



Empowering Change, Shaping Tomorrow

A Year of Growth and Legacy



Community Foundation
of Monroe County

2023-2024

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Dear Friend,

The Community Foundation of Monroe County experienced a transformative year in 2023, marked by significant impact, growth, and transition. After 16 rewarding years as Executive Director, I have announced my retirement. This annual report celebrates our achievements while looking toward a bright future for our community.

As I prepare to pass the torch, I'm incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together. Our mission – To Invest in a Better Future for Our Community – remains at the heart of all we do. Thanks to the generosity of donors and partners, we distributed over \$117,825 in grants to nonprofit organizations across Monroe County, addressing critical needs in areas such as:

- **Education:** Supporting inclusive projects through our Access to Recreation fund, fostering educational growth and inclusion for children of all abilities.
- **Community Enrichment:** Advancing equity with partners like Monroe Puente to improve access to essential resources.
- **Health & Well-Being:** Funding innovative programs like ProMedica's maternal care initiative and Girls on the Run, promoting community health and youth empowerment.

We also awarded over \$137,000 in scholarships to Monroe County students, investing in the leaders of tomorrow.

Looking ahead, we invite you to join us in shaping Monroe County's future. Whether by creating an endowed fund, contributing to existing initiatives, or sharing our mission, your generosity will leave a lasting legacy. Our team is here to help align your philanthropic goals with community needs, ensuring your support creates maximum impact. Together, we can build on this year's successes and create even more opportunities for Monroe County to thrive. Your involvement fuels our shared vision of a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient community, and as I transition from my role, I am confident that with your continued support, the best is yet to come for the Community Foundation of Monroe County.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Kathleen Russeau
Executive Director



STAFF

Valerie Orr
Executive Director
VORR@CFMONROE.ORG

Michele Sandiefer
Accounting and Communication Specialist
MSANDIEFER@CFMONROE.ORG

Brittany Novak
Development and Operations
BNOVAK@CFMONROE.ORG

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barry Buschmann
Mannik and Smith

Debbie Dushane
ProMedica

Dr. Julie Everly
City of Monroe

Sr. Margaret Gaffney
Sister Servants of IHM

Eddie Harwood
Harwood Investment Strategies

Richard Kenny
Forestview Lanes

Barry Kinsey
Monroe County Community College

Keith Masserant
Mid-American Group

Stacey McCoy
Michigan Works!

Adelaide Pascaris
ITC Holdings

Eric Peacock, DDS
Milan Dental Associates

Amanda Phebus
First Merchants Bank

Todd Schultz
GMACF

Carl Shultz, Ph.D.
Bedford Public Schools

David Uhl
Frenchtown Township

Susan Vanisacker
La-Z-Boy Incorporated

Maria Zagorski
Attorney At Law

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 - Operation to produce significant, widely shared and long lasting results.

\$16,160,888
IN TOTAL ASSETS

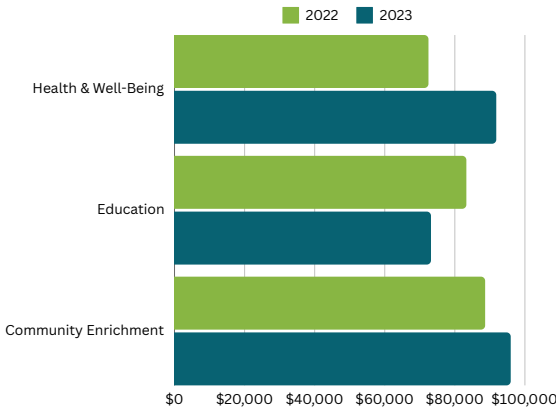
\$260,968
DISTRIBUTED FOR
GRANTS TO OUR
COMMUNITY

\$137,000
DISTRIBUTED FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT*

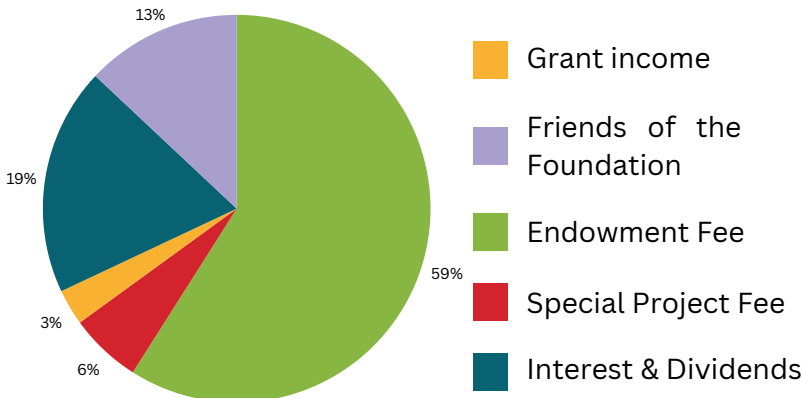
Assets	2024	2023
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$558,239	\$1,140,316
Investments	\$15,581,251	\$12,795,922
Prepaid Expenses	\$5,746	\$2,687
Office Equipment - net	\$13,323	\$2,695
Total Assets	\$16,158,559	\$13,941,620
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$4,000	\$0
Deferred Revenue	\$1,260,000	\$530,500
Contributions Held for Others	\$308,147	\$234,915
Total Liabilities	\$1,572,147	\$765,415
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$14,586,412	\$13,176,205
Total Net Assets	\$14,586,412	\$13,176,205
Total Liabilities and Net Assets **	\$16,158,559	\$13,941,620

DISTRIBUTION



OPERATING INCOME

2023-2024 \$302,385



*Audited Years to Include April 1st - March 31st fiscal Year

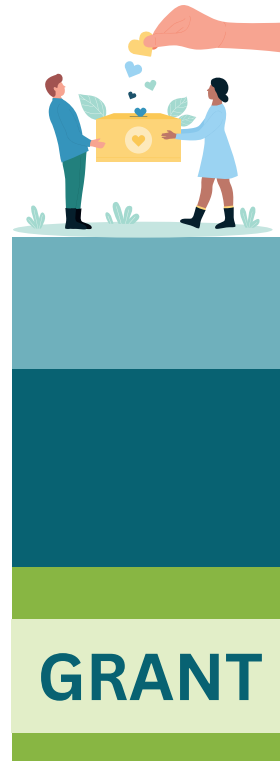
THE POWER OF ENDOWMENT

A LASTING LEGACY FOR MONROE COUNTY

By establishing an endowed fund, you can create a lasting impact on your community. Your generosity will benefit future generations, ensuring a brighter future for Monroe County.

How it works:

- **Invest for impact:** Your initial gift is invested for long-term growth.
- **Support your community:** Earnings from the fund support local organizations and initiatives.
- **Tailored to your goals:** Endowments can be designed to support specific causes or leave grantmaking decisions to the Community Foundation.
- **Create a lasting legacy:** Your name will be associated with the fund forever.
- **Tax advantages:** Enjoy potential tax benefits for your initial gift and future income.



LEARN MORE - CONTACT US AT (734) 242-1976 TO DISCUSS CREATING YOUR ENDOWED FUND.

OUR VALUES

At the Community Foundation of Monroe County, we are driven by our core values to create meaningful, lasting impact through our key initiatives in Education, Community Enrichment, and Health & Well-Being. By fostering education, community connection, and wellness, we inspire positive change and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Every grant, partnership, and program we support reflects our commitment to building a stronger, more vibrant community for all.

EDUCATION



We believe in creating inclusive opportunities for learning and growth. Through our Access to Recreation fund, we have invested in universally accessible projects that promote social inclusion and educational development through outdoor play

- In 2023, our grant to Jackman Road Elementary provided accessible musical play equipment; encouraging sensory exploration and enhancing motor skills for children of all abilities. This project not only promotes play but also fosters a supportive environment for educational growth.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



We are dedicated to supporting health initiatives that address pressing needs within Monroe County. Our Monroe Health Plan Endowment fund backs innovative programs that improve community health.

- We proudly support the ProMedica Centering Pregnancy program, which improves maternal health outcomes through a peer-supported, evidence-based care model.
- Additionally, our support for Girls on the Run brings positive youth development to life by combining physical activity with social-emotional learning; ensuring all children in Monroe County can benefit from these programs.

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT



By partnering with organizations that enhance access and equity, we aim to bridge gaps in our community. In 2023, our collaboration with Monroe Puente focused on providing critical translation and transportation services for Monroe County's Latino/Hispanic community.

- With support from our CREED Fund, Monroe Puente is improving access to essential resources and promoting cultural connection, exemplifying our commitment to building a more inclusive, vibrant community.

Follow us on Facebook: @CFMonroe

OUR AFFILIATE MILAN

The Greater Milan Area Community Fund (GMACF), an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Monroe County, is driven by local volunteers committed to enriching the environmental, educational, economic, and cultural landscape of the Greater Milan Area. In 2023, GMACF furthered its mission by supporting initiatives that foster collaboration, growth, and transformation. These projects aim to create a lasting, positive impact on the community, ensuring that the ripple effects of these efforts will resonate for years to come.

TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION



Milan High School received a grant to expand its Technology Program, providing students with new 3D printers and laser burners. The program exceeded expectations, launching a student-operated store and collaborating with local businesses like Shields Child Care Supplies and Concordia University, enhancing both educational and community engagement.

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION



GMACF's ongoing collaboration with Moving Milan Forward continued to transform Tolan Square into a vibrant garden and outdoor event space. Grants supported infrastructure improvements, enhancing both the beauty and safety of this downtown gathering place.

ARTS AND CULTURE



Symons Elementary students benefited from a grant that enriched their Fine Arts Program, exposing third to fifth graders to theater performances, author visits, and cultural assemblies. These experiences inspired creativity and broadened perspectives on diverse cultures and traditions.

GMACF Fund Advisory Committee:

Jodie Franklin
Barbara Gardiner-Wollmann
Bryan Girbach

Christina McMullen
Dr. Eric Peacock
Tina Walther
Edward Wollmann



To learn more about our initiatives or join us in our mission, visit www.cfmonroe.org/milan.

INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S LEADERS

At the Community Foundation of Monroe County, we believe in the power of education to transform lives and strengthen our community. Through the generosity of our donors, we support a wide range of scholarships that provide opportunities for students of all ages—from high school graduates to adult learners, and even elementary school students—to achieve their educational dreams. These scholarships reflect our commitment to investing in tomorrow's leaders and ensuring that every student has the resources they need to succeed.

General Scholarships

Advanced Manufacturing Endowed Scholarship
Ahadi Women in Science Scholarship
B.D. and Jane McIntyre Scholarship
Brent Ansted Memorial Scholarship
Caroline O'Donnell & Judy Heath Memorial Scholarship
Charles and Virginia Whitten Scholarship
Christy Carducci Memorial Scholarship
Damon C. Meyers Scholarship
Darling Memorial Endowed Scholarship
David Glenn Memorial Scholarship
The Dorothy, Gerald A. and Jay Wuest Memorial Scholarship
Duane and Isabelle Schultz Milan Area Schools Alumni Scholarship
Edward and Sophia Fisher Family Scholarship
Eric Harrison Memorial Scholarship
Eric Redmond Junior Jets Endowed Scholarship
Ethan C. Jones Memorial Scholarship
Ethel Richards Memorial Scholarship
Evelyn (Hitchingham) Gerstenberg Memorial Scholarship
Graceful Memories Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Grattan and Stephen Gray Scholarship
Harold and Helen Rammner Nursing Scholarship
Hon. Harry and Midge Seitz Family Scholarship
Ida High School Alumni and Community Scholarship



Irmgard Gertrude Novak Memorial Endowed Scholarship
John E. Dickinson Endowment Scholarship
John and Barbara Perion Memorial Scholarship
Judy See Endowed 4-H Scholarship
LaRocca Family Scholarship
Marilyn Iott Memorial Scholarship
Matt Avery Memorial Scholarship
Merel F. and Maggie M. Keck Scholarship
Michael A. Tittiger Sustainability and Conservation Scholarship
Michael Newman Memorial Scholarship
Milan Area Schools Board of Education Scholarship
Monroe County Skilled Trades Scholarship
Pakideh/Khaghany Endowed Scholarship
Rich Duvall Memorial Scholarship
Robert J. and Luella B. Breitner Memorial Scholarship
Ronnie and Paulette Shores Scholarship
Shannon I. Revel Endowed Scholarship
The Spencer and Lucille Wagar Memorial Scholarship
Summerfield Scholarship
Terry L. Goins Endowed Scholarship
Thomas and Rosella Day/ACS Memorial Scholarship
Thomas Fox Scholarship
William and Edith Thompson Endowed Scholarship



Elementary & Middle School Tuition Assistance

Brooklyn Songco Memorial Scholarship
Dr. Annetta Kelley Scholarship
Edward and Andrea Wing Memorial Scholarship Fund at MCES
Edward and Andrea Wing Memorial Scholarship Fund at St. Charles
Geri Antonelli Scholarship
Gregory Wing Memorial Scholarship
MSM Scholarship
Rewarding Academic Excellence Summer Enrichment Scholarship
Roy F. Gowman II Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Roy Sanders Scholarship
The Thelma M. and Joseph N. LaHood, Sr. Endowed Memorial Scholarship



Additional Funding for High School Seniors & Adult Learners

Heart of the Badge Scholarship
Mary Daume Scholarship
Milan Adult Education Scholarship
Milt and Sally Knabusch Scholarship
Monroe County Bar Association Scholarship
Rewarding Academic Excellence College Scholarship
Ryan Wolniewicz Memorial Scholarship
William D. and H. Marie Betrus Smith Scholarship for the Theatrical Arts
Women Educators Scholarship

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE, TOGETHER

There are many ways to create a fund that aligns with your charitable goals, whether as an individual, business, or organization. You can establish a fund in your name, a business or organization's name, or in honor of someone special—creating a lasting tribute or memory. No matter the size or scope, your fund can make a meaningful impact on causes you care about, while offering flexible giving options tailored to your vision and financial goals.

Affiliates – Milan Community

Aid in Milan Agency
Armitage/Brainard Milan Beautification Endowment
David Hoskins Aid in Milan
Donald E. Harkness Endowment
Fayne and Joanne McGovern Milan Youth
The Joseph R. O'Donnell Community Endowment
Milan Administration Fund
Milan Area Enrichment Endowed
Milan Area Historical Society Fund
Milan Gala Fund
Milan Seniors for Healthy Living Endowment
Mildred N. Sheehan Library
Millard and Marie Phillips Library
Library Enrichment 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
Manausso Family Endowment
Monroe County History Fund



Community Improvement and Capacity Building

Center for Philanthropy
Christian Community Support Endowment
G.R.O.W. Monroe
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
Sister, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Legacy Fund
Tolan Square Contingency Maintenance Non-Endowed Fund

Education

Altrusa Literacy Fund
McWebb Little Brown Bear

Environmental and Beautification

Environmental Fund

Health and Well-Being

Anti-Human Trafficking Fund
Kehres Senior Citizens
Monroe County Healthy Youth Healthy Seniors
Monroe County ISD Special Children's Fund
Monroe Health Plan Endowment
Ryan's Hope Endowment

Housing and Shelter

Housing Trust Fund

Human Services

Community Compassion & Enhancement Fund
Gertz Family Values Fund
Harry R. McGovern Charitable Fund
La-Z-Boy Employee Compassion Fund
Romney Volunteerism

Non-Permanent Endowments

St. Michael the Archangel Parish Fund

Recreation

Access to Recreation
Darrell Polter Baseball Field Endowment Fund

Special Project Funds

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

Youth Development

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



Visit our website at www.cfmonroe.org to get more information on how to establish a fund.