



# good for Muskegon.

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



**Your love for where you live continues to “do good” for our community - creating hope and opportunity, building a better today, and laying the foundation for a bigger tomorrow.** New programs engage our youth, scholarships help make dreams a reality, grassroots grants influence healthier lifestyles, and so much more. And we’re proud to be your partners in this exciting work. Together, we are community, and together, we’re shaping the future.

Thank you for an extraordinary year in Muskegon County and our affiliates in Oceana and Mason counties. Join us for another!

GIFTS RECEIVED:	GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED:	TOTAL FOUNDATION ASSETS:
\$9,675,712	\$10,740,147	\$196,048,274

*Chris A. McGuigan*

Chris A. McGuigan  
President/CEO

*Susan Meston*

Susan Meston, Ph.D.  
Chair, Board of Trustees

**Here’s what you made happen in Muskegon County:**

- \$2,708,000 education grants and scholarships
- \$1,721,000 arts, culture, and humanities grants
- \$216,000 environment grants
- \$1,529,000 community development grants
- \$1,588,000 health and human services grants



After helping to do great things in our community through years of steady giving to the Greater Muskegon County Fund, Fruitport residents **Brian and Jill Batka** were ready to personalize it with a Donor Advised Fund of their own! Recognizing that building a strong future starts with kids, they look forward to supporting youth programs and including their son, Brett, in grantmaking decisions.

**70% of Americans give charitably during their lifetime, yet only 10% leave a charitable gift through their estate. We think we can do better! We live here, we work here, we give here...we love here!**

- “We’re not sure what took us so long to get on board,” **George and JoAnn Dornbos** shared after documenting their plans to leave an estate gift - the result of years spent quietly watching the good work being done through the Foundation.
- When we lost **Dick and Nancy Morgenstern** within months of each other last year, an estate gift they planned decades ago created an Unrestricted Fund to support needs and opportunities in the community they loved...forever.



good for  
our kids.

Photo courtesy of Kendra Stanley-Mills

**We asked for ideas to create better relationships between law enforcement and citizens, and Muskegon Heights police stepped up to the plate.** They revived a Little League program for kids - the first in 15 years in the city - with officers volunteering to coach. Four teams of over 70 kids learned new skills and made new friends. A Foundation grant covered the uniforms and equipment, and many other community partners and volunteers chipped in to help.

Says Chief Joseph Thomas: "Each and every game was packed with family, friends, and people of the community, united as one for the children. We're looking forward to the 2017 season!"

- **Blanche Clarke** owned an antique shop, and her brother **Leo Campbell** was a gym teacher at Muskegon Public Schools. Their estates created a \$160,000 fund to support recreation and young people. Because of endowment, it's given back over \$172,000 since 1989 to projects like this!

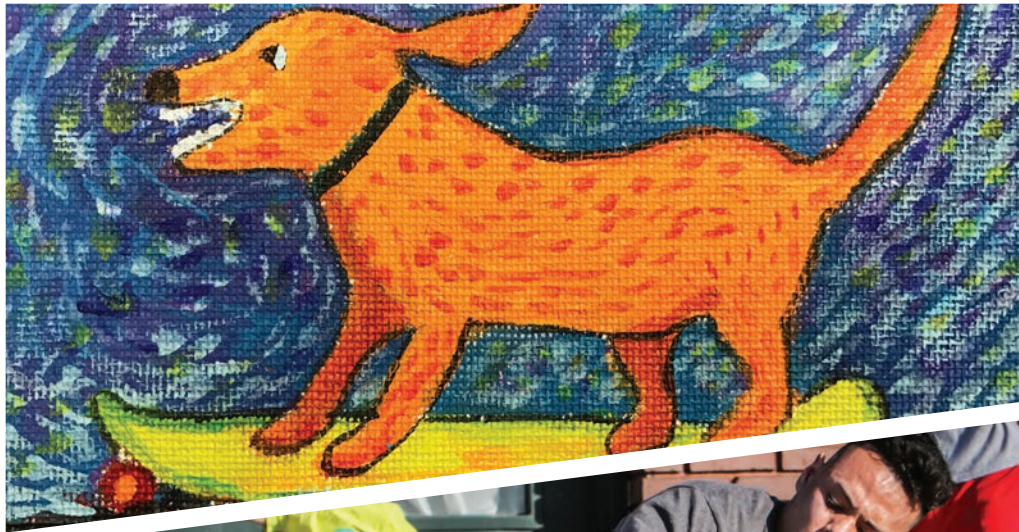


Pioneer Resources students and staff sorting produce at Kitchen 242

**A \$315,000 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF) is making possible a unique multi-partner program.**

Pioneer Resources students glean leftover produce from the Muskegon Farmers Market. Fruits and veggies go to places like community food pantries and Agewell Services to incorporate into meals for seniors, and over-ripe but edible produce gets processed - think soups and salsas - to share with other organizations (or added to the compost bin if it's too far gone). In its first year, the program has put over 9,000 pounds of produce back into the community, where it's making a healthy difference.

- **To get more kids and seniors eating healthy foods, the MHEF grant funded many projects.** It helped re-open the Muskegon Heights Farmers Market, got low-income seniors shopping at the Muskegon market, and involved Whitehall students in making and serving healthy breakfasts to their peers!



Skateboard Dog, DeLaine Klar  
www.grandvalleyartists.com

Street Performers, photo courtesy of Joe Lane  
Lakewood Club Garden

## Coming soon: a new gathering space for people and pets!

In just 60 days last fall, the Downtown Muskegon Dog Park Campaign Fund raised over \$50,000 from crowdfunding, grants from donor advised funds, and support from local and national funders to secure a \$50,000 state match for placemaking. Downtown Muskegon Now will soon begin transforming the former Carpenter Brothers site into a dog park, complementing the new Rotary Park across the street. Along with other partners in this project, we're excited for another way to enjoy life together.

You can make your mark on the Bark Park by giving at [www.cffmc.org/give-now!](http://www.cffmc.org/give-now!)

- Our **\$500 Love Your Community grants** jumpstarted the Street Performers events, Roll On Muskegon community bike rides, a Lakewood Club neighborhood garden, and more. Each started with one person's idea. What would YOU like to see happen in your part of Muskegon County?



good for  
our culture.

*Hollow Horn Bear, 1907, Photogravure, Volume 3, Plate 82*  
*The North American Indian, Edward S. Curtis*  
Collection of the Muskegon Museum of Art

**The Muskegon Museum of Art's exhibit  
*Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian***

opens in May 2017, and it's a community undertaking with national appeal. In addition to the groundbreaking display of the complete set of 723 photographs, you can also take in children's events; a community read; lectures, including one from Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Timothy Egan; a pow-wow at Michigan's Heritage Park; and companion exhibits at the Lakeshore and Muskegon Heritage museums. Many donors supported this effort in 2016 using their advised funds, along with a grant from the Greater Muskegon County Fund and other unrestricted funds, which can support all kinds of community projects.

- **Ernest Settle** worked for years at Lakey Foundry, steadily saving. Helped by his investment advisor, he left the community \$561,000 through his estate. Grants from his unrestricted fund have topped \$583,000 and will continue to help meet Muskegon County's challenges and opportunities forever.





North Muskegon Drumline  
Muskegon Middle School  
Holton Elementary "Red Devil Dirt and Worms"

**Our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) brings together students from 16 local high schools to address challenges faced by youth in their communities.**

These hardworking, thoughtful students award over \$60,000 in grants each year, including support for the creative ideas of teachers - everything from making dirt with worms and lunchroom scraps to starting a drumline!

Kelley Brickley, of Muskegon Middle School, bought Walter Dean Myers' *Connecting with Urban Youth* books and said that her 7th grade English students "absolutely loved reading these books – as soon as I got them, they flew off the shelves. They wanted to read them because the themes interested them. As a result, their reading comprehension scores increased on their bi-weekly quizzes."

- **Education Foundation Funds** are making great things happen, too: scholarships, classroom grants, and field trip support! Visit [www.cffmc.org/our-funds](http://www.cffmc.org/our-funds) to find your school's fund.
- Jeff Elhart and Larry Hines rallied the business community's support – over \$260,000 so far – to offer *be nice.*, a mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and anti-bullying initiative, to K-12 schools county-wide through the **Wayne Elhart be nice Memorial Fund.**



# for good. for ever.

Community Foundation for Muskegon County  
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(231) 722-4538 | [www.cffmc.org](http://www.cffmc.org)

**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 2051!

**Love your community. Leave 5%.**

*Serving the Community Foundations for Mason and Oceana Counties.*



community foundation

**Muskegon County**

For good. For ever.

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