GREATER CEDAR RAPIDS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2025
Annual Report

$261 *million* in total assets

$219 *million* total grants since inception

1,109 *total funds*

Imagining a Linn County Where Everyone *Thrives*

Dear Friends,

For more than 75 years, the Community Foundation has been building connections to strengthen Linn County. In 2025, we enjoyed opportunities to deepen some of those connections and build new ones.

In June, the William Quarton Heritage Society Luncheon returned for the first time since 2019, bringing 100+ philanthropists together in a celebration of generosity. In September, we introduced the Greater Connection event series to showcase the work being done behind-the-scenes at local nonprofits.

Also in 2025, we were proud to release our new strategic plan, A Greater Tomorrow. The plan provides direction and goals that will help us build new relationships and make the most of our partnerships.

A Greater Tomorrow keeps us on a trajectory of meaningful growth, enhanced service to our fund holders and nonprofit partners, stronger relationships, and increased investments in the community. These focus areas will help us pursue our vision of a vibrant and inclusive Linn County where all people thrive.

This plan was shaped by months of deep listening—conversations with nonprofit leaders, local philanthropists, and community members who shared what they need from their community foundation.

Those conversations highlighted the generosity of our community, but also some real challenges facing the nonprofit sector. Organizations across our community are seeing available resources decline as demand for their services continues to rise.

As always, this year we have been deeply impressed by how this community has stepped up. And because of your generosity, the Community Foundation will be here to help Linn County respond to challenges for generations to come.

Thank you for your belief in a greater tomorrow.

Michelle Niermann
2025 Board Chair

Karla Twedt-Ball
President & CEO

Shaping a Greater Tomorrow - *Together*

A five-year, community-informed plan to expand impact and opportunity across Linn County.

In 2025, the Community Foundation released a strategic plan to steer the organization's work for the next five years. The plan is informed by surveys of donors, nonprofit professionals, fund holders, grant writers, and other community members. Through focus groups, nonprofits leaders and donors provided input on the Community Foundation's role in supporting their efforts.

The feedback affirmed that Linn County is home to generous people who are committed to shaping a brighter future. Our conversations also highlighted the challenges our community faces and ways the Community Foundation can be involved as a partner in addressing them.

Titled *A Greater Tomorrow*, the plan provides direction and ambitious goals, while remaining flexible and responsive to the community's changing needs. We will continue awarding grants, supporting donors, and engaging and convening the community. At the same time, we will broaden our reach by engaging more intentionally with people of color and rural communities, ensuring our work represents and strengthens the entire community.

Four focus areas align our work with community needs and priorities, and the plan outlines goals for expanding our impact. By growing the unrestricted Greater Good Funds and our annual community investment, the Community Foundation will be able to respond to needs and opportunities as they arise.

Broadening Our Reach

As an endowed foundation, we are dedicated to the long-term success of our entire community. Our approach will integrate the following priorities across all focus areas and aspects of our work:

1. Advancing Racial Equity

As Linn County becomes increasingly diverse, we are committed to fostering an equitable and inclusive future. We will engage more intentionally with people of color, ensuring that our work represents and strengthens the entire community.

2. Engaging Rural Communities

We are also dedicated to geographic diversity and will focus on strengthening connections with rural communities. By actively collaborating with donors, nonprofits, and community groups in these areas, we aim to build resources that address their unique needs to help strengthen their communities.

Four Focus Areas

01

Greater Future

Elevate and invest in efforts that prepare our community for a strong future.

02

Greater Presence

Expand relationships, awareness, visibility, and partnerships that support the entire community.

03

Greater Impact

Grow our impact by helping donors, nonprofits, and community partners strengthen our community through philanthropy.

04

Greater Foundation

Enhance the Community Foundation's operations to better serve the community now and for generations to come.

$16.7M
contributions

279
new donors

35
new funds

982 *gifts received*

$12.9M
grants & scholarships awarded

2,298
grants awarded

105
scholarships awarded

644
nonprofits funded

Greater Connection Events Build Awareness

In September, we launched a new event series designed to connect donors more deeply with local issues. *Greater Connection* events offer a behind-the-scenes look at nonprofit work, creating space for open dialogue about the challenges and opportunities shaping our community. By increasing awareness of community priorities, these events help donors and nonprofits work together to strengthen Linn County through philanthropy.

Reducing Food Insecurity

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 AT HACAP

We gathered to hear directly from nonprofits addressing hunger in Linn County and to explore how philanthropy can help meet growing needs. As demand for food services continues to rise, philanthropic support is more important than ever.

> *We're serving more people who never thought they'd need this kind of help; it's people who never thought they'd need to walk through the door. We're working to diversify our funding sources, but our largest source is still individual donors.*

Nicole McAlexander
Executive Director
Southeast Linn Community Center

Innovation in Arts Education

DECEMBER 9, 2025
AT EASTERN IOWA ARTS ACADEMY

The Eastern Iowa Arts Academy recently purchased and renovated the former Arthur Elementary School, transforming it into a dynamic space that now houses a wide range of programming.

> *Giving tours of Arthur School and walking people through our classrooms, studios, and future plans allowed me to show – rather than just tell – what we do and why it matters. The conversations, the questions, and the genuine curiosity from donors made the experience feel incredibly special. It was energizing to hear their perspectives and to feel their excitement as they saw our creative work up close.*

Heather Dewey Wagner
Executive Director
Eastern Iowa Arts Academy

Learning *Together*, *Strengthening* Community

At the Community Foundation, we believe learning helps strengthen our community. When we better understand the issues - and each other - we can increase our impact.

Learning with Nonprofits

Supporting our community's nonprofit sector goes beyond grantmaking. The Nonprofit Network continued its work of hosting Nonprofit Know-How events, Peer Groups, and unique Learning Cohorts to connect nonprofit professionals with tools, relationships, and resources to help fulfill their missions. Partnerships with other funders and organizations opened doors to a new management class at Kirkwood Community College, a new Toastmasters group, and a listening session with the nonprofit advocacy organization Independent Sector that brought local nonprofit voices to a national conversation.

We also celebrated nonprofit professionals through our first Nonprofit Appreciation Day, creating space for connection, reflection, and shared learning.

Learning with the Community

In addition to the Greater Connection events, we bring community members together with experts and one another to explore ways to build a more vibrant and inclusive Linn County. After several years away, the William Quarton Heritage Society Luncheon returned in 2025, honoring more than 500 philanthropists helping shape our community's future.

We also partnered with United Way to host several screenings of UnCharitable, sparking conversations about charitable giving and nonprofit support. In August, two Free Admission Days connected more than 1,700 people to 12 local arts and cultural sites across Linn County, helping more people experience what makes our community special.

QUARTER ONE

JAN 31
Nonprofit Know-How series began; three additional sessions followed in 2025

FEB 4
Peer Groups began, hosted four groups throughout the year

MAR 4
UnCharitable screening held for nonprofit board and staff

QUARTER TWO

APR 3
Fourth annual Thrive Cohort began

JUN 3
Donors gathered for William Quarton Heritage Society Luncheon

QUARTER THREE

JUL 29
Investment strategy and performance was shared

AUG 9-10
Free Admission Days expanded to two days

AUG 14
Piloted the Learn to Lead for Nonprofit Managers course at Kirkwood

Celebrated at Nonprofit Appreciation Day event

SEP 10
Learning Cohort for Small and Grassroots Nonprofits began

SEP 24
Launched Greater Connection event series; first event focused on food insecurity

QUARTER FOUR

OCT 2
Hosted a listening session for Independent Sector, a national nonprofit membership organization

OCT 9
Nonprofit Narrators Toastmasters group launched

DEC 9
Held second Greater Connection event about arts education

DEC 10
Offered a virtual training called Together on Purpose about how to build nonprofit collaborations

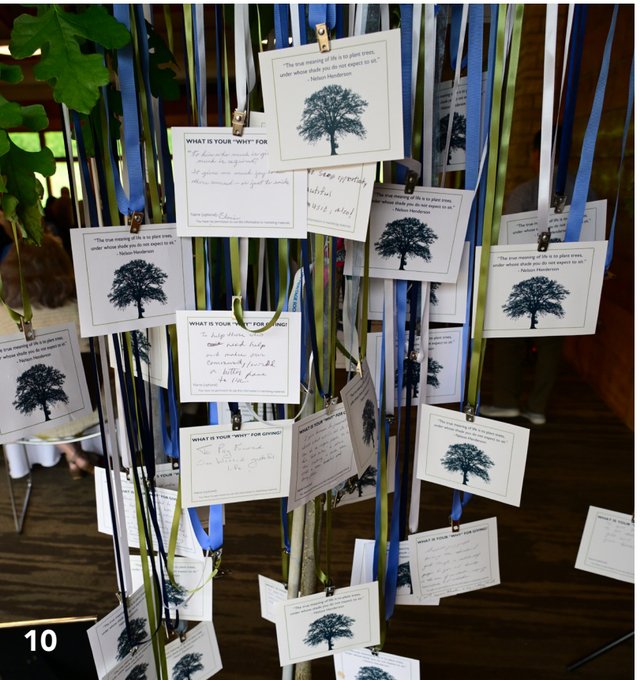
William Quarton Heritage Society Comes Together

On June 3, more than 100 members of the William Quarton Heritage Society gathered at the Indian Creek Nature Center to celebrate a shared legacy of generosity.

The Society honors individuals who have made permanent gifts to the Community Foundation. Like Mr. Quarton, these 500+ philanthropists are helping ensure our community is prepared to meet future challenges and opportunities.

In a symbolic gesture, attendees shared why they give, hanging their reflections on a young burr oak tree later planted in the Nature Center's labyrinth in honor of the Society.

"A Canadian farmer named Nelson Henderson once said that the true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit," said Karla Twedt-Ball, President & CEO. "Future generations will enjoy the shade of this tree, just as they will benefit from the charitable gifts we make today."



New William Quarton Heritage Society Members in 2025

Linda Barnes

Anne Buchacek

Julie and Benjamin Golding

David and Kristin Janssen

Phil and Kathy Jasper

Kelly and Thies Kölln

Anna Kregel

Gene Matthess

Jeff and Kris Nielsen

Carole and Lowell Russell

Mollie Schlue and Tom Tapp

Dennis Schrag and Patrick Highland

Marty and Brian Stoll

Funds Established in 2025

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.

Cedar Rapids Jaycees Operational Fund
Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre Rick Stewart Fund
Golding Family Fund
John Curran Fund
Linn County Toys for Tots Fund
Orchestra Iowa Jeff and Kris Nielsen Fund
Orchestra Iowa Linda Barnes Fund
Orchestra Iowa Marty and Brian Stoll Fund
Orchestra Iowa Privett Family 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.

Arlen and Asta Twedt Charitable Giving Fund
Cobb Family Legacy Fund
Dennis and Jean McMenimen Fund
Helen G. Nassif Family Foundation Fund
Janssen Family Fund
Kevin and Courtney Jasper Family Fund
Paul Morf and Amy Friedl Donor-Advised Fund
Phil and Kathy Jasper Family Fund
Russell Family Fund
SCS Fund
Tapp Schlue Family Fund
The Old Fashioned Fund
Thies and Kelly Kölln Fund
Tom and Jeanne Amosson Family Fund
Tracy and Sean McPartland Fund
TrueNorth Legacy Foundation Endowment 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 homelessness.

Richard and Judith Chandler Family Endowed Fund
Cedar Rapids Jaycees Park and Recreation Fund

Nonprofit Funds

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

ICNC Quasi-Endowed Fund
Matthew 25 Clint Twedt-Ball Legacy Fund
NewBoCo Endowment Challenge Fund
Variety-The Children's Charity of Iowa Cedar Rapids Friends Fund
Variety-The Children's Charity of Iowa Cedar Rapids Fund
Wheelchair Ramp Accessibility Program Endowed Fund
Wheelchair Ramp Accessibility Program Friends Fund

Other Available Fund Options

Greater Good 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.

Scholarship Funds

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

Community Betterment Funds

This fund type can be established to provide immediate and lasting support for nonprofits serving non-metro communities in Linn County. The funds are administered through a grant application process overseen by a committee in the community it supports.

Competitive Grant Programs | *2025 Recipients*

The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation grant programs support innovation, sustainability, and capacity building at nonprofits that serve Linn County. The competitive grant programs are supported by the Greater Good Funds, Field of Interest Funds, Competitive Donor-Advised Funds, and other Community Foundation donors. Grant recipients include:

Arts, Culture & Humanities
African American Museum of Iowa
Brucemore, Inc.
Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre
CR Independent Film Festival
CSPS
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
Orchestra Iowa
Patrons of the Performing Arts at Washington High School
Playtime Poppy Children's Theatre
Red Cedar Chamber Music
Revival Theatre Company
Save Cedar Rapids Heritage
The History Center
Theatre Cedar Rapids

Education
Academy for Scholastic and Personal Success
Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation
Central City PTO
Eastern Iowa Arts Academy
Friends of the Hiawatha Public Library
Iowa College Foundation
iJAG
Kirkwood Community College Foundation
Marion Independent School Foundation & Alumni Association
Mount Mercy University - Development & Alumni Office
The Teacher Store

Environment & Animals
Cedar Valley Humane Society
Indian Creek Nature Center
Iowa Humane Alliance
Trees Forever

Health
Abbe Center for Community Mental Health
Alzheimer's Association - Iowa Chapter
American Heart Association
Anna Purna Ghosh Foundation
Breakthrough T1D - Nebraska and Iowa Chapter
Children's Cancer Connection
ChildServe Foundation, Inc.
CommUnity Crisis Services & Food Bank
Community Health Free Clinic
Eastern Iowa Health Center
His Hands Free Clinic
Lisbon-Mount Vernon Ambulance Service
Mercy Medical Center
Riverview Center, Inc.
St. Luke's Health Care Foundation

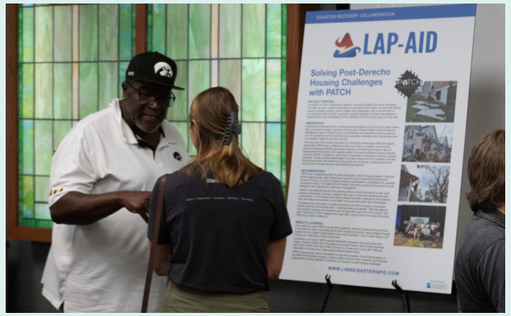
Human Services
Area Substance Abuse Council
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cedar Rapids & East Central Iowa
Boys and Girls Club of the Corridor
Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center
Catherine McAuley Center
Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity
Central Furniture Rescue
Deafinitely Dogs, Inc.
FC United Soccer Club, Inc.
Feed Iowa First
Foundation 2 Crisis Services
Four Oaks Family and Children's Services
Freedom Stitchers of Iowa
Friends of the Family
GROW at Kazimour Farm & Orchard
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program
Hawkeye Area Council, Scouting America
HER Hope Empowerment Resilience
Heritage Area Agency on Aging

Human Services (continued)
Hope Community Development Association
Horizons - A Family Service Alliance
House of Hope
If I Don't Do It Institute
Iowa Legal Aid
Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa
Junior League of Cedar Rapids
Kids First Law Center
Lavender Legal Center
Marion Cares, Inc.
Matthew 25
National Council on Youth Leadership
North Liberty Community Pantry
Paradox Transitional Home
Riseup Career and Technical Education Hub
Safe Place Foundation
Salvation Army of Cedar Rapids
Saving Us
Sleep in Heavenly Peace
Southeast Linn Community Center
St. John of the Cross Catholic Worker House
Tanager
The Arc of East Central Iowa
The Freedom Foundation
Together We Achieve
United We March Forward
Waypoint Services for Women, Children and Families
Wheelchair Ramp Accessibility Program Coalition
Willis Dady Homeless Services
YMCA of the Cedar Rapids Metropolitan Area
Young Women's Resource Center
YPN
Zach Johnson Foundation

Public/Society Benefit
Cedar Amateur Astronomers, Inc.
Cedar Rapids Parks Foundation
Chain Reaction Bike Hub
Eastern Iowa Honor Flight
Fiscal Sponsorship Allies
Friends of Noelridge Park Greenhouse & Botanical Center, Inc.
Marion Public Library Foundation
NewBo City Market
NewBoCo
Our Future Iowa
The District: Czech Village & New Bohemia

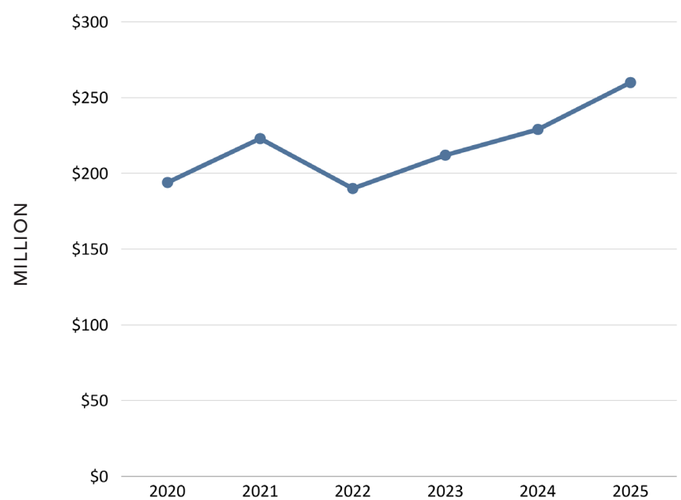
Nonprofit Appreciation Day Brings *Changemakers* Together

On August 14, 2025, we hosted a Nonprofit Appreciation Day gathering for nonprofit professionals and grassroots leaders across Linn County. The event celebrated the important work of these individuals and organizations while also providing an opportunity to connect with peers and learn from one another. Interactive learning posters highlighted six local organizations and showcased their innovative approaches to addressing recent challenges.

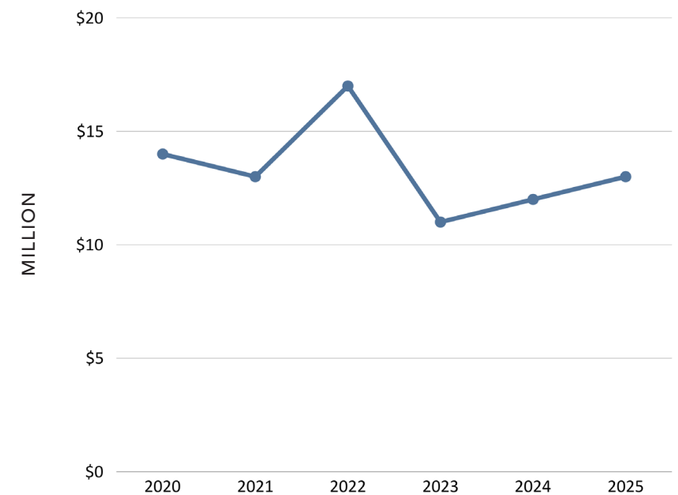


Finanical Highlights

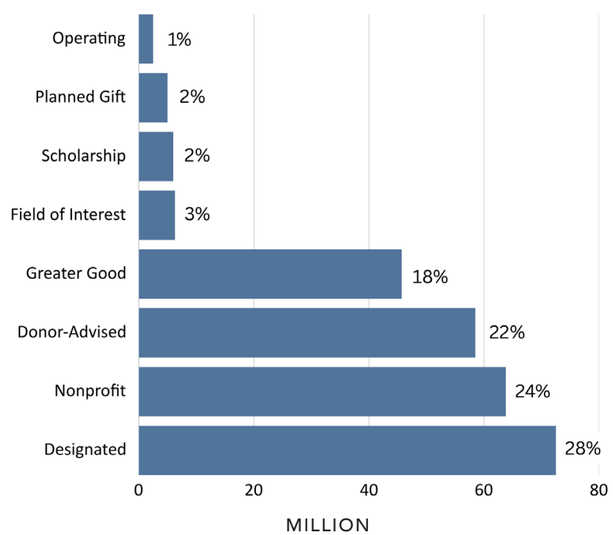
Asset Growth



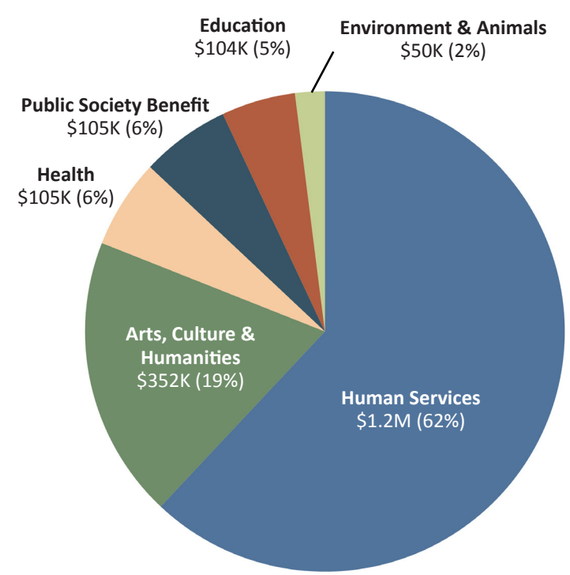
Grants Awarded



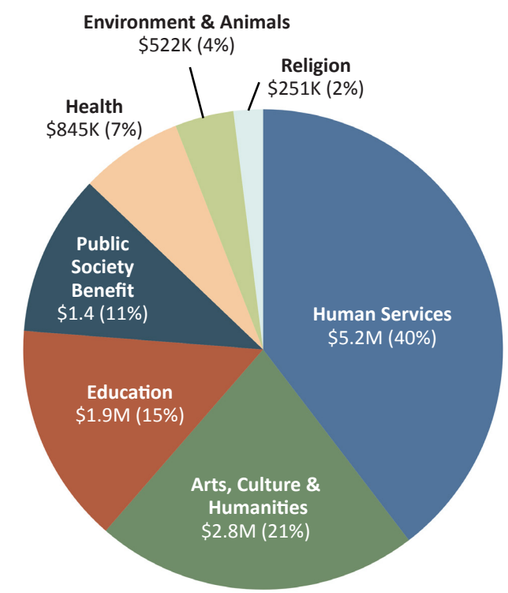
Assets by Fund Type



2025 Greater Good Funds Awarded by Sector



All 2025 Funds Awarded by Sector



*International, Foreign Affairs & National Security: $2K (<0%)

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David Little, Treasurer
Anthony Arrington, Secretary

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Jill Ackerman
Patrice Carroll
Chris Casey
Kimberly Hillyard
Mary Junge
Janice Kerkove
Brandi Mueller
Tracey Myers
Wendy Nielsen
Dave Parmley
Craig Smith
Haywood Stowe
Cathy Terukina
Matthew Van Maanen
Blake Wilkinson

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Arthur Kim, MA, Development Officer
Melissa Pence, CFRE, MSL, Director of Development
Blenda Peterson, Development Services Associate
Rachel Schneider, Donor Relations Associate
Josie Velles, Senior Director of Development Services

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Emmylou Ball, Systems Analyst
Cameron Jacobs, Accounting Clerk
Paula Lange, CPA, CFO
America Manjarrez, Office Manager

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Bernadette Gladish, Grants and Programs Manager
Joe Heitz, MBA, MS, Vice President of Community Impact
Rochelle Naylor, MPP, Senior Program Officer
Sanjana Raghavan, MHA, Program Officer

Learning
Carrie Walker, Vice President of Learning

Marketing
Dylan Cooley, MFA, Content and Information Officer
Corinne Rahe, Vice President of Marketing and Communications

Advisory Councils

Nonprofit Advisory Council
Sara Buck, Housing Fund for Linn County
Eric Christenson, Zach Johnson Foundation
Theresa Lewis, The Arc of East Central Iowa
Eric Marshall, Orchestra Iowa
Nicole McAlexander, Southeast Linn Community Center
Al O'Bannon, LBA Foundation
Alejandro Pino, YPN
Heather Wagner, Eastern Iowa Arts Academy
Angie Zahradnik Ehle, Wheelchair Ramp Accessibility Program

Nonprofit Investment Advisory Council
ASAC – Brody Suddendorf
Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation – Charity Tyler, Derek Johansen
Four Oaks – Alison Brumm, Mary Beth O'Neill
Goodwill of the Heartland – Tammi Erb, Todd Helle
Indian Creek Nature Center – John Myers, Scott Overland
Orchestra Iowa Foundation – Dick Minette
St. Lukes Foundation – Mary Klinger, Tonya Arnold
The Arc of East Central Iowa – Dale Rettenmeier
The History Center – Kris Gulick, Rick Fry
Theatre Cedar Rapids – Murphy McGrath, Pat Deignan
Waypoint – Mike Weaverling

Affiliates
Community Foundation of Washington County
Wapello County Foundation

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Kristen Wilcox*

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Cathy Terukina
Jennifer Welton*

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Kimberly Hillyard
Diana Ledford*
Mike Sheeley*
Craig Smith
Blake Wilkinson

Nominating Committee
Michelle Niermann, Chair
Anthony Arrington
Nancy Hill
Brandi Mueller
Haywood Stowe

Racial Equity Working Group
Anthony Arrington, Chair
All Board members were invited to participate

Grant Committees

Organization Support Committee
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Wendy Nielsen
Cal Norris*
Dave Parmley
Sreeja Sreelatha*
Cathy Terukina
Pam White*
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Deb Kleiman**
Phaedra McNamara**
Drew Morton*

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Ben Isaacson
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Tracey Myers
Melissa Murphy*
Hailee Sandberg*
Craig Smith

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Anthony Betters Jr.*
Tim Countryman*
Nick Ludwig*
Amanda Zhorne*

* Non-Board representatives
** Donors on scholarship committees

Platinum Transparency 2025 Candid.

Awarded the Platinum Level of Transparency, the highest level on Candid.

CFNS ACCREDITED FOUNDATION

Confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

GREATER CEDAR RAPIDS
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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