



COMMON THREAD

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission

The Community Foundation of Greater Flint partners and leads by influencing and connecting generosity to Genesee County needs. For Good. For Ever. For Everyone.

Vision

A vibrant and equitable Genesee County where everyone can thrive.

Values

Integrity: encompassing credibility, ethics, and stewardship

Inclusiveness: encompassing accessibility, diversity, and social justice

Impact: encompassing agility, responsiveness, and effectiveness

Common Thread

At the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, we believe in the power of connection. This year's annual report theme — *Common Thread* — reflects how our shared values of integrity, inclusiveness, and impact unite us, especially in times of change. Like individual threads in a tapestry, each person, partnership, and act of generosity strengthens the fabric of our community.

In this report, you'll find stories of people who embody belonging, partnerships that weave together strengths, and the prosperity that grows when opportunity reaches everyone. These sections were chosen with intention — to reflect the heart of our mission and the community we're honored to serve.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, partners, and neighbors for helping us stitch together hope, strength, and progress. Thank you for being part of the thread that binds us all.



Leadership Message



Across Flint and Genesee County, people are showing us what's possible when we come together. In every neighborhood, every corner of our community, individuals are bringing their talents, experiences, and hearts to the table. We may each have different stories, but what we share — a deep commitment to our community — is what binds us.

This past year was one of meaningful transition for the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. And through it all, one truth has remained constant: lasting change occurs when people unite around a shared purpose.

That's what inspired this year's theme: *Common Thread*. It reflects how we see our role, not as the centerpiece, but as a connector. The Community Foundation is one part of a much larger whole. We help link generosity to vision, bridge gaps with empathy, and align resources with the brilliance already present in our communities. Each person, each organization, and each story contributes to the strong fabric of Genesee County.

We know the future holds unknowns. However, our mission remains clear: connecting generosity to the needs of Genesee County. And we'll keep showing up with open ears, open hearts, and a deep belief in the people of this place we all call home.

We invite you to explore this year's annual report — and celebrate the possibility that lives in all of us when we come together for the common good.

With gratitude,

Dan Kildee
President & CEO

Mark L. Miller
Board Chair

Year in Review

2024 Highlights



Volunteers

240

Total Grantmaking

\$17,933,977



New Funds

10

Total Gifts

\$32,912,995



\$386,944

in Scholarships Awarded to

132 Students

36-Year Milestones

Total Awarded in Grants Since 1988

\$205,077,917



Legacy Society
Members Since Founding

121

Total Asset Size

\$381,027,147

A photograph of three young boys sitting on a green plastic rocker in a classroom. The boy on the left is wearing a red and black shirt and black pants, smiling and looking towards the other two boys. The boy in the middle is wearing a maroon sweater and blue jeans, looking towards the boy on the left. The boy on the right is wearing a dark grey sweater and dark pants, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The rocker is green with yellow wheels and has a 'little tikes' logo on its side. In the background, there are other people, including a woman in a yellow hoodie and another woman in a striped shirt, and various classroom items like a purple ball and a rug.

Children in the Jump Start program
at Fenton's World of Wonder Early
Learning Center explore movement
in the school environment.

Partnerships

Our greatest impact happens in collaboration. This section highlights how shared purpose and strong partnerships are building a stronger, more connected community.



At the Heart of the Mission

GUIDED BY PURPOSE AND POWERED BY COMMUNITY, NECOLE HAYES WORKS TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN FAMILIES IMPACTED BY INCARCERATION.

Before she ever stepped foot in Flint, Necole Hayes was a child welfare worker in Oklahoma, driven by a passion for strengthening families. When she saw a news story about Flint, Michigan, something clicked. She felt called to bring that passion here.

Hayes arrived in Flint as a University of Michigan-Ann Arbor intern and became immersed in the mission of Motherly Intercession, a nonprofit dedicated to breaking the cycle of intergenerational incarceration. Years later, she now serves as its Executive Director.

"I started doing this work to be the change that I wanted to see in the world," Hayes said. "Motherly Intercession opened my eyes to the possibilities of what we can do when we work together."

That spirit of collaboration is central to everything the organization does — from parenting classes and family engagement to creating meaningful visits between children and incarcerated parents. Within Motherly Intercession, coordinators, caregivers, and parents who are incarcerated work together to build relationships and nurture growth.

"We build a community for people who have been impacted by incarceration, because it's not only a grandparent affected — it's grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins," Hayes said. "That affects your family for generations."

In 2024, Motherly Intercession received \$115,250 in grant support from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, including funding from the FlintNOW Fund, McCombs Family Flint Non-Endowed Fund, Robert S. and Virginia R. Landaal Family Fund, and Ann and Khalil Saab Family Fund.

This support has helped expand the Strengthening Family Villages program, which empowers parents who are incarcerated to reconnect with their families and even become peer leaders. Hayes recalled one father, Mr. Green, who helped co-facilitate classes in the Genesee County Jail. "It changed his life," she said. "He was an example of leadership for his peers."

Reflecting on the journey, Hayes added, "This is really the whole reason why I became a social worker. Community is everything to me."



Parents and children engage in story time at the Jump Start Parent-Child Playgroup.

The First Classroom

COFFEE AND CRAFTS. STORYTIME AND SUPPORT. FINGERPAINTS AND FIRST FRIENDSHIPS. THERE'S SOMETHING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY AT THE JUMP START PARENT-CHILD PLAYGROUP AT THE WORLD OF WONDER EARLY LEARNING CENTER IN FENTON.

At Jump Start, children from birth to age five explore art, music, and movement, while parents and caregivers form bonds, share stories, and gain confidence in their parenting journeys. In part through \$20,000 in grant funding, the program remains free or low-cost for participating families.

At its core, Jump Start strengthens early learning and caregiver empowerment, with families and educators working side by side to support children's growth. "We're Parents as Teachers trained, and that really talks about how the parent is their child's first teacher," said Ann Majchrowski, Director of Early Childhood Programs. "School readiness starts at birth."



"Parents come to a safe space and get to network and collaborate. It really helps create that village."

ANN MAJCHROWSKI

Director of Early Childhood Programs

Understanding the System

Jump Start responds to a real need: accessible early learning opportunities and community connection for families with young children. The program also recognizes that traditional educational settings may feel inaccessible for some parents, especially without support systems or resources in place.

"We're creating relationships within our community," Majchrowski said. "Parents come to a safe space and get to network and collaborate. It really helps create that village."

Each session includes free-choice play, story time, healthy snacks, and activities that support development across learning domains. But Jump Start's impact goes far beyond the classroom.

In addition to promoting school readiness, the program offers caregivers a trusted space to be themselves. They're invited to read with their children, participate in educational activities, and build a community of peers.

"It's a safe space for families to come," said Kim Weingartz, a program facilitator and former parent in the program. "You can take a deep breath, have a cup of coffee, and know your kids are safe and that you're doing your best."

Meeting Families Where They Are

Jump Start goes beyond the classroom to support the whole family. Through access to a Community Share thrift store, caregivers can find essentials like diapers, clothing, food, and household goods — helping to reduce stress and support mental wellness.

The program design reflects intentional decisions to remove barriers. For many, the five-day-a-week sessions are available at no cost, while others contribute just \$72 per family

annually — a model that prioritizes inclusion and flexibility.

For staff like Ayn Zitzman, who began attending as a parent more than a decade ago, the program is personal. "It's a no-judgment zone," said facilitator Ayn Zitzman. "We encourage kids to explore, be messy, and be themselves."

With daily sessions, flexible attendance, and a strong commitment to relationships, Jump Start is setting the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

"We are the first school setting that these kids and families come into," said Majchrowski. "We're here to set that positive foundation. These students are going to be in school for a long time, and this gives them a great start."



Amy Wierenga and her four children.

Finding Community at Jump Start

Amy Wierenga first learned about Jump Start while walking through the Holly Farmers' Market. A fellow mom of twins spotted her and struck up a conversation. That chance meeting led Amy to join the program in 2022, when her twin boys were 18 months old. Today, she brings all four of her kids, including her 22-month-old and five-week-old.

"This is two and a half hours every day where the kids have a safe place to play and I can socialize," Wierenga said. "It's the community of moms and the support. There's always an extra hand."

Amy's favorite part? "The people." Her son Oliver's? "Music time!" he said excitedly.



Healthy You Me participants
meet at Saint Paul Lutheran
Church & School.

Wellness in Every Sign

HEALTHY YOU ME, MICHIGAN'S ONLY AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE-BASED RECOVERY GROUP, IS BUILDING COMMUNITY, CONFIDENCE, AND WELLNESS.

At Healthy You Me wellness groups, everything begins at the table — not with silence or separation, but with shared meals, laughter, and meaningful conversation. In a world where 90 to 95 percent of Deaf individuals are born to hearing parents who don't use sign language, many grow up surrounded by conversations they can't access. Over time, limited or denied communication access can lead to deep and lasting trauma for many Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind individuals. But at Healthy You Me, everyone is part of the dialogue.

Around these tables, Deaf and hard-of-hearing community members come together to build friendships, strengthen their health, and support one another.

"We start the sessions by eating together," says Theresa Miracle, Executive Director of the Communications Access Center (CAC) and co-facilitator of Healthy You Me. "There is no negativity sitting around the table, no negative experience in the space. It is very positive."

CAC Executive Director Theresa Miracle facilitates a Healthy You Me group session.



Investing in Equitable Wellness

Tuuri Health Fund Grant
\$15,000
Awarded in 2024

Supports: Interpreters, Transportation, Meals, Outreach

By the Numbers: Healthy You Me's Growth

Founded: 2021

Weekly Participants: ~25

Locations: Flint & Clio

Language: 100% ASL-based

Community Highlight: Largest Deaf group to join
Crim Festival of Races

Healthy You Me is the only addiction and recovery group in Michigan conducted entirely in American Sign Language (ASL). Launched three years ago by Miracle and co-facilitator Pastor Thomas Dunseth, the program began as a small circle of three or four participants. Today, it welcomes an average of 25 individuals each week at locations in Flint and Clio.

The idea was born out of a clear need. More than 100 addiction recovery programs operate in Genesee County, but not one was designed with the Deaf community in mind. Miracle and Dunseth envisioned a space that was not only accessible, but affirming — one where Deaf culture is centered, not accommodated.

"Immediately, you put a Deaf person within a hearing group, with an interpreter, and already you're not the same," says co-facilitator Pastor Thomas Dunseth. "We developed the program to be more visual, using PowerPoints and fewer written English words, to match Deaf culture."

In 2024, Healthy You Me received a \$15,000 grant from the Tuuri Health Fund to support its continued growth. The funding helps cover interpreter costs, transportation, meals, and new outreach efforts.

What started as a recovery group has grown into a wellness community. The program has now embraced whole body health, incorporating sign-language-based exercise classes and even forming the largest Deaf group to participate in the Crim Festival of Races.

Miracle emphasizes that the systems surrounding the Deaf community are not always designed with their language or lived experiences in mind. At Healthy You Me, healing happens by centering Deaf culture and creating a space with resilience, confidence, and belonging.

"I've seen lives transformed. People are becoming healthier in their attitudes, the way they speak, and the way they feel about themselves," says Miracle. "When I see people stand up and say, 'I'm a Deaf person, and I'm proud,' that is the key."

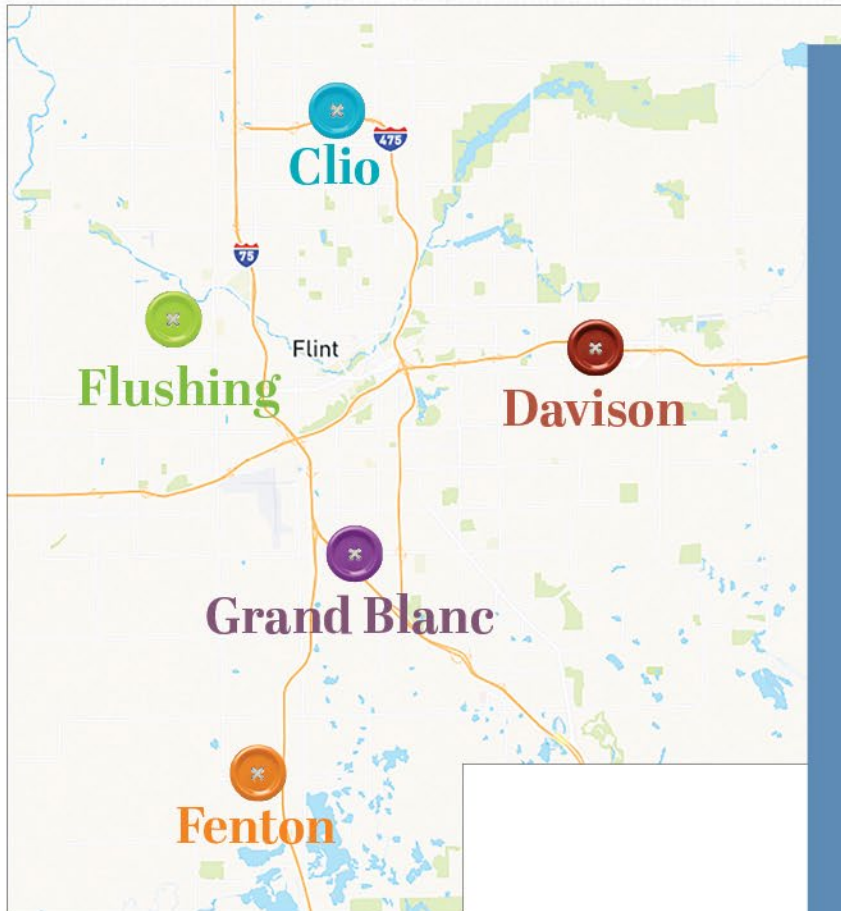
*"I've seen lives transformed.
People are becoming healthier
in their attitudes, the way they
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about themselves."*

THERESA MIRACLE

Executive Director of the Communications Access
Center and co-facilitator of Healthy You Me

Homegrown Philanthropy

GENESEE COUNTY'S FIVE AREA COMMUNITY FUNDS EMPOWER NEIGHBORS TO SHAPE A STRONGER, MORE CONNECTED FUTURE — ONE GRANT AT A TIME.



Cumulative Grantmaking

Clio

\$212,058 Since 1991
\$22,176.97 in 2024

Davison

\$85,924 Since 2004
\$10,751.53 in 2024

Fenton

\$514,490 Since 1991
\$32,044.70 in 2024

Flushing

\$85,435 Since 1997
\$10,250.04 in 2024

Grand Blanc

\$1,016,249 Since 1989
\$47,028 in 2024

The true measure of a community foundation is in how well it represents and reflects the community it serves. In Genesee County, the endowed community funds of Clio, Davison, Fenton, Flushing, and Grand Blanc exemplify this commitment. Local leaders guide grants from these funds to address their community's specific needs effectively.

These community funds enhance philanthropic giving, preserve family legacies, and advance the Community Foundation's mission to serve all of Genesee County.



*Learn more about
community funds online
at cfgf.org/givelocal*

Grantee / Purpose	Amount
Clio Area Human Services Fund Safety Net Store Food Pantry	\$ 3,700
Youth Health and Fitness Fund 2024 Clio Area 5K Races	\$ 2,000
Clio Area Schools Clio Community Education Theatre and Arts	\$ 3,500
Clio Area Historical Association, Inc. Restoration of Depot Garden	\$ 1,150
Clio Area Fire Authority Replacing AEDs	\$ 1,800
Clio Rotary Clio Rotary Beautification Projects	\$ 1,500
Clio Center for the Arts Building Beautification	\$ 3,527
City of Clio Amphitheater Stage Replacement	\$ 5,000
Clio Area Community Fund Total	\$ 22,177
City of Davison The Hydration Station	\$ 2,500
Outreach East Fill the Gap 2024	\$ 2,702
St. John the Evangelist Parish Utility and Rental Assistance	\$ 500
Greater Genesee County Area BMX Safety Barrel Gate Project	\$ 1,000
Richfield Township Township Park Improvements	\$ 2,500
Davison Chamber of Commerce Festival of Flags Sponsorship	\$ 500
Davison Township Summer Day Camp T-Shirt Sponsorship	\$ 300
Davison Community Schools DCER Youth Baseball Sponsorship (\$250) and Davison HS Baseball Team Sponsorship (\$500)	\$ 750
Davison Community Fund Total	\$ 10,752
Clara's Hope Community Building	\$ 4,000
Fenton Area Public Schools Jump Start: Fenton Parent-Child Playgroup	\$ 5,000
Fenton Area Resource and Referral (FARR) Emergency and Transitional Housing	\$ 3,000

Fenton Center of Hope Community Care Complex Property Improvements	\$ 5,000
Tyrone Township Historical Society Town House Project Restoration	\$ 2,045
Keepers of the Shiawassee Hogan Road Kayak Launch	\$ 6,000
Young Men's Christian Association of Flint High Adventure Ropes Course Equipment	\$ 2,500
Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce Career Connections Programs	\$ 2,500
Fenton Community Orchestra FCO Summer Program Support	\$ 2,000
Fenton Community Fund Total	\$ 32,045
Flushing Christian Outreach Center Accessibility and Safety at the Clothing Center	\$ 2,300
Flushing Area Senior Center Recreational Equipment	\$ 2,100
Flushing Community Schools Flushing High School Band	\$ 5,350
Flushing Area Historical Society Preserve and Repair Unique Window and Trim	\$ 500
Flushing Community Fund Total	\$ 10,250
City of Grand Blanc Taking Skates to the Rink	\$ 10,000
Grand Blanc Community Schools Parents as Teachers	\$ 15,668
City of Grand Blanc Police Department Self Defense Program	\$ 2,860
Little League Baseball, Inc. Grand Blanc Little League	\$ 4,000
Friends of the Grand Blanc Grid Cook/Embury Non-Motorized Path	\$ 2,500
Grand Blanc Youth Arts Youth Arts Programming	\$ 5,500
Grand Blanc Charter Township Flint Fresh Produce Boxes for Low-Income Seniors	\$ 5,500
City of Grand Blanc Touch the Earth Garden Club Sculpture for Center Point Garden	\$ 1,000
Grand Blanc Community Fund Total	\$ 47,028



People

From community leaders, donors, and volunteers, people are the common thread that brings our mission to life. This section honors those whose voices, vision, and everyday actions help shape a more equitable Genesee County.

Wearing Her Hats

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR. JESSIE MULDREW

Dr. Jessie Muldrew was known for her dazzling church hats — but they symbolized far more than style. Each one reflects a role she wore with grace: educator, poet, principal, sorority sister, community leader, mentor, mother, and grandmother.

She was also a beloved wife, married to Charles E. Muldrew, and the matriarch of a close-knit family that continues her mission today.

In 2017, Dr. Muldrew worked with her family to establish the Dr. Jessie Muldrew Education Fund for Women & Girls of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. The idea was sparked when her granddaughter Jacqueline suggested turning a birthday celebration into a fundraiser for a scholarship. Dr. Muldrew enthusiastically agreed.

"I still remember the gleam in her eye when she signed the documents creating the Dr. Jessie Muldrew Education Fund for Women & Girls," said daughter DeLois Leapheart. "She started making plans to host events annually to grow the fund. Although she passed a few months after her fund was established, we are grateful to the donors who have chosen to help us to honor her life and legacy by carrying on her dream with their contributions."

"She wore many hats," added daughter Marcia Thomas. "She was always the one encouraging you, pushing you, and teaching you to help others."

An educator of nearly three decades in Flint Community Schools and a professor at the university level, Dr. Muldrew believed deeply in the transformative power of education for women and girls. She championed leadership, mentorship, and systemic equity — values her family now carries forward.

"Mom believed that education was key to building self-esteem, independence, and awareness," said son Kenneth Muldrew. "She'd say, 'Each one teaches one — each one lifts the others up.'"

Dr. Jessie Muldrew's three children: Marcia Thomas, Kenneth Muldrew, and DeLois Leapheart keep their mother's legacy alive.



2016, Dr. Muldrew received the Libby Award for her lifetime of service and advocacy on behalf of women and girls in Genesee County. Her values of education, equity, and mentorship live on through this fund, which has supported organizations such as the Foundation for Mott Community College's Women in Education Program, Creative Expressions Dance Studio's scholarship program, Motherly Intercession, and Ivy House's Alpha Kappa Alpha-Zeta Beta Omega Chapter Scholarship.

"She turned classrooms into confidence," said granddaughter Jacqueline Leapheart. "She didn't just lead — she lifted."

Today, the fund uplifts others by providing opportunities for young women to learn, lead, and thrive in Genesee County.

"This has brought our family closer," said granddaughter Josee' Muldrew. "It's a shared purpose rooted in something deeply meaningful — continuing her work."

Through this fund, Dr. Muldrew's legacy lives on — not just in memory, but in motion.



The family of Justin Kosak: Jim Kosak, Becky Kosak, Kirstin Ballance, Jordan Ballance, and Collin Kosak at the annual Jubbs Open golf tournament.

Team Jubbs

FAMILY HONORS JUSTIN “JUBBS” KOSAK THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Justin Kosak was a team player in every sense of the word. Whether on the football field, in the fraternity house, or at work, he brought people together, lifted others up, and led with heart. Now, his greatest team — his family — is carrying that spirit forward through the Justin “Jubbs” Kosak Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

Established in 2022 by the Kosak family following Justin’s passing, the scholarship honors the Grand Blanc graduate and Michigan State Spartan by supporting students who embody his values: sportsmanship, leadership, and a deep commitment to others.

“After losing Justin, we wanted to create something lasting to remember how special he was,” said his father, Jim Kosak. “We wanted to reflect his love of Grand Blanc Football and how he cared about others.”



"After losing Justin, we wanted to create something lasting to remember how special he was."

Jim Kosak

Father of Justin "Jubbs" Kosak

The scholarship is awarded annually to a local high school senior who participated in sports and demonstrates leadership and a commitment to helping others — values Justin lived by. Unlike many scholarships, the award supports students over four years of their college journey.

"As parents who had three of our children in Michigan State at the same time, we know that a student needs support for all four years" Jim shared. "We were amazed at the generosity when we set up the fund, and felt we had enough resources to follow the students throughout college."

Justin, who graduated from Grand Blanc High School in 2014 and earned a degree in Kinesiology from Michigan State University, was known for bringing people together — whether through sports, friendships, or his career at United Wholesale Mortgage. That same spirit now lives on in the annual "Jubbs Open," a golf tournament held at Atlas Valley Golf Club that raises funds for the scholarship, while serving as a reunion for Justin's family and friends.

"The Jubbs Open has become much more than a fundraising event. It has become an opportunity to get Justin's friends together, reminisce about old times, and see how their lives have changed over the years," Kosak said. "It's an annual celebration of life."

By supporting young athletes and their futures, the Justin "Jubbs" Kosak Memorial Scholarship ensures Justin's legacy continues — inspiring leadership, generosity, and a love for community in each new generation.

"Justin was a giver. He believed in building team spirit," Jim said.

"The Scholarship has been a way to cement Justin's legacy."



Leaving a Lasting Legacy

FOR AARON HAMP, FLINT ISN'T JUST HIS HOMETOWN. IT'S THE COMMUNITY THAT BROUGHT HIM UP.

From launching INC Systems in 2004 to co-founding ProSwipe, Flint has been there every step of the way. Now, Aaron is giving back by joining the Legacy Society, ensuring his support for the city continues for generations to come.

Aaron discusses what it was like to include the Community Foundation in his will and how he's leaving his legacy in this Q&A.

Lottie Ferguson (LF): Tell us a little bit about yourself. What drives your passion for this community?

Aaron Hamp (AH): I've been in this area since I was born. When I started my first business in Flint, I didn't really have a business plan — I was just set out to help people. Many people in the community helped get me to where I am today. I just feel like it's my purpose in life to give back to those who have given so much to me. This is my home and where my heart is. Whether it's giving time or treasure, I want to support Flint and Genesee County —and inspire my teams to do the same.

LF: Why did you decide to be a member of the Legacy Society?

AH: The Community Foundation *is* Flint. It's a great organization helping many people and other organizations. I came to the conclusion that I don't have children, and I'm not going to have children. My legacy is the good I can give. To me, the Community Foundation, along with four other nonprofits in the area, have been earmarked to have a piece of what I leave behind.

It kind of happened without any fanfare. When I did my trust with my attorney, I just knew the Community Foundation did so much good. I knew the money would be in great hands and be used in the ways that I would want to see it used in the community.

LF: We often talk about legacy giving and how it plants seeds for the future, and it doesn't have to wait. Are there other ways you give back to your community right now?



AH: A couple of years ago, I learned about 'volunteer time off' and loved it. We implemented it at INC Systems, adding 16 hours of paid time off for volunteering. That's my way of saying — go out and give back.

LF: What would you say to someone who is considering legacy giving?

AH: Enjoy your time while you're here on Earth. Life is short, so do what you can to maximize your enjoyment. But when you're gone, think about what you can do to leave a positive impact. Think back to those times when someone helped you through something. Legacy giving is a way that you can help and give back, even after you're gone. Think about leaving at least a little, no matter what.



Listen to the full conversation

Our Legacy Society

The Legacy Society celebrates individuals who have made a lasting commitment to our community by including the Community Foundation of Greater Flint in their estate plans or establishing a life income gift. These forward-thinking donors ensure that their generosity will continue to support Flint and Genesee County for generations to come.

We are deeply grateful to the Legacy Society members listed here and those that chose to remain anonymous, whose planned gifts help sustain our mission, now and into the future.

If you have included the Community Foundation in your estate plans and are not yet recognized as a Legacy Society member, we invite you to contact our development team. We would be honored to thank you and include your name among this dedicated group of donors.

Legacy Society Members

Kathryn Ruth Adamson*
Eric Allen
Karima Amlani Bostick
Dr. Joseph and Carol* Batdorf
Jane M. Bingham
James* and Dorothea* Bolton
Herbert* and Dorothy* Booth
Philip* and Sally* Braun
Robert* and Bessie* Breeden
Dorothy Broomfield
BriElle Bryson
Caleb Calkins*
Jim and Kathy Cheek
James C.* and Desoline Cokley
Carl Conner*
G. Allen* and Adabeth* Cook
William E. and Pamela M. Costabile
Nicholas Daddario
Dustin and Amanda Doren
Kurtis and Deborah Dunkel
Wallace Eaton*
Alan J. Ferrari
Raymond* and Elizabeth* Finley
Becki Flanagan
H. Halladay Flynn* and Jean Craig Flynn
Sharon "Bonnie" Fureigh and
Louise C.* Schmitt
Eric and Lauren Gasper

Gary* and Kathleen Haggart
Jack* and Lily* Hamady
Aaron Hamp
Willie and Wanda Harden
Mark and Kathi Horton
Carol Hurand
Ja'Nel and Phaejare Jamerson
Kristina Johnston
David and Renee Keswick
Timothy and Linda Knecht
Richard H.* and Ann U. Kraft
Joel and Sonya LaGore
Roy Lahring*
Donald E. Lee
Steven and Jennifer Lee
Charis Lee
Ivan* and Dorothy* MacArthur
Patrick J. and Terese M. McGuire
Carol and Richard* Miller
Mark and Rebecca Miller
Kathryn and William* Moeller
Lawrence E. and Valaria Moon
Sandra Murphy
Carol Judith Noye*
Gary Oberlin
Sue Peters
M. Harry* and Wanda* Piper
William and Joyce* Piper

Nicholas* and Donna Popa
Frances J. Price
Lee* and Pam Price
Edith Prunty Spencer
Dorothy Reynolds*
Kendra and Steve Reynolds
James and Nancy* Ricker
Rick Sadler
Grayce Scholt*
Philip W. and T. Ardele Shaltz
Cleo Silver*
Kathy and George* Skaff
Jeff and Diana Snider
James Somers*
Shelley Spivack
Sherri E. Stephens
Ernelle Taylor
Dr. Jack* and Virginia* Thompson
Wendell and Sheryl Thompson
Dr. Allen F. Turcke
Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Van Duyne*
Kim and Ginger Virkler
Shannon E. White
Gordon "Jim" Wilson* and
Marlene J. Wilson

*Deceased



Dan Kildee

Leading with Purpose

A CONVERSATION WITH DAN KILDEE

Dan Kildee returned to his hometown of Flint on January 6, 2025, to begin his tenure as President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. A longtime public servant with deep roots in Genesee County, Dan brings decades of experience, a national perspective, and a strong belief in the power of local investment to his new role.

Introducing CFGF's New President & CEO

We sat down with Dan to talk about his homecoming, his vision for the future, and a few fun facts you may not know about him.

Q: Dan, welcome. How does it feel to be back in Flint?

Dan Kildee (DK): It feels incredible. I've spent time in a lot of places, but coming back home for this chapter of my career is really special. This is the city that gave me everything. Now I get to connect local generosity with real community needs and help drive positive change right here. It's rewarding — and honestly, it's awesome.

Q: You've served this community in many ways. How have you seen Flint and Genesee County evolve?

DK: We've experienced big changes — some positive, some difficult. Our population has declined, but we've started to diversify beyond a one-company economy. Despite everything, the spirit of Flint hasn't changed. We don't give up on ourselves. That resilience is something I'm incredibly proud of.



Q: What inspired you to take on this role at CFGF?

DK: I've always been driven to serve, and this role gives me a new toolbox to do that. The work is local, tangible. I can walk down the street and see the impact of the Foundation's investments. That direct connection to the community's progress really excites me.

Q: How do you connect personally to the Foundation's mission and commitment to equity?

DK: Our mission is about building bridges — connecting people, resources, and ideas. Equity is central to that. Not everyone starts from the same place, and CFGF is committed to addressing those systemic barriers while lifting the entire community. That's the kind of work I want to be part of.

Q: What are you most looking forward to in this role?

DK: Continuing the strong work that's already been done — and pushing further. We have the opportunity to increase resources, spark new ideas, and listen closely to the voices in our neighborhoods. I want to help bring their ideas to life.

Q: What should the community know about your leadership approach?

DK: I've always believed I work for the people. That hasn't changed. I don't have all the answers, but I'm an open book and an open door. I want to hear from people — their ideas, hopes, concerns. That's how we grow stronger together.



Getting to Know Dan

Q: Where did you go to high school, and what kind of student were you?

DK: I graduated from Flint Northern High School. I was involved — a hockey team captain and active in community issues. In fact, right after I graduated, I was elected to the Flint Board of Education at age 18. It was a wild experience being asked for a hall pass as a board member!

Q: What was your first job in Genesee County?

DK: My first summer job was with the Genesee County Road Commission. My first real job was at the Whaley Children's Center while I was attending UM-Flint. That experience shaped a lot of my early thinking about service and community care.

Q: What's your go-to food spot in Genesee County?

DK: Downtown Flint has a lot to offer — but you've got to hit a coney island, Big John Steak & Onion, or YaYa's. Those are Flint staples. You can't find those flavors anywhere else.

Q: Do you have a hidden talent or hobby?

DK: I'm a drummer! I started playing around age 12. When I was in Congress, I even played in a band with other members. It always caught people off guard.

Q: What's something about Genesee County the world should know?

DK: The quality of life here is better than people expect. Sure, we face challenges, but the people here are incredible — resilient, kind, and always reinventing. That's the real story of Flint and Genesee County.



Our Staff

Our staff works closely with donors, grantees, civic leaders, and community residents to ensure the Community Foundation makes an equitable impact in Genesee County.

Dan Kildee

President and CEO

Community Impact

Sue Peters

Vice President of Community Impact

Jennifer Farrington

Senior Program Officer

Damon Ross

Program Officer

Lydia Starrs

Senior Program Officer

Chakara Wheeler

Program Officer

Lynn Williams

Director of Equity & Community Engagement

Development

Lottie L. Ferguson

Vice President of Development & Donor Services

Amy Krug

Director of Gift Planning

Sherry LaFave

Development Administrator

Jashell Mitchell-Cross

Development Officer

Rebecca Pettengill

Manager of Corporate and Foundation Relations

Finance & Operations

David McGhee

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Moses C. Bingham

Director of Strategic Initiatives

Kelli Glomski

Director of Finance

Sara Lorence

Executive Staff Coordinator

Brianna Rimmer

Finance and Accounting Analyst

Marketing and Communications

Alexandria Dawson

Vice President of Marketing & Communications

Katelyn Stuck

Communications Officer

Our Board

Community Foundation of Greater Flint's funds and assets are governed by an independent board of trustees composed of respected community leaders from diverse backgrounds. Board members are selected for their knowledge of community needs and for their professional expertise.

Chair

Mark Miller

General Motors (Retired)

Vice Chair

Chris Graff

Hank Graff Chevrolet

Treasurer

Mark Piper

Piper Realty

Secretary

Patrick McGuire

Farm Bureau Insurance

Gabrielle Clarke

Student, Flushing High School

Joel Feick

Flint and Genesee Group

Carol Hurand

Community Volunteer

Tim Knecht

Cline, Cline & Griffin

DeAndra Larkin

YWCA Greater Flint

Carma Lewis

Genesee County Land Bank

Flint Neighborhoods United

Jill Norwood

Educator (Retired)

Jia Patel

Student, Grand Blanc High School

Ron Stack

Cyclefit Sports

Shannon White

Funchitecture

Omari Young

Massachusetts General Hospital

Our Volunteers

Each year, individuals across Genesee County generously share their time, talents, and insight to help the Community Foundation advance its mission. These dedicated volunteers play a vital role in shaping a thriving future — strengthening philanthropy, guiding community investment, and building a legacy of opportunity for generations to come.

We are honored to work alongside so many passionate community members whose leadership and commitment reflect the very best of Genesee County.



*Learn more
about our
volunteers*



A photograph of filmmaker Justin Brown speaking at a podium. He has a large afro, a beard, and glasses, and is wearing a black shirt and jacket. A microphone is positioned in front of him. The podium is covered with a white fringed cloth. The background is dark.

*At the community
premiere in August 2024,
filmmaker Justin Brown
discussed the significance
of the film.*

Prosperity

Prosperity is built when every community member has the chance to live with dignity, safety, and belonging. This section highlights local efforts — past and present — that are expanding opportunity, honoring history, and shaping a future where everyone can thrive.

St. John Street: Story of a Neighborhood

BEFORE IT WAS A FREEWAY, IT WAS A NEIGHBORHOOD

St. John Street was once a vibrant, Black neighborhood in Flint where families built lives, businesses flourished, and culture thrived. Residents shaped a community grounded in pride, connection, and mutual care.

In the late 1960s, the construction of I-475 uprooted families displaced thousands of residents, and erased homes and businesses. This project devastated one of Flint's most culturally rich communities. Yet while bulldozers removed buildings, they could not erase the spirit of St. John Street.

From Memory to Movement

In 2024, filmmaker Justin Brown brought that spirit to life in *St. John Street: Story of a Neighborhood*, a documentary created by Flint-based iMichigan Productions. The film premiered to a sold-out audience at the Flint Institute of Arts and has since aired on PBS stations nationwide, sparking conversations about urban renewal, displacement, and cultural resilience.

The Community Foundation of Greater Flint supported this project with \$100,000 in funding over two years and helped connect storytellers, artists, and organizers to the broader community. This work is part of Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation commitment to narrative change — amplifying stories that reflect the full truth of our shared history.

Told by the People Who Lived It

The film centers the voices of former St. John Street residents, who describe a neighborhood filled with laughter, music, and joy. "St. John Street was my home," recalls former resident James Wardlow. "It was a vibrant, self-sustaining community of Blacks and immigrants... We had movie theaters, drug stores, restaurants, stores, homes, churches, pool halls — the whole bit. It was, in fact, a village."

Legacy in Action

Today, the St. John Street Historical Committee leads ongoing efforts to preserve this history. Through oral histories, educational programs, and public events, the committee is ensuring the story of St. John Street lives on.



Plans are underway to create a commemorative park and memorial on the neighborhood's original site. This space will honor the past while creating a place of reflection and celebration for future generations.

As Wardlow reflects, "The St. John Street Memorial Park will be in existence. It will stand as a lasting memorial... for all the people to know that this was a thriving community and will remain in the memories of all of us."

To support this work, donors can give to the St. John Street Historical Fund, established to benefit programs, organizations, and initiatives that preserve and celebrate the history of the St. John Street neighborhood.

A Call to Remember — and Rebuild

St. John Street: Story of a Neighborhood is more than a documentary. It is a testament to the power of memory and the strength of people who claim their history and future.



**Scan to watch
the documentary**



Jalil X leads the Flint chapter of the Peacekeepers Global Initiative.

Peace Is on the Way

JALIL X AND THE MOVEMENT IN ORANGE

In Flint neighborhoods, a flash of neon orange signals the arrival of the Peacekeepers. Their hats, shirts, and billboards deliver a clear message: "Squash the beef before the grief."

"When you see orange coming, it means peace is on the way," says Jalil X, director of the Flint chapter of the Peacekeepers Global Initiative.

The Peacekeepers Global Initiative was founded more than 15 years ago by Emeritus Captain Dennis Muhammad, who envisioned a grassroots movement grounded in community presence, proactive engagement, and peacebuilding. Flint is the 33rd of 34 chapters established, and Jalil was personally appointed by Captain Muhammad to lead the local effort.

Peacekeepers like Jalil are showing up in bold and consistent ways. They step in early to mediate conflict and prevent violence. For Jalil, it's also a personal mission to help restore the community he once disrupted at a young age.

"The older I got, the more I realized I needed to give back," he says. "I can never repay the community, but I can do all I can while I'm here to help make it better."



The Peacekeepers have relied on principles of mediation and community violence intervention, which uses evidence-based, community-driven strategies to prevent and interrupt violence by establishing relationships with people involved in or affected by violence in the community. They work directly with people impacted by violence and focus their outreach in “enclosed communities” that have been historically underserved and over-policed.

One of those neighborhoods is Midway Square Townhomes, formerly Evergreen Regency. Long stigmatized and isolated, the area is now a focal point of the Peacekeepers’ work.

“We choose what they consider to be the worst parts, to try to deal with the conditions, and help make it better,” Jalil explains. “We believe that before it became worse, it was a good place. We not only try to bring it back to what it was but make it better than that.”

Jalil walks through one scenario: he received a call from a mother concerned about her son’s escalating conflict. He and his team stepped in — meeting with both youths, facilitating a sit-down in a local church, and guiding them through peaceful resolution.

“It turned out the whole conflict was really about nothing — just outside noise and misunderstanding,” he says. “They shook hands and hugged.”

This on-the-ground commitment aligns closely with the Community Safety Collaborative (CSC), a countywide network supported by the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. The CSC brings together cross-sector partners to guide Flint’s Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) using public health principles and data-driven strategies.

“I can never repay the community, but I can do all I can while I’m here to help make it better.”

Jalil X

Director of the Flint Peacekeepers
Global Initiative

Community Safety Collaborative

The CSC brings together community organizations, residents, and local leaders to reduce violence in Flint. Through public health approaches, trauma-informed strategies, and local partnerships, the CSC supports programs like the Peacekeepers to ensure every neighborhood in Genesee County has the opportunity to thrive.



The Community Safety Collaborative attended the Community Violence Intervention Advocacy Day at the Capitol in 2024.

As a CSC partner, Jalil brings real-time knowledge to the table — and helps connect residents to resources and solutions.

“The collaborative, to me, has been a blessing in disguise,” Jalil reflects. “It allows multiple groups with diverse talents to come together for one goal: to help improve the quality of life in our communities and make our communities a decent and safe place to live.”

But the Peacekeepers don’t just respond to crises. They’re building long-standing systems of support. Jalil notes that young people can tell when organizations show up only for a “photo op” — and when they don’t come back. That’s why he and his team make a point to return regularly, and with a purpose.

“We’re starting skilled trades training, parenting classes, job readiness and coding workshops,” Jalil says. “If we can meet the unmet social needs that come with enclosed communities — joblessness, lack of education, childcare — then we’ll have a real chance at addressing the deeper issues that grow from them.”

Jalil and the Peacekeepers’ work, and the broader vision of the Community Safety Collaborative, make it clear: creating a thriving community where everyone can succeed requires showing up — with presence, partnership, and peace.

A Decade of Progress

FLINT'S FOOD SYSTEM, LED BY COMMUNITY VISION

Prosperity in Action: Advancing Healthy Food Access

In Flint, residents are leading a movement that redefines what equitable access to healthy food looks like rooted in community priorities, partnerships, and innovation.

Since 2013, the Community Foundation of Greater Flint has partnered with grassroots leaders, neighborhood groups, and local organizations to elevate food justice efforts already in motion. Together, they have built a more connected, coordinated food system that centers community strengths and lived experience.

At the time, many leaders were making meaningful progress — but without a shared table. CFGF stepped in to align efforts, support community-driven solutions, and invest in food infrastructure that reflects Flint's values and vision.

Shared Leadership in Action

A key outcome of this collective effort is the Flint & Genesee Food Policy Council, now housed at the Crim Fitness Foundation. The Council offers a structure for collaboration and shared decision-making, shaped by trust and transparency.

"Cross-collaboration is modeled in our structure in a lot of ways," says Samantha Farah of the Crim Fitness Foundation.

"We were intentional from the start. Our leadership team includes community members, institutional partners, and business owners — people representing different stakeholders. We make decisions collaboratively."

With deep relationships and a trusted convening role, CFGF helped reduce duplication, align funding, and foster lasting coordination. What began as responsive grantmaking has become a community-led system shift.

Systems Thinking Rooted in Community

Through a partnership with Michigan State University's Flint Leverage Points Project, residents and local leaders mapped the food system — from production to consumption to waste — and identified key areas for sustainable change.

Their work spotlighted opportunities now driving long-term progress: food hubs, mobile markets, food reclamation, and deeper neighborhood engagement.

"Flint's food system is changing because the community is leading," says Damon Ross, Program Officer. "Our role is to listen, invest, and get out of the way. That's how you build real, sustainable change."



Members of the Food Policy Council;
Sam Farah, Tony Vu, Kelly McClelland, and Athena McKay

Community Innovations with Lasting Impact

Today, Flint's food system reflects the brilliance, resilience, and leadership of its people. Examples of community-driven solutions include:

- **The Flint Fresh Food Hub and Mobile Market** bringing fresh, local produce directly to neighborhoods
- **Food reclamation programs** reducing waste and increasing access
- **The Flint Eats App** connecting residents to healthy food options and local resources
- **The Hasselbring Senior Center pantry** meeting the needs of older adults with dignity and care

These efforts are not temporary fixes — they are building blocks for a food future designed by and for the community.

Building Toward Food Sovereignty

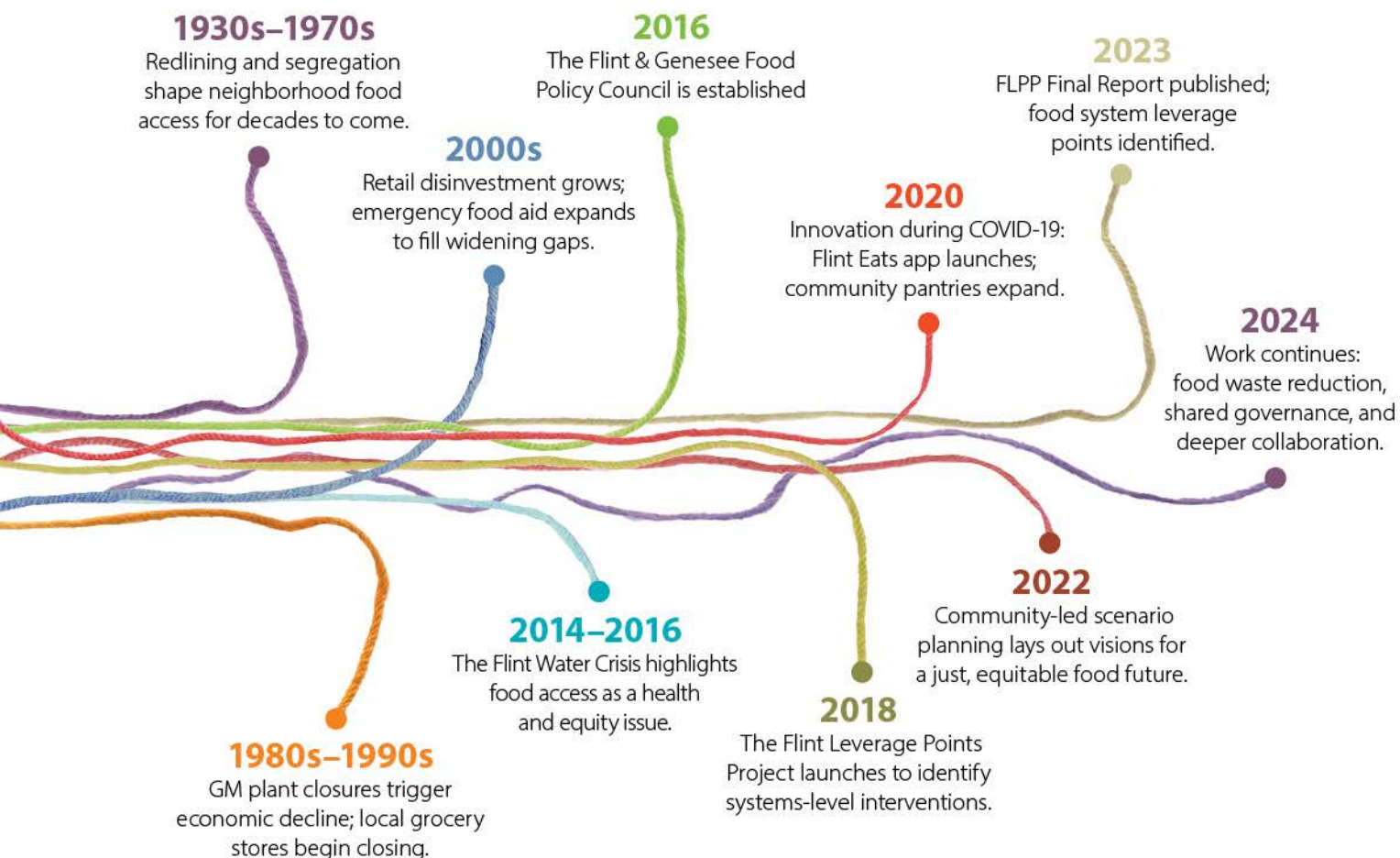
Across every step of this journey, Flint residents have led with clarity, care, and vision. The Flint Leverage Points Project not only identified systemic barriers but also highlighted community-driven leverage points — strategic, values-based solutions with long-term impact.

What began as a call to connect has evolved into a national model for food system transformation — centered on community wisdom and sustained by collective action.



***Leverage
Points Project***

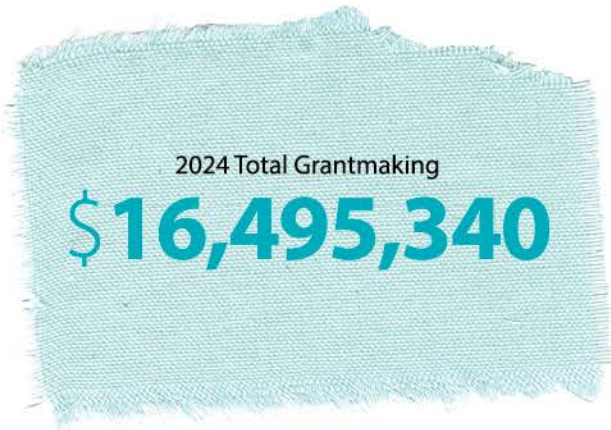
Stitch in Time



Grantmaking Guidelines

EACH YEAR THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES THROUGH A COMPETITIVE GRANTMAKING PROCESS.

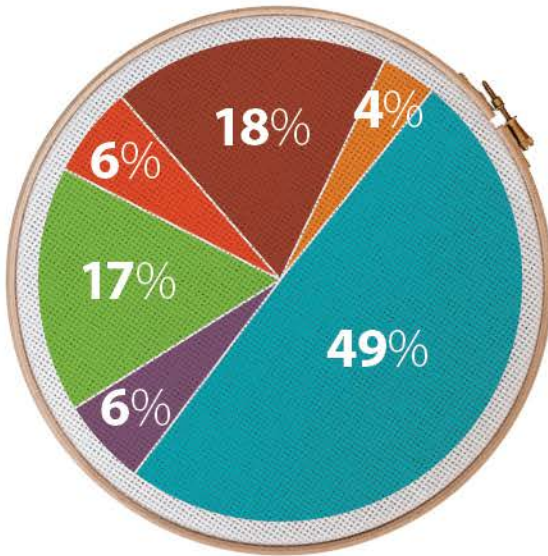
Applications for competitive grants must align with the strategic priorities of the CFGF Board of Trustees. The funding priority areas in 2024 were education, health and human services, and Flint neighborhoods. The first step in the grant application process is a pre-application conversation with a program officer. This interchange of information serves as an opportunity for you to inform the Community Foundation about your organization's needs, outline your project, and ask clarifying questions. CFGF makes most competitive grants to organizations which are classified as publicly supported charities in the Internal Revenue Service Code, Section 170(b)(1)(A) and includes schools and universities, churches, synagogues and mosques, and governmental entities. Under certain circumstances, grants are made to private charities, supporting organizations, and non charities. Organizations applying for competitive grants must give evidence of non-discrimination in hiring and providing services.



Community Foundation of Greater Flint

Grants by Program Area

Arts, Culture & Humanities	\$3,048,505
Education	\$8,164,428
Health & Human Services	\$1,002,324
Other	\$2,709,583
Public and Social Benefit	\$606,850
Youth Development	\$963,650
TOTAL	\$16,495,340



Foundation for Flint

The Foundation for Flint (FFF) is a supporting organization of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. As a 501(c)3 public charity, the FFF raises and distributes resources to serve the long-term health and development needs of Flint children and their families through the Flint Kids Fund. Directors of the Foundation for Flint are: Leanne Panduren, Chair, Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, Mark Piper, Manal Saab, George Wilkinson, and Shannon White

Eight advisory committee members are responsible for the grantmaking strategy and funding decisions of the Flint Kids Fund. Committee members are: Wanda Harden, Chair, Manal Saab, Vice Chair, Elizabeth Burtch, Kenyetta Dotson, Samantha Farah, Jamie Gaskin, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Keiona Murphy, Julie Serra, Kirk Smith, Kristin Stevenson, and Sheryl Thompson.

With your ongoing support, the Foundation for Flint ensures that Flint children and families have long-term resources as they recover from Flint's water crisis.

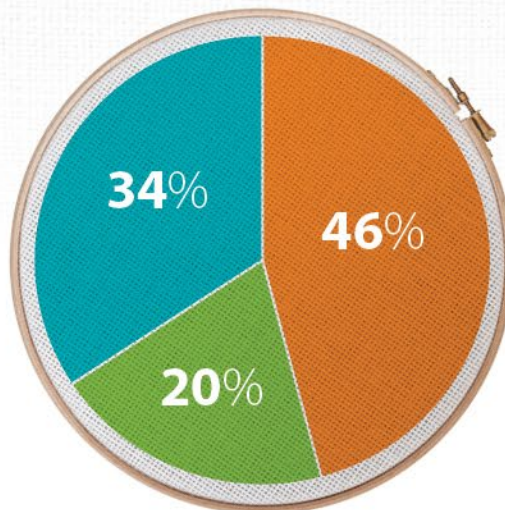
Foundation for the Flint Cultural Center

The Foundation for the Flint Cultural Center (FFCC) is a supporting organization established in 2000 to administer a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation that benefits the Flint Cultural Center organizations – the Flint Cultural Center Corporation, Flint Institute of Arts, and the Flint Institute of Music.

Serving as directors of the FFCC are: Sherri Stephens, Chair, Jim Cummins, Vice Chair, Raymond Kelly III, Secretary, Lennetta Coney, Jim Johnson, John Koegel, Thomas Lillie, and Michael Melenbrink.

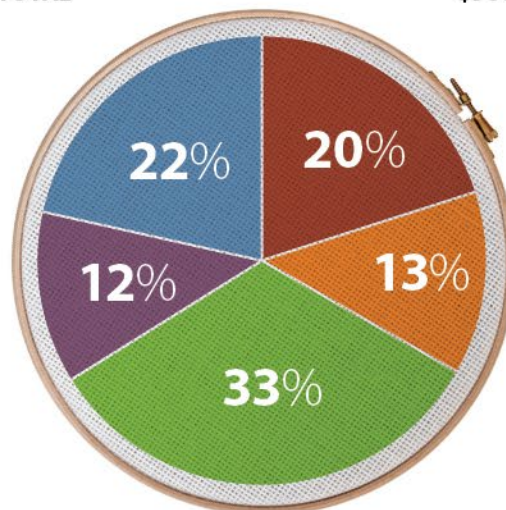
Grants by Strategy

Education and Literacy	\$215,500
Family Social and Emotional Supports	\$93,500
Healthy Food & Nutrition	\$161,211
TOTAL	\$470,211



Grants by the Foundation for Flint Cultural Center

Flint Cultural Center	\$194,199
Flint Cultural Center Children's Fund	\$127,785
Flint Institute of Arts	\$208,233
Flint Institute of Music	\$318,331
Flint Repertory Theatre	\$119,878
TOTAL	\$968,426



2024 Financials

COMBINED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended December 31, 2024

Revenues, Gains and Other Support

Contributions	\$ 4,566,651
Contributions in-kind	4,847,550
Grants	23,498,794
Net investment activity	32,599,748
Other	338,927
Total revenues, gains & other support	65,851,670

Expenses

Grants	17,069,426
Programs and grants administration	3,249,168
Development	1,052,244
Management and general	2,438,926
Total expenses	23,809,764

Change in net assets 42,041,906

Net assets at beginning of year 333,988,398

Net assets at end of year **\$ 376,030,304**

COMBINED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2024

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,616,441
Investments	366,069,223
Pledges and other receivables	2,528,323
Prepaid expenses	74,684
Property and equipment, net	10,738,476
Total assets	\$ 381,027,147

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 598,596
Grants payable	232,000
Liability to life beneficiaries of planned gifts	57,587
Liabilities under agency accounts	4,108,660
Total liabilities	4,996,843

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	53,002,281
With donor restrictions	323,028,023
Total net assets	376,030,304

Total liabilities and net assets **\$ 381,027,147**

2024 New Funds

NEWLY ESTABLISHED FUNDS OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Endowed Funds

Flushing High School '81-'82 Hall of Fame Boys Basketball Team Scholarship Fund

To provide scholarships to graduating Seniors of Flushing High School planning to attend an accredited College, University or Vocational Trade School.

Sherry and John LaFave Fund for the Community Foundation

Established to support operations of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

Kurt and Marjorie Soper Fund

To provide support to the Davison Community Fund to assist children with special needs and their families in the greater Davison Community.

David and Edith Withey Scholarship Fund

To award scholarships as needed to a college Sophomore, Junior, or Senior with at least a 3.0 GPA from current college courses and a graduate from a Genesee County High School and/or currently residing in Genesee County.

Non-Endowed Funds

Educare Flint Family Leadership Fund

For the Educare Flint Family Leadership project.

Iron Belle Trail Fund

The purpose of this fund is to support Grand Blanc Township with connecting its trails to the Iron Belle Trail.

G. Winifred Koop Scholarship Fund

To provide scholarship support to a female college bound Fenton High School graduate.

Riley McLincha Fund

To support programming and activities in memory of Riley McLincha, that guide and help organizations in their pursuit of educational or personal development while celebrating, encouraging and embracing creativity, diversity, individuality and following one's passions.

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Fund for Flint

To support urgent priorities as advised by the C.S. Mott Foundation.

Out-of-School Learning Grants (32N) Fund

To expand the capacity of the Thrive On and Thrive Up programs to serve more students.



Be Part of the Thread

TOGETHER, WE STITCH THE FUTURE. THE THREAD CONTINUES WITH YOU.

As you turn the final pages of this report, we invite you to reflect on what ties us together. *Common Thread* is more than a theme — it's a reminder that every act of generosity, every shared goal, and every story of impact is woven into something greater.

At the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, we believe that belonging is built, connection is cultivated, and progress is shared. But we can't do this work alone.

Whether you give, volunteer, or partner with us, you are helping to stitch a stronger, more vibrant future for Flint and Genesee County. Together, we are the common thread.



*Make a gift and continue
weaving change*

How to Contact Us

Call 810-767-8270 • Email info@cfgf.org

Visit www.cfgf.org

 [/giveflint](https://www.facebook.com/giveflint)

 [@giveflint](https://www.instagram.com/giveflint)

 [/giveflint](https://www.linkedin.com/company/giveflint)

Visit us in downtown Flint

Production Credits

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Design & Production: Olmsted Associates, Inc.

Photography: Jessica Hatter

Printing: PrintComm



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