
- Anne E. Mann, Immediate Past Chair
- Rick Eder
- Doris Galvin
- Peter Heydlauff
- Willard H. Johnson
- Andy Kellogg
- Susan Lackey
- Brian Lantis
- Matt McKernan
- David M. Schaible

Chelsea Community Foundation Fund

This is the general endowment for the Chelsea Community Foundation. It supports and promotes educational, scientific, literary, cultural and charitable purposes, primarily in and for the residents of the

Chelsea community. The following funds have been established by individuals, families and businesses that care deeply about the quality of life in Chelsea.

- **Chelsea Lumber Company Fund**
- **Chelsea State Bank Community Enrichment Fund**
- **Jeff and Kathleen Daniels Fund**
- **John Daniels and Jodi Daniels Fund**
- **Robert and Marjorie Daniels Fund**
- **Doan Family Fund for Chelsea**
(Established by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis D. Doan)
- **Dunn Family Fund**
(Established by Mr. John F. Dunn)
- **Michael and Ann Feeney Fund**
- **Bart and Maribeth Hammer Family Fund**
- **Dudley K. and Dawn C. Holmes Jr. Fund**
- **Willard Johnson Family Fund for Chelsea**
- **Willard Johnson Family Fund for Youth**
- **Mary Beth Koeze Fund**
- **M.P.S. Fund**
(Established by Shirley A. and Paul G. Schaible)
- **John K. and Anne E. Mann Family Fund**
- **Jack and MaryAnn Merkel Family Fund**
- **Weiser Family Fund for Children**
(Established by Ronald and Eileen Weiser)

Scholarships

- **Robert L. Daniels Scholarship Fund**
Supports Chelsea High School graduates who are interested in pursuing a postsecondary education in the building trades or building technology
- **George L. and Donna A. Palmer Scholarship Fund**
Supports Chelsea High School students who are entering programs for trade or vocational studies, or are pursuing associate degrees
- **Brewster E. and Emily C. Peabody Fund**
Supports Chelsea High School students

Community Foundation for Livingston County

In 1991, a group of civic leaders sought a way to support and improve the public well-being and quality of life in Livingston County, now and into the future. They established the Community Foundation for Livingston County as an affiliate of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Advisors

- Timothy H. Corrigan, Chair
- Denise Brennan-Nelson, Vice Chair
- Michael J. Lay, Vice Chair
- Pat Convery
- Robert W. Herbst
- Sean LaRosa
- Frank J. Mancuso Jr.
- David D. Rex
- Phil Utter
- Doris C. Ostrander, Chair Emeritus
- W. Rickard Scofield, Chair in Memoriam

Community Foundation for Livingston County Fund

This is the endowment for the Community Foundation for Livingston County. It supports and promotes educational, scientific, literary, cultural and charitable purposes, primarily in and for the residents of Livingston County. The following funds have been established by individuals, families and businesses that care deeply about the quality of life in Livingston County.

- **Bell-Borek Fund**
- **Citizens Insurance Company of America Fund**
- **John and Anne Colone Fund**
- **Detroit Edison Foundation Fund for Livingston County**
- **E.D. Ewing Family Fund**
- **First National Bank Community Fund**
- **Francu/Ostrander Fund**
- **Fund for Today and Someday**
- **Robert W. and Elizabeth “Betsy” Herbst Fund for Livingston County**

- **Harry Malynowsky Fund**
Supports charitable educational programs that serve the residents of Livingston County.
- **Parke Family Fund**
(Established by John Parke Jr.)
- **Rex Family Fund for Literacy**
Supports and promotes literacy development for young children, ages birth to 5, and their families who are residents of Livingston County.
- **John P. and Janet V. Rex Family Fund for Livingston County**
- **Patricia Joann Riley Memorial Fund**
(Established by Clyde Riley)
- **H.W. Sr. and Pearl S. Scofield Fund**
- **William B. and Joy O. Scofield Fund**
- **Dr. Roscoe V. and Barbara D. Stuber Fund**

Scholarships

- **Cary A. Baldwin Scholarship Fund**
Supports graduating seniors of Howell High School
- **The Beta Sigma Phi Iota Chapter Fund**
Supports Howell High School students who are entering medical-related programs at accredited educational institutions
- **Bernie Gibbons Memorial Scholarship Fund**
Supports Howell High School students who are pursuing postsecondary education
- **Imelda “Mel” and Ralph Lemar Scholarship Fund**
Supports Fowlerville High School students who plan to study chemistry, physics, mathematics, or electrical or mechanical engineering
- **Susan Rafferty Scholarship Fund**
Supports students from Brighton High School who attend Michigan State University

| Supporting Organizations

A supporting organization is a separate nonprofit corporation or trust affiliated with the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. Supporting organizations offer donors significant advantages — favorable tax status and full participation in grantmaking and investment activities — while avoiding the financial and management burdens private foundations often encounter. Supporting organizations receive professional support from Community Foundation staff, who assist in the administration of their funds. Donors may establish new supporting organizations or transition existing private foundations into supporting organizations at the Community Foundation.

Matthew and Karen Cullen Family Foundation

The Matthew and Karen Cullen Family Foundation provides the means to improve and sustain the quality of life for youth in our communities.

Foundation for Detroit's Future

The Foundation for Detroit's Future was established to assist in Detroit's emergence from bankruptcy and the restoration of the city's economic and cultural vitality for the benefit of all residents of the city, region and state.

Gilmour-Jirgens Fund

Allan D. Gilmour, former vice chairman of Ford Motor Co., established this organization in 1995 to support charitable activities of interest to him and Eric C. Jirgens. Grants from the Gilmour-Jirgens Fund are selected by the fund's six-member governing board.

Robert H. Tannahill Foundation

Robert Hudson Tannahill, a philanthropist and avid patron of the arts, created the Robert H. Tannahill Foundation in 1961. Today, the foundation continues to support the eight nonprofit organizations selected by the late Mr. Tannahill.

PEDALS Michigan

Positive Emotional Development and Learning Skills (PEDALS) improves preschool children's emotional competence and skills. PEDALS is a supporting organization of the Community Foundation that is funded by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

Russell Family Foundation

The Russell Family Foundation provides the means to improve and sustain the quality of life for youth in our communities. Areas of focus include programs for underserved youth, primarily in grades K-12.

Southeast Michigan Foundation for Public Spaces

The Southeast Michigan Foundation for Public Spaces was established in 2024 to provide construction support for the completion of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park on Detroit's west riverfront.

Focus on Supporting Organizations

PEDALS drives social-emotional growth in early childhood classes

In the era of smartphones, social media and digital technology, children are experiencing alarming rates of anxiety, depression and other mental health challenges. As social and emotional learning (SEL) becomes increasingly vital in early childhood development, the PEDALS Michigan program is emerging as a key driver of meaningful change.

Positive Emotional Development and Learning Skills (PEDALS) is an initiative led by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and funded by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. PEDALS supports educators and young children through intentional coaching, evidence-informed practices and a focus on measurable outcomes that create a foundation critical for lifelong learning.

In August, the PEDALS team hosted its 10th annual school-year kickoff event, providing more than 100 teachers, school administrators and site leaders with tools to use in their early education and Head Start programs. Participants walked away with free resources and a deeper understanding of the importance of leading classrooms with empathy, care and compassion. Programs like PEDALS are key to our children's future academic success, workforce readiness and mental well-being.



Pictured: PEDALS Michigan Director Tonya Reeves, left, and PEDALS Coach Tanesha Rosser interact with educators during the supporting organization's school-year kickoff event.

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Marissa Natzke
Senior Program Manager

Emily E. Neuroth
Project Manager

Jayme Powell
Executive Director, Detroit Regional
Workforce Partnership

Judy M. Puhl
Program Coordinator

Tonya L. Reeves
Director, PEDALS

Carlos Rios-Santiago
Grants Manager

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Early Childhood Classroom Coach,
PEDALS

Tanesha L. Rosser
Early Childhood Classroom Coach,
PEDALS

Youseph Saad
Program Coordinator,
New Economy Initiative

Pat Sharrow
Director,
Project Play Southeast Michigan

Jaletha Smith
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PEDALS

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| Your Charitable Giving Options

Since 1984, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has worked to improve the quality of life in our region. We help individuals, families, businesses, and private foundations — along with their professional advisors — to carry out their philanthropic goals.

Each of our standard giving options is designed to make the greatest impact today and tomorrow. They are guided by the interests, intent and vision of our donors. These include:



Nonprofit Endowment Funds

Support for an organization in perpetuity, ensuring lasting impact and stability



Community Impact Funds

Support for our response to community needs and opportunities to help everyone in southeast Michigan thrive



Field of Interest Funds

Support for nonprofits within a specific focus area or geography



Donor-Advised Funds

Support for charitable causes by an individual, family, business or foundation with grant recommendations



Charitable Gift Annuities

Funds are invested to provide a fixed-income stream for life, with the remainder of the gift supporting a named charitable fund



Supporting Organizations

A separate charitable corporation managed by the Community Foundation that maintains its own identity as a 501(c)(3) public charity



Endowed Scholarship Funds

Support for students pursuing higher education, helping them achieve their academic goals and build bright futures



Our grantmaking is made possible through all of the funds listed above and other funds that generate lasting resources well beyond our present moment.

Work With Us

Let's talk about your giving goals and how we can help you achieve them. Contact our Donor Services team today.



DonorServices@cfsem.org



313-961-6675



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333 W. Fort Street, Suite 2010
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Thank you, donors!

Because of your generosity, people throughout our region have greater access to jobs, healthy food, educational opportunities, community theater and vibrant public spaces.

Whether you donate to our Southeast Michigan Forever Fund, establish your own endowed fund, create an estate plan that benefits the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, or choose another way to contribute, your gift makes a difference.

Your generosity changes lives and strengthens communities.



Scan the code to give to the Southeast Michigan Forever Fund
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