Celebrating 25 years of philanthropy in Sanilac County

GROW GREAT
WITH US
TABLE OF CONTENTS

3   25 Years of Philanthropy
4   Where It All Began
5   Community Leadership
6-7 Let’s Y.A.C. About It - Engaging the Next Generation
8-9 What is Philanthropy?
10-11 How Do Measure Impact? - 25 Years of Giving
12-13 Innovative Philanthropy
14-15 25k for 25
16   Good, Forever - Endowed Philanthropy
17-18 Vision for the Future - Grow Great
Webster defines an anniversary as, “a notable event.” What could be more notable than 25 years of philanthropy? As we reflect on the achievements of the Sanilac County Community Foundation (SCCF) in the last 25 years we can certainly celebrate our awesome accomplishments. The many students, families and organizations that have been helped by the SCCF is something we can all be proud of.

What started as an idea in early 1994 has grown to over $6 million in assets through two and a half decades of donor generosity and endowments. During that time the SCCF has held the belief that philanthropy has the power to transform. It transforms the giver and the communities they live in for the better.

As we take the time to look back on where we’ve seen transformation, we ask that you join with us in celebrating the good that has happened and help us create what the next 25 years will bring.
“History was in the making for Sanilac County philanthropy when a group of civic and business leaders met in Sandusky last week. The formation of the Sanilac County Foundation was begun…”

“A new organization has been established in Sanilac County to help local communities care for their residents’ needs”

In the spring of 1994, a small group of community-minded individuals came together to embark on the journey to form a community foundation. “At that time no one in the group even knew what a community foundation was let alone what we were getting ourselves into,” recalls Linda Kelke the first executive director of the foundation. The eight-member executive board was headed by Probate Judge George Benko. “A community foundation in Sanilac County is a great step toward insuring the financial future of our area” said Benko during an interview with the Times Herald in the summer of 1994.

The group’s passion for their community was only spurred on more when they learned of a two-for-one challenge grant from the Kellogg Foundation. They were eligible for up to one million dollars for development of youth programs if they could raise $500,000. “We’re working hard and fast to reach that goal,” said Benko. “The challenge grant is only available through 1995, but we’re confident we have the resources to do just that.”

And “do just that” they did. The group received their first donation of $100 to open their bank account on January 9, 1995 from Brining & Nartker. Over the next year the group worked tirelessly educating the residents of Sanilac County about this new community foundation and how it would be for good. More people joined their cause and a board of trustees was formed as well as the involvement of many volunteers, individuals, businesses, and organizations who believed in the power of this grass roots movement.

The initial fundraising efforts would receive match money for what is now the Youth Advisory Council fund, the youth grantmaking component of the Sanilac County Community Foundation. But the impact of that handful of people is still being seen 25 years later with over $6 million dollars of assets. 27 board members, 37 Youth Advisory Council members, and countless volunteers. Their goal to build local philanthropy has flourished and remains today as a vital part of the Sanilac County community and the surrounding areas.
COMMUNITY LEADERS
SUPPORTING BOLD SOLUTIONS

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Foundation, responsible for administrative policy and the authorization of all grants. Each of the members brings his or her own experience and background, whether in business, community service, law, education, finance or other areas to bear on the direction of the Foundation’s work. Their experience with local issues and knowledge of changing economic and social conditions sharpens their ability to function on behalf of the Foundation. It is their responsibility to represent the donors’ interest, to monitor grantees and to ensure through the years a most advantageous application of grant dollars.

Their dedication and leadership over the past 25 years has been beyond worth and we would like to take this moment to recognize each and every one of them for what they have contributed to Foundation and its mission.

Board Members Past and Present:

Mutee Abdeljaber
Judy Albrecht
Bob Armstrong
Bill Arnold
Curt Backus
Andrew Barnes
Robert Barnes
Jay Barry
George Benko
Louise Blasius
Helene Bridge
Henry Buxton
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Jane Walls
Ruth Walls
Sandy Willis

Thank you to all our dedicated board members who have served the Foundation and this community well.
The Youth Advisory Council is the “next generation” component of the Sanilac County Community Foundation, comprised of high school student-leaders representing each school district in Sanilac County. YAC is an integral part of Foundation functions, and contributes in grantmaking, volunteering, and raising awareness around community issues. YAC keeps busy throughout the school year, engaging in several annual activities as well as periodically taking on new projects:

• **Grantmaking** - this is perhaps the most important function of the Council, as they are responsible for issuing grant award dollars to non-profit applicants within the community who have a plan to enhance the lives of its young person population.

• **Needs Assessment Survey** - every other year, as a mandatory function of SCCF, YAC issues a survey to every high school student in the county to identify and address the most critical issues challenging the young people of Sanilac County. This data is used to decide where grant funding dollars are best spent to tackle those issues. Some top categories have been teen pregnancy, bullying, underage drinking, peer pressure, and access to activities.

• **Cardboard City** - the annual event staged on the courthouse lawn each spring raises awareness and between $4,000 and $21,000 in an effort to end homelessness in Sanilac County.

• **Collaboration** - on numerous occasions in its history, YAC has partnered with other agencies, non-profits and groups to help them achieve their project goals and ensuring those efforts are successful.
FUN YAC FACTS:

• YAC has granted over $250k toward youth initiatives in Sanilac County.

• Approximately 13,000 Youth Needs Assessment surveys have been completed and compiled by YAC. That is 13,000 youth voices being heard in our county!

• It is estimated that over 500,000 moments of impact have happened because of grants given by our Sanilac YAC!

• Recipient of the 2018 Fundraiser of the Year Award through the Michigan Community Foundations Youth Project.

When the first discussions were initiated to establish a community foundation in Sanilac County 25 years ago, I was asked to participate to assist in creating a Youth Advisory Council. The Kellogg Foundation had challenged us to raise up to $500,000 that they would match for a YAC endowment. With those kinds of numbers at stake how could I say no. Besides, Eileen Selick, a retired school administrator, was going to work with me in the process. If anybody remembers Eileen you would know that she was quite the spitfire and got things done. We discussed recruiting students, principals, and other administrators to help us achieve the Kellogg criteria. Eileen said let’s go present to the superintendents and the rest will follow. Well, we did just that and the rest is history as they say. 25 years later we are still going strong and Sanilac County’s YAC continues to remain one of the most dynamic YAC in the state of Michigan.

– Bill Sarkella – Co-Chair & YAC Advisor

Personally, I know that I am where I am today because of the influence the Youth Advisory Council and the SCCF board members had on me. I volunteered to go to every large board meeting I could because I knew I would have the chance to interact with some of the most powerful leaders in our county. I learned and grew in ways I never would have had the chance to in a regular classroom setting. The people of the SCCF are always giving back and growing the people in this community. Their example and tireless efforts to give back have changed the lives of so many residents in this county. Seeing this first hand as a youth was the motivation I needed to know that I wanted to grow up with the same mission in mind. It was with that that I decided to become a teacher and knew I wanted to come back to this area: I wanted to bring the same opportunities I had to this generation of youth. As an adult, I now see how important it is to give youth the opportunity to give back. If we start early enough, it just becomes a way of life. The SCCF paved the way for me to create a new path of future leaders. This is why the community foundation is so powerful. They don’t just live in the moment...they create for the future.

– Erin Carlson, Sandusky High School Teacher & YAC Alumna
Most easily defined, philanthropy is “the giving of your time, talent, or treasure for the good of the community.” Another great way to define it is as a “voluntary action for the common good.” In all of its definitions the aim of philanthropy is to improve the quality of human life.

Philanthropy is not defined by wealth. It is not a posture reserved for the rich or powerful. It is the responsibility and privilege of every man, woman, and child to participate in the task of building more just and humane societies. Everyone can give. Many choose to give. It doesn’t have to be in dollars or cents, but it is all valuable and bettering the community.

“One of the greatest moments of philanthropy I have ever seen, happened with two dollars,” states Melissa Anderson Executive Director of the Community Foundation. “I had spent a cold April day huddled up in an empty school building with our Youth Advisory Council raising money to renovate that very building we were standing in for use as a homeless shelter. Our goal was to raise $40,000 that day and donations had slowed, and the kids were beginning to show signs of discouragement. Just when the silence of the slowly ticking moments was getting to be too much to bear, the door opened and an elderly lady of small stature entered the building. She handed us a small white envelope and explained that her home ridden neighbor had asked her to bring what was left from her monthly check over so that someone else could have a bed and a warm place to sleep. Inside of the envelope were two wrinkled dollar bills, and that $2 donation was the greatest gift we received all day. Little did that lady know, but those two dollars brought us to the half way point of our goal for that day. When word got out that we were half way there, others joined the cause and finished the last half of the campaign within two hours. Now a local Rescue Mission has been in operation since October of 2018 and provided hundreds of nights of shelter to 20+ individuals. All because someone gave their time, talent, and treasure for the good of the community.”

In every community there are stories just like this of how philanthropy has changed the landscape. If you are ever wondering if what you can do is enough, just remember that philanthropy, in its truest form, is the glue that holds communities together and causes them to flourish. You can stand proudly and say, “I am a philanthropist.”
HELPING YOU CONNECT FAITH AND FINANCES FOR GOOD

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Congratulations
Sanilac County Community Foundation
on achieving your 25th silver anniversary.
25 more for gold!
How do you measure the impact that one act of philanthropy can have? The answer is, you can’t. Dollars and cents can be quantified and many individuals coming together to do multiple acts of philanthropy can be calculated into numbers.

Yet the true impact of philanthropy would only be felt if it had never happened. What would our neighborhoods look like without 25 years of people just like you giving of their time, talent, and treasure for the good of the community? No afterschool programs, scholarships, funding for the arts, for seniors, for health and wellness?

For the past two and a half decades, the Sanilac County Community Foundation has strived to partner with the individuals and organizations in the greater Thumb area and support bold solutions. Our mission to strengthen community wellness and quality of life through endowed philanthropy is becoming a reality because of the great work that we do together!

May 1994
Foundation Forms

February 26, 1996
Youth Advisory Council (YAC) established

September 1996
$100,000 in assets

1998
Grant given to help start the Sanilac County Child Abuse Prevention Council

1999
over $20,000 is awarded in local scholarships

2001
Grant awarded to newly found domestic violence shelter, Eva’s Place

January 9, 1995
First donation of $100 to open checking account from Brining & Nartker

August 1996
First grant given $1,347 sponsoring the Silver Lining Awards

1997
Foundation gives out 7 grants worth a total of $3,000

November 1998
Foundation reaches $1 million in assets

2000
$1.5M in assets

April 2002
YAC hosts first annual Cardboard City raising $12,000
In the past 25 years...

Over **1,143** Individual Scholarship Awarded

Over **475** Organizational Grants Awarded

Over **3,500** individual donors

Over **$1.3 million** in scholarships

Over **$1.5 million** in grants

25 years = **$3 million** invested back into Sanilac County

And this is just the beginning.

2004
Over $2.3M in assets

September 2006
YAC recognized as Outstanding Youth Organization in Sanilac County

2013
Over $4M in assets

2015
Over $200k granted back into Sanilac County

Fall 2017
First Promise Funds are opened for Kindergarteners

2018
#StudentsvsHomelessness raised $40,000 in 24-hours to open Sanilac Rescue Mission

2006
Over $3.5M in assets

October 2013
First Sanilac Women Who Care event is held, $6,100 awarded to the Sanilac County Baby Pantry

2014
20 non-profit organizations raise over $180k in just 24-hours with “Give Where You Live”

2016
Over $5M in assets

2017
Over $6M in assets

2018
Most grants/scholarships awarded in one year - 136
INNOVATIVE PHILANTHROPY...

Give Where You Live

In the spring of 2014, the Sanilac County Community Foundation co-sponsored Give Where You Live. A 24-hour giving event where individuals far and wide could give to their favorite Sanilac County non-profit for the opportunity to receive matching funds. The buzz and excitement created throughout our county resulted in over $180,000 being raised enabling projects to be sustained or started. One major project, the Sandusky Splash Pad, became a reality because of this event and the generous support of the community.

While this was a one-day event, the name “Give Where You Live” represents the concept that makes a foundation work. It is the reason the many fundraisers that our local charities hold each year are successful. When you give into your local community you are investing into future generations that will live, work, play, and give here.

Cardboard City/Students vs. Homelessness

April 2002 the Sanilac County Community Foundation’s Youth Advisory Council (YAC) began the work of eliminating homelessness in Sanilac County, and Cardboard City was born. Every year since, YAC members have spent cold, rainy, and sometimes snowy nights outside on the courthouse lawn to raise awareness and funds. Over 1,200 youth have participated in the event with over $80,000 being raised to provide emergency shelter in our county.

In March of 2018, YAC was at it again and took Cardboard City a step further. For 24-hours they challenged the community to help them raise $40,000 to open the first emergency shelter for men in the county. Within just 13 hours the goal had been reached and this group of young leaders taught us that big things can happen when a community comes together.

Promise Funds

“Every child, one promise...We believe in you.”

In 2017 the Sanilac County Community Foundation made national news when it announced that every child that enrolled in kindergarten in Sanilac County would be given a Promise Fund. This long-term savings account would be seeded with $50 from local donors, and as the students continued through their K-12 experience

MAKING BOLD SOLUTIONS POSSIBLE.
there would be opportunity to earn prize and incentive money. These funds will be growing and waiting for them so that upon graduation they will have a scholarship to pursue their dreams. The generosity of this community has been evident and not only have the students received the initial $50 dollars, but the first two cohorts have received a matching $50!

The goal of the program is to continue in perpetuity. That Promise Funds will inspire every child to reach their fullest potential. To earn a college degree, a certificate, to start their own business, to pursue a job and life they love, right here in Sanilac County.

**Sanilac Women Who Care**

Since 2013 women from across the Thumb have come together to “Experience the power of charitable giving” through an innovative initiative that we call Sanilac Women Who Care. This event allows the attending participants to join forces and grant large dollars in just a few hours. Since its inception the group has granted $50,100 back into our community.
HELP US GIVE AWAY $25,000!

N onprofits from around the county have signed up to participate in the 25k for 25 Challenge. Through the power of online giving each non-profit will fundraise for THEIR organization for the entirety of our “birthday” month, May 1 – 31, 2019. At midnight on the 31st fundraising will stop and the 3 organizations who have raised the most funds will be given the opportunity to give a 3-minute presentation at the Anniversary Celebration. This is where it gets interesting...

Every person in attendance at the Anniversary Celebration will then be given the ability to vote on which one of the 3 organizations will be given a $25,000 permanent endowment at the Sanilac County Community Foundation!

For more information about these, and other nonprofits who are joining the 25k for 25 Challenge, please visit our 25th Anniversary website www.sanilacfoundation25.org Or become our friend on social media:

Facebook /sanilacgives
Twitter /sanilacgives

If you would like to attend our 25th Anniversary Celebration and help us select the organization who will receive a $25,000 endowment please visit: www.sanilacfoundation25.org

DOROTHY A CONKLIN-ROSS, AGENT

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Thank you for your loyalty. We appreciate you.
List of Participating Nonprofits:

- **Blue Water Folk Society**
  www.bluewaterfolk.org

- **Child Abuse Prevention Council & Child Advocacy Center**
  www.sanilacchild.org

- **Community Health and Fitness Center**
  www.facebook.com/Community-Health-and-Fitness-Center

- **Croswell-Lexington Community Band**
  facebook.com/CroslexCommunityBand

- **Goodtimers**
  www.goodtimers.org

- **Great Start Collaborative Sanilac County**
  www.greatstartsanilac.com

- **Lexington Arts Council**
  www.lexington-arts.org

- **McKenzie Health System**
  www.mckenziehealthsystem.org

- **Sanilac County 4-H**
  www.canr.msu.edu/sanilac/4-h

- **Sanilac County Humane Society**
  www.sanilaccountymuseum.org

- **Sanilac County Historical Village & Museum**
  www.sanilaccountymuseum.org

- **Sandusky District Library**
  www.sandusky.lib.mi.us

- **Sandusky Key Club**
  www.facebook.com/Kiwanis-Club-of-Sandusky-SHS-Key-Club

- **SAVE Council/EVAS Place**
  www.evasplaceshelter.org
GOOD, FOREVER –
ENDOWED PHILANTHROPY

You may be wondering what makes the Sanilac County Community Foundation different from any other nonprofit in our county? And the answer is endowed philanthropy. Every time a gift is given to the community foundation, we plant it as a seed. That seed is planted inside the community foundation and grows just like a tree. Then every year, the fruit of that tree is used to further the philanthropic intent of our donors and address the needs in our community.

During our 25 years we have grown to a $6 million organization with a variety of different funds and points of interest. Our celebration would not be complete without acknowledging the funds creating positive change in our community.

David W. & Judith A. Albrecht Scholarship Fund
Albrecht Field Endowment Fund
Kenneth Alexander Memorial Scholarship Weekend Food Backpack Fund
Backus Family Scholarship
Doug & Rose Banker Scholarship
Philomena Falls Endowment for Beta Tau
Joseph G. Biernasz Memorial Scholarship
David Blank Athletic & Leadership Scholarship
Blue Water Center for Independent Living Endowment
Blue Water Council Boy Scouts of America Fund
Blue Water Habitat For Humanity “Power” Fund
Eleanor M. Bowman Scholarship
Daniel James Brabant Memorial Scholarship The Bradley Fund
Aaron Brown Memorial Scholarship
Trina V. Buskirk Endowment Fund for Community Enhancement
Fred Cady Scholarship Fund
Sanilac County Child Abuse Prevention Council Fund
The David Chmielewski “Mr. C” Memorial Scholarship Richard M. Coffelt Memorial Scholarship
Shelby Sanderson Comb’s Scholarship Elfrieda Conrad Endowment
John & Lila Chook, Peck United Methodist Church 4-H Scholarship
Robert Cork Scholarship
Carol A. Crane Scholarship
Cros-Lex Community Fund
Croswell-Lexington Eagles Aerie 4465 Scholarship
Cros-Lex Pioneers Scholarship
Croswell Boy Scouts Fund
Croswell Rotary Scholarship
Esther M. Cuppen Scholarship
Deckerville Community Hospital Fund
Deckerville Education Foundation Fund
Dawn M. Dennison Endowment
John & Lois Donovan Endowment Eastern Michigan Bank Scholarship
Exchange State Bank Scholarship
Edward & Amelia Falls Scholarship
Corey William Farr Scholarship
Stanley R. Fetting Scholarship
Lee & Thelma Flannigan Scholarship
France Outstanding Educator Award
Kent & Lucille Freeland Scholarship
Andrew Ronald Gerstenberger Memorial Gielow Pickles Scholarship
Girl Scouts of South East Michigan Fund
Goodtimers Fund
Grow Sanilac Fund
Gruber-Dahmen Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund
Dr. R. K. Hart American Legion Scholarship Healthy Youth & Seniors Fund
Stanley G. Herron Memorial Scholarship Hewitt-Riley Scholarship
Monica Higgins Sophia Fund
Joseph B. Hoppinthal Scholarship
Mark S. Hund Scholarship
Edward & Viviene Huntoon Memorial Scholarship
Elwyn K. Johnson Fund
Fred Kalis Athletic Scholarship
Andrew Kautz Memorial Scholarship
Edward Ralph & Ina Kinsley Scholarship
Andrew Ronald Gerstenberger Memorial Scholarship
Gruber-Dahmen Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund
Dr. R. K. Hart American Legion Scholarship Healthy Youth & Seniors Fund
Stanley G. Herron Memorial Scholarship
Hewitt-Riley Scholarship
Monica Higgins Sophia Fund
Joseph B. Hoppinthal Scholarship
Mark S. Hund Scholarship
Edward & Viviene Huntoon Memorial Scholarship
Elwyn K. Johnson Fund
Fred Kalis Athletic Scholarship
Andrew Kautz Memorial Scholarship
Edward Ralph & Ina Kinsley Scholarship
Robert Kenneth & Janette Grace Knight Scholarship
Lexington Arts Council “Artistic Future” Scholarship
Lexington VFW Scholarship
David Lockwood Sr. Memorial Scholarship
Marvin Longuski Educational Scholarship
Marlette Art Scholarship
Marlette Community Schools Fund
McKenzie Health Systems Endowment
Joseph V. McNichol Memorial Scholarship
Oscar & Amy Merriman Memorial Scholarship
James Mitchell Memorial Scholarship
Joan Monte Memorial Scholarship
Darwin Moriartey Memorial Scholarship
Sheila Olbrich Fine Arts Scholarship
Oldford Family Endowment
Kevin M. Pearce Memorial Scholarship
Inez Peasley Scholarship
Peck United Methodist Church Scholarship
Melinda Phipps Scholarship
Port Sanilac Garden Club Scholarship
Promise Fund Endowment
Terry & Jackie Reid Scholarship
Replogle Fund
Kim Rhead Leadership Scholarship
Robb Family Scholarship
Joshua Ross Memorial Scholarship
St. John’s Wallace Fund
Sacred Heart Church Women’s Auxiliary Scholarship
Sanilac County Blood Bank Endowment
Sanilac County Community Foundation Endowment
Sanilac County Youth Advisory Council Endowment
Homelessness Prevention Fund
Sanilac County Historical Society Endowment
Sanilac Medical Services EMS Tuition Fund
Sanilac Rescue Mission Fund
Sanilac Women Who Care Fund
Sarkella Family Endowment
SC4 Foundation Scholarship
Isaac “IKE” Selick Law Enforcement Scholarship
Gary Shaw Fund
Suzanne Spencer Scholarship
Steps for Success Fund
Mike Stevens Scholarship
Thee Valhalla Scholarship
Cheryl Thomas Memorial Scholarship
Thorley Family Endowment
Thumbs Up For Kids Fund
Harold & Dawn Titus Scholarship
Tubb Family Endowment for the Arts
Sanilac County United Way Endowment
Daryl Walker Scholarship
Bonnie Wallace Endowment
Walls/Flannigan Scholarship
Wark Family Fund for Peck Community Schools
Purl L. & Helen B. Wark Fund
Joseph & Nellie Pepper Wegner Administrative Fund
James T. Whitfield Scholarship
John Wilder Memorial Scholarship
Wixson Trust Scholarship
PHILANTHROPISTS at the early part of the twentieth century asked a bold question that remains relevant today: How can wealth be wielded for change that benefits society at large? In the latter half of the twentieth century, sustained economic growth expanded the philanthropic community. As more companies, communities, families and individuals began to believe in their ability and responsibility to have impact, the questions became more strategic:

- What levers of change can philanthropy influence to move the needle on critical issues?
- What innovations will lead to significant breakthroughs?
- How can donors best integrate efforts that are strategic, opportunistic and responsive?

Today, these questions are starting points for those seeking to achieve deep social impact. Philanthropy requires renewed attention to bold questions:

- How can philanthropy create a new age of opportunity?
- How can we best harness the power of networks and work across sectors to grow philanthropy’s impact?
- What is the highest and best use of philanthropy?

These are the questions that we hope to answer with you, our community, in the next 25 years. The Sanilac County Community Foundation’s mission remains constant, “to strengthen community wellness and quality of life through endowed philanthropy.” The SCCF has always encouraged donors and corporate leaders to be proactive, and to look for gaps and opportunities where resources can be applied to tackle important social issues. As such, changes in the field of philanthropy over the past 25 years are easily marked by the bold questions asked by the SCCF and this community.

The focus remains on the concept and practice of high-impact philanthropy. Join us on your philanthropic journey to seek answers to your bold questions.

- Gertie Van den Goor, Board Member
To act boldly we must ask bold questions. I foresee the next 25 years as an opportunity to be the people that cause change to happen. We need to start asking the hard questions that face us as a community and boldly step out in pursuit of the answers. For me, some of those questions are:

- How do we work together to wrap around our most vulnerable citizens and extend a hand up so that they can achieve their full potential?

- What can we do better to create vibrant communities and attract the next generation of residents?

- Are we continuously looking “outside of the box” to address systematic issues within our communities?

- What do we want Sanilac County to look like 25 years from now?

This is the journey we are on. To ask bold questions and support bold solutions. The SCCF is in a unique position because we are a cheerleader for the entire community. We don’t represent just one entity, we are the embodiment of many entities, many people, and resources. And when we celebrate our 50th anniversary I know we will look back at today and be glad that we came together to grow great.

– Melissa Anderson, Executive Director, SCCF
Community Newspapers Matter

We are:

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