

# WHERE EVERYONE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE.

Dear Friend:

As we reflect on the past year, we are humbled and proud to share with you the remarkable progress we have made in fulfilling our mission to invest in a better future for our beloved community. The journey has been one of compassion, action, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of Monroe County.

A significant achievement in the past year has been the establishment of the Compassion Into Action Fund, a dynamic initiative designed to turn our shared values into impactful change. This fund serves as a powerful tool to respond swiftly and effectively to unforeseen events within our community, allowing us to truly put our "Compassion Into Action." It symbolizes our collective dedication to ensuring that when challenges arise, we are ready to step in and make a difference.

Beyond the creation of this fund, we continued focusing on empowering students, granting \$137,000 in scholarships to the bright minds of Monroe County. These scholarships represent not only financial support but also a commitment to nurturing future leaders who will shape the landscape of our community. Furthermore, we are proud to have distributed \$244,415 in grants to non-profit organizations that share our mission and vision for Monroe County. These partnerships exemplify our collaborative approach to creating lasting change, as we work together to address critical needs and improve the lives of those in our community.

As we move through 2023, we are excited to turn our attention toward YOU, our valued supporters. Our dedication to shaping a legacy in Monroe County takes center stage, as we actively invite you to join us in crafting a meaningful impact. Whether it's through scholarships, grants, or endowment funds, we are here to stand hand in hand with you, translating aspirations into tangible actions that leave a lasting imprint on the future of Monroe County. We extend an open invitation to engage with us further – whether for a discussion about your philanthropic aspirations, the legacy you wish to build, or any questions you may have. Your involvement is pivotal to our continued success, and we look forward to the opportunity to connect and collaborate.

Thank you for your unwavering support and for being a driving force in our journey toward a thriving and vibrant Monroe County.



Kind regards,

Kathleen Russeau  
Executive Director



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

(734) 242-1976  
9 Washington St.  
Monroe, MI. 48161  
www.cfmonroe.org



## OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES\*

\*Years to include April 1st - March 31st fiscal year

**BARRY BUSCHMANN**  
Mannik and Smith

**RICHARD KENNY**  
Forestview Lanes

**ERIC PEACOCK, DDS**  
Milan Dental Associates

**MOLLY LUERPENT-COY**  
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# WE ARE YOUR TRUSTED FIDUCIARY

## OUR MISSION

We Invest in a Better Future for our Community.

## OUR VISION

Where Everyone has an Opportunity to Thrive.

## OUR VALUES

We strive to successfully fulfill our mission, by committing to the following values:

**Stewardship** – Maintain the highest standards of integrity and transparency in donor relations, community service, organizational governance and fiscal responsibility.

**Local Impact** – Promote philanthropy that will have an impact on the community at large.

**Community Partnerships** – Form collaborations with local non-profits, community leaders, and volunteers, to provide funds that address issues such as education, health, poverty, community development and more.

**Inclusion** – Embrace diversity in our philanthropic decision making.

**Legacy** – Operate to produce significant, widely shared and long-lasting results.

**\$13,941,620**  
IN TOTAL ASSETS

**\$244,415**  
DISTRIBUTED FOR GRANTS TO OUR COMMUNITY

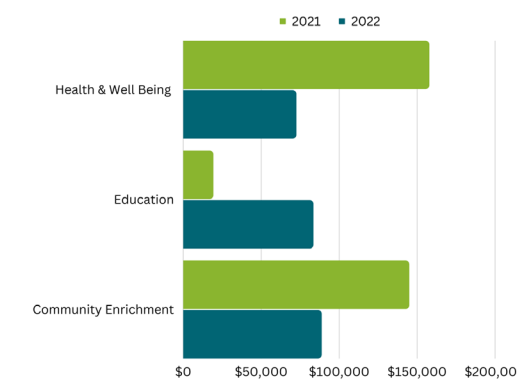
**\$137,000**  
DISTRIBUTED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT\*

Assets	2023	2022
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,140,316	\$644,462
Investments	12,795,922	14,091,959
Prepaid Expenses	2,687	2,687
Office Equipment - net	2,695	3,839
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$13,941,620</b>	<b>\$14,742,947</b>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$0	\$0
Deferred Revenue	530,500	10,500
PPP Loan Payable	0	0
Contributions Held for Others	234,915	226,236
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$765,415</b>	<b>\$236,736</b>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$13,176,205	\$14,506,211
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$13,176,205</b>	<b>\$14,506,211</b>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets**		
	\$13,941,620	\$14,742,947

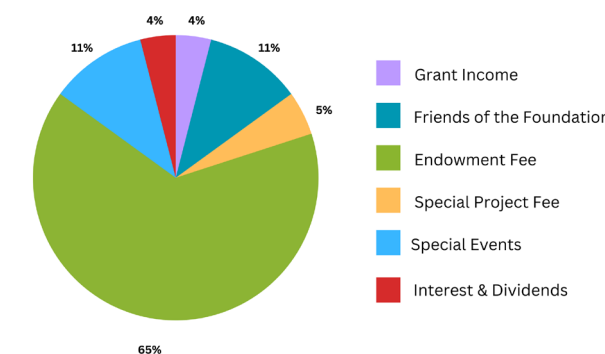
\*Audited Years to Include April 1st - March 31st fiscal year.

## 2022 DISTRIBUTION



## OPERATING INCOME

2022-2023 \$269,035



OUR VALUES GUIDE US TO STRIVE TO SUCCESSFULLY FULFILL OUR MISSION THROUGH IMPORTANT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS FOR LONG-TERM IMPACT

## EDUCATION

The U.S. economy faces a significant skilled labor shortage, due to trade schools being overlooked for generations in favor of college degrees. To foster a future where skilled trades flourish and to encourage Monroe County's youth to explore rewarding career paths, we awarded a grant for the United Way of Monroe/Lenawee Counties' BUILDing Skills Summer Trades Camp, aiming to encourage Monroe County's youth to consider trades as a viable

career path. In collaboration with local educational institutions and trade unions, this innovative four-week camp at Monroe High School Career and Technical Education Program equips incoming students with essential construction skills, resume writing, interview preparation, and pre-apprenticeship hours, fostering a strong workforce and addressing the industry's skilled labor shortage.

## COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



As a county-wide organization, we prioritize the health and well-being of all Monroe County residents. In 2022, we supported many projects that did just that! One such initiative was a grant to Junior Jets Inc, enabling

Carleton Area children from grades Kindergarten through 6th grade to engage in physical activities and sports like flag football, tackle football, and cheerleading. By offering young athletes the chance to get active and interact with their peers, this program promotes physical fitness and social development, contributing to a healthier and more vibrant community.



Furthermore, The Community Foundation showed support for Gabby's Grief Center, a program designed to assist and guide children and their families through unexpected loss. Their grant supported the installation of two wheelchair lifts. With these lifts in place, the center has become fully accessible, eliminating barriers for anyone who may have difficulty with stairs, including wheelchair users. The inclusive environment helped by this grant facilitates the healing process and ensures that support is readily available to all individuals in need, regardless of mobility challenges. By investing in these projects, The Community Foundation of Monroe County has demonstrated its commitment to nurturing a healthy and caring community where everyone can thrive.

## HEALTH AND WELL BEING

At the Community Foundation of Monroe County, we are dedicated to making outdoor recreation and activities accessible to all, irrespective of background or circumstances. This year, we proudly supported four projects aligned with this mission through our Access to Recreation fund.

In collaboration with Berlin Charter Township, we assisted in the acquisition of two ADA Supersaver Commercial Square Picnic Tables for Robert D. Laginess Park. These tables provide a comfortable and inclusive space for chair-bound individuals to join family picnics and enjoy quality time outdoors. Additionally, we partnered with the Ash Carleton Park Commission to repair a 1/2 mile blacktop walking trail and create two adjacent accessible vehicle-paved parking spaces, making the park more welcoming and navigable

for individuals with mobility challenges.

In our commitment to creating inclusive environments, we also collaborated with the City of Monroe to introduce one bay of ADA swings to a new swing set at Martin Luther King Park. This addition ensures that children of all abilities can experience the joy of swinging together. Lastly, in cooperation with the Village of Maybee, we helped establish a wheelchair-accessible path leading to the swing set and nearby pavilion, with the installation of a wheelchair ramp for easy access to the swing set area. Through these projects, we strive to build a community where everyone can embrace nature and participate in outdoor activities with equal opportunities for enjoyment.

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# OUR AFFILIATE MILAN

At the heart of our commitment to uplift the communities of Monroe County lies the Greater Milan Area Community Fund (GMACF), a dedicated Geographical Affiliate of the Community Foundation of Monroe County. With a resolute belief in the transformative potential of localized support, GMACF serves as a driving force of unity, collaboration, and progress within the Greater Milan area. Guided by a shared vision, their dedicated efforts embody the core essence of community-driven initiatives, enriching lives, and paving the path for a brighter future.

At the heart of GMACF's mission is the unwavering commitment "to improve the environmental, educational, economic, and cultural quality of life in the greater Milan area." With each step they take, this affiliate strives to not only uphold this mission but to breathe life into it, weaving a tapestry of positive change that touches every corner of the community. Anchored in the unique spirit of the Greater Milan area, GMACF champions a sense of belonging, rallying residents, businesses, and organizations to stand together for a shared purpose: the betterment of their cherished community. As we delve into the impact of the GMACF in 2022, it becomes clear that this commitment not only transforms realities but also casts a hopeful light on the path ahead.

For more information on GMACF grants and scholarship programs, or to donate to a Milan fund please visit [www.cfmonroe.org/milan](http://www.cfmonroe.org/milan).

## 2022 GMACF Grant Highlights

In 2022, the GMACF demonstrated its steadfast commitment to the Milan community by awarding \$28,000 in scholarships and \$128,425 in grants. These funds were instrumental in supporting impactful projects that directly contributed to the enrichment of the Greater Milan area. Among the remarkable initiatives that received grant support, these standout projects stand as shining examples of the positive change that GMACF facilitates:

**Fostering Creativity and Unity Through Art:** The Milan Area Schools set out on an innovative journey to create large-scale murals at Paddock Elementary and Symons Elementary. Through collaboration and artistic expression, students worked on these murals, which serve as symbols of inspiration and encouragement, carrying messages of kindness and positivity that resonate within the halls of Milan's elementary schools. This project exemplifies how art can bridge connections, empower students, and create a vibrant environment that encourages learning and growth.

**Preservation of Milan's Historical Legacy:** The Milan Historical Society embarked on a critical endeavor to replace 40 windows in the 124-year-old Hack House Museum. This project holds paramount importance for safeguarding the 19th Century Victorian farm home and its invaluable collectibles. With thousands of historically significant items, including books, photographs, fabrics, furniture, and more, the museum plays an essential role in educating the community about the region's rich history. By addressing the windows' disrepair, the Hack House Museum ensures optimal conditions for preserving these artifacts while also enhancing the educational experiences of visitors. This project, benefiting the entire Milan community, signifies a meaningful investment in the community's cultural heritage.

The Milan FFA/Ag-Science program is in the initial stages of an expansion project aimed at resurrecting a barn to foster experiential learning opportunities for students. With the upcoming addition of this barn, students will have the chance to engage in hands-on experiences involving animal care, construction, financial management, and other aspects of the agriculture industry. The barn project, which is currently breaking ground, will serve as a central hub for various educational activities, while also encapsulating the community's farm-rich heritage, further enhancing Milan's agricultural legacy.

These grant highlights reflect the profound impact of GMACF's unwavering dedication, as it continues to drive positive change, educational enrichment, and community empowerment within the Greater Milan area.



## GMACF FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BARBARA GARDINER-WOLLMANN

BRYAN GIRBACH

CHRIS MCMULLEN

MARY OCHALEK

DR. ERIC PEACOCK

TODD SCHULTZ

EDWARD WOLLMANN

Follow us on  
Facebook @GMACFmichigan

### For More Information Contact:

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Accounting and Communication Specialist

BRITTANY NOVAK  
Development and Operations Associate

# HOW OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY HAS INVESTED IN THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

There are several ways to establish funds to meet the charitable interests and financial circumstances of individuals, businesses and organizations. A name fund can be established in your name, a business or organization name, the name of a person you wish to honor, or the name of a person for whom you wish to create a lasting memory. Visit our website at [www.cfmonroe.org](http://www.cfmonroe.org) to get more information on how to establish a fund.

### Agency Funds

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
CASA  
Duffey Friends of the Foundation  
Gabby's Ladder  
Humane Society of Monroe County  
Miss Monroe Pageant Scholarship  
Zion Lutheran Church

### Animal Related

Humane Society Animal Care

### Arts and Culture

Jeff and Gretchen Kopmanis Instrumental Music Fund  
Manusso Family Endowment  
Monroe County History Fund

### Community Improvement and Capacity Building

Center for Philanthropy  
G.R.O.W. Monroe  
Christian Community Support Endowment  
Heritage Resources  
Holcim US Endowed Legacy Fund  
Monroe County Cemetery Preservation  
Monument Preservation  
Paul E. Braunlich Family Memorial  
President James Monroe Statue  
Salow Family Endowment

### Education

Altrusa Literacy  
McWebb Little Brown Bear

### Environmental and Beautification

Environmental Fund

### Health and Well-Being

Anti-Human Trafficking Fund  
Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors  
I.S.D. Special Children  
Kehres Senior Citizens  
Monroe Health Plan Endowment  
Ryan's Hope Endowment

### Housing and Shelter

Housing Trust Fund

### Human Services

Community Enhancement Fund  
Compassion Into Action Fund  
Gertz Family Values  
La-Z-Boy Employee Compassion Fund  
McGovern Charitable  
Romney Volunteerism

### Recreation

Access to Recreation

### Affiliates - Milan Community

Adult Education Scholarship  
Aid in Milan Agency  
Armitage/Brainard Milan Beautification Endowment  
Carol O'Donnell and Judy Heath Memorial  
The Joseph R. O'Donnell Community Endowment  
Evelyn (Hitchingham) Gerstenberg Memorial Scholarship  
David Glenn Memorial Scholarship  
David Hoskins Aid in Milan  
Donald E. Harkness Endowment  
Eric Harrison Memorial Scholarship  
Ethan C. Jones Memorial Scholarship  
Fayne and Joanne McGovern Milan Youth  
Milan Area Historical Society Fund  
Milan Area Schools Board of Education Scholarship  
Milan Seniors for Healthy Living Endowment  
Ethel Richards Memorial Scholarship  
Ronnie and Paulette Shores Scholarship  
Mildred N. Sheehan Library  
Carol Mohr/Margaret Walls/Nina Pemberton Library  
Millard and Marie Phillips Library  
Library Enrichment  
Duane and Isabelle Schultz Milan Area Schools  
Alumni Scholarship  
Michael A. Tittiger Sustainability and Conservation Scholarship  
Milan Area Enrichment Endowed

### Milan Special Project Funds

Miss Washtenaw County Scholarship  
Milan Administration Fund  
Milan Gala Fund

### Non-Permanent Endowments

Ed and Andrea Wing Memorial Scholarship Fund at MCES  
Ed and Andrea Wing Memorial Scholarship Fund at St. Charles  
St. Michael the Archangel Parish Fund

### Youth Development

Youth Ministries Fund  
Bedford Kellogg Youth  
Kellogg Youth Fund  
Kiwanis North Youth Fund

### Scholarships

Advanced Manufacturing Endowed Scholarship  
Ahadi Women in Science Scholarship  
Brent Ansted Memorial Scholarship  
Geri Antonelli Scholarship  
Bar Association Scholarship  
Robert J. and Luella B. Breitner Memorial Scholarship  
Christy Carducci Memorial Scholarship  
Darling Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
Thomas and Rosella Day/ACS Memorial Scholarship  
Mary Daume Scholarship

John E. Dickinson Endowment Scholarship  
Rich Duvall Memorial Scholarship  
Edward and Sophia Fisher Family Scholarship  
Thomas Fox Scholarship  
Terry L. Goins Endowed Scholarship  
Roy F. Gowman II Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
Grattan and Stephen Gray Scholarship  
Ida High School Alumni and Community Scholarship  
Marilyn Iott Memorial Scholarship  
Merel F. and Maggie M. Keck Scholarship  
Dr. Annetta Kelley Scholarship  
Milt and Sally Knabusch Scholarship  
The Thelma M. and Joseph N. LaHood, Sr. Endowed Memorial Scholarship

LaRocca Family Scholarship  
MSM Scholarship  
B.D. and Jane McIntyre Scholarship  
Damon C. Meyers Scholarship  
Monroe County Skilled Trades Scholarship  
Michael Newman Memorial Scholarship  
Pakideh/Khaghany Endowed Scholarship  
John and Barbara Perion Memorial Scholarship  
Harold and Helen Rammler Nursing Scholarship  
Shannon I. Revel Endowed Scholarship  
Rewarding Academic Excellence Scholarship  
Roy Sanders Scholarship  
Adam Schyllander Memorial Scholarship  
Judy See Endowed 4-H Scholarship  
Hon. Harry and Midge Seitz Family Scholarship  
Brooklyn Songco Memorial Scholarship  
Summerfield Scholarship  
The Spencer and Lucille Wagar Memorial Scholarship  
Charles and Virginia Whitten Scholarship  
Ryan Wolniewicz Memorial Scholarship  
Gregory Wing Memorial Scholarship  
The Dorothy, Gerald A. and Jay Wuest Memorial Scholarship  
William D. and H. Marie Betrus Smith Scholarship for the Theatrical Arts

### Special Project Funds

Anti-Human Trafficking Fund  
Christmas in Ida  
Community Uplift Program  
D.A.R.E.  
Glo Monroe  
Heart of the Badge Scholarship  
KT Maviglia Fund for Hearing  
Miss Monroe Scholarship  
Monroe Dodge Chrysler Jeep Superstore  
Monroe Rotary Club for Community Service Projects  
Robert Seldon Duncanson Society  
Whiteford StoneCo Park Fall Festival



# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2022 - 2023



EDUCATION



COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, who care deeply about the youth in Monroe County, we are able to award numerous scholarships each year to help students pursue higher education.

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