

A large group of children, mostly of African descent, are seated in a theater, playing recorders. They are arranged in rows, filling the lower and middle sections of the theater. The theater has ornate wooden balconies and a patterned red and gold carpet. The lighting is warm, and the atmosphere appears to be one of a school performance or rehearsal.

good for Muskegon County.

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
for MUSKEGON COUNTY



Annual Link Up Concert, photos by Keely Payne
for West Michigan Symphony

Great things continue to happen in Muskegon County! Everywhere we look, we see new community investment, growing educational opportunities, cultural renewal, youth and family engagement, healthier lifestyles, and so much more – all because of you! The work you support is making lasting, positive change in our community and we're proud to be your partners.

Now, more than ever, we need to keep the energy moving forward to make sure everyone benefits from the growth and prosperity we're seeing in Muskegon County. Thank you for caring so much. It shows more every day.

Chris A. McGuigan

Chris A. McGuigan
President/CEO

Susan Meston

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

GIFTS RECEIVED:	GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED:	TOTAL FOUNDATION ASSETS:
\$9,878,656	\$11,359,683	\$223,535,437

Thank you for an extraordinary 2017 in Muskegon County and our affiliates in Oceana and Mason Counties!

Here's what you made happen in Muskegon County:

- \$3,199,692 education grants and scholarships
- \$3,094,459 arts, culture, and humanities grants
- \$173,215 environment grants
- \$903,471 community development grants
- \$1,576,969 health and human services grants





Mary Payne visiting Covenant Hall, one of the organizations she supports

"It works for me." A simple, concise statement, but coming from Mary Payne, these words mean a lot. Especially when "it" – the Foundation – has been working for her for over 30 years. During that time, Mary has been involved with the Foundation in just about every way possible: charitable investment options, planning an estate gift, giving and granting, and most importantly, showing up and asking questions. Mary's curiosity, and the thoughtful consideration she gives to every grant she recommends, have made an impact across the community.

- Originally from the U.P., Mary came to Muskegon in 1956. Much of her life has been about service – as a math teacher at Oakridge, a founding member of Mediation and Restorative Services, and a tireless volunteer, often with groups focused on social justice. Today, she uses her Donor Advised Fund to give annual support to 16 organizations so that they can spend more time doing their work, and less time fundraising. A planned gift from her estate will ensure her work continues.





What do the new downtown chalets, free vision and hearing screenings, camp for the visually impaired, and neighborhood landscaping have in common? Alta Daetz, a long-time 2nd grade teacher at Muskegon Public Schools. Almost 30 years ago, she left a surprise \$1.8 million estate gift to the Foundation to create two funds: one to support beautification in the City of Muskegon, and one for the Lions Club to be used for the sight and hearing needs of Muskegon County. Since then, Ms. Daetz's original gift has grown significantly, all while giving out almost \$675,000 in support of the things she cared about most!

- **Dave and Beth Pickard** fell in love with the White Lake area and chose to make it their home after retirement. For years, they have given to the organizations they're involved with, and in 2017, they decided to continue that support using their new Donor Advised Fund. To top it off, they also made plans to leave an estate gift so their fund can support the community they love – forever.
- Have you considered leaving a gift to something you love in your community? Estate gifts of any amount are incredibly impactful over time. Let us know if you'd like to learn more!

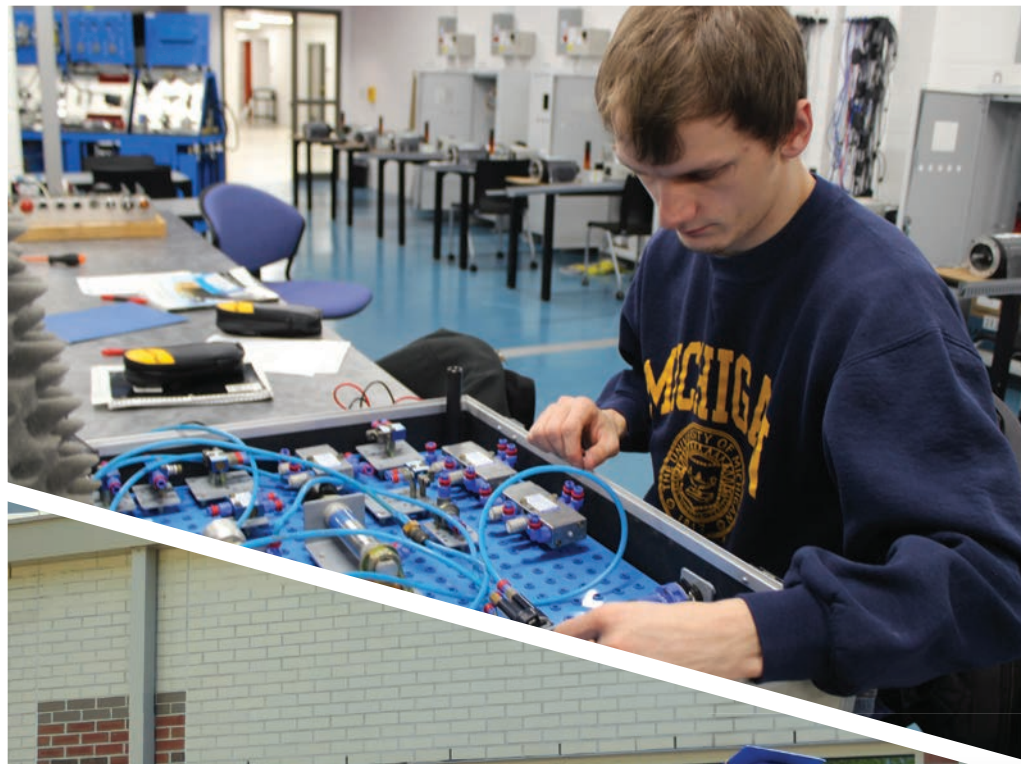


Photo courtesy of Sturuss Technology Center, Muskegon Community College
2017 Oakridge Promise Graduates

Our community's investment in students is growing! The Foundation holds Education Funds supporting nearly every school district in the county...thanks to donors like you!

In 2017, grants from these funds totaled \$136,958 for important “extras” that are often outside school budgets, but can have a life-long impact – field trips, classroom mini-grants, teacher trainings, and more! Since our first scholarship in 1973, the program has expanded to provide awards for students of all kinds, whether they're high school grads or adult learners, university-bound or headed for vocational training. The greatest part: the creation of hope and opportunity. Of this year's 313 awards totaling \$635,711, 22% went to students who will be the first in their family to continue their education beyond high school!

- Muskegon Community College created a downtown presence with the opening of the new Carolyn I. and Peter Sturuss Technology Center. Supported by local manufacturers, donors, and a grant from our Greater Muskegon County Fund, this expansive project redeveloped two beloved buildings – the former Muskegon Chronicle and Masonic Temple – and will provide in-demand vocational and entrepreneurial instruction.
- A true community effort, the Muskegon Area Promise is off to a remarkable start. In its third year, 204 students from across the county took advantage of two years of free tuition at either Baker College or Muskegon Community College. They'll save over \$750,000 by staying local!





good for
granting
wishes.

Agewell Services Meals on Wheels
Pound Buddies

While often our Donor Advised Fundholders know exactly what they want to support, they also look to us for ideas.

Three times a year, we invite our nonprofit partners to submit “wishes” for near-term funding needs. These Wish Lists are shared with our Donor Advisors to connect them to the work going on in the community, and provide great grantmaking ideas! Though the lists have been a favorite of both the nonprofits and the donors for years, 2017 was the biggest year yet! Donor Advisors came together to fill 116 wishes, totaling \$143,514!

- **Char Franczek** has fun granting wishes. In addition to the general operating support that she provides to several organizations, each year she picks a few wishes that interest her. Last year, she bought tools for Habitat for Humanity, helped with meals for seniors through AgeWell Services, and supported the Canteen 450 emergency response bus.
- “We get so excited - it’s like making a Christmas list!” says Lana Carson of **Pound Buddies**, who had four wishes filled last year “for items that have tremendous impact on our animals, but are also difficult to find the extra resources for.”





ABCs of Cooking Class, Read Muskegon
Roosevelt Apartments, Muskegon Heights

Thousands of children called Muskegon Heights' Roosevelt Elementary their school over the decades.

Now the once vacant building is Roosevelt Apartments, home to dozens of families. A grant to Dwelling Place of Grand Rapids helped this project – their first in Muskegon – open the doors in 2017. The adaptive reuse of a building with sentimental and historic ties, and their work to engage residents and the neighborhood, is helping to revitalize this part of our community!

- **Read Muskegon** is doing their part in revitalization, too, by moving into a Muskegon Heights storefront on Broadway. Helped along by a competitive grant, plus support from many Donor Advised Funds, their new Family Literacy Center is full of activity! The highly visible and accessible location allows for parent-child workshops, book clubs, drop-in hours, and community meetings, as well as their traditional one-on-one tutoring.
- **Jon Blyth** was born in Muskegon and lived both in Michigan and Central Europe through his work in grant programming for the Mott Foundation. His wife, Jane, worked for many years as a speech pathologist. Now retired in Whitehall, Jon and Jane use their Donor Advised Fund to support all kinds of projects, including Read Muskegon!





Theatre Camp, Howmet Playhouse
White Lake Mural Project

It's a wrap. Three years of planning and effort by the Howmet Playhouse nudged their capital campaign past its original goal to \$3.7 million! Renovations “for the next 100 years” should be complete soon, ensuring that this well-loved 1916 theater remains a favorite gathering place. Gifts came from near and far: local community members gave generously, and summer residents chipped in from wherever they call home. Many people gave appreciated stock, while others directed their IRA Required Minimum Distributions right into the Campaign Fund. Both continue to be tax-smart strategies to support the projects you love!

- The **White Lake Community Fund (WLCF)** committed \$250,000 to the Howmet Playhouse campaign, its largest grant to date. Since it became part of the Foundation in 1979, the WLCF has given back another \$520,000 to support White Lake food pantries, sculptures, senior transportation, music concerts, light house and land preservation, libraries, the arts council, and much more. With an Advisory Committee of area residents that oversees grantmaking and encourages giving, this fund is by and for White Lake!



Twenty-three people or groups started permanent funds in 2017, joining forces with over 850 other funds, doing great things for Muskegon County. If you see names you know, say a word of thanks!

- **Ackerman Fund** – After hearing our Love Your Community. Leave 5% message, Cindy made plans to leave an estate gift to the Foundation. Two years later, she created a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) to do her giving today.
- **C.T. Anton Scholarship Fund** – The Anton family has been generous through their DAF, and now will honor their father, and their business, Newkirk Electric, by supporting electrical engineering students.
- **Monte Beghtol & Susan Werly Rosset Scholarship Fund** – Patricia Werly steadily built up this fund to help physical therapy, physical education, and health students in memory of her partner and her sister.
- **Busker Family Scholarship Fund** – William and Barbara Busker hope that the motivated students who receive this award will make giving a lifetime habit, and in turn, pay it forward to help other students.
- **Central United Methodist Church** – The Church's endowment committee kept an eye on the work and investment performance of the Foundation for years, and in 2017, moved 7 funds here!

- **Donald R. & Susan K. DeLong Fund** – Don and Susan will support organizations and projects important to them through this DAF.
- **Hackley Community Care School Health Services Fund** – A true campaign success, excess funds raised to create two teen health centers are now creating an endowment to support the centers.
- **David & Deborah Hays Fund** – Though not originally from here, Dave & Deb love the White Lake community and have called it home for years. Their DAF will support their favorite causes...forever!
- **Kenneth A. Johnson, DDS & Joyce E. Johnson Scholarship Fund** – Ken and Joyce are pleased to honor a late aunt by helping Muskegon Community College students with their education.
- **Rich & Pam Kramer Fund** – With the help of their advisor, the Kramers decided it was a smart tax strategy to transfer appreciated assets at year-end to create a DAF to do their giving.
- **Martin Fund** – John and Jessie Martin started a DAF to streamline their giving and support of local organizations.
- **McCarthy Family Peace & Justice Fund** – Nancy McCarthy and her three daughters are passionate about social justice and will use their DAF to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice work.

- **Muskegon High School Class of 1957 Scholarship Fund** – After celebrating their 60th reunion, classmates built enough support to create a legacy to help future Big Reds continue their education.
- **Bruce & Katrina Olson Fund** – Committed to many programs, Katrina, a Foundation Trustee, and Bruce will support the greatest needs and opportunities of our community with this new unrestricted fund.
- **Paul & Sally Peterson Family Fund** – In addition to their long-planned estate gift, Sally created this DAF, thinking “why wait until I’m gone?” Though now in North Carolina, she’s still supporting Muskegon!
- **David & Beth Pickard Charitable Fund** – Long-time supporters of the arts council, their church, and other White Lake groups, Dave and Beth will give through their DAF now and through their estate later.
- **Henry C. Ryke & Ellen D. Ryke Charitable Fund** – Years ago, the Rykes made plans for this fund to be created when they’re gone to support their church and other causes that were important to them.
- **Sytsma Family Fund** – Fred and Susan had long-planned to support the community with an estate gift, but decided they didn’t want to wait! They transferred stock and will use their DAF to do good today.

- **Emma Torresen Family Fund** – To continue family giving, Emma is excited to use her DAF to do personally what she’s talked to so many others about through her work at the Foundation.
- **West Michigan Jobs Group Scholarship Fund** – The Jobs Group was formed to improve Muskegon’s economic security and sustainable future, and their fund now supports students studying renewable energy.
- **Jayne Rollin & Leo Williams Trust Fund** – When Leo passed, an estate gift created this Fund that also honors his sister and supports classical music, children’s music education, and environmental causes.
- **William G. & Phyllis K. Wood Fund** – Created with a surprise bequest, this fund will annually support Hackley Public Library children’s department and the Muskegon Museum of Art education program.
- **Anonymous**

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.

Community Foundation for Muskegon County
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communityfoundation.org

Muskegon County

For good. For ever.

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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