

A young girl with a colorful headband, wearing a denim jacket over a yellow t-shirt and ripped jeans, stands in a library aisle. She is holding a book titled 'LA MANO' which features a colorful mountain graphic and the number '26'. The background shows bookshelves and an 'EXIT' sign.

community matters.

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION *for* **MUSKEGON COUNTY**



thanks
to you.

Cover: Andreyra at Hackley Library, photo by Adrian Briseño

Inside Cover: Chris McGuigan, photo by Joe's Creative Expressions

In 2018, we honored the 19-year legacy of Chris McGuigan as Community Foundation president and CEO. Over the years, Chris encouraged us, challenged us, and applauded us as we joined her unwavering commitment to our community.

This year was no exception. Inclusive sports and social activities. Support for enterprising entrepreneurs. Keeping families together in their homes. Over 700 scholarships plus the Muskegon Area Promise. And KickStart to Career, building hope and career aspirations for every kindergartener in Muskegon County.

Your generosity made it happen.

Thanks to you all. Community does matter.

**GIFTS
RECEIVED:**

\$9,003,202

**GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED:**

\$10,280,273

**TOTAL FOUNDATION
ASSETS:**

\$202,365,555

It was an extraordinary 2018 in Muskegon County and our affiliates in Oceana and Mason Counties!

Here's what you made happen in Muskegon County:

- \$3,550,722 arts, culture, and humanities grants
- \$2,313,492 education grants and scholarships
- \$1,531,424 community development grants
- \$1,448,784 health and human services grants
- \$617,584 environment grants



impact **matters.**



Nelson Neighborhood home rehab, photo by Pat ApPaul

We've learned that eviction can be a cause – not just a condition – of poverty, and for families on a tight budget, any financial emergency can put them at risk.

In Muskegon County, the eviction rate is more than three times that of the State of Michigan, and four times the national rate. In partnership with the 60th District Court, Community enCompass, and DHHS, the Community Foundation supported the creation of an **eviction prevention program**. Utilizing state and local resources, this new problem-solving court began late in 2018. In the 24 cases heard, 11 resulted in the tenants staying in their homes—stabilizing families, keeping tenants' credit records intact, and providing landlords funds for unpaid rent.

- **Brad and Kathleen Playford** are making big, bold impact with their Donor Advised **Reset Ventures Fund**. It's provided a revolving no-interest loan for the rehab of homes in Nelson neighborhood, cleaned up Mona Lake Park and empty lots, and supported literacy and reading programs. Brad's entrepreneurial spirit led them to invest in MCC's Fab Lab in the downtown Sturris Center and unique employment opportunities for core-city youth: teens gained summer work experience, complemented by an adventure sports program where they learned to swim, kitesurf, and wakeboard!



A close-up photograph of Dr. Joy DeGruy, an older Black woman with short grey hair and glasses, smiling and speaking into a lapel microphone. She is wearing a black leather jacket and a black scarf. Her hands are raised in a gesture of emphasis. The background is dark and out of focus.

inclusion matters.



In keeping with our goal of inclusion and equity, we brought in acclaimed author, speaker, and educator, Dr. Joy DeGruy, who engaged over 1200 community members at our Annual Gathering in the Frauenthal

Theater. Leaving the diverse crowd in both laughter and tears, she peeled back complex layers of our country's history, exposing the core of racism and its effects on generations of people. For the 130 community leaders who participated in a follow-up workshop with Dr. Joy, there were more hard truths and hard questions about justice and equity here in Muskegon County. But "Understanding Our Past: Healing Our Future" means that we continue the hard work. Because it matters.

Watch for stories in 2019 about our Inclusive Community Grants and Love Your Community Mini-grants focused on inclusion and equity!

- An inclusive community respects difference and actively promotes full participation by all people. And that includes kids. This year, grants supported accessible, barrier-free sports and recreational programs, musical theater opportunities, and self-confidence building camps that allow kids with physical or cognitive challenges to participate. Thanks to **Muskegon Civic Theatre's Penguin Project, Camp Shoutout, East Muskegon T-ball, and No More Sidelines** for these efforts to include all kids!



A portrait of Asaline Scott, a woman with short dark hair and a warm smile. She is wearing a black top and a patterned cardigan. Her hands are clasped in front of her. The background features a wooden panel on the left and a yellow wall on the right.

legacy matters.

Asaline Scott, photo by Emma Torresen

Having lived in Muskegon County her entire life, Asaline Scott loves this community.

She knows that in order to continually improve, we all “need to do the little things we can do.” And Asaline is certainly doing her part! She serves on Muskegon Rotary’s Diversity & Inclusion committee, along with several nonprofit boards. As she stepped into her role as our board chair in 2018, she made a “promise”—a planned estate gift from an annuity—that will someday create the John Arthur & Asaline Scott & Jeremy Alan Scott Memorial Fund. The Scott family legacy will support programs that even the playing field for Muskegon County kids.

- **George Dake**—or “Ned,” as he was known to friends—was a long-time resident of the White Lake area. An engineer/contractor by trade, he was a proud 83-year member of the Boy Scouts of America and an avid sailor who loved to travel. When he passed in 2018, Ned left a gift through his estate to create the **George E. Dake Scholarship Fund** to support students from Muskegon or Whitehall High Schools pursuing technical or vocational training.





Muskegon Big Red Marching Band

Every few years, our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) surveys Muskegon County youth to learn key issues and challenges that impact them.

The 2018 survey had over 400 responses and overwhelmingly identified mental health issues as a primary concern for our area teens. In response, YAC held a special competitive grant round and over \$55,000 was awarded to support community initiatives addressing the issues of academic stress, anxiety, bullying, cyberbullying, self-esteem, and mental health. Students helping students—we love that YAC helps teens advocate for their peers and provides focused grantmaking!

- Friday nights in Hackley Stadium are thrilling, due in part to the award-winning tradition of the Big Red Marching Band! Former band parent **Ron Pesch** recognized that the cost of uniforms, travel events, and band camp was prohibitive for some families, so he started a Build a Fund. After a few years of fundraising, in 2018 it became the **Muskegon Big Red Band Fund**—a designated fund that each year will help offset those costs by adding to all of the students' band accounts!
- When Community Foundation trustee **Jim Waters** passed away suddenly in August of 2018, he left a lasting mark on so many things in our community. Because he loved kids, years ago he started a fund to support Muskegon Heights Public Schools. This year, a grant from that fund, partnered with a grant from our Youth Field of Interest Fund, helped build a much-needed playground at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School!



environment **matters.**



Little Flower Creek, GVSU Annis Water Resources Institute

With concerns about water quality and PFAS contamination making headlines around the state and country, we are fortunate to have GVSU's Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) embedded in our community. When AWRI proposed environmental sampling at 20 local stream and lake sites, eight Donor Advised Funds came together and made grants to fund this important community project. Results will be shared with local public health authorities, will inform additional testing protocols, and can potentially leverage additional grant dollars.

- The **Environmental Endowment Fund** has supported environmental education, research to guide restoration efforts, and acted as a local match for state and federal grants. A recent grant for Little Flower Creek in northern Muskegon County hit all three marks—it engaged landowners in a partnership to improve water quality, provided data to inform next steps for watershed remediation, and set the stage for restoration grants.
- Millie Majeski was an early environmental activist, fighting to prevent a new steel mill on Muskegon Lake. Now her daughter **Joan Majeski** is honoring Millie's legacy, and making smart tax decisions, by using her Required Minimum Distribution from her IRA. The **Mildred Majeski Fund** will support shoreline restoration, clean water, and future environmental opportunities...forever.





We're investing in kids by launching

KickStart to Career! Starting with the 2018-19 school year, every Muskegon County kindergartener is receiving an education savings account with a \$50 deposit to promote pathways to careers. As they grow, kids will have a chance to earn reward deposits, learn about saving, and families will be encouraged to make deposits of their own. This program inspires everyone to “dream big”—starting early to build aspirations in kids and their families. KickStart to Career joins the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center and the Muskegon Area Promise on our community’s continuum of student success—more opportunities for all kids.

- Starting a business, even in the best of times, is complex and daunting. For many entrepreneurs, access to capital, mentoring, and business resources can be out of reach. Our grant support helped bring both **Northern Initiatives** and **GROW** to Muskegon. They provide loans and business support services to small business owners with a strong focus on women and people of color, creating jobs, helping our community thrive. Tacitus and Jessica Bailey-Yabani and William Jeannot will soon be launching Abeshi Fyah Food Truck with support from Northern Initiatives!



Thank you to the following people who notified us of promised future gifts or created new funds in 2018. These gifts will do great things in our Muskegon County community...forever.

Promise Gifts

Janice Agard	David & Deborah Hays
Anonymous	Steve Keglovitz
Anonymous	Asaline Scott
Susan Daron	Annoesjka Soler
Mary J. Gillhespy	Dorothy Ann Wilson
Dave & Linda Gritter	

New Funds

- **Janice Marie Agard & Norma May Agard Fund** — Jan Agard loves animals, and so did her mom, Norma. Jan's Field of Interest (FOI) Fund will make annual grants supporting animal care and welfare.
- **Ted & Francine Anton Fund** — Ted and Fran are long-time donors to the Foundation through other family funds. With advice from his CPA, Ted decided the time was right to create this new Donor Advised Fund (DAF) to support the things that are important to them.
- **Francis & Caroline Baker Memorial Fund** — Active donors to the Foundation, the Bakers felt it was "the best program for community service and development." When Francis passed, this Unrestricted Fund was created with a gift from his trust.
- **Collet Family Art Preservation Fund** — Recognizing we are blessed with fantastic public art, Lee Collet, a noted local sculptor and art educator, and his wife, Darlene, created this Fund to maintain and preserve the pieces in the greater Muskegon area.
- **George E. Dake Scholarship Fund** — Long-time White Lake area resident and engineer/contractor George "Ned" Dake left a gift through his estate to assist students from Muskegon or Whitehall High Schools pursuing technical or vocational training.

- **Jody L. Eklund Fund** — Jody Eklund, wife of former trustee Wes Eklund, passed away at age 54 after a courageous battle with cancer. Wes created this DAF to receive memorial gifts and to celebrate Jody's vibrant life and memory.
- **Essex Family Fund** — Already a strong supporter of Covenant Hall, the Muskegon Farmers Market, and other downtown Muskegon projects, John created this DAF to do more of his giving through the Foundation.
- **Thomas Evans Memorial Athletic Fund** — Tom Evans, a respected local attorney, loved sports — both playing and coaching. When he passed away in 2018, his family created this DAF to primarily support youth athletic needs like uniforms, equipment, etc.
- **First Congregational Church Legacy Fund** — A consistent voice promoting the importance of creating a lasting legacy in support of the church, Tom Williams, and his wife, Mary, created this fund to benefit their church...forever.
- **Dr. Edward & Julia Norris Fugate Fund** — Julia, a nurse and dedicated volunteer, and Edward, the long-time Big Red football team doctor, were well known and loved. A gift from Julia's estate created this flexible Unrestricted Fund to meet the needs and opportunities of our community.
- **Jacob & Sally Funkhouser Love of Life & Learning Fund** — Created to remember Jacob, a long-time Mona Shores teacher and county commissioner, and Sally, active with several area non-profits, this DAF will support programs and projects at Mona Shores schools that benefit its students.
- **Dr. Ron & Pat Hunt Fund** — With her DAF, Pat will support causes that she and her late husband Ron, a well-known dentist, cared about, including First Congregational Church. As she noted, "Muskegon offers wonderful cultural opportunities, an outdoor lifestyle and natural beauty, and has proven to be a great place to live and raise our family."



- **Charles R. Klooster Fund** — Charles, a life-long Muskegon resident and VP of Sales at Sealed Power, passed away in 2006. This fund was created with the remainder of the charitable trust he'd established years earlier and will provide support for the Frauenthal Center...forever.
- **Jack & Ruth Kroeze Memorial Fund** — Each year, Ruth made a gift to the Foundation using a portion of her Required Minimum Distribution from her IRA. When Ruth passed, her daughter and son-in-law, Laurie and Dale Lubbers, chose to use money from her inherited IRA to start this DAF.
- **Mildred Majeski Fund** — Joan Majeski is proud to honor her mom, Millie, for her environmental activism. Using her Required Minimum Distribution from her IRA, Joan created this FOI Fund in Millie's memory to support shoreline restoration, clean water, and future environmental opportunities.
- **Muller Family Fund** — The Muller brothers — Robert, Ronald, Richard, and Roger — took advantage of a charitable investment opportunity years ago. Though Richard and Roger have passed, their plans called for the creation of this Unrestricted Fund with their portions of the investment.
- **Muskegon Big Red Band Fund** — This fund grew as a Build a Fund with gifts from the Big Red community and is now endowed to help all marching band students pay for required band-related expenses, making it more affordable for all.
- **Nemo Fund** — Mary Graham started this Designated Fund as a Build a Fund, and now it makes annual grants to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp for Muskegon County students, celebrating adventure and growth.
- **Petty-Bawks Fund** — Dr. Veronica Petty and Steve Bawks liked the ease of transferring stock to create their DAF and now can make grants to their favorite organizations when the time is right.
- **John & Alicia Raap Foundation Fund** — Lifelong members of the Oakridge community, the Raaps wanted to give back. Started as a Build a Fund, and now a DAF, their fund will primarily support programs and projects in the Oakridge School District.

- **Rudicil Family Fund** — Jim and Pat Rudicil, Sr. liked being able to build their fund over a handful of years and add to it when the time was right tax-wise. Now that it's a DAF, they enjoy being charitable through their fund, already supporting the Hope Project and Boys & Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore.
- **William W. and Beverly I. Sutton Fund** — Through a planned estate gift, this Designated Fund was created to support Crestwood United Methodist Church, the American Red Cross, Every Woman's Place, Mission for Area People, and a scholarship for Orchard View students. Bill and Beverly's legacy of caring will live on...forever.
- **Dan White Charitable Fund and Dan White Memorial Scholarship Fund** — An exuberant 5th grade teacher at Campbell School (Mona Shores), Dan was killed by a drunk driver in 2009. Since then, through community fundraisers, his family has been awarding scholarships that honor Dan's love of teaching and dedication to his profession. Now, partnering with the Community Foundation, they've created a DAF and a Scholarship Fund. The DAF will support additional educational opportunities at Mona Shores, and the scholarship will make awards to Mona Shores grads pursuing teaching or another "giving back" profession.
- **Dan White Memorial Scholarship Fund** — Honoring Dan's legacy, this fund will continue the tradition of awarding scholarships to Mona Shores graduates pursuing teaching or another "giving back" profession.
- **Paul & Sherry Wilson Fund** — When a real estate investment was sold, Paul and Sherry realized the time was right to create a DAF that they will use to support the causes that are meaningful to them. Close to their hearts are Step Up, and McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm, where Paul is a dedicated volunteer.

We are your local partner for doing good and your gifts make it all possible. Visit muskegonfoundation.org for more information about how you can make a difference in this place we call home.



for good. for ever.

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Your gift to the Community Foundation will make an impact, today and in the future.

Gifts you give are invested for long-term growth, providing grants back into the community. You become part of the effort to create positive change within our community...forever. That's the power of endowment.

If everyone leaves 5% of their estate to a Foundation fund, over \$680 million will be invested in Muskegon County by 2055!

Love your community. Leave 5%.

Serving the Community Foundations for Mason and Oceana Counties.



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