

This year, along with continuing our tradition of grantmaking and partnering on community projects, your Community Foundation for Mason County **renewed its vision**. We began a strategic planning process to guide where we could make the most significant impact with our investment of **grant dollars**, **community engagement**, **and advocacy**. This process involved surveying our stakeholders, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, donors, trustees, youth advisory council, volunteers, and staff. These surveys helped us determine where you felt the Community Foundation could have the most significant impact. The planning process resulted in **three strategic goals**:

- Advance Educational Attainment
- Improve Workforce Supports
- Increase Recreation and Quality of Life Opportunities

The Foundation continues its work in partnership with the COMMUNITY, grant partners, donors, nonprofits, and area leaders. As we work to build a vibrant community with opportunities for all, we look forward to our continued partnership. Like us on Facebook to stay current on what is happening in OUR community!

Together we can do so much. Thank you for loving your community. **For Good. For Ever.**

Undrea Farge
Andrea Large

Executive Director

Lynda Matsar Lynda Matson Chair, Board of Trustees

redefining your





Here's what you made happen in Mason County in 2021:

- 295 grants were approved, totaling \$1,062,998 to a variety of community projects
- Mason County YAC approved nine grants totaling \$13,745, including classroom project grants at school districts in Mason County
- 26 Wish List Grants totaling \$29,492 to a variety of nonprofit organizations
- Awarded scholarships to 70 students, including renewals, which represent commitments over the next four years of \$248,550
- \$1,614,428 in gifts and grants
- 175 first-time donors
- 38 people were memorialized/honored with gifts to the Foundation
- Net Assets: \$25,800,404
- · Created eight new funds for a total of 179 funds



KickStart to Career

In 2021, we expanded the KickStart to Career program and now have bank accounts for **over 900** Mason County kindergarten, first, and second-graders. Thanks to our partners at West Shore Bank and Safe Harbor Credit Union for assisting youth in saving **over \$80,950** in the first three years of the program! Youth around the county participated in Deposit Days and the first-ever Kickstart to Career Family night at West Shore Community College. Special thanks to a generous grant from the **Consumers Energy Foundation** for making this day possible.

KickStart to Career Made Possible By

- John & Anita Wilson Family Fund Initial Seed Deposit
- Match and incentive dollars:
 - West Shore Bank
 - Lake Michigan CPA Services
 - Janet Eto & Ron Moser
 - Nader's Motel & Suites
 - Adam and Christine Lamb
 - Scottville Optimist Club
 - Ludington Police Department Shop with a Cop Program
 - Joan Hasenbank
 - Mary Church

Youth Advisory Council

The Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council (YAC) serves as our local panel of experts regarding youth issues. It provides recommendations to the Community Foundation's Board of Directors about grants awarded from the YAC fund each year. Here's the impact that your YOUTH made in 2021.

- Mason County Teacher Mini-Grants for Pop-It Math Tools, Bricks 4 Kidz STEAM Program, Math and Mentors Program, academic planning, 3D Printer Pens for Design, expansion of classroom libraries, sensory for students with disabilities, and more.
- YAC Members participated in the Ludington Lake Jump to support the Childhood Cancer Campaign.
- Conducted a county-wide youth needs assessment to learn about youth concerns, involvement in the community, and their plans for the future. The top three problems identified across our local high schools were: academic stress, mental health and substance abuse.

YAC presented this information to leadership groups in the community and focused their spring competitive grant awards on programs to help in these areas.

for future **leaders**



Mason County Promise

The Mason County Promise is in its fourth year of providing students graduating from Mason County Schools with **two years tuition-free** at West Shore Community College.

- 251 Promise Scholarship Eligible Students in 2021
- 59% of those students relied on the Promise to pay for classes
- Since 2018, the Promise has distributed over \$940,000 in scholarships
- The Mason County Promise Endowment Fund is a permanent resource for Mason County students' postsecondary education
- · Learn more: masoncountypromise.org/success-stories



American Red Cross

When your family home is destroyed by fire, the devastation reaches beyond lost items. The **Greater Mason County Fund** granted funds to the American Red Cross to support Mason County families who suffered from house fires. Families received food, shelter, and funds to ensure expedient recovery and support.



Lakeshore Food Club

The Lakeshore Food Club provides dignified **access to nutritious food and resources** to those in need in our community. In 2021, the LFC was able to partner with the Spectrum Health Culinary Medicine Program. This allowed the LFC to provide healthy ingredients and recipes so families could cook balanced meals in their own kitchens. We are grateful for their work to build a healthier community.

Made possible by the Frank and Delores Valenta Fund, Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors Fund, and the Greater Mason County Fund.



Mason County Walleye Association

Mason County Walleye Association keeps local walleye safe by removing invasive autumn olive shrubs around the walleye rearing pond and restoring the bottom of the food pond. Since 1989 the Mason County Walleye Association has raised nearly 4 million walleye to be planted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources into area lakes at no cost to Michigan Taxpayers. The Greater Mason County Fund grant provided dollars to remove the invasive plants and repair the bottom of the food pond.

Friends of the Ludington State Park

For the first time, Jamie easily navigated the sand and explored the trails throughout Ludington State Park...

"It's so cool to explore parts of Ludington State Park that I've never seen before, even though I have lived here all my life." - Jamie Spore

A gift from the **Greater Mason County Fund** to the Friends of Ludington State Park helped make it possible to purchase an Action Track Chair. **Action Track Chairs** allow people with limited physical mobility to access trails and increase their level of comfort and enjoyment while exploring.

and accessible



Mason County Historical Society

Are you heading to the newly renovated research center at the Mason County Historical Society? Keep your eyes peeled for the new **Heritage Vault**. The vault was made possible in partnership with the Gerald and Dorothy Heslipen and Greater Mason County Funds. The vault will hold items previously kept in storage and allow them to remain secure for future generations to enjoy.



Sandcastles Children's Museum

You are a seven-year-old who just drew your greatest dinosaur with crayons and a piece of paper. You run to your grandma, and she encourages you to bring your dinosaur to life! How? **3D Printing.**

In the summer of 2022, thanks to a grant from the Greater Mason County Fund to Sandcastles Children's Museum, a 3D printing lab featuring computer-aided design and workshops taught by Miguel Quinteros will be available to youth. Workshops will teach the basics of coding, design, and communicating with the printer. These workshops will allow students to design small personal projects to take home AND collaborate on a problem-solving mission for the museum.



City of Scottville Downtown Development Authority

Preserving and enhancing downtown Scottville is top-of-mind for the City of Scottville Downtown Development Authority. The Greater Mason County Fund granted dollars to help make the Scottville Optimist Park & Sculpture Project a reality!

The former Optimist building and park enhancements will ensure that downtown Scottville's economic growth flourishes. Plans include an event rental venue and an interactive sculpture that pays tribute to the famous Scottville Clown Band and the town's agricultural history.

For the past 50 years and the next 50, this cherished space will host community members and events during extraordinary times.

- Weddings
- Fundraising Events
- Picnics + Gathering Space
- Community Concerts
- Movie Streaming

Please consider a gift to the Scottville Optimist Park & Sculpture Fund at the Community Foundation to support this community project.



Catchafire

Nonprofit staff members across the country wear many hats to fulfill their mission. Through a partnership with the Fremont Area Community Foundation and the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, the Community Foundation provided access to Catchafire, a virtual capacity-building platform, for 16 area nonprofits.

Catchafire connects nonprofit leaders to a network of professionals who serve as volunteers to help provide expertise at no cost. In 2021, over 223 hours of service were donated to save \$47,218 to nonprofits for projects including organizational strategy, social media, website, storytelling, elevator speech, strategic planning, hiring processes, and graphic design.

Tara Autrey, the co-founder of Lakeshore Food 4 Kids, shared,

"To date, we have completed six projects with Catchafire that otherwise would have cost more than \$23,000!"

Projects for Lakeshore Food 4 Kids completed with Catchafire:

- Social Media Strategy
- Instagram Account
- Website Setup
- Graphic Design
- Email Communication

"The education and design support we have received through Catchafire made a significant impact on the heart of our program."

Habitat for Humanity

Paying utility bills or ensuring your roof isn't leaking is a financial dilemma for many Mason County families. Habitat for Humanity received funds from the **Greater Mason County Fund** to support families with needs outside of the support of other agencies.

Habitat for Humanity partnered with homeowners in Mason County to complete home safety and living support projects. This program **funded 75% of the expenses** for the home projects, and the homeowners contributed the other 25%. Roof repair, furnace replacement, securing heat, and running water were all accomplished during this initiative.



HELP Ministries

Keeping refrigerators, washing machines, and dryers top-of-mind! Families in our community received working appliances to help ensure that food supply and clean clothing were accessible. HELP Ministries coordinated the program and matched Greater Mason County funds to double the impact in our community.



Planned Giving Event

Philanthropy has the power to **impact our community** in monumental ways and **enhance the vibrancy of our home.**

The Community Foundation, West Shore Community College, and Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital Foundations hosted a planned giving event for local professionals. The event showcased opportunities for local professionals to leave a lasting legacy and make a meaningful local impact.

"We love working together to build a vibrant community with opportunities for all." - Andrea Large



Community Planning Together For All

In 2021, the Community Foundation partnered with Pennies from Heaven Foundation, United Way of Mason County, Ludington & Scottville Chamber of Commerce, and Mason County to bring together municipal and education leaders. This group worked with experts from the Right Place, an economic development organization, to learn more about the Coronavirus Recovery Funds and look for opportunities to partner on large-scale projects. One major need identified across all areas of our county was access to affordable broadband internet, which is currently being explored.

A special thanks to those who promised **future gifts** or created **new funds** in 2021.

thank you

Human Trafficking Prevention & Victim Support Fund

HumaniTea, a tea and artisan gift shop located in Ludington, was founded by Chris Turnbull and Carmen Biggs. The shop's mission is to address the modern-day tragedy of human trafficking. Profits from the shop will be re-invested into the new Human Trafficking Prevention & Victim Support Fund. Funds will support human trafficking prevention efforts and victims here in Mason County.



Nancy Hesting Fund

Nancy's history of supporting nonprofit work and a passion for reading and education pushed her to open a fund to help support education efforts in our community forever. Nancy recently transferred her Oceana County Community Foundation fund to the Community Foundation for Mason County so her dollars could support the community in which she lives.

Scottville Optimist Park & Sculpture Fund

You can learn more about this fund on page 10.



Sheriff Kim Cole Legacy Fund

An anonymous couple in Mason County immensely values the leadership provided by the Mason County Sheriff's Office to keep our area residents safe. This couple established the Sheriff Kim Cole Legacy Fund to honor the work of Sheriff Kim Cole and grant scholarships for students entering the police academy at WSCC. This fund will provide a legacy of support for those going into law enforcement.

Rick & Sharon Templar Fund

Longtime community supporters, Rick and Sharon Templar, made the Community Foundation the owner and beneficiary of their whole-life policy. This unrestricted fund will provide resources for our community forever.



Sharon Bradley Johnson & Carl Johnson Scholarship Fund

There is a high demand for Board Certified Behavior Analysts. Sharon Bradley-Johnson and Carl Johnson, retired CMU professors who live in our community, are passionate about this work. They established a scholarship for students entering the Board Certified Behavior Analyst field of study and are helping educate youth in our area about this career path. Their investment will impact the future of our students forever.



Fabaz Family Scholarship Fund

Across the country, retaining quality medical staff is challenging. Seeing this struggle in our community, Dr. Anthony and Candy Fabaz have started the Fabaz Family Scholarship Fund. This fund will assist with recruiting medical professionals in Mason County by helping with educational expenses after college and providing an incentive for professionals to come back to our area.

Mason County Promise Fund

You can learn more about this fund on page 5.

Pere Marquette Conservation Park Fund

Pere Marquette Charter Township acquired 290 acres along the Pere Marquette River and Lake Michigan. The new Pere Marquette Conservation Park will be accessible to the public. The Dow Chemical Company established the Pere Marquette Conservation Park Fund to support the long-term maintenance and care of Pere Marquette Conservation Park.



community

Committee Advised Funds: Allows organizations to be involved in selecting what projects they want to support locally.

- Epworth Fund for Ludington
- Lakeshore Food 4 Kids Fund
- Ludington Area Rotary Fund
- Mason County Eastern Schools Athletic Boosters Fund
- Mason County Veterans Endowment Fund
- Sabin Petunia Parade Endowment Fund
- Scottville Optimist Club Fund
- Triad Endowment Fund

Organization Endowment Funds: Support the operational costs of organizations.

- A Few Friends for the Environment of the World Fund
- · American Red Cross Fund, West Shore Chapter Fund
- · Big Sable Point Lighthouse Fund
- City of Scottville Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund
- COVE Mason Endowment Fund
- Robert Dickson MCD Library Endowment Fund
- Disability Network West Michigan Mason Fund
- Emanuel Lutheran Missionary Support Fund
- Habitat for Humanity of Mason County Fund
- HELP Ministry Fund
- Ludington All Sports Booster Club Fund
- Ludington Area Arts Council Endowment Fund
- Ludington Area Catholic School Fund
- Ludington Area Catholic Educational Foundation Faith Formation Fund
- Ludington Area Catholic Educational Foundation Tuition Relief/Scholarship Fund
- Ludington Rotary Strive Fund
- Ludington Soccer Club Fund
- Oriole Community Tennis Courts Maintenance Fund
- Mason County Central Educational Foundation Endowment Fund
- Mason County Eastern Educational Fund
- Mason County Sports Hall of Fame Fund
- Mason County Historical Society Endowment Fund
- Mason-Lake Conservation District Fund
- · Mason County Promise Fund
- Mason County Walleye Association Fund
- Oakview Medical Care Facility Fund
- Optimists Club of Ludington-Childhood Cancer Campaign Fund
- Oriole Foundation Fund
- Sandcastles Children's Museum Endowment Fund
- Scottville Clown Band George F. Wilson Endowment Fund
- Spectrum Health Foundation Ludington Fund
- United Way of Mason County Endowment Fund
- · Western Michigan Fair Association Fund
- Zonta/Shirley Smedley Memorial Endowment Fund

community

Build a Funds: Provide an opportunity for donors to start a fund over time to support the causes they care about.

Brad, Julia & Ethan Reed Build a Fund

Community Project Funds: Support the administration of a specific program or capital campaign.

- Village of Custer Historic Sculpture Fund
- G2S Academy Capital Campaign Fund
- KickStart to Career Mason County Fund
- Ludington Area Arts Council Non-Endowed Fund
- Mason College Access Fund
- Pere Marquette Conservation Park Development Fund
- Ludington Area Pickleball Fund
- Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association Capital Campaign Fund
- Scottville Optimist Park & Sculpture Fund

Designated Funds: Provides donors with a tool to make a specific local impact.

- · Sheriff Kim Cole Legacy Fund
- Ludington Dog Park Maintenance Fund
- · Ludington Waterfront Park Sculpture Maintenance Fund
- Mason County Community Mental Health Fund
- · Pere Marquette Conservation Park Fund
- Geri and Harold Rohrmoser Fund
- Arts People (TAP) Fund
- Howard D. Olson, Sr. Memorial Fund
- Elmer & Rose Peterson Memorial Fund
- Urka Family Fund

Donor Advised Funds: Allows donors to be involved in selecting what organizations and projects they want to support locally.

- · Accessibility for Mason County Fund
- Robert and Mary Anne Andrews Fund
- · Raymond A. Biggs Family Fund
- Don Birtwistle Fund
- Paul Bromley Memorial Fund
- Dick and Anne Caldwell Fund
- Change Parts, Inc. Fund
- Thomas A. Coleman Donor Advised Fund
- Cal and Beth DeKuiper Fund
- Donald & Janice Fallis Fund
- Friends of the Ludington State Park Fund
- Friends of Mason County Sheriff Office Fund

community

Donor Advised Funds (Continued): Allows donors to be involved in selecting what organizations and projects they want to support locally.

- · Marty & Jenny Gamble Fund
- · Gateway to Success Academy All Around Senior Fund
- Dave and Sandy Gibbs Fund
- Good Neighbor Endowment Fund
- Dr. Joe & Kathy Grierson Fund
- Dave & Chrissie Hall Fund
- Hardman Construction Fund
- · Al and Carole Hardman Fund
- · Robert R. and Joan Hasenbank Fund
- Nancy Hesting Fund
- Human Trafficking Prevention & Victim Support Fund
- Marlene A. Haliburda Ladd Fund
- Tim & Andrea Large Fund
- Leibole Family Fund
- Letha Fulton School of Dance Fund
- Love Ludington Fund
- Lowing Family Fund
- Ludington All Around Senior Fund
- Ludington Beverage Company Fund
- Mason County Central All Around Senior Fund
- Mason County Eastern All Around Senior Fund
- Mason County Sheriff's Office Association Fund
- McKnight Family Fund
- Carol Nunn Nelson Fund
- Mike and Jeanne Oakes Fund
- Noah Oakes Fund
- · Patrick and Maria O'Hare Fund
- Bob Parker Music Enrichment Fund
- Thomas F. and Gayle F. Peacock Fund
- Frank R. Petersen Community Fund
- Larry and Vada Reed Donor Advised Fund
- Milan and Dorothy Reed Family Fund
- Milan S. "Budde" and Sheryl Reed II Fund
- Joseph and Janet Sanders Family Fund
- Scatena Family Fund
- Todd and Julie Schrader Family Fund
- Margaret Shaw Memorial Fund
- Becky Sopha Community Music Fund
- David K. Stites Fund
- West Shore Amateur Hockey Association Fund
- West Shore Bank Spirit of Giving Fund
- John and Anita Wilson Family Fund



community

Field of Interest Funds: Address a cause or an area of concern.

- Tom Coleman Fund
- Bob and Kay Neal Fund
- · Lee and Joan Schoenherr Fund
- · Gerald and Dorothy Heslipen Fund
- Thomas L. Horowski Memorial Fund
- Stanley Kleinstein Youth Recreation Fund
- · Ludington Lions Club Fund
- Mason Youth Advisory Council Fund
- Ludington Area Foundation Recreation Fund
- Rick and Mary Ann Randall Fund
- · Daisy Marsh Reek Fund
- Frank and Delores Valenta Fund
- Five Friends Fund

Operating Funds: Supports the Community Foundation's long and short term operating costs.

- · Mason Operating Fund
- · Mason Operating Reserve Fund

Scholarship Funds: Provide financial support for area students as they pursue post-secondary educational opportunities.

- · Sharon Bradley Johnson & Carl Johnson Scholarship Fund
- Joe Lancour Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Mason-Oceana-Manistee Board of Realtors Scholarship Fund
- Adam Murphy Fund
- Merry E. Petersen Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Rick & Mary Ann Randall Scholarship Fund
- Marlene Schoenberger Scholarship Fund
- Lee Shipman Engineering Scholarship Fund
- Lee Shipman WSCC Scholarship Fund
- Emily & Frank Smiddy Scholarship Fund
- Bethany Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund
- Hamlin Lake Preservation Society Fund
- Michael & Rebecca Magee Scholarship Fund
- Thomas Thompson Family Scholarship Fund
- West Shore Community College Foundation Scholarship Fund
- Noble Arent Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Robert J. & Norma E. Bazzett Scholarship Fund
- Richard & Helen Daron Scholarship Fund
- Fabaz Family Scholarship Fund
- Knizacky Family Memorial Scholarship Fund

community

Scholarship Funds (Continued): Provide financial support for area students as they pursue post-secondary educational opportunities.

- · Margaret M. Lederle Ludington Area Schools Scholarship Fund
- Everett J. Liebetreu Education Fund Ludington Education Association Scholarship Fund
- Ludington High School Class of '59 Scholarship Fund
- Ludington Rotary Scholarship Fund
- Danny McCarty Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Miller Family Scholarship Fund
- Alberta Muzzin Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Charles A. Paukstis Scholarship Fund
- Craig L. Rasmussen Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Virginia Scott Memorial Scholarship Fund
- George Dila Memorial Scholarship Fund

Unrestricted Funds: Support the greatest needs and opportunities in our community.

- Class of 1957 of Ludington High School Fund
- Charles Conrad Fund
- Richard and Helen Daron Fund
- Paul and Cathy Drewry Family Fund
- Isabelle Hasenbank Fund
- Everett J. Liebetreu Fund
- Maclean Family Fund
- Greater Mason County Fund
- Clinton & Lila Coleman and Charles & Margarette Reader Fund
- Shirley M. Smedley Memorial Fund
- Rick & Sharon Templar Fund
- Karen M. Worten Fund
- · Charles L. (Sandy) Cabe Fund

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Community Foundation for Mason County 2021 Advisory Board

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Patti Klevorn, Vice-Chair Lynda Matson, Chair

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