

Strengthening

OUR COMMUNITY

2021 Annual Report



\$223.4
MILLION
TOTAL ASSETS

1,078
TOTAL FUNDS

\$165
MILLION
TOTAL GRANTS
SINCE INCEPTION

A Path Forward

Dear Friends,

In 2021, our community was still in the process of finding a path forward after the trials of 2020. During that process, we were discovering many new needs, challenges, and opportunities.

As always, the Community Foundation remained focused on the current and evolving needs of the community. It was another astonishing year as donors and nonprofits alike demonstrated their generosity and commitment.

While the Community Foundation continued to support disaster recovery, racial equity, and pandemic response, we also maintained the grantmaking work that defines us. Through all of this, like many of you, we considered what is next for our community and how we can help it move forward.

Our intent remains the same, as does our commitment to Linn County and its people, but in 2021 we thought carefully about the perspective from which we work. After much consideration, we redefined our vision, mission, and values to more accurately reflect what the Community Foundation aims to be. We are here to strengthen our community, and we remain open to ways we can help Linn County become a more vibrant and inclusive place to call home.

Time and again, Linn County has demonstrated its strength and resilience. Through your commitment, it will continue to do so for many years to come.



Les Garner

Dr. Les Garner, Jr.
President & CEO



Charlie C. Schimberg

Charlie Schimberg
2021 Board Chair

OUR VISION

A vibrant and inclusive
Linn County where all
people thrive.



Here at the Community Foundation, we work to help the community respond to the needs and opportunities of both today and tomorrow. We do this because we understand that Linn County will only thrive when all of its people do.

While this vision is large and aspirational, it is what drives us and our donors. Grants from the Community Foundation are investments in the long-term health and wellbeing of our community, providing support through the good and the bad. Our community has faced a range of challenges in recent years, and while many of these have been unpredictable, the Community Foundation has been there to respond.

By providing reliable and innovative support for the nonprofits that serve Linn County, we are helping to create a more vibrant future for our community.

OUR MISSION

To strengthen our community through philanthropy.



The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life in Linn County. We do this by partnering with donors, funders, and other community collaborators to achieve high-impact philanthropy. Through our support for the nonprofit organizations that address our community's needs and opportunities, we strengthen our community.

For many of us, when we think of philanthropy, we think of financial gifts. In reality, philanthropy involves much more—it is anything that promotes the wellbeing of others. Besides providing grants and scholarships, we also work with nonprofits, donors, government agencies, and others to provide community leadership and explore innovative solutions.

A strong community requires strong organizations to keep its residents safe, healthy, and happy. The Community Foundation provides vital funding and resources for these organizations, ensuring that our community continues to grow and prosper.

Shaping Our Future Through Philanthropy

For many in our community, 2021 was a time of regrouping and looking to the future after the trials of the previous year. As the pandemic continued to impact daily life, and as long-term recovery carried on, we wondered what was next for our community.

Unsurprisingly, many philanthropists were optimistic. They saw opportunities for shaping the future of Linn County and setting it on a path to increased success.

This optimism inspired a remarkable year of giving. Contributions exceeded \$20 million for just the second time in history, providing immeasurable support for our community's future through grantmaking.

\$20.1
MILLION
CONTRIBUTIONS
IN 2021

45
NEW FUNDS
IN 2021

1,292
GIFTS RECEIVED
IN 2021



John and Dyan Smith

John and Dyan Smith have been supporting local nonprofits since before the Community Foundation was even a public charity. While John was the CEO of CRST, the Smiths used a collection of spreadsheets to organize their personal and corporate philanthropy, carrying out due diligence on their own. With the Community Foundation came the option of donor-advised funds, and the Smiths established one of the first. In 2021, funds established by John and Dyan achieved the milestone of \$10 million granted into the community.

Bill and Patricia Buss

For more than 50 years, Bill and Patricia Buss have been generous and influential residents of Denver, Iowa. As successful business owners, the couple was inspired to help young people in their community access opportunities for professional success. Firm believers in post-secondary education—whether that be in college or trade school—the Busses established three funds at the Community Foundation to support students and alumni of Denver High School. To date, their gifts have provided more than \$50,000 in scholarships and school funding.



Brian and Julie Privett

After finishing their educations and getting married, Brian and Julie Privett decided to put down roots in Cedar Rapids. As healthcare professionals looking to start a family, the strong healthcare community, good schools, and numerous youth organizations convinced them that this could be their permanent home. The Privetts established a donor-advised fund at the Community Foundation to support some of these organizations and are excited this fund and its grantmaking will grow alongside their family.

Providing Vital Support Through Grantmaking

At the very core of our work lies our grantmaking. The Community Foundation makes grants as investments in the nonprofit organizations that contribute to the health, safety, and vitality of Linn County.

In 2021, our community was still recovering from both the pandemic and the August 2020 derecho. The COVID-19 Disaster Response Fund and the Disaster Recovery Fund continued to make measured, targeted grants, providing more than \$1 million in disaster-related funding.

As a grantmaker, 2021 was also an opportunity for the Community Foundation to implement some of the lessons learned in the previous year. By offering general operating support grants and implementing a new grantmaking equity statement, we're helping our community—and the organizations that serve it—to become more equitable and just. This commitment to equitable grantmaking ensures that we are helping to create a future that will work for everyone.

In 2021, the Community Foundation awarded more than \$12 million in grants, providing vital support for the organizations that make our community thrive.

\$12.6
MILLION
GRANTS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED IN 2021

501
NUMBER OF
NONPROFITS
FUNDED IN 2021

140
NUMBER OF
SCHOLARSHIPS
FUNDED IN 2021



SPT Theatre

In the fall of 2021, SPT Theatre kicked off its 14th season of Tales from the Writer's Room, bringing five productions of original content and live music to the NewBo District. SPT Theatre produces unique shows and provides paid opportunities for professional creative artists. After weathering the pandemic with virtual performances, SPT Theatre was able to return to in-person performances with help from a \$15,000 Program Support Grant.

The Academy for Scholastic and Personal Success

For more than thirty years, The Academy for Scholastic and Personal Success has provided rigorous and culturally specific academic instruction for local Black students. Each summer, dozens of high school students attend summer classes and travel to places where they can see African American culture positively reflected. With help from a \$10,000 Organization Support Grant, The Academy has been able to plan for the future, ensuring these opportunities will be available for many years to come.



Olivet Neighborhood Mission

Olivet Neighborhood Mission is home to a clothing closet, food pantry, community gardens, a parish nurse, and youth programs, that serve thousands of people each year. Throughout the pandemic, the need for these services rose as low-income households were impacted the most. A \$3,000 grant from the COVID-19 Disaster Response Fund helped Olivet's pantry meet the needs of our community while the price of food boxes more than doubled in 2021.



OUR VALUES

EQUITY & INCLUSION

We believe success of our community can only be achieved when everyone has the opportunity to experience their full potential.

COLLABORATION

We seek to build relationships and engage the community in our work.

LEARNING

We use our resources to increase understanding of the issues that require community action.

INTEGRITY

As stewards of community resources, we operate ethically and demonstrate transparency and accessibility.

INNOVATION

In order to respond to changing needs, opportunities and challenges, we remain flexible and open to creative strategies.

Community Learning Series Explores Systemic Inequities

For several years, the Community Foundation has been actively working to reduce bias and build equity in our organization and our community. Since 2020, as our community has grappled with the implications of systemic inequities, the urgency of this work has become much clearer. To encourage conversation and action, in 2021 we created three Community Learning Series events exploring a range of equity issues in our community.

Through these events, we learned about youth violence prevention strategies, equity in disaster recovery, and existing racial disparities that permeate life in Linn County.

We heard from community members like Melody, whose mobile home was extensively damaged in the 2020 derecho. For Melody and others who lacked significant resources prior to the storm, recovery has been a much longer and more difficult process.

Ensuring people like Melody aren't left behind in hard times requires an explicit commitment to equity. Through PATCH—a collaboration of several local nonprofits, funders, and businesses—Melody was able to access vital repairs.

Because the first step to solving a problem is defining the problem, the Community Foundation produced a report in November 2021 called Advancing Racial Equity in Linn County. It included existing data that shows significant and persistent disparities in health, wealth, education, incarceration and many other areas of life. Anthony Arrington, a Community Foundation Board member, shared his story of inequities he has experienced in his life as a Black man, father, and entrepreneur.

“We have to be bold in this community,” Anthony said. “We can't be silent anymore.”



Anthony Arrington shared his personal experiences of inequities throughout his life.



Cedar Rapids homeowner, Melody, shared barriers she faced repairing her home after the derecho.

Collaboration Key to Group Violence Intervention Strategy Implementation

In 2018, the City of Cedar Rapids, Linn County, and the Cedar Rapids Community School District came together to establish the Creating Safe, Equitable and Thriving Communities (SET) Fund at the Community Foundation. The goal was to address factors that lead to youth violence by supporting programs that work to reduce economic, racial, and academic disparities.

Complex problems like youth violence require complex solutions. With the help of an anonymous \$465,000 grant to the SET Fund, Group Violence Intervention (GVI) strategies were implemented in Cedar Rapids in 2021. Developed by the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC), GVI is an evidence-based approach that creates a network of care for those most impacted by violence.

That network of care requires commitment from a range of organizations—not only funders and nonprofits, but also law enforcement and other government agencies. Fortunately, local groups were ready to make that commitment.

With technical assistance from NNSC, GVI strategies are being implemented and at-risk individuals are being connected to resources and services throughout the community.

Through a commitment to collaboration, we're helping to give our youth a safe and healthy future.



Community members gathered in 2021 to speak out and share their desire for peace and equity in our communities.

Nonprofit Network Learning Efforts Surge Forward Through Pandemic

Since our earliest days, we have aimed to provide nonprofits with much more than a source of funding. As we've grown, so has our ability to bring the nonprofit community together. In 2021, despite the persisting impacts of the pandemic, the Nonprofit Network at the Community Foundation continued to serve local nonprofit professionals.

Peer groups have long been the core of the Nonprofit Network, providing a space for nonprofit professionals to connect on the challenges and best practices of the field. Forty virtual peer groups brought dozens of people together to connect on these important conversations.

The Nonprofit Network also hosted three virtual Nonprofit Know-How events, covering everything from prioritizing equity to advocacy and lobbying. These events provided important learning opportunities to more than 150 people.

Besides the work of the Nonprofit Network, the Community Foundation also strives to ensure that our staff, donors, and partners are up to date on our community's evolving needs and emerging actions. By prioritizing learning at every level, we strengthen local professionals and the communities they serve.



In 2021, the Development Peer Group, one of five different nonprofit peer groups, continued to meet virtually or in-person for continued learning, sharing and connection.

Investment Options Offer Consideration of Societal Impact

For more than seven decades, donors have invested in Linn County through the Community Foundation. As stewards of these gifts, we take seriously our role in ensuring they are here to benefit the community forever.

Funds held at the Community Foundation have always been invested to allow for growth, but in recent years, we've worked to ensure our investments align with our values. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investments—in addition to traditional financial analysis—are made with consideration of their societal impact.

In 2017, the Community Foundation committed \$1 million of unrestricted funds to ESG investments.

Since then, the ESG Pool has grown to \$11.6 million through additional unrestricted fund commitments and new and existing fundholder contributions. In 2021, the Pool welcomed more than 20 new funds.

“The ESG Pool appealed to me because I try to be thoughtful in my investing,” said fund holder and Community Foundation Board member Mary Junge. “But at the same time, I am mindful of the investment returns, and therefore compared the ESG Pool to other investment alternatives. The ESG Pool met both of my criteria, so it was an easy decision for me.”

Donors like Mary choose the Community Foundation because they are confident in our stewardship of their gifts.



Fund holder Mary Junge recently selected the Environmental, Social and Governance investment pool option offered at the Community Foundation.

Thrive Cohort Offers Innovative Approach to Building Equity and Connections

In 2020, as our community and nation engaged in conversations about racial injustices, the Community Foundation began searching for ways to advance racial equity in Linn County. After considering ways to prioritize racial equity in our grantmaking and community leadership work, we imagined a new way of working toward more equitable outcomes in our community.

So in January of 2021, we launched the Thrive Cohort—a first of its kind initiative from the Community Foundation. The goal of Thrive was to develop partnerships with emerging Black and Brown leaders to help forward the missions of the nonprofit organizations they serve. The cohort program is built upon developing relationships, nonprofit connections, and learning, as part of advancing the Community Foundation’s work in racial equity in our community.

Supporting organizations like these is one of the most effective ways of building equity. Thrive has helped these leaders expand their reach by connecting them to community networks and resources.

“The mentors from this program have given me the insight and foundational growth to reach out to people I would have never been comfortable even being in the same space with,” said Bridgette Williams-Robinson, founder of Bridge Under the Bridge. “I have gained so much as a person and leader. This last year has been one of the most inspirational portions of my life to date.”

The five Thrive Cohort members participate in monthly meetings continuing throughout 2022. Each organization also receives a quarterly grant for \$2,500 for investment in the leaders and organization.

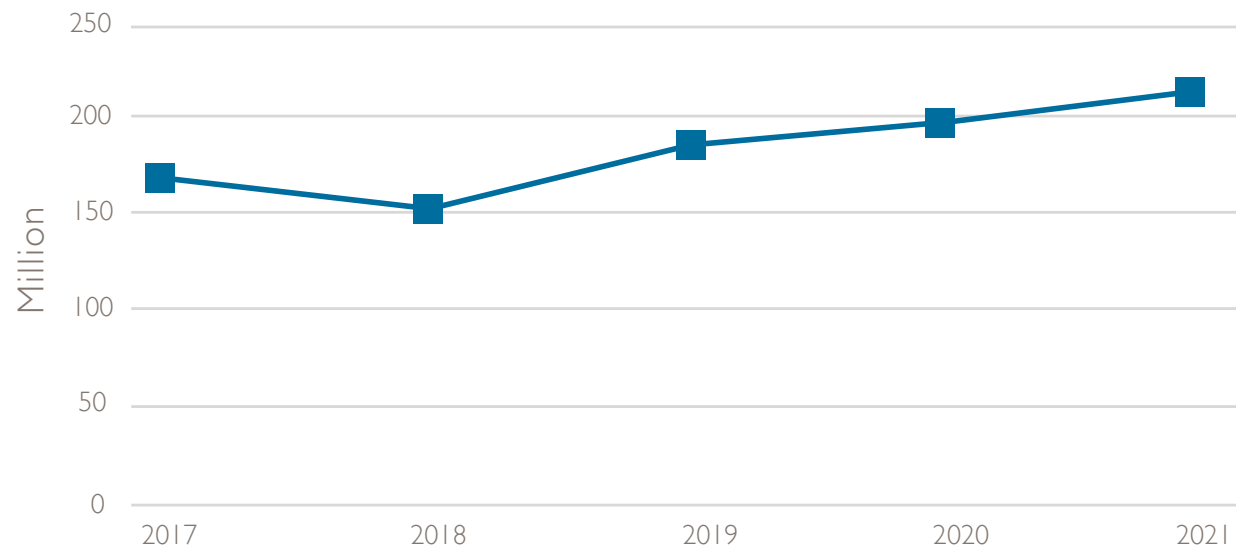


Thrive Cohort facilitators and participants gathered twelve times throughout 2021. Pictured left to right: Rochelle Naylor, Rachel Rockwell, Carrie Walker, Mugisha Gloire, Bridgette Williams-Robinson, Keeyon Carter, and guest presenter Tony Wilson. Not pictured: Leslie Neely and Jorel Robinson.

THE NUMBERS

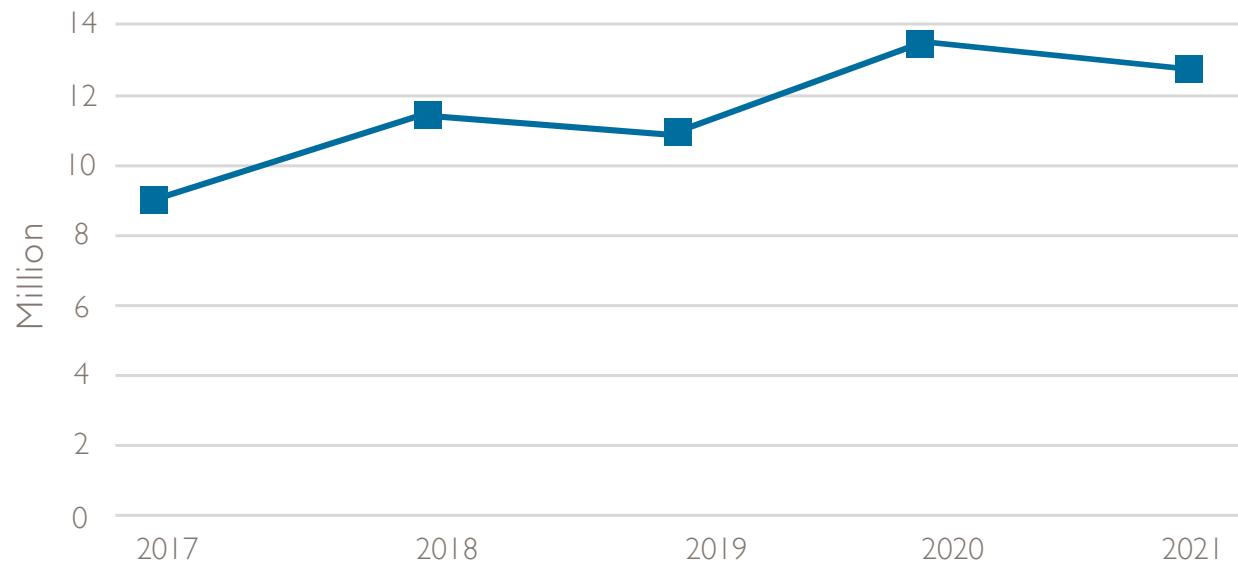
Asset Growth Over the Years

**\$223.4
MILLION**

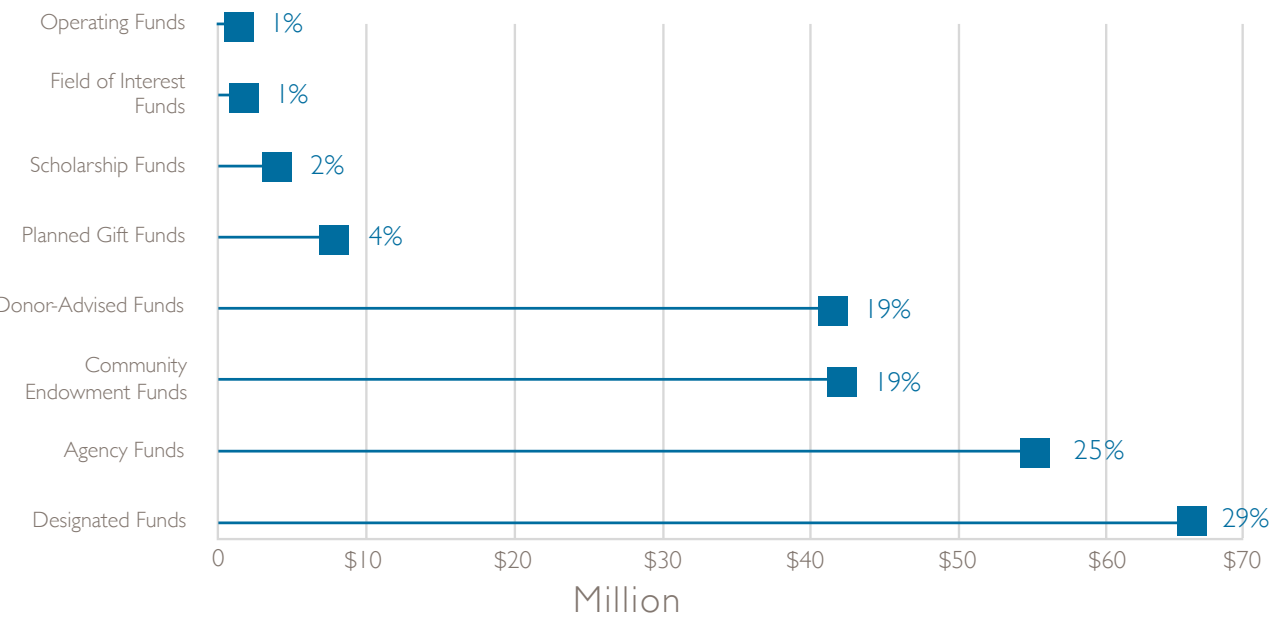


Grants Awarded

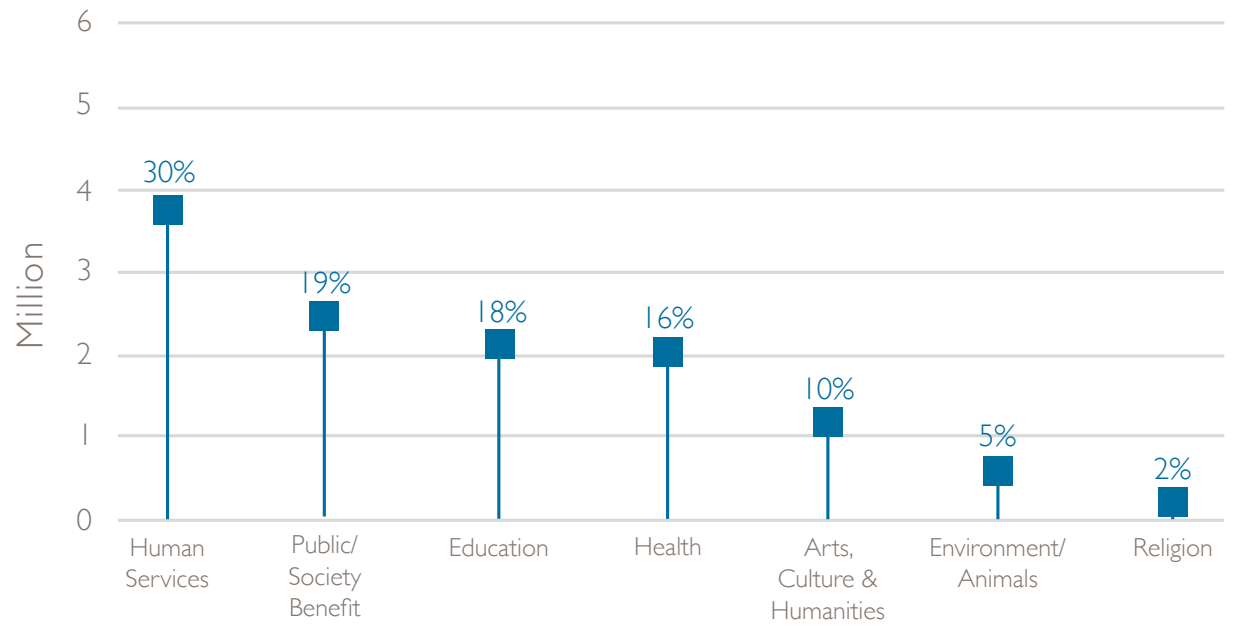
**\$12.6
MILLION**



Assets by Fund Type



2021 Grants Awarded by Sector



FUNDS ESTABLISHED IN 2021

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.

Cindy and Elwood Garlock Fund
Ethan Domke and Mindy Olson Family Fund
Friends Helping Friends Foundation Fund
Geri and Joe Schmitt Giving Fund
Helen G. Nassif Foundation Fund
Philip and DeEtta Andersen Family Fund

Scholarship Funds

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

Shot at College - RSM Scholarship Fund

Agency Funds

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

ASAC Endowment Challenge Fund
ASAC Quasi-Endowed Fund
Community Health Free Clinic Quasi-Endowed Fund III
Foundation 2 Endowment Fund
Foundation 2 Friends Fund
Gems of Hope Scholarship Fund
Howard Kucera Estate Endowment Fund
Iowa Humane Alliance Endowment Challenge Fund
Iowa Sister States Endowment Fund
Lucille Weisert Estate Fund
Red Cedar Chamber Music Endowment Challenge 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.

ASAC McCort Family Fund
Big Brothers Big Sisters John and Lorene Rodriguez Fund
Big Brothers Big Sisters Kent and Polly Mattison Fund
Big Brothers Big Sisters Kevin and Courtney Jasper Fund
Big Brothers Big Sisters Larry and Jan Helling Fund
Big Brothers Big Sisters Robert and Tee Miller Family Fund
Cindy and Elwood Garlock United Way Fund
Cornell College Ingenuity Fund
CROpera Young Artist Program Fund
Don and Mary Thompson Orchestra Iowa Fund
Esther and Robert Armstrong Charitable Trust Metro YMCA Fund
Esther and Robert Armstrong Charitable Trust United Way Fund
GreatAmerica Employee Disaster Assistance Fund
John and Mary Ellen Bickel Family Cornell College Fund
John and Mary Ellen Bickel Family National Rivers Hall of Fame Fund
Leland and Peggy Smithson Orchestra Iowa Fund
Malcolm and Ruth Ann Peel Nonprofit Network Fund
Peoples Church Religious Leader Fund
Ruth Ann Peel Special Education Support 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.

Fulfilling William Quarton's Dream

Nearly forty years ago, Bill Quarton had an idea. What if Cedar Rapids, his beloved chosen home, had an organization that looked out for the community and everyone in it? What if that organization made it easy for those with resources to help those in need?

"Bill came to me in 1985 and told me he wanted to see Cedar Rapids have a community foundation," said Darrel Morf, an estate planning attorney with Simons Perrine Moyer Bergman PLC. "A community foundation would give an opportunity for a large number of people, many without the same kind of resources he had, to have an impact on the community."

Through a challenge to his peers—and a major gift—Bill helped transform the Community Welfare Foundation into the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. From its earliest days, the Community Foundation provided a range of ways for all types of donors to support Linn County.

"This was exactly what Bill had intended," Darrel said. "His initial gift and vision were the driving forces."

To this day, the William Quarton Heritage Society continues to fulfill that vision. Like Mr. Quarton, these donors have made planned gifts that will strengthen Linn County for many years to come.

New William Quarton Heritage Society Members in 2021

Cindy and Elwood Garlock
Jan and Larry Helling
Courtney and Kevin Jasper
Polly and Kent Mattison
Glen McCort
Dana and John Miller
Ruth and Malcolm Peel
Lorene and John Rodriguez
Geri and Joe Schmitt
Teddy Shuttleworth
Peggy and Leland Smithson
Mary and Don Thompson



COMPETITIVE GRANT RECIPIENTS IN 2021

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 Community Orchestra
Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre
Eastern Iowa Arts Academy
Harmony School of Music
International Academy for Russian Music, Arts & Culture
Mirrorbox Theatre
Mount Vernon-Lisbon Community Theatre
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
Old Opera House Community Arts Council
Orchestra Iowa
Red Cedar Chamber Music
Save Cedar Rapids Heritage
SPT Theatre Company
The History Center
Theatre Cedar Rapids
Troy Mills Historical Society

Education

Academy for Scholastic and Personal Success
Cedar Amateur Astronomers Inc.
Cedar Rapids Community School District Foundation
Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation
Hoover Presidential Foundation
Iowa College Access Network
Iowa College Foundation
Kirkwood Community College Foundation
Linn-Mar School Foundation
Marion Independent School Foundation & Alumni Association
Marion Public Library
Marion Public Library Foundation
NewBoCo
North Iowa Area Community College Foundation
The Friends of the Marion Public Library
The Teacher Store
United We March Forward
Waypoint Services for Women, Children and Families

Environment/Animals

Cedar Valley Humane Society
Critter Crusaders of Cedar Rapids Inc.
Indian Creek Nature Center
Iowa Humane Alliance
Monarch Research Project
Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center

Health

Abbe Center for Community Mental Health
Alzheimer's Association - Iowa Chapter
American Heart Association
Area Substance Abuse Council
Community Health Free Clinic
Deafinitely Dogs Inc.
Eastern Iowa Arts Academy
Foundation 2
His Hands Free Clinic
House of Hope
Linn County Public Health Department
Mercy Medical Center
Mercy Medical Center Foundation
Planned Parenthood of the North Central
St. Luke's Health Care Foundation
Tanager Place

Human Services

Affordable Housing Network Inc.
African American Family Resiliency Association
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cedar Rapids & East Central Iowa, Inc
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa
Boys and Girls Club of the Corridor
CAN PLAY
Catherine McAuley Center Inc.
Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity
Central City Development Corporation
Central Furniture Rescue
Chelsey's Dream Foundation
Clothe-A-Child Inc.
CRPride
Discovery Living Inc.
Empowering Youths of Iowa
Families Helping Families of Iowa
Family Promise of Linn County
Feed Iowa First
Field of Hope Inc.
First United Methodist Church, Marion
Foundation 2
Four Oaks Family & Children's Services
Fresh Start Ministries
Friends of Iowa CASA and Icfcrb
Friends of the Family
Girls on the Run of Eastern Iowa
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program
Heritage Area Agency on Aging
Horizons - A Family Service Alliance
Indian Creek Nature Center
Iowa JAG Inc.
Jane Boyd Community House
Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa
Junior League of Cedar Rapids
Kids First Law Center
LBA Foundation
Linn County Community Services
Matthew 25
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
Olivet Neighborhood Mission
Prospect Meadows

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois
Sleep in Heavenly Peace
Tanager Place
The Arc of East Central Iowa
The Freedom Foundation
Trees Forever
Variety - the Children's Charity of Iowa
Waypoint Services for Women, Children and Families
Willis Dady Homeless Services
YPN
Zach Johnson Foundation

Public/Society Benefit

City of Cedar Rapids
City of Central City
Coggon Area Betterment Association
ConnectCR
Housing Fund for Linn County
Matthew 25
NewBo City Market
NewBoCo
Quad Cities Community Foundation
The American Legion - Central City Legion Post 421
The DISTRICT: Czech Village
United Way of East Central Iowa
Wellington Heights Community Church

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* Non-Board representatives
** Donors on scholarship committees

When you partner with the
Community Foundation,
you make Linn County
stronger.

Thank you for helping us
build a vibrant future.



GREATER CEDAR RAPIDS
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

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