

Celebrating 25 years of philanthropy in Sanilac County



Sanilac County
community foundationSM

GROW GREAT
WITH US

SANILAC COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | WWW.SANILACFOUNDATION.ORG

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25 YEARS

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.

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.

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**Thank you to all our dedicated board
members who have served the
Foundation and this community well.**





Sanilac County
youth advisory council

LET'S YAC ABOUT IT

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.



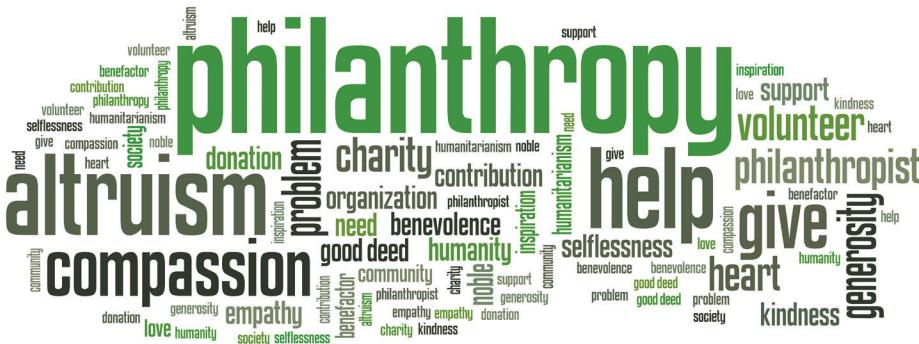
When the first discussions were initiated to establish a community foundation in Sanilac County 25 years ago, I was asked to participate to assist in creating a Youth Advisory Council. The Kellogg Foundation had challenged us to raise up to \$500,000 that they would match for a YAC endowment. With those 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

WHAT IS PHILANTHROPY?



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."





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Congratulations
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on achieving your 25th silver anniversary.
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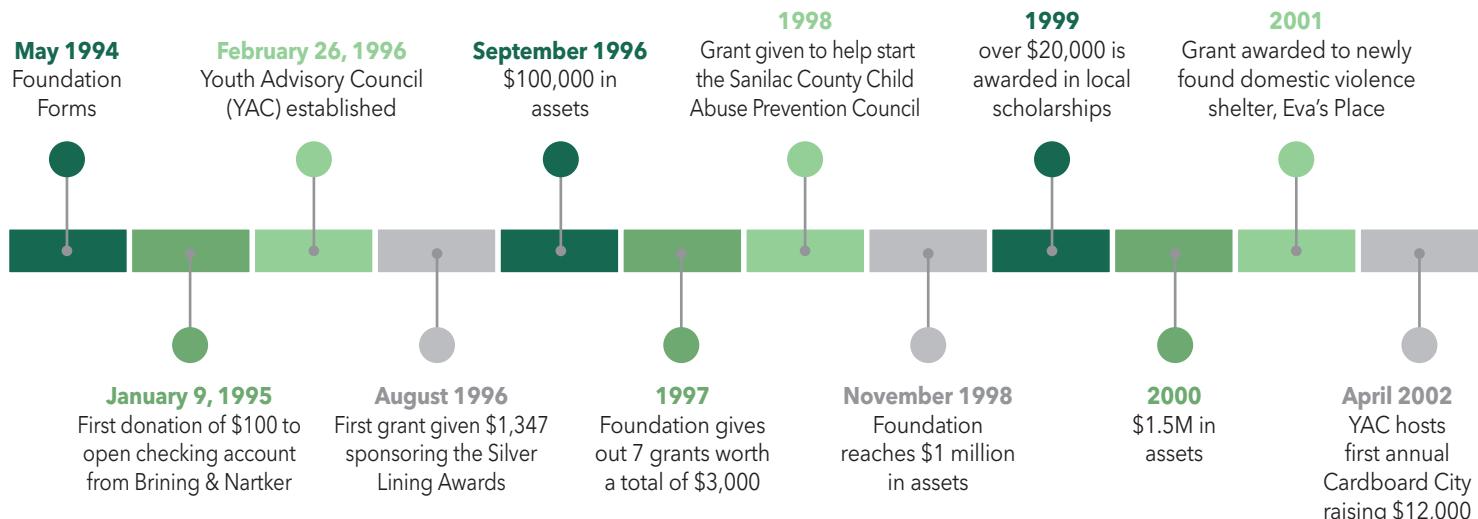
HOW DO YOU MEASURE IMPACT

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!



- 25 YEARS OF PHILANTHROPY



In the past 25 years...

Over **1,143** Individual Scholarship Awarded

Over **475** Organizational Grants Awarded

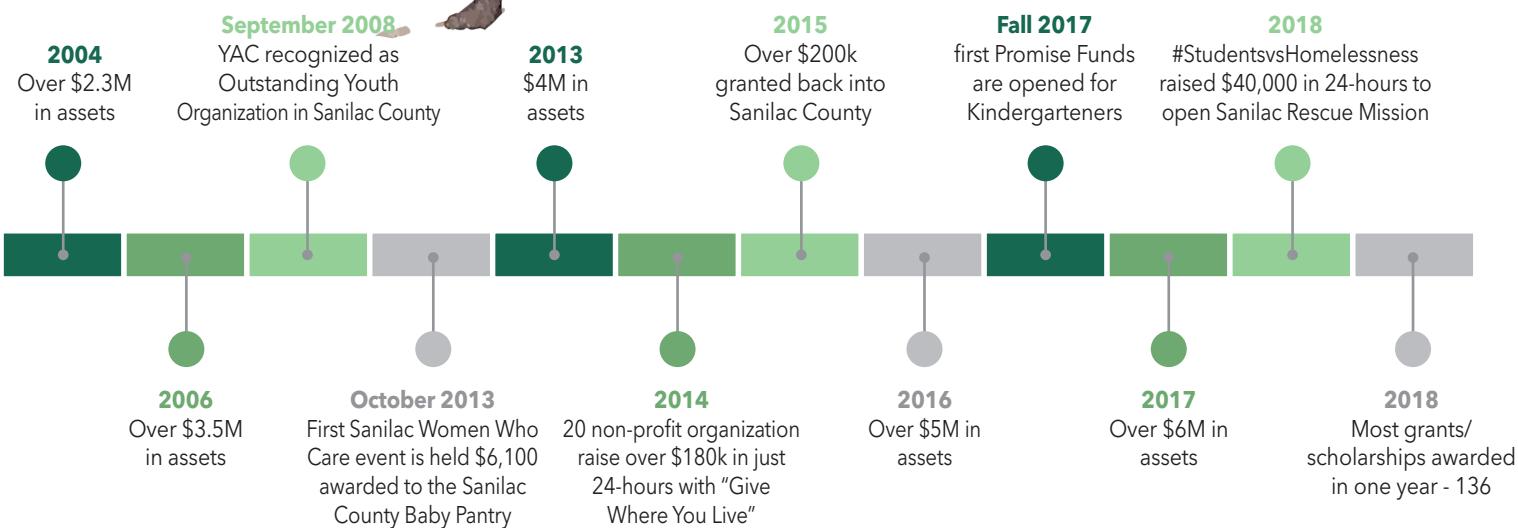
Over **3,500** individual donors

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.



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.



A Promise is a Promise.

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



A small group of women asked "why not us?" when reviewing an initiative in a neighboring county. The conclusion was "We can!" and the Sanilac Women Who Care was started. They will be hosting the 7th annual event in October 2019.

- Nona Walker,
Chair - SWWC

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.

What matters most to you in life?

It's a big question. But it's just one of many questions we'll ask to better understand you, your goals and your dreams using our *Confident Retirement®* approach. All to help you live confidently - today and in the future.



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HELP US GIVE AWAY \$25,000!



Nonprofits 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:

 /sanilacgives

 /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



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www.McKenzieHealth.org

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



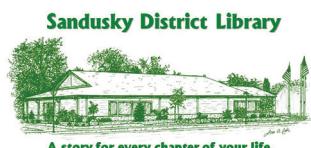
Great Start Collaborative Sanilac County
www.greatstartsanilac.com



Lexington Arts Council
www.lexington-arts.org



McKenzie Health System
www.mckenziehealthsystem.org



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



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



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



Sanilac County Humane Society
www.sanilaccountyhumane.org

HISTORIC VILLAGE & MUSEUM
Sanilac County Historical Village & Museum
www.sanilaccountymuseum.org



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 | Corey William Farr Scholarship | Promise Fund Endowment |
| Albrecht Field Endowment Fund | Stanley R. Fetting Scholarship | Terry & Jackie Reid Scholarship |
| Kenneth Alexander Memorial Scholarship | Lee & Thelma Flannigan Scholarship | Replogle Fund |
| Weekend Food Backpack Fund | France Outstanding Educator Award | Kim Rhead Leadership Scholarship |
| Backus Family Scholarship | Kent & Lucille Freeland Scholarship | Robb Family Scholarship |
| Doug & Rose Bunker Scholarship | Andrew Ronald Gerstenberger Memorial | Joshua Ross Memorial Scholarship |
| Philomena Falls Endowment for Beta Tau | Gielow Pickles Scholarship | St. John's Wallace Fund |
| Joseph G. Biernasz Memorial Scholarship | Girl Scouts of South East Michigan Fund | Sacred Heart Church Women's Auxiliary Scholarship |
| David Blank Athletic & Leadership Scholarship | Goodtimers Fund | Samczyk/Ball "Pay It Forward" Scholarship |
| Blue Water Center for Independent Living Endowment | Grow Sanilac Fund | Sandusky Alumni Foundation Fund |
| Blue Water Council Boy Scouts of America Fund | Gruber-Dahmen Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund | Sandusky District Library Endowment |
| Blue Water Habitat For Humanity "Power" Fund | Dr. R. K. Hart American Legion Scholarship | Sandusky FFA Scholarship |
| Eleanor M. Bowman Scholarship | Healthy Youth & Seniors Fund | Sanilac County Blood Bank Endowment |
| Daniel James Brabant Memorial Scholarship | Stanley G. Herron Memorial Scholarship | Sanilac County Community Foundation Endowment |
| The Bradley Fund | Hewitt-Riley Scholarship | Sanilac County Youth Advisory Council Endowment |
| Aaron Brown Memorial Scholarship | Monica Higgins Sopha Fund | Homelessness Prevention Fund |
| Trina V. Buskirk Endowment Fund for Community Enhancement | Joseph B. Hoppinthal Scholarship | Sanilac County Historical Society Endowment |
| Fred Cady Scholarship Fund | Mark S. Hund Scholarship | Sanilac Medical Services EMS Tuition Fund |
| Sanilac County Child Abuse Prevention Council Fund | Edward & Viviene Huntoon Memorial Scholarship | Sanilac Rescue Mission Fund |
| The David Chmielewski "Mr. C" Memorial Scholarship | Elwyn K. Johnson Fund | Sanilac Women Who Care Fund |
| Richard M. Coffelt Memorial Scholarship | Fred Kalis Athletic Scholarship | Sarkella Family Endowment |
| Shelby Sanderson Combs Scholarship | Andrew Kautz Memorial Scholarship | SC4 Foundation Scholarship |
| Elfrieda Conrad Endowment | Edward Ralph & Ina Kinsley Scholarship | Isaac "IKE" Selick Law Enforcement Scholarship |
| John & Lila Chook, Peck United Methodist Church 4-H Scholarship | Robert Kenneth & Janette Grace Knight Scholarship | Gary Shaw Fund |
| Robert Cork Scholarship | Lexington Arts Council "Artistic Future" Scholarship | Suzanne Spencer Scholarship |
| Carol A. Crake Scholarship | Lexington VFW Scholarship | Steps for Success Fund |
| Cros-Lex Community Fund | David Lockwood Sr. Memorial Scholarship | Mike Stevens Scholarship |
| Croswell-Lexington Eagles Aerie 4465 Scholarship | Marvin Longuski Educational Scholarship | Thee Valhalla Scholarship |
| Cros-Lex Pioneers Scholarship | Marlette Art Scholarship | Cheryl Thomas Memorial Scholarship |
| Croswell Boy Scouts Fund | Marlette Community Schools Fund | Thorley Family Endowment |
| Croswell Rotary Scholarship | McKenzie Health Systems Endowment | Thumbs Up For Kids Fund |
| Esther M. Cuppen Scholarship | Joseph V. McNichol Memorial Scholarship | Harold & Dawn Titus Scholarship |
| Deckerville Community Hospital Fund | Oscar & Amy Merriman Memorial Scholarship | Tubbs Family Endowment for the Arts |
| Deckerville Education Foundation Fund | James Mitchell Memorial Scholarship | Sanilac County United Way Endowment |
| Dawn M. Dennison Scholarship | Joan Monte Memorial Scholarship | Daryl Walker Scholarship |
| John & Lois Donovan Endowment | Darwin Moriarity Memorial Scholarship | Bonnie Wallace Endowment |
| Eastern Michigan Bank Scholarship | Sheila Olbrich Fine Arts Scholarship | Walls/Flannigan Scholarship |
| Exchange State Bank Scholarship | Oldford Family Endowment | Wark Family Fund for Peck Community Schools |
| Edward & Amelia Falls Scholarship | Kevin M. Pearce Memorial Scholarship | Purl L. & Helen B. Wark Fund |
| | Inez Peasley Scholarship | Joseph & Nellie Pepper Wegner Administrative Fund |
| | Peck United Methodist Church Scholarship | James T. Whitfield Scholarship |
| | Melinda Philpot Scholarship | John Wilder Memorial Scholarship |
| | Port Sanilac Garden Club Scholarship | Wixon Trust Scholarship |

VISION FOR THE FUTURE: BOLD QUESTIONS FOR GROWING GREAT

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?

The Best Way To
PREDICT THE FUTURE
Is To Create It.

- Abraham Lincoln

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?

*With the practice in place to dream big and write down those dreams, the future is bright because as soon as you write down a dream, it became a plan with measurable goals that **will be** reached.*

Doubling the endowment fund is a good place to start. The foundation is not only about money but also about a network of people that share dreams and goals for the common good. The more we develop leadership for the common good, the better it is, and I am excited to be a part of that and to see where that is going to take us.

- Gertie Van den Goor, Board Member

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.

Continued on the next page

VISION FOR THE FUTURE (CONT.)

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

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