

this is home



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

for Mason County

2025/2026

Photo Credit: Steve Begnoche

Our Mission

To engage donors and connect them with opportunities to make a lasting impact, build community endowment, provide leadership on key issues, and make grants that reflect the communities we serve.

Our Vision

Be a leader in community philanthropy to build a vibrant community with great opportunities for all.



STRATEGIC
PLAN

Photo Credit: Pure Ludington

Our Values

We pursue continuous improvement and meaningful outcomes through these core values:

- **Collaborative:** We bring people and organizations together to build stronger solutions for greater impact in our community.
- **Transparent:** We earn trust through honesty, accountability, and openness.
- **Inclusive:** We listen and lead with empathy and respect, valuing every voice and fostering a community where all can thrive.
- **Impactful:** We steward resources strategically to create meaningful, lasting change for our community.
- **Adaptive:** We remain flexible and creative for our community's present and future.

Leadership Letter

This is home — where growth begins, opportunity follows, and community brings it all together.

As we reflect on 2025, we see more than projects or grants — we see neighbors helping neighbors and a community building its future together.

Because of your support, the Community Foundation awarded more than \$1.9 million in grants to organizations addressing Mason County's greatest needs and opportunities. These investments supported the Mason County Land Bank housing initiative, Lakeshore Food Club's Fresh Futures Program, Home Team Housing's critical repairs, and many other projects that continue to strengthen the place we call home.

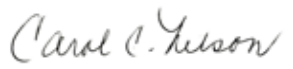
That spirit carried into 2026 with a historic milestone: the successful completion of the Campaign for Mason County. Sparked by a transformational \$1 million pledge from Lee and Joan Schoenherr and propelled by a generous year-end match, the campaign surpassed its \$5 million goal, reaching \$6,077,500. This included \$3,032,500 in cash and \$3,045,000 in planned gifts — significantly increasing our unrestricted funds and strengthening our ability to meet community needs for generations to come.

To ensure this growth has a lasting impact, our Board refreshed our strategic plan, centering our work on education (workforce and learning readiness), economic development (workforce supports), and community development (recreation and quality of life). These priorities will guide our grantmaking as we continue building a vibrant community with great opportunities for all.

Mason County is more than a place — it's a special home made possible by people who care. As we enter 2026, we are deeply grateful for your partnership. You are the heartbeat of every story shared in these pages.

Sincerely,


Andrea Large
Executive Director


Carol Nelson
Chair, Board of Trustees

2025 Highlights

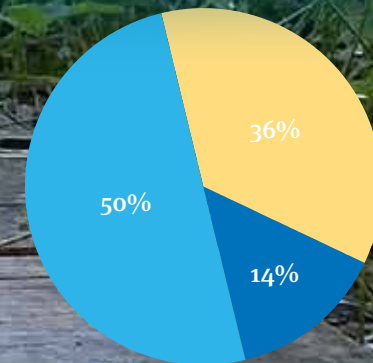
Gifts Received: \$4,779,631

**Grants and Scholarships
Awarded: \$1,963,814**

Total Assets: \$37,018,629

Strategic Funding:

- Improve Workforce Supports
- Community Development
- Advancing Educational Attainment



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
for Mason County

Investing in Our Shared Future

The Campaign for Mason County



The Reed Family

Brothers Budde and Todd Reed and their wives, Sheryl and Debbie, established the Milan & Dorothy Reed Community Fund to honor their parents' legacy of giving in the community. With their gift to the campaign, the Reeds actively uphold the "caring and sharing" philosophy that has shaped their family for generations.

“

“I'm not sure there's a greater joy than when you can collaborate to do projects that impact your home forever.” ~ Budde



Carole McKnight

For more than six decades, Carole McKnight and her late husband, Sid, have loved Mason County far beyond the gates of Epworth Heights. As Carole now watches her great-grandchildren develop their own love for Ludington — visiting the local bookstore, playing on the beaches, and celebrating summer birthdays — she cherishes the continuation of a beautiful family tradition. “They look forward all year to coming,” says Carole. “So, the beat goes on.” Carole's gift to the campaign will help make the community vibrant not only for her grandchildren, but for their children and all future generations.



Harriet Jones

For Gregory and Harriet Jones, Mason County was the cherished destination at the end of a 250-mile drive from Chicago. While Greg's course was charted on Hamlin Lake as a child, the couple eventually made their permanent mark in the heart of downtown Ludington when they restored the historic building that houses Jamesport Brewing Company. To honor her late husband, Harriet established the Gregory & Harriet Jones Family Fund through the campaign. By investing in Mason County's shared future, the Jones family ensures that the community they loved — from the sand dunes to James Street — will continue to thrive for years to come.



Shirley Rasmussen

Shirley’s story is part of the vibrant fabric of Ludington’s history, from her childhood days playing under lilac bushes to her wartime experiences and raising a family here. A resident of Mason County for a century, Shirley Rasmussen’s gift to the campaign honors her late husband, Jack, and son, Craig. Shirley and Jack were lifelong pillars of local giving, from establishing arts scholarships to building the children’s playground at the library. Her gift is the latest chapter in her lifelong commitment to the community she loves. Supported by her family, this legacy ensures that the compassion she and Jack shared will continue to nurture Mason County indefinitely.



“I want to be remembered for having helped make Ludington a better place.”
~ Shirley

THE FOUNDATIONS OF HOME: CAMPAIGN DONORS

- Norma Andersen
- Dr. Bill & Anna Anderson
- Dr. Bret & Tara Autrey
- Stephen M. & Brenda J. Begnoche
- Andrew Behm
- Milan Belans & Kristen Biggs
- Kristen Biggs Trust
- Raymond Biggs
- Birtwistle Family Foundation
- Eric & Camilla Carlson
- Tom & Marge Carlson
- Judi Cartier
- Pete & Jackie Christensen
- Mary Church
- Linda R. Cronenwett & Shirley M. Tuller
- David & Sally Dierks
- Vicki Dorrell
- Drew & Dena Dostal
- Donald & Nancy Dunlop
- Joan Edwards
- Envision Development (Joe Sarafa)
- Doug Ereon
- Janet Eto & Ron Moser
- Anthony & Candace Fabaz
- Kathleen Fahlsing
- Gary & Sheryl Ferguson
- Holly & Doug Gallagher
- Richard & Doris Gerkowski
- Great Lakes Castings
- Pat & Julie Greene
- Ralph & Sue Griffin
- Thomas & Patricia Griffor
- Hankwitz Heating & Cooling
- Jon Hartman
- Robert R.* & Joan Hasenbank
- Arlie & Kathy Heemstra
- Leo & Nancy Hesting
- Dr. Kenneth & Diane Hill
- Jack Holzbach
- Marianne Johnson
- Gregory* & Harriet Jones
- Les & Jill Kaines
- Sarah Kanaga
- Daniel King & Carissima Aloe
- Jeff & Debra Kinnaird
- Ellen Kisinger-Rothi & Patrick Rothi
- Kenneth Klegon
- Brian & Barb Koblinski
- Robert G. Kotecki & Ione M. Condit
- Bill & Lori Kratz
- Jackie & Bruce Krieger
- Katherine Lampson
- The Large Family
- Larsen’s Landscaping, LLC.
- Linda Lawson
- Linda Leahy
- Michael & Charleen Lester
- Lowing Family Trust
- The Mall Family Foundation
- Joe & Jane Manifold
- Stacy Marcellus
- Marlene A. Haliburda Ladd*
- Susan Mathis
- Stephen & Sally McGlone
- Jerry & Beverly McGowan
- Carole McKnight
- Michigan Power
- Drs. Jennifer Miller and Daniel Reum
- Geraldine Miller
- Robert* & Kay Neal
- Carol C. Nelson
- Dave & Mary Beth Nelson
- Patrick & Maria O’Hare
- Jeanne Oakes
- Steve Oliver
- William & Marcia Olmstead
- Robert & Doris Ostrander
- Thomas W. Paine
- The Perrino Family
- David & Donna Peterson
- Darlene Ponko
- Kathleen & Thurman Radtke
- Kay Ramroth
- Richard A. & Mary Ann Randall
- Jack* & Shirley Rasmussen
- James & Sonja Ratliff
- Richard & Cathy Reader
- Milan “Budde” & Sheryl Reed II
- Todd & Debbie Reed
- Kevin & Faith Richardson
- James & Susan Riffle
- Kenneth Rocco
- Safe Harbor Credit Union
- Ron & Dawn Sarto
- Deborah Saxton
- Lee & Joan Schoenherr
- Todd & Julie Schrader
- Scottville Area Senior Center
- Sheila Shull
- Bill & Mickey Shield
- Francie Skarritt
- Bob* & Patty Smith
- Jo Ann Smith
- Laurel Smith
- Thalman Construction
- UACJ Whitehall Industries
- Bob & Carole Vipond
- James B. Webster III
- West Shore Bank
- West Shore Educational Service District
- John & Anita Wilson
- Mike & Kathy Winczewski
- Stephanie Witwer
- Jim & Cela Wood

* Deceased

education

Empowering the Next Generation



KickStart to Career

The KickStart to Career (K2C) program continues to build hope and opportunity for Mason County students through a collaborative partnership between the Community Foundation, West Shore Educational Service District (WSESD), local schools, and area financial institutions. Now in its seventh year, the program is organized by Madisyn Meecker, a Ludington native who returned to the area and became our new K2C Coordinator.

K2C gives every kindergartener a \$50 seed deposit from the John & Anita Wilson Family Fund. Families can build on those savings through school deposit days or by visiting West Shore Bank branches. The program is also fueled by the Robert R. & Joan Hasenbank Fund, Carol Polston, and our dedicated grade-level sponsors, including West Shore Bank, Ludington and Scottville Optimist clubs, Safe Harbor Credit Union, United Way of the West Shore, Ludrock, Carol Nelson, and our newest 2025 partner, Debby Stevenson of Greenridge Realty. The financial planning education that takes place during deposit days is generously sponsored by Safe Harbor Credit Union, West Shore Bank, and WSESD.

To date, 1,848 students in grades K-6 have accounts, accumulating more than \$98,000 in personal deposits and nearly \$211,000 in incentive deposits.



“I’m proud to sponsor our 6th graders because I believe financial literacy is a gift that keeps on giving.”
~ Debby Stevenson of Greenridge Realty



LEARN
MORE



Youth Advisory Council

The Youth Advisory Council of Mason County (YAC) awarded \$16,000 in 2025 across its recreation, spring, and teacher mini-grant rounds. The council’s strategic direction was informed by the results of the most recent Youth Needs Assessment, which members presented at the Community Foundation’s Annual Gathering in June.

In April, these youth leaders jumped into frigid Lake Michigan for the 2025 Ludington Lake Jump benefiting senior centers. Then, in the fall, they attended a retreat at Grace Adventures and met with representatives from West Michigan Community Mental Health and DHD #10 to discuss youth mental health. Students also used this time for team-building and to design ornaments for their United Way Festival of Trees entry.

YAC Alumni

YAC also focused on bringing alumni back into the fold this year, reconnecting with past members like Ludington’s own Tyler Morin. The “Future Five” leader and Oriole Foundation president believes YAC made a lasting impact on his life.

If you’re a former member, please scan the QR code to reconnect and share your story.



YAC ALUMNI
RECONNECT



“Through reviewing grants and discussing community needs with YAC, I gained the foundation that allows me to serve Ludington today as both a professional and a volunteer.”

~ Tyler Morin, YAC Alumnus

education

Empowering the Next Generation



Pre-Apprenticeship Career Planning Certificate Program

With support from the Drs. Ruth & John Carney Education Fund, Michigan Works! West Central started a Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate program. The pilot focused on healthcare, IT, construction, and other in-demand fields, enrolling 13 local teens and young adults ages 16 to 24. The program currently emphasizes essential soft skills training to help participants become high-quality, skilled employees that Mason County employers want to hire for long-term success.

Ludington Hospital Medical Staff Physicians Scholarship Fund

The Corewell Health Ludington Hospital Medical Staff established a renewable scholarship for aspiring doctors. By supporting local students from undergrad through medical school, the physicians hope to provide a message of belief in their talent and encourage them to return home to practice after their training.

“As physicians, we strive to make a difference in people’s lives. To be involved in starting something that could positively impact multiple generations of this community is pretty special!”
~ Dr. Bret Autrey, Corewell Health Ludington Hospital

The Frank and Lori Longmore Vision Fund

Frank and Lori Longmore have built a life rich in love, hard work, and service. Inspired by a life-changing cornea transplant Lori received as a child, the couple established the Frank & Lori Longmore Vision Fund. This fund removes financial barriers to children’s vision care, enabling Mason County youth to see, learn, and succeed. The Longmores’ legacy is one of frugal living and giving generously to the community they call home.

“Kids need to be able to see. Kids are the future.”
~ Lori Longmore



Jack & Jean Ereon Scholarship Fund

By establishing the Jack & Jean Ereon Scholarship Fund, Doug Ereon honors his parents' belief in education while paying forward the scholarship support he and his siblings received. By prioritizing financial need and offering multi-year support, Doug ensures local students have the same life-changing opportunities that propelled his successful career in the oil and gas industry.



“I hope this allows them to open doors that wouldn't have been possible otherwise.”
~ Doug Ereon



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION



Investing in Ambition

Mackenzie Keillor, a 2024 Ludington High School graduate and student at West Shore Community College, is proof that the right path isn't always the traditional one. After discovering her passion for welding through the Career and Technical Education (CTE) welding program during high school, she balances full-time fabrication work with night classes to pursue a degree in Precision Machining Technologies. Backed by the Drs. Ruth & John Carney & Irene Carney Kendrick Memorial Scholarship, Mackenzie is building the skills needed for a future in engineering and CAD drafting.



“It's cool when I learn something in school, and then something happens at work where I can connect what I just learned and know what to do.”
~ Mackenzie Keillor



FIRST Robotics Practice Facility

The September 2025 grand opening of the FIRST Robotics Practice Facility at UACJ Automotive Whitehall Industries marked a milestone for local STEM programs. Supported by grants from the House of Flavors, Inc. and the Drs. Ruth & John Carney Education Funds, this space encourages students like Rylee Stocks, captain of the Mason County Eastern High School team, to build critical thinking skills. Open to all area robotics students, the facility is growing engineers locally for Mason County's future.



“Your support is helping us strengthen our skills and prepare for college. It's going to help me shape my future ... It already has.” ~ Rylee Stocks

economic development

Caring for Our Home: Building Stability

Lakeshore Food Club: Expanding Outreach and Impact

Since 2020, Lakeshore Food Club (LFC) has seen its membership soar from 350 households to more than 2,900 this year, signaling the need for expanded food access. In 2023, LFC launched a school-based food club at G2S Academy with the support of a Community Foundation grant. This model, which recently expanded to Mason County Central Schools (MCC), provides choice-based shopping for students. This growth complements LFC's weekend backpack deliveries to Ludington and West Shore Educational Service District students, as well as its partnership with the Hand 2 Hand program, which serves students at MCC and Mason County Eastern Schools.

In 2024, the Community Foundation provided a grant for strategic consulting, and LFC opened the Lakeshore Regional Food Hub in Hart the following year. A 2025 grant from the Food for Families Fund, the Frank & Delores Valenta Fund, and the Mason County Funds for the Community helped equip the Hub with essential infrastructure, including a forklift, industrial sinks, and shelving. This facility now serves as a center for food aggregation, distribution, and logistics across Mason, Oceana, Lake, and Muskegon counties.

In January, the Community Foundation hosted a collaborative meeting of food access leaders, during which LFC highlighted the Hub's capacity. Partnerships formed, and LFC now regularly delivers meat and other high-demand products to the Salvation Army and Cornerstone Baptist Church food pantries.

For Mason County residents, particularly seniors on fixed incomes and families facing rising costs, the LFC, through its Hub expansion, provides a consistent supply of nutritious food, lowering grocery bills and fostering long-term community health.



[GIVE HERE](#)



“With this investment, we are building a sustainable, efficient, and equitable food system that strengthens local agriculture and ensures fresh, healthy food reaches those who need it most.”

~ O’Nealya Gronstal, LFC Executive Director



The Boon House Legacy Fund

For eight years, Connexion Point linked individuals with life-changing recovery resources. Today, that mission continues through The Boon House Legacy Fund at the Community Foundation. This permanent fund, preserving Connexion Point’s legacy, provides grants to local nonprofits dedicated to substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery.



“We wanted to make sure there was a way to continue on in the spirit of everything that the donors provided.”
~ Beth Kirby, Connexion Point Board Member

HELP Ministry: Dignity Through Laundry Support

HELP Ministry impacted the dignity and daily life of 31 Mason County families, thanks to a grant from the Mason County Funds for the Community. The grant was used to purchase and deliver 23 washers and 15 dryers — 38 appliances in all.



“We feel great joy when we see the excited faces of families when they get their own machines.”
~ Larry Lange, HELP Ministry Executive Director



Lakeshore Children’s Advocacy Center: Elevating Care

Lakeshore Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) is committed to providing local children and their families with the best care during their hardest moments. Using a grant from the Drs. Ruth & John Carney Education Fund, the team recently completed 11 advanced courses in forensic interviewing and trauma therapy.

This training allows staff to use the latest research to support child survivors of abuse and their family members. By staying at the “top of their game,” the Lakeshore CAC team can better help children heal from trauma while effectively pursuing justice for our community’s youngest residents.



SCAN HERE TO EXPLORE THE GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS BEHIND THE IMPACT YOU SEE IN THESE PAGES

economic development

Caring for Our Home: Building Stability



Home Team Housing

Over the past two years, the Community Foundation supported Home Team Housing with grants from the Mason County Funds for the Community. This funding enabled 30 local families to remain safely in their homes without risking financial stability or facing crisis. By covering 75% of repair costs, Home Team Housing and its partners make essential repairs — such as restoring water, heat, and structural safety — more affordable for families experiencing financial hardship.

“

“The impact we have on families allows them to focus on what really matters.” ~ Jamie Healy, Home Team Housing Executive Director



Blue Hat Ministries Project Thrive House

Blue Hat Ministries is expanding local living options for dependent adults through Project Thrive House. In July 2025, Blue Hat Ministries purchased a home in Scottville, providing safe, stable housing for five residents who are ready to live independently while continuing to receive supportive drop-in care. The project represents a new model of dignity-centered independence, combining freedom with structure, compassion, and community with accountability. Mason County Funds for the Community provided grant funding for the home’s safety equipment and furnishings, including lockable medication storage and technology for telehealth. By offering stable housing and drop-in support, this program helps vulnerable adults live with pride while avoiding unsafe situations or early nursing home care.

Land Bank: Erasing Blight, Building Homes

The Mason County Land Bank Authority (MCLBA), led by Andrew Kmetz, Mason County Treasurer, was established in 2023 to access a \$500,000 blight elimination grant and has since expanded its mission to transform vacant and blighted properties into productive use, with the goal of creating safe, affordable housing. A \$50,000 matching grant from the Community Foundation for Mason County, met by the Mason County Board of Commissioners with \$50,000, is catalyzing the Land Bank’s efforts.

The MCLBA is actively transforming the community through several key projects. A former blighted foreclosure in Branch was demolished to make way for two new single-family modular homes that are scheduled for completion in May. Additionally, the Authority cleared over 100 yards of debris in the area and is issuing a Request for Proposal for a new home on the existing foundation. The Land Bank is also using blight elimination grants to demolish the deteriorated Scottville and Free Soil schoolhouses, paving the way for new development. Looking ahead, the Authority seeks to acquire a foreclosure property and MI Neighborhood 3.0 funding to potentially build up to five more homes.



“We’re taking properties that are out of use and putting them back into productive use while being able to connect families to homeownership.”
~ Andrew Kmetz, MCLBA Chairman



GIVE TO HOUSING
INITIATIVES FUND

community development

Enriching Our Neighborhoods

Scottville Optimist Park and “The Big Noise” Sculpture

The community celebrated the grand unveiling of the new Scottville Clown Band sculpture, “The Big Noise,” and the reopening of a beautifully renovated Scottville Optimist Park in October. This project has been in the making for more than 7 years.

The sculpture was created by local artist and film director, Harold Cronk. It is a vibrant tribute to the 123-year-old Scottville Clown Band, the area’s agricultural heritage, and the town’s rich history.

The project was made possible by community support, including grants from the Pennies from Heaven Foundation, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and the Community Foundation, as well as generous gifts from individuals, businesses, and community partners such as the Scottville Optimist Club and Scottville Clown Band. Renovations at the park continue and are expected to be ready by mid-summer.



Photo Credit:
Mason County Press



SUPPORT THE
NEXT PHASE
HERE.



Photo Credit: ToddandBradReed.com

Scottville Clown Band Bus Campaign

The Scottville Clown Band entertains thousands of people each year, traveling to festivals and special events across Michigan. The band serves as an ambassador for Mason County and its hometown of Scottville while carrying out its valuable mission of supporting youth music education. Each year, it provides more than \$25,000 in grants and scholarships to local school band programs and young musicians. Transporting the band requires a safe, reliable bus. Thus, the Scottville Clown Band has launched a capital campaign through a fund at the Community Foundation to purchase a new bus, ensuring the music plays on.



GIVE HERE



Stearns Park 9 Square in the Air and Gaga Ball

The Community Foundation and YAC partnered with Friends of Ludington Police (FOLP) to install 9 Square in the Air and Gaga Ball play areas at the south end of Stearns Park. Supported by recreation and spring grants, these new games promote active fun for all ages and skill levels.



“I’m pleased FOLP, YAC, and the Community Foundation brought these games to Ludington, creating more opportunities for youth and adults to stay active and engaged.”

~Chris Jones, Ludington Chief of Police

Ludington Youth Chorus

Supported by the Patrick & Maria O’Hare Fund and the Mason County Funds for the Community, the Ludington Area Center for the Arts Ludington Youth Chorus, led by Elliot Plummer, filled the need for affordable after-school choral programming. This year, 29 kids ages 10–14 developed confidence and teamwork through musical performance, fostering a more vibrant Mason County.



A Few Friends for the Environment of the World (AFFEW)’s U Dig It

A grant from the Healthy Youth/Healthy Seniors Fund supported AFFEW’s U Dig It Youth Summer Program. Children ages 9–11 learned about gardening, explored nature, and created art with it. They grew vegetables to feed their families and donated more than 9 pounds of fresh produce to the Lakeshore Food Club.



Clear View for Big Sable Point Light Station

A grant to Lakeshore Keepers, supported by the Gerald & Dorothy Heslipen Fund and the Mason County Funds for the Community, replaced the clouded plexiglass windows in the lantern room of the historic Big Sable Point Lighthouse with period-correct tempered glass, providing visitors with a clear view for years to come.





Rotary Charities
Leadership
Learning Lab

Stronger Partners, Stronger Home

Because we believe stronger partners make a stronger home, the Community Foundation for Mason County prioritizes offering capacity-building opportunities each year.

In 2025, our Grant Seekers Workshop helped nonprofits navigate our grant application, while a Toast to Nonprofit Partnerships at Jamesport Brewing Company brought leaders together to share their missions and find new ways to collaborate. Laura Huth-Rhoades of Do-Good Consulting led a hands-on Photography for Nonprofits class to help us tell our stories better, and Anthony Rupard from The Solvent Group guided teams through Strategic Planning to map out their futures. We wrapped up 2025 with a Year-End Giving Strategies Workshop to boost local fundraising. Throughout the year, we also supported emerging leaders by sponsoring the Rotary Charities Leadership Learning Lab.



Photography
Workshop



Toast to Nonprofit
Partnerships



Strategic Planning
Workshop

“

Every time we come to one of these events, I walk away and push the refresh button. We appreciate the Community Foundation putting this on. It’s really powerful.”

~ Mary Lou Ohnsman, Petunia Parade Co-Chair

The Power of a Donor Advised Fund: Joan Hasenbank

Whether navigating sidewalks on her daily walk or the Community Wish List, 90-year-old Joan Hasenbank leads by example. As a Legacy Circle member and DAF holder, she keeps the mission shared with her husband, Robert, in motion. This year alone, Joan funded seven wishes, co-invested in two grants, and contributed to the Campaign for Mason County and the Scottville Clown Band. From supporting KickStart to Career annually to fulfilling community needs, Joan hopes others will be inspired to follow in her and Robert's footsteps and love their home.



“

“Our fund was created to put it to good use in the community.”
~ Joan Hasenbank

What do you love about Mason County?

Whether you give today, grow a fund over time, or include a gift in your will, your generosity stays right here at home. Reach out to learn more: info@cffmc.org.

this is home



FreeWill: Planning for Your Future and Our Home

We believe everyone deserves to create a plan for the future, regardless of their circumstances. To address this need, the Community Foundation partnered with FreeWill™, a free online tool for creating legal wills, healthcare directives, and financial powers of attorney. Ludington resident Lyle Terryn, 72, used FreeWill to draft his plan in under an hour after searching for an option that fit his budget. “I thought this was going to be more complicated,” Lyle shared. While we are happy to offer this accessible resource, we are also grateful to the local attorneys and financial advisors who guide clients through the estate-planning process. Whether utilizing FreeWill or local experts, making a plan is a powerful way to care for your loved ones and the home we all share.



START A
FREE WILL TODAY

FREEWILL 

FreeWill.com/MasonFoundation



Photo Credit: Kate Kirby Films and Photos

**2025-2026
ADVISORY BOARD**
Community Foundation
for Mason County

Carol Nelson, Chair
Dr. Jennifer Miller, Vice Chair
Kristen Biggs

Patti Klevorn
Marc Lenz
Melissa Stowe-Lloyd
Lynda Matson

Jeanne Oakes
Tom Paine
Patty Smith
Kristi Lucas-Zimmerman

Brandy Miller, Ex-Officio
John Wilson, Advisor to the Board
Not Pictured: Jeanne Oakes and Tom Paine

The Legacy Circle: Committed to the Future of Our Home

The Legacy Circle honors donors who have made a commitment to the future of Mason County by supporting the Community Foundation through a planned gift from their estate, will, or other giving instruments. In September, the second annual Legacy Circle Reception brought this group together at the home of Todd and Julie Schrader to celebrate a shared love for Mason County. The gathering fostered a sense of connection and community, featuring a local wine tasting led by Wes Morton of Pere Marquette Winery. If you have included the Community Foundation in your estate plans and don't see your name listed or would like more information about the Legacy Circle, contact us at info@cffmc.org.



LEARN
MORE

LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

New members are highlighted in black.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Anonymous | Michele Krauchenko | Jack* & Shirley Rasmussen |
| Dr. Bret & Tara Autrey | Gene & Ruthann Kyle | Milan Spencer (Bud)* & Dorothy Reed* |
| Robert J. & Norma E.* Bazzett | Tim & Andrea Large | Brad, Julia, & Ethan Reed |
| David* & Fran Betz | Frank & Lori Longmore | Milan S. (Budde) & Sheryl Reed |
| Kristen Kyle Biggs | Drs. Jennifer Miller & Daniel Reum | Ms. Geraldine M. Rohrmoser* |
| Dr. John R. Carney* | Michael K. Miller | Ron & Dawn Sarto |
| Judith Cartier & Edward Franckowiak* | Robert* & Kay Neal | Lee & Joan Schoenherr |
| Mary Church | Carol Nunn Nelson | Julie & Todd Schrader |
| Thomas A. Coleman* | Mrs. Hazel Northman* | Lee E. Shipman |
| Donald & Janice Fallis | Mike* & Jeanne Oakes | Ms. Shirley M. Smedley* |
| Ms. Isabelle L. Hasenbank* | Patrick & Maria O'Hare | Rick* & Sharon K. Templar |
| Robert R.* & Joan Hasenbank | Charles & Glenna* Paukstis | Dann & Julie Van Dyke |
| Les & Jill Kaines | Susan Bogart & Daniel Petterson | Catherine Watters & Mark Reed |
| Norma Koeppe* | Richard A. Laird* & Patricia Rambasek | Ms. Karen M. Worten* |
| Rob Kotecki & Ione Condit | Rick & Mary Ann Randall | |

* Deceased
2 donors have chosen to remain anonymous

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS:

Donors are involved in selecting what organizations and projects they want to support locally.

- Accessibility for Mason County Fund
- Becky Sopha Community Music Fund
- Blue Hat Ministries Fund
- Bob Parker Music Enrichment Fund
- Brad, Julia & Ethan Reed Family Fund
- Carol Nunn Nelson Fund
- Change Parts, Inc. Fund
- Dave & Chrissie Hall Fund
- Dave & Sandy Gibbs Fund
- David K. Stites Fund
- Dick & Anne Caldwell Fund
- Don Birtwistle Fund
- Donald & Janice Fallis Fund
- Dr. Joe & Kathy Grierson Fund
- Frank R. Petersen Community Fund
- Friends of Mason County Sheriff Office Fund
- Friends of the Ludington Police Department Fund
- Friends of the Ludington State Park Fund
- Gateway to Success Academy All Around Senior Fund
- Good Neighbor Endowment Fund
- Hardman Construction Fund
- House of Flavors, Inc. Fund
- Human Trafficking Prevention & Victim Support Fund
- John & Anita Wilson Family Fund
- Joseph & Janet Sanders Family Fund
- Lakeshore Children's Advocacy Center of Mason County Fund
- Lakeshore Food Club Fund
- Larry & Vada Reed Donor Advised Fund
- Leibole Family Fund
- Love Ludington Fund
- Lowing Family Fund
- Ludington All Around Senior Fund
- Ludington Beverage Company Fund
- Margaret Shaw Memorial Fund
- Mark Boon Ludington Schools Student Resource Fund
- Marty & Jenny Gamble 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
- Mike & Jeanne Oakes Fund
- Milan & Dorothy Reed Family Fund
- Milan S. II "Budde" & Sheryl Reed Fund
- Nancy & Leo Hesting Fund
- Noah Oakes Fund
- Patrick & Maria O'Hare Fund
- Paul Bromley Memorial Fund
- Raymond A. Biggs Family Fund
- Robert & Mary Anne Andrews Fund
- Robert R. & Joan Hasenbank Fund
- Scatena Family Fund
- **Susan Bogart & Dan Petterson Fund**
- Thomas A. Coleman Donor Advised Fund
- Thomas F. & Gayle F. Peacock Fund
- Tim & Andrea Large Fund
- Todd & Julie Schrader Family Fund
- West Shore Amateur Hockey Association Fund
- West Shore Bank Spirit of Giving Fund

New funds are highlighted in black.

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS:

Address a cause or area of concern.

- Birtwistle Education Fund
- Carl & Alida Ann (Agens) Sorensen Fund
- Daisy Marsh Reek Fund
- Drs. Ruth & John Carney Education Fund
- Five Friends Fund
- Food for Families Fund
- Frank & Delores Valenta Fund
- Gerald & Dorothy Heslipen Fund
- KickStart to Career Mason County Endowment Fund
- Lee & Joan Schoenherr Fund
- **Lori & Frank Longmore Children's Vision Fund**
- Ludington Area Foundation Recreation Fund
- Ludington Lions Club Fund
- Mason Youth Advisory Council Fund
- Rick & Mary Ann Randall Fund
- Stanley Kleinstein Youth Recreation Fund
- The Boon House Legacy Fund
- Thomas L. Horowski Memorial Fund
- Tom Coleman Fund
- West Shore Bank Community Reinvestment Fund

DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Provide donors with tools to make a local impact.

- Arts People (TAP) Fund
- Childhood Cancer Campaign Fund
- Elmer & Rose Peterson Memorial Fund
- Geri & Harold Rohrmoser Fund
- Howard D. Olson, Sr. Memorial Fund
- Ludington Dog Park Maintenance Fund
- Ludington Waterfront Park - Sculpture Maintenance Fund
- Mason County Community Mental Health Fund
- Pere Marquette Conservation Park Fund
- Sheriff Kim Cole Legacy Fund
- Urka Family 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
- Big Sable Point Lighthouse Fund
- City of Scottville Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund
- Corewell Health Foundation Ludington Fund
- COVE Mason Endowment Fund
- Disability Network West Michigan Mason Fund
- Emanuel Lutheran Missionary Support Fund
- HELP Ministry Fund
- Home Team Housing Fund
- Ludington All Sports Booster Club Fund
- Ludington Area Arts Council Endowment Fund
- Ludington Area Catholic Educational Foundation Faith Formation Fund
- Ludington Area Catholic Educational Foundation Tuition Relief/Scholarship Fund
- Ludington Area Catholic School Fund
- Ludington Rotary STRIVE Fund
- Ludington Soccer Club Fund
- Mason County Central Educational Foundation Endowment Fund
- Mason County Eastern Educational Fund
- Mason County Historical Society Endowment Fund
- Mason County Promise Fund
- Mason County Sports Hall of Fame Fund
- Mason County Walleye Association Fund
- Mason-Lake Conservation District Fund
- Oakview Medical Care Facility Fund
- Oriole Community Tennis Courts Maintenance Fund
- Oriole Foundation Fund
- Pere Marquette Memorial Cross Fund
- Robert Dickson MCD Library Endowment Fund
- Sandcastles Children's Museum Endowment Fund
- Scottville Clown Band George F. Wilson Endowment Fund
- United Way of the West Shore Endowment Fund
- Western Michigan Fair Association Fund
- Zonta/Shirley Smedley Memorial Endowment Fund

FUNDS FOR THE COMMUNITY:

Support the greatest needs and opportunities in our community.

- Al & Carole Hardman Fund
- Bob & Kay Neal Fund
- Campaign for Mason County Fund
- Charles Conrad Fund
- Charles L. (Sandy) Cabe Fund
- Class of 1957 of Ludington High School Fund
- Clinton & Lila Coleman and Charles & Margarette Reader Fund
- Daniel King & Carissima "Kelly" Aloe Community Fund
- Dick & Cathy (Coleman) Reader Fund
- Everett J. Liebetreu Fund
- **Fabaz Family Fund**
- **G. William & Martha Paine Community Fund**
- Greater Mason County Fund
- **Gregory & Harriet Jones Family Fund**
- Horizon Financial Fund
- Isabelle Hasenbank Fund
- **Jeanne Oakes Community Fund**
- Karen M. Worten Fund
- Kenneth & Karen Klegon Community Fund
- Lee & Joan Schoenherr Community Fund
- Les & Jill Kaines Fund
- Maclean Family Fund
- Marlene A. Haliburda Ladd Fund
- Mason County Funds for the Community
- Mason Strategic Grantmaking Fund
- Michigan Power Fund
- Milan & Dorothy Reed Community Fund
- **Milan S. II "Budde" & Sheryl Reed Community Fund**
- Paul & Cathy Drewry Family Fund
- Richard & Helen Daron Fund
- Rick & Sharon Templar Fund
- Robert A. Smith & Patricia A. Smith Fund
- Ron & Dawn Sarto Family Fund
- Safe Harbor Credit Union Community Fund
- Shirley M. Smedley Memorial Fund
- Thomas W. Paine Community Fund
- Todd & Julie Schrader Love Ludington Fund
- **UACJ Automotive Whitehall Industries Community Fund**

New Funds are highlighted in black.



With 218 different funds, the Community Foundation offers multiple ways to support good work in our community.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:

Provide financial support for area students as they pursue post-secondary education.

- Adam Murphy Fund
- Alberta Muzzin Chamber Alliance of Mason County Fund
- Bethany Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund
- Craig L. Rasmussen Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Danny McCarty Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Charles A. Paukstis Scholarship Fund
- Drs. Ruth & John Carney & Irene Carney Kendrick Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Emily & Frank Smiddy Scholarship Fund
- Everett J. Liebetreu Education Fund
- George Dila Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Hamlin Lake Preservation Society Fund
- **Jack & Jean Ereon Scholarship Fund**
- Joe Lancour Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Knizacky Family Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Lee Shipman Engineering Scholarship Fund
- Lee Shipman WSCC Scholarship Fund
- Ludington Education Association Scholarship Fund
- Ludington High School Class of '59 Scholarship Fund
- **Ludington Hospital Medical Staff Physicians Scholarship Fund**
- Ludington Rotary Scholarship Fund
- Margaret M. Lederle Ludington Area Schools Scholarship Fund
- Marlene Schoenberger Scholarship Fund
- Mason-Oceana-Manistee Board of Realtors Scholarship Fund
- Merry E. Petersen Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Michael & Rebecca Magee Scholarship Fund
- Miller Family Scholarship Fund
- Noble Arent Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Richard & Helen Daron Scholarship Fund
- Rick & Mary Ann Randall Scholarship Fund
- Rick Chapman Legacy League Scholarship Fund
- Robert J. & Norma E. Bazzett Scholarship Fund
- Sharon Bradley Johnson & Carl Johnson Scholarship Fund
- Thomas Thompson Family Scholarship Fund
- Virginia Scott Memorial Scholarship Fund
- West Shore Community College Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund

New Funds are highlighted in black.

COMMITTEE ADVISED FUNDS:

Allow 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
- Ludrock Fund
- Mason County Eastern Schools Athletic Boosters Fund
- Mason County Veterans Endowment Fund
- Sabin Petunia Parade Endowment Fund
- Scottville Optimist Fund
- Triad Endowment Fund

COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDS:

Support the administration of a specific program or capital campaign.

- G2S Academy Capital Campaign Fund
- KickStart to Career Mason County Fund
- Lakeshore Keepers Capital Campaign Fund
- Ludington Area Arts Council Non-Endowed Fund
- Mason College Access Fund
- Pere Marquette Conservation Park Development Fund
- Sandcastles Solar Energy & Roof Restoration Fund
- **Scottville Clown Band Bus Campaign Fund**
- Scottville Optimist Park & Sculpture Fund

OPERATING FUNDS:

Support the Community Foundation's long and short term operating costs.

- Mason Capital Reserve Fund
- Mason County Housing Initiatives Fund
- Mason Operating Fund
- Mason Operating Reserve Fund



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Ways to give.

Make a gift to the Greater Mason County Fund that can be used to address community needs and opportunities now and in the future.

- Direct your gift to one of the Community Foundation’s existing funds that best matches your charitable interests.
- Start your own fund to achieve your charitable goals.
- Honor or memorialize a friend or loved one with a gift in their name.
- Remember the Community Foundation with a legacy gift in your will or trust.

For more details on giving: mason-foundation.org | 231.845.0326



2025 Annual Gathering

Photo Credit: Kate Kirby Films and Photos