

NOW MORE THAN EVER

2020 Annual Report



\$194.5
MILLION
TOTAL ASSETS

1,045
TOTAL FUNDS

\$162
MILLION
TOTAL GRANTS
SINCE INCEPTION

Now more than ever.

For more than 70 years, the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation has endeavored to improve the quality of life in Linn County. Amid the challenges of 2020, that work was especially important.

It was a year of urgency, uncertainty, and tension, but also one of generosity, collaboration, and openness. It was another year helping donors support the organizations that are working to address some of our most pressing and complex challenges.

It is during times like these that the Community Foundation is especially vital. We cannot predict tomorrow's needs and opportunities, but we can ensure we are here and ready to help. Our unrestricted funds, built by generations of people who care deeply for this community and its future, provided both flexibility and stability in responding to the unique challenges of 2020.

We are still learning, and we are still recovering, but we are a resilient community with good reason for optimism. Together, we can do more. Now more than ever, we must do more.



Les Garner

Dr. Les Garner, Jr.
President & CEO



Kate A. Minette

Kate Minette
2020 Board Chair



Mugisha Gloire, founder and Executive Director of United We March Forward, works to distribute food and household items to immigrants affected by the derecho. The organization supports immigrants by connecting them with local resources and opportunities.

COMMUNITY RELIEF & RECOVERY

In response to a year like no other, the Community Foundation found new ways to provide leadership during uncertainty. Altered grantmaking gave nonprofits added flexibility, and the COVID-19 Disaster Response Fund provided targeted grants to help meet the basic needs of our community's most vulnerable people. Since August, the Disaster Recovery Fund has been providing rapid response grants and helping meet long-term recovery needs as the community rebuilds after the devastating derecho.

Our grantmaking was informed by the work and priorities of Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster (LAP-AID), a collaboration of more than 40 health and human service providers that work together to expedite disaster response. With information from LAP-AID and resources from the Center for Disaster

Philanthropy, we were able to coordinate a weekly Funders Group. Working with other funders and nonprofits across all sectors, the Community Foundation helped create more efficient and effective disaster response. The Community Foundation shared the community's needs with donors and even convened a nonprofit roundtable with Iowa's U.S. Senators to help bring federal aid to disaster-impacted organizations.

As philanthropic leaders focused on the long-term health and wellbeing of our community, we remain committed to the many organizations that make Linn County thrive. While health and human services were in high demand, continued support for local arts and culture organizations helps our community to emerge from these difficult times as the vibrant place we know it is.



COVID-19 DISASTER RESPONSE FUND

\$447,141
DONATED IN 2020

\$360,273
GRANTED IN 2020

39 NONPROFITS
RECEIVED GRANTS
IN 2020

DISASTER RECOVERY FUND

\$2,006,059
DONATED IN 2020

\$381,239
GRANTED IN 2020

14 NONPROFITS
RECEIVED GRANTS
IN 2020

Working Together to Move Forward Together

The long process of disaster recovery requires both patience and resilience. Facing multiple disasters in 2020, our community used old skills and new partnerships to rebuild together.

In the days that followed the August 10 derecho, it was difficult for many to imagine a path forward. But the people of Linn County are resilient, and the feeling of shock was quickly replaced by one of inspiration as neighbors went above and beyond for one another. By late fall, however, the challenges of long-term recovery were beginning to reveal themselves.

Since 2014, the Community Foundation has participated in the Philanthropic Preparedness, Resiliency and Emergency Partnership (PPREP), a program of The Funders Network, which brings foundations across the Midwest together to build skills and learn from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy. Our work with PPREP allowed us to hit the ground running in August, quickly connecting donors with the organizations that were meeting the most urgent needs in the days after the storm.

Within a week of the storm, the Community Foundation had established the Disaster Recovery Fund with lead gifts from several local businesses. Initial grants supported basic human needs and were guided by the findings of Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster (LAP-AID), with Elizabeth Cwik, Senior Program Officer at the Community Foundation serving as vice chair. During this time, the Foundation also

coordinated with other local funders to ensure all needs were identified and services were not being duplicated.

Through these partnerships, housing was identified as a primary need as winter approached. Several local nonprofits came together to form a new program called Providing Assistance to Community Homeowners (PATCH) to facilitate temporary repairs while people waited for contractor availability, FEMA assistance, or insurance payments.

The Disaster Recovery Fund provided initial grants totaling \$260,500 for construction supplies, administrative costs, a revolving loan fund for homeowners facing budget gaps, and a new volunteer coordinator position at Matthew 25. Housing Fund for Linn County and Neighborhood Finance Corps administered the revolving loan fund; Matthew 25 led home repairs with volunteers and contractors; Waypoint handled program intake; and Iowa Legal Aid helped homeowners with FEMA and insurance issues.

The collaboration didn't stop with nonprofits and funders. World Class Industries gave \$50,000 for purchasing construction materials, which was matched by the Community Foundation. Cedar Rapids Bank



& Trust provided a lead gift of \$100,000 for the revolving loan fund, and TrueNorth offered free claim assistance for those struggling to navigate insurance. Additionally, dozens of qualified volunteers have helped with simpler repairs—some groups even coming from out of state.

While more than 80 homeowners accessed repairs through PATCH in 2020, many more were anticipated with the start of the spring construction season in 2021. Housing remains at the top of the list of long-term recovery needs, and the list is long. Mental health care needs remain significant, and the true impact of the storm on the local economy has not been fully realized. Local nonprofits, especially those that depend on outdoor spaces, have faced incredible challenges in trying to meet losses not covered by insurance, and our community's tree canopy will take years to restore.

The Disaster Recovery Fund continues to make grants supporting long-term recovery, and the Community Foundation continues to work with local nonprofits, community leaders and other funders to identify and meet existing needs. Now more than ever, we remain committed to the permanent health and wellbeing of our community and its people.



LEAD DONORS TO COVID-19 DISASTER RESPONSE FUND

Corporate:

Directors (\$50,000+)



Partners (\$20,000+)



Supporters (\$5,000+)



Nonprofits and Individuals (\$5,000+):

Pat and Judy Baird
John and Cindy Bloomhall
Loren and Patti Coppock
Phil and Christy Rezin
Duane and Laura Smith
Thomas C. Jackson and Joanne Stevens

LEAD DONORS TO DISASTER RECOVERY FUND FOR DERECHO

Corporate:

Leaders (\$100,000+)



Directors (\$50,000+)



Partners (\$20,000+)

Banklowa
ITC Midwest
Nordstrom
O'Brien Family McDonald's
Toyota Financial Services

Supporters (\$5,000+)

Alliant Energy Foundation
AmWINS Group, Inc.
Foundation Energy Company, LLC
Great American Insurance Companies
GreenState Credit Union
HDR, Inc.
ImOn Communications LLC
KCRG TV-9 and Parent Company Gray Television

Linn County Anesthesiologists
Lockton Companies
Odyssey Group
Ryan Specialty Group
Securian Financial
Sovos Compliance, LLC
Gary Watts Real Estate & Development in Coralville

Nonprofits and Individuals (\$5,000+):

Allen Family Fund
Alana Asmussen
Alumbra Innovations Foundation
Michael Aubrey
Pat and Judy Baird
Meri Barnes
Bloomhall Family Endowed Donor-Advised Fund
Diane Bloomhall
John and Cynthia Bloomhall Donor-Advised Fund
Bryant Charitable Trust
Ned and Micky Burmeister Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines
Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine
Coppock Family Fund
Chris and Suzy DeWolf Family Endowed Fund
Deborah and Christopher Doty
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
Ed and Pat Hermann
Jeremy Johnson
George and Claire Kittle
Gilchrist Foundation
Joni's Roast and Ride
Kuhn Foundation

Nancy and Tom Lackner
Thea Leslie
Dave and Cathy Loy
Dianne O'Connell
PPREP Community Foundation Disaster Response Fund, a project of The Funders Network
PricewaterhouseCoopers Foundation
Phil and Christy Rezin
Gifts Made in Honor of Tommy Rhomberg
Norman Rinderknecht
Rohde Family Charitable Foundation
Shepard Family Private Foundation
Stroup Family Fund
John L. Tompson Charitable Trust
Ronald and Sue Neil
Duane J. and Laura D. Smith Fund
John T. Smith and Jane N. Smith
Richard H. and Mary Jo Stanley Health & Shelter Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine
Richard and Joan Stark
West Bend Mutual Independent Agency's Fund of the West Bend Community Foundation



Employees from TrueNorth present a check to Michelle Beisker, Senior Vice President of Development, for the Disaster Recovery Fund. TrueNorth and its market partners came together to contribute \$150,000 for derecho relief and recovery.

DONORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

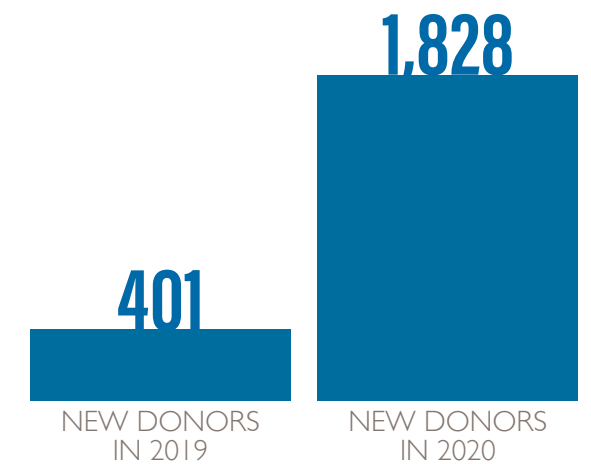
In this year of unique challenges, we worked with donors to find unique ways of giving. From advising donors on community issues to supporting nonprofits through #GivingTuesdayNow, 2020 was another year of bringing people together to make a difference.

The people of Linn County truly stepped up in response to the challenges of 2020. Besides acts of kindness and gifts of service, many made financial gifts to the Community Foundation to support areas of greatest need. We welcomed more than 1,800 new donors in 2020—more than four times as many as in 2019. Each donor and every gift directly impacted the many nonprofits that are vital to our community in both the good times and the bad.

The first Signature Fund at the Community Foundation – the Cedar Grove Signature Fund – made its first grants in 2020, providing more than \$300,000 for some of the largest and most forward-thinking projects in Cedar Rapids. Signature Funds were established to offer donors an alternative to private foundations while remaining donor driven.

Many other donors gave to local educators who were facing the challenges of teaching during the pandemic, and those gifts were matched by the Community Foundation’s Fund for Educational Excellence.

By offering an array of giving options and connecting donors to the causes they care about, the Community Foundation was able to facilitate efficient and effective philanthropy throughout a difficult year. Through the flexibility of donor-advised funds, many donors were able to increase their support for local nonprofits in 2020. Dozens of donor advisors made distributions to disaster funds at the Community Foundation and directly to nonprofit organizations, providing much-needed support in the face of a unique set of challenges.



\$9.6 MILLION
CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2020

32
NEW FUNDS IN 2020

2,961
GIFTS RECEIVED IN 2020

Becoming a Philanthropist

Local 12-year-old Tommy Rhomberg turns 'The Great Derecho' into a work of art and a philanthropic enterprise.

Anyone can be a philanthropist—just ask Tommy Rhomberg. At just 12 years old, he is not thinking about his legacy or his estate plan, and yet, he has found a way to impact those around him.

On August 10, 2020, Tommy was looking forward to his friend's birthday party later in the week. But by midday, he was huddled in the basement with his family, listening to the sound of trees being snapped by

the wind. When they emerged, their Mount Vernon neighborhood was unrecognizable.

"You couldn't see the road, or even the yard," Tommy said. "Everything was covered by branches." The days that followed were chaotic, but also heartwarming. "The entire town was in cleanup mode," Tommy's mother Amanda said. "Everyone was helping everyone. It was really quite nice to see."



While pitching in, Tommy was also thinking about how he could commemorate his friend's unforgettable birthday. The storm itself provided some inspiration.

"I wanted to make him some sort of gift," Tommy said. "His favorite sport is baseball, and when I saw the super straight branch in my yard, I just thought I could carve the perfect baseball bat to give him."

Progress was slow at first, as Tommy only had simple hand tools, but he was determined. After four days, ten hours of work, and a few blisters, he had the perfect gift. Emblazoned with its own logo, "The Great Derecho" bat was a work of art. Even his parents, who have always known Tommy to be a "builder and a creator," were amazed.

Then Amanda made a simple social media post that took on a life of its own.

By the next day, the viral post was bringing media attention to the Rhomberg home, and the story was reaching every corner of the nation. People everywhere were impressed by Tommy, but they also wanted bats and were willing to pay.

"I thought if people were interested in buying them, then I would give a portion of the sales to the Community Foundation," Tommy said. "I really thought I might sell 30."

Tommy knew he couldn't make more bats without better tools so his parents stepped in to help. The trio set up a website, tracked down a used lathe, and started "hunting" for straight branches among the tons of storm debris. From the very beginning, demand was outpacing supply.

To date, Tommy has made and sold more than 200 bats, raising over \$4,000 for the Disaster Recovery Fund. He gave himself a break over the holidays but has another 275 orders to fill in 2021.

Even for those who couldn't get their hands on a hand-made Tommy Rhomberg bat, the story provided some inspiration. Donors from around the world have made gifts to the Disaster Recovery Fund in Tommy's name, totaling more than \$16,000.

As Tommy's story continues to be told, and as communities continue long-term recovery efforts, he remains excited about having the chance to help. "I did not expect this at all," he said. "But I like that I've been able to donate so much money. I have learned a lot and it makes me feel good that the money raised is helping people."



FUNDS ESTABLISHED IN 2020

Project Funds

Project Funds are established by the Community Foundation and supported by donors. These funds provide grants in response to specific challenges or opportunities in the community.

COVID-19 Disaster Response Fund
Disaster Recovery Fund

Donor-Advised Funds

Donor-Advised Funds allow donors to remain actively involved by making grant recommendations to causes they care about whenever it is convenient.

David L. Cook Endowment Fund
Geri and Joe Schmitt Charitable Fund
Gulick Family Charitable Fund
Jonathan and Mary Landon Charitable Giving Fund
Pamela M. Cook Endowment Fund
Wings2Water Fund

Scholarship Funds

This fund type is used by donors to help students achieve their educational goals through scholarships.

Washington High Alumni Scholarship Fund

Agency Funds

Agency Funds provide nonprofit organizations with general operating support, stability during cyclical variances in income, and financial support for areas of high importance to the organization.

African American Museum of Iowa Endowment Challenge Fund
Mercy Medical Center Foundation DeWolf Family Innovation Center Friends Fund
National Alliance on Mental Illness Linn County Endowment Fund
National Alliance on Mental Illness Linn County Friends Fund
Shuttleworth Chamber Series Endowment Fund

Designated Funds

Designated Funds are established by a donor to provide ongoing support for a specific nonprofit organization or purpose. The organization(s) the donor chooses will receive annual distributions from the fund.

Big Brothers Big Sisters David and Vicki Drown Fund
Big Brothers Big Sisters Jeff Goedken Family Fund
Gordon and Jann Baustian Trees Forever Fund
Jack Roland Family Fund
John and Mary Ellen Bickel Family Orchestra Iowa Fund
Myron and Esther Wilson Designated Fund IV
TrueNorth Disaster Relief Fund
White Family Hospitality Arts Scholarship Fund
Whitters Family Fund

Field of Interest Funds

This fund type allows donors to make contributions to specific areas of interest that have meaning to them. This may include support for multiple areas of interest, such as the environment, education, the arts or community development.

Community Endowment Funds

Donors can address the community's greatest needs through these unrestricted funds. Created by visionary philanthropists who want to support the community beyond their lifetimes, these funds allow the Community Foundation to address community needs and opportunities as they emerge.

William B. Quarton: A Legacy of Inspiration

William B. Quarton was a pioneer in radio and television, but it is his work as a philanthropist that continues to inspire us today. In 1987, Bill challenged his friends at the then Community Welfare Foundation to become a public foundation for all of Linn County and establish a \$900,000 endowment—half of which would come from Quarton himself. This challenge marked the start of 20 years of Bill's support and advocacy for the mission of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. His involvement gave rise to the organization as we know it today.

When he passed in August 2007 at age 104, Bill left a gift that will support his beloved community for many years to come. At \$35 million, his gift remains the largest in the Community Foundation's history, but it also came with a clear and inspirational philanthropic vision.

Keenly aware that the future holds unknown challenges and opportunities for this community, Bill wanted leaders to be able to respond. By establishing a large unrestricted endowment, Bill was explicitly investing in Linn County's future.

Bill Quarton's gift helped the Community Foundation respond to the challenges of 2020 and will continue to help us respond to future challenges and opportunities. His foresight exemplifies our mission to improve the quality of life in Linn County, forever.

The Community Foundation continues to honor William Quarton and his spirit of philanthropy with the William Quarton Heritage Society, recognizing over 450 individuals who have established an endowed fund or will make a planned gift.

New William Quarton Heritage Society Members in 2020

Mary and John Bickel
Pamela and David Cook
Vicki and David Drown
Lynn Ann Fowler*
Jeff Goedken
Theodore and Cathy Townsend
Laura and Phil White
Mona McCalley-Whitters and Alan Whitters

**Deceased*



William B. Quarton



At Indian Creek Nature Center's Fresh Air Academy, children explore and learn through immersive nature experiences. With the help of a \$20,000 grant from the Community Foundation, the Nature Center was able to reimagine land use and educational programs impacted by COVID-19 and the derecho.

GRANTMAKING & NONPROFIT SUPPORT

Disrupted by the pandemic and derecho, many local nonprofits saw both reduced revenue and increased demand for services in 2020. With programming and fundraisers cancelled or altered and higher need for healthcare, human services, and virtual entertainment options, local organizations were facing difficult decisions. By allowing 2019 grantees to use funds as general operating support, and by offering flexible grants through unrestricted funds, the Community Foundation was able to alleviate some of this burden.

These grants, along with the ingenuity and resiliency of our local nonprofit sector, helped organizations adapt in remarkable ways. From virtual programming to drive-through services, the health, human service, education, and arts & culture organizations that make Linn County thrive found ways to continue their support for the community.

Such adaptations require collaboration, and effective collaboration requires a strong network of nonprofit organizations. The Nonprofit Network, which has been providing resources and connections for local nonprofit organizations and professionals since 2005, launched virtual Peer Groups in the spring to keep people connected and learning. The conversations at Peer Groups were as productive and inspiring as ever, demonstrating the commitment the professionals at these organizations have to our community.

Responding to the challenges of 2020 was a communal effort. Through our continued efforts to provide grants, scholarships, and networking opportunities, we helped to make possible the essential collaborations that will see our community through these trying times.

\$13.8 MILLION
GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED IN 2020

543
NUMBER OF NONPROFITS
FUNDED IN 2020

138
NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS
FUNDED IN 2020

34
NUMBER OF NONPROFIT NETWORK
VIRTUAL PEER GROUPS IN 2020

Helping Nonprofits Fulfill Their Missions

Southeast Linn Community Center

As one of the only nonprofit organizations in the Mount Vernon/Lisbon area, the Southeast Linn Community Center represents a key part of the community's social safety net. Two grants totaling \$19,408 helped purchase food pantry items, home-delivered meals for isolated seniors, school supplies, and PPE for staff and volunteers.



Feed Iowa First

To combat food insecurity, Feed Iowa First grows and distributes fresh produce while also teaching farming skills. A \$7,500 grant is helping to launch the Equitable Land Access program, which connects individuals from communities that have been marginalized to farmable land.



AbbeHealth

Since 1991, AbbeHealth has provided mental health and aging services while engaging in community education and advocacy. A \$20,000 grant helped AbbeHealth alter programming, allowing them to continue providing these services during the pandemic.



Brucemore

Forced to close in March due to COVID-19, Brucemore faced cancelled programming and large losses in revenue. With the help of a \$15,000 grant, the 19th-century estate was able to cover existing expenses and pivot to online programming.



ICAN

Through a series of programs, Iowa College Access Network (ICAN) prepares high school students for the personal, educational and financial challenges of college. Unable to hold in-person programming, a \$4,420 grant helped ICAN transition to online programming.

COMPETITIVE GRANT RECIPIENTS IN 2020

The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation administers competitive grant programs from its unrestricted funds and for eight local corporations and families. Those nonprofit recipients are listed below.

Arts, Culture & Humanities

African American Museum of Iowa
BruceMore Inc.
Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival
Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre
Czech Village New Bohemia DISTRICT
Eastern Iowa Arts Academy
Iowa Ceramics Center and Glass Studio
Legion Arts Inc.
Mirrorbox Theatre
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
Old Creamery Theatre Company
Orchestra Iowa
Red Cedar Chamber Music
SPT Theatre Company
The History Center
Theatre Cedar Rapids

Education

Academy for Scholastic and Personal Success
Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation
Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation
Cedar Valley Montessori School
Culture Incorporated
Eastern Iowa Arts Academy
Hoover Presidential Foundation
Iowa College Access Network
Iowa College Foundation
Kirkwood Community College Foundation
Marion Independent School Foundation & Alumni Association
NewBoCo
United We March Forward

Environment/Animals

Cedar Valley Humane Society
Indian Creek Nature Center
Iowa Humane Alliance
Monarch Research Project
Trees Forever

Health

Abbe Center for Community Mental Health
AbbeHealth Inc.
Alzheimer's Association - Iowa Chapter
Area Substance Abuse Council
Community Health Free Clinic
Eastern Iowa Health Center
Foundation 2 Inc.
GCW Mutual Aid Society
Gems of Hope
His Hands Free Clinic
Linn County Community Services
March of Dimes Foundation
Mercy Medical Center
National Alliance on Mental Illness Linn County
Olivet Neighborhood Mission
Planned Parenthood of the North Central States
Riverview Center Inc.
St. Luke's Health Care Foundation
Tanager Place
Unlimited Abilities

Public/Society Benefit

Czech Village New Bohemia DISTRICT
Cedar Rapids Jaycees Charities
City of Central City
Coggon Area Betterment Association
ConnectCR
Horizons - A Family Service Alliance
Housing Fund for Linn County
Junior League of Cedar Rapids
Marion Chamber Foundation
Matthew 25
NewBo City Market
NewBoCo
Wellington Heights Neighborhood Association

Human Services

Amani Community Services
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cedar Rapids & East Central Iowa, Inc.
Boys and Girls Club of the Corridor
Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center
Catherine McAuley Center Inc.
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Dubuque - Cedar Rapids Office
Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity
Central City Development Corporation
Central Furniture Rescue
Chelsey's Dream Foundation
Churches of Marion Pantry
Deafinitely Dogs Inc.
Discovery Living Inc.
Eastern Iowa NFL Flag League
Ecumenical Community Center Foundation
Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center
Families Helping Families of Iowa
Family Promise of Linn County
Feed Iowa First
First Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Rapids
First United Methodist Church, Marion
Fresh Start Ministries
Friends of the Family
Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois Inc.
Girls on the Run of Eastern Iowa
Good360
Green Square Meals Inc.
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program
Hawkeye Area Council, Boy Scouts of America
Hawkeye Downs Inc.
Horizons - A Family Service Alliance
Iowa JAG Inc.
Iowa Legal Aid
Jane Boyd Community House
Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa
Junior League of Cedar Rapids
Kids First Law Center
LBA Foundation
Linn Community Food Bank
Linn County Community Services
Marion Cares, Inc.
Matthew 25
National Council on Youth Leadership
Northeast Linn Food Pantry
Olivet Neighborhood Mission
Palo United Methodist Church
Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center
Prospect Meadows
Salvation Army of Cedar Rapids
Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Southeast Linn Community Center Corporation
Systems Unlimited, Inc.
Tanager Place
The Arc of East Central Iowa
The Freedom Foundation
United Way of East Central Iowa for LAP-AID
Variety - the Children's Charity of Iowa
Waypoint Services for Women, Children and Families
Wellington Heights Community Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Willis Dady Emergency Shelter Inc.
YMCA of the Cedar Rapids Metro Area
YPN



ReSET 2020 volunteers fill backpacks with school supplies, personal protective equipment, and household items for families most vulnerable to community violence. Through care packages, porch talks, and outreach teams, ReSET 2020 volunteers connected with 60 families throughout the summer.

WORKING TOWARD RACIAL EQUITY

The Community Foundation strives to use its resources to build a vibrant community, and equity is at the center of community vibrancy—a community cannot be vibrant if it is willing to leave some behind. We have been committed to equity and inclusion in our practices for many years, and in 2020 we set out to be even more intentional about how we incorporate equity into what we do.

In the summer of 2020, our Board of Directors established the Racial Equity Steering Committee to work alongside the staff Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee to ensure our policies and practices are creating an equitable future. These groups have been leading the Community Foundation through a process of learning how we might better serve our entire community.

The Creating Safe, Equitable and Thriving Communities (SET) Fund has been working to reduce youth violence in Cedar Rapids in recent years, but the broader focus of the fund is to build opportunities for all to succeed. As in many communities, violence spiked locally during the pandemic, but the SET Fund responded with new, collaborative approaches.

Through the work of the SET Fund and the many committed individuals in our community, we have been able to identify and partner with many organizations that are working toward racial equity in Linn County.

\$408,000

GRANTED TO THE COMMUNITY
FROM THE SET FUND
SINCE 2019

21

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS
SUPPORTED BY THE SET
FUND SINCE 2019

45

PARTNERS IN GROUP
VIOLENCE INTERVENTION
MODEL IMPLEMENTATION

Adapting and Collaborating to Create Safer Communities

The Creating Safe, Equitable and Thriving Communities (SET) Fund adapted its approach to meet the needs of local youth in 2020. Now, a new collaborative approach is bringing key groups together to interrupt the cycles that lead to violence.



Since 2019, the Creating Safe, Equitable and Thriving Communities (SET) Fund has been making grants to a wide variety of programs and projects working to reduce youth violence in Cedar Rapids. This grantmaking has been built upon the work of the SET Task Force, which issued a report on the root causes of local gun violence in 2017. The City of Cedar Rapids, Linn County, and the Cedar Rapids Community School District came together to establish the SET Fund at the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation to pursue the report's recommendations.

In the spring of 2020, however, the pandemic put a halt to most youth programming. There was some hope that social distancing guidelines would slow the tide of youth violence, but like many communities across the nation, Cedar Rapids quickly saw the opposite happen. With violence spiking and traditional programming suspended, the SET Fund and other local organizations had to rethink how to reach its youth.

In the summer months, SET grantees worked with nonprofit partners, local government, social services, and volunteers to launch the ReSET 2020 Youth &



Family Challenge as a way for groups to adapt their work in helping families navigate the new challenges of 2020. Through anti-violence messaging from community leaders, regular check-ins from outreach teams, care packages, porch talks and incentives and awards for participating, ReSET was able to reach some of the youth and families most vulnerable to community violence.

“Giving voice to our youth and affected community members is more important now than ever,” said Rachel Rockwell, SET Program Officer at the Community Foundation. “All of the uncertainty of the past year has contributed to the violent behaviors. The SET Fund aims to create opportunities for young people, and 2020 showed us how important those opportunities are.”

At the same time, the SET Policy Committee was searching for a way to add a new level of coordination and collaboration to the efforts. To create a seamless network of care for those impacted by violence, the committee turned to the Group Violence Intervention (GVI) model, an evidence-based approach developed

by the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC). The model interrupts the cycle of violence by concentrating on those who are at highest risk for violent victimization and/or coordinating the work of law enforcement, social services, and community-based groups.

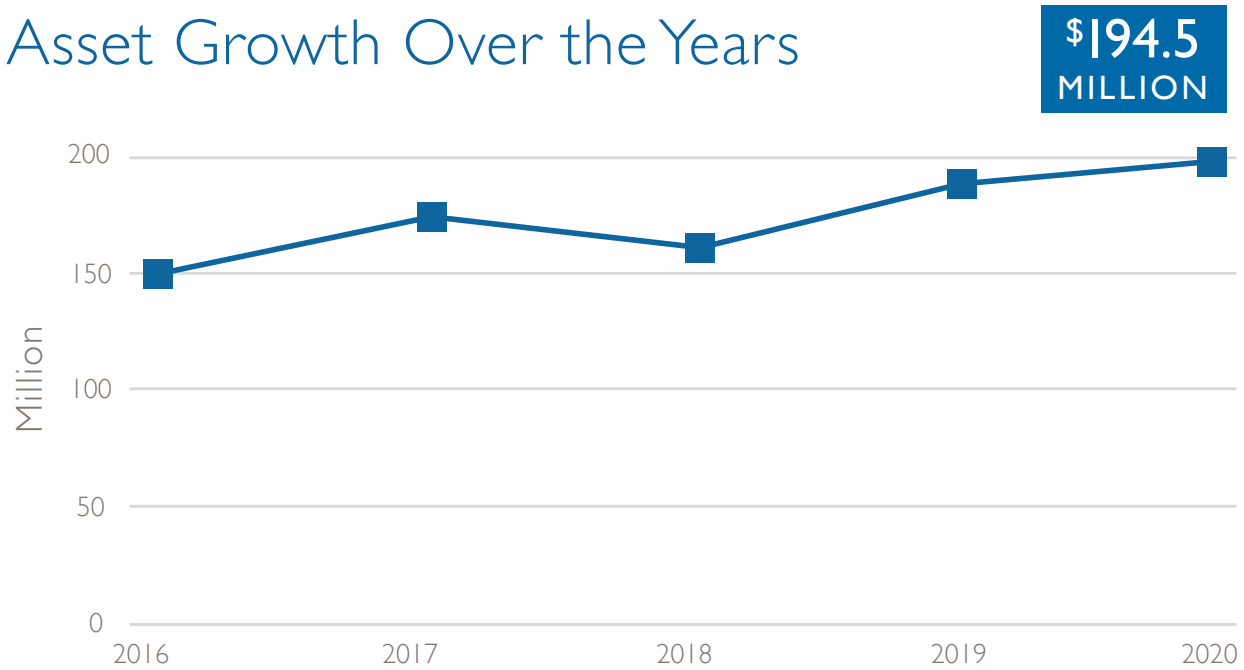
A \$465,000 grant to the SET Fund, awarded in September through a competitive process by an anonymous funder, has helped bring the GVI model to Cedar Rapids. The effort was launched in November, and the NNSC will provide administrative support as local organizations learn and implement the strategies.

At the heart of the GVI model is a simple concept: no organization or group can end violence on their own, but together, we can make a real difference.

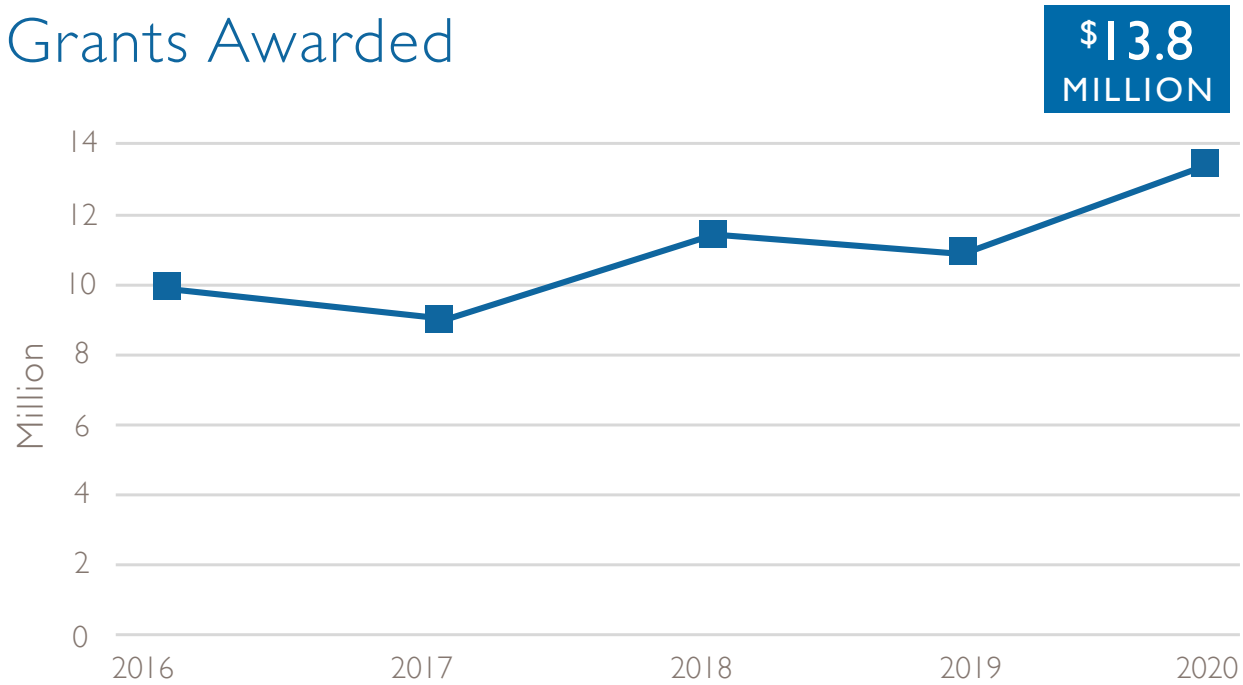
“Cities of all sizes across America have improved safety through this multi-sector approach, resulting in significant and measurable reductions in gun violence,” Rachel said. “Bringing organizations together to implement this model will be transformational.”

THE NUMBERS

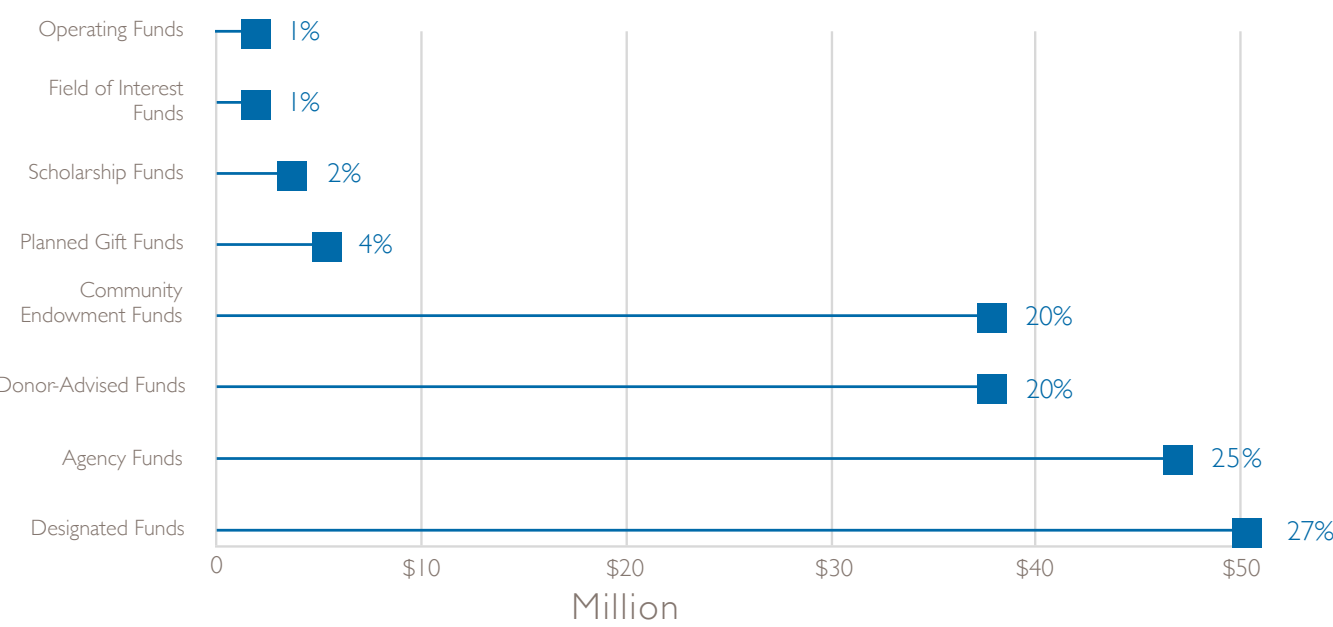
Asset Growth Over the Years



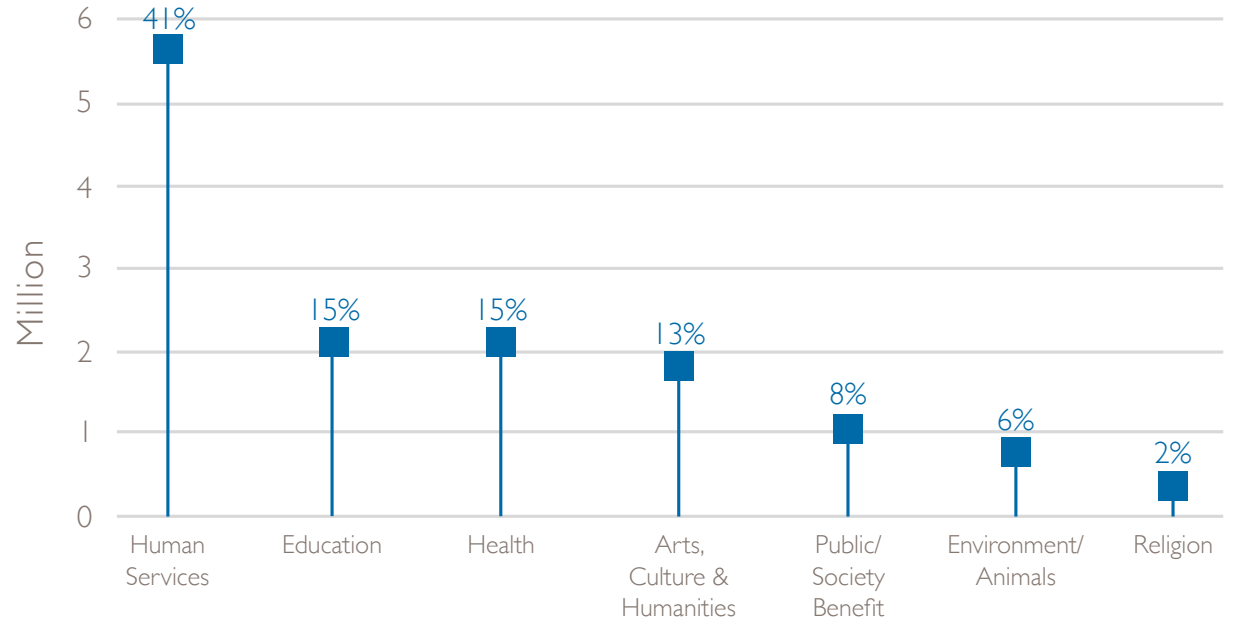
Grants Awarded



Assets by Fund Type



2020 Grants Awarded by Sector



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Charlie Schimberg, Chair Elect
Mike Sheeley, Treasurer
Sue Olson, Secretary
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Patrice Carroll
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Jim Choate

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Dahlia Latif, Executive Assistant and Donor Relations Officer

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Emmylou Ball, Systems Analyst
Paula Lange, CPA, Controller

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Elizabeth Cwik, Senior Program Officer
Rochelle Naylor, Senior Program Officer
Sanjana Raghavan, MHA, Program Officer
Rachel Rockwell, Program Officer
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324 3rd St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52401
319.366.2862
www.gcrf.org