Your Story: Our Legacy

Gratiot County Community Foundation

Annual Report
2011
Once Upon a Time

The Foundation’s history does read a bit like a storybook fairytale. Once upon a time, a few people had an idea that others thought was just a dream. Our founders believed that starting a foundation to receive permanent gifts would grow to someday award grants to make a real difference in the community. Now, thanks to our donors and volunteers, we are turning dreams into reality for people here in Gratiot County every day.

Each of the following chapters tells your story; the donors’ story, the volunteers’ story, the grantees’ story. These “stories” relate the change that is taking place in Gratiot County every day, but more than that, together they create the legacy that will benefit the community forever.

We’ve come so far from that meeting in 1995 where the Board “passed the hat” to raise $250 to award our first grant; from $250 in 1995 to nearly $270,000 in 2011. As you review the many programs made possible by grants from the Foundation, be sure to also read through the list of donors and thank those people for their generosity in creating a legacy of which we can all be proud. With their support, and yours, the story continues . . .

Annual report sponsored by:

Professional photography donated by Keith Virgo, Virtual Reflections.
The Children’s Fund was started in 1998 with an anonymous donation. The donors recently told us that what motivated them to start this fund was the realization that hundreds of elementary age children in Gratiot County live in financially stressed homes, unable to help themselves.

“We believed those children could be best identified by their school teachers. We also believed that the Gratiot County Community Foundation was the best organization to coordinate the distribution of funds through each of the county elementary schools. We want to thank them and the dozens of teachers and school staff who have put so much energy into seeing our dream carried out for so many years. Knowing that this legacy will continue on after we are gone gives us a great sense of joy.”
Going through life trying NOT to smile is no way to live. That’s what the Foundation, United Way and other donors thought when they combined their efforts to award a $33,000 grant to Mid-Michigan District Health Department to expand the community-based Dental Clinic and give people in need the “Gift of a Smile.”

The Dental Clinic is now fully self-sustaining and serving hundreds of people from Gratiot County; people like Kim Rose of Breckenridge. Kim was in need of extensive treatment that she was unable to afford before she learned about the Dental Clinic.

Now Kim can’t stop smiling and why should she? “I am much more confident and don’t feel like I have to cover my mouth anymore. My kids love it and my friends have even noticed,” Kim said. “The people were so wonderful. Every time I went there, I just said, ‘thank you, thank you, thank you’.”
The Ithaca Police Department and Ithaca Public Schools have a longstanding partnership to provide crossing guards at key crosswalks near each school building. For years, the crossing guards have been equipped with handheld stop signs and reflective, high-visibility vests. However, there were still occasional “close calls,” where drivers would not notice the crossing guard until the last second, or would zoom by without ever seeing them.

Teresa King, who has served as a crossing guard since 2009, saw her life flash before her eyes multiple times while standing in the middle of Business Route US-127 on the north side of Ithaca. “There were many times when I would see a car coming straight at me, not slowing down, and I would just have to step out of its path. On a couple of occasions, I had a car side-mirror brush my arm. It was scary for me, and for the kids I am out there to protect.”

The Ithaca Police Department sought assistance from the Gratiot County Community Foundation to secure high-visibility, LED-lighted, super-reflective handheld stop signs. The flashing, high-intensity lights catch the eye of motorists much earlier, and the energy efficient technology means fewer battery changes.

“I love our new stop sign. It makes me feel much more secure to walk out into the street and know most drivers will notice it long before they get too close,” says Teresa.

All five of Ithaca’s crossing guards are now equipped with the LED stop signs, keeping dozens of Ithaca Public Schools students safe each day on their commute to school.
Since Gratiot County Fair for Youth has been experiencing steady growth with increased fair projects and exhibitors, the need for a new livestock barn in Alma became acute. The Foundation was able to award a grant of $5,000 toward construction of the new barn.

Fair Manager Brian Gardner said excitement built as volunteers and exhibitors watched the Livestock Exhibition Barn go up. It was completed in time for the 2011 fair in August. He pointed out that the new facility will allow exhibitors to better care for their large animals, and it can be used for learning experiences at various times in the year. The Gratiot County Community Foundation grant helped add another new building to the fair complex.
About ten years ago, the Gratiot County Players upgraded the sound system in their theatre to better distribute the sound of performances. Despite this improvement, some patrons who had a degree of hearing impairment could not hear performances.

Thanks to a grant from the Foundation, the Players were able to purchase and install an assisted listening system with four listening units for its 2011-2012 season.

Players President Doug Ballard said, “The assisted listening devices have been used at every performance since installation. As time goes on, more people will become aware of them, and their use will increase. Those who have not been able to hear everything from the stage will now have the opportunity to hear what the rest of us hear. Live theater is a visual and auditory experience, and now everyone can have the best of both.”
The Foundation began the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) to involve young people in giving back to their community through service, philanthropy and leadership. Our hope is they will carry these values with them into adulthood and become charitably-minded volunteers and leaders.

YAC member Chelsea Sherlock of Ithaca said, “I didn’t know what to expect when I joined YAC. But I’m glad I did because through YAC I have met inspiring people, been able to give back to my community and learned lessons I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

Open to any Gratiot high school student, YACers meet monthly to conduct service projects like hosting a prom for residents of Masonic Pathways and peeling hundreds of potatoes on Thanksgiving morning for Community Café. They also experience the power of philanthropy by awarding grants to other youth for their service projects.

Alma YAC member Katie Duffy said, “I feel like I’m doing something positive. I’ve made a lot of new friends and I love the fun activities we do. YAC is awesome!

(Left to right) Mitchell Mott, Ashlee Fish, Lilly Vandemark, Katie Duffy, Jennifer Wheeler, Trevor Rice and Miguel Prieto

Katie Duffy at the “Senior” Prom, held at Masonic Pathways in Alma
Teenager Jake Hirschman first learned about the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) after his parents attended the YAC Talent Showcase. They were very impressed and suggested that he might want to join YAC. He was a sophomore at Alma High School when he attended his first YAC meeting in 2000. He recalls that the group consisted of a handful of guys and a lot of girls. The girls, however, were not the sole attraction. He enjoyed the group because “…there was always something interesting, a lot of variety in the activities.” As a YACer he enjoyed working with senior citizens as well as with elementary school students.

One year he served as President of YAC and learned about the process of grantmaking. His experiences in YAC prompted him in college to become involved with organizations where he could encourage philanthropy.

Now an Ithaca businessman and a volunteer on the Foundation’s Development Committee, Jake values the Foundation because its whole purpose is to help others. Jake said, “There is no one thing that stands out in the Foundation’s activities. It does so many things and so many things well.”
The Foundation was privileged in 2011 to fund work at three county museums. The Gratiot County Historical Society Museum in Ithaca received a grant to paint its barn which houses larger artifacts. This painting will take place as soon as the weather allows in the spring of 2012.

A grant to the Breckenridge-Wheeler Area Historical Society helped replace lighting in the main museum and add air conditioning to the Drake House museum. Society President Dave Briggs said, “The Gratiot County Community Foundation grant enabled our Society to make needed improvements that our limited budget would not be able to handle. These improvements, in turn, make the museum experience much nicer for our patrons and give the residents of Breckenridge historical facilities that they can be proud of.”

Using a Gratiot County Community Foundation grant, the St. Louis Historical Society painted much of the exterior of its depot-museum. The paint was coordinated with the adjoining Transportation Pavilion and helped unify the museum site. Judy Root, President of the Society, said, “One of the responsibilities of any historical society is to maintain the items and property that have come into its possession. The depot, which was built in 1922, needed some repairs and painting to help maintain the historical integrity of the building. Without the funds from the Gratiot County Community Foundation, we would have had to delay the needed work for at least a couple of years.”

Using Gratiot County Community Foundation grants, these three historical societies have been enabled to preserve and improve their facilities.
Unrestricted Funds
- Gratiot County Community Fund
- Carl & Esther Macklin Memorial Fund
- McMacken Family Fund
- Clyde & Maude Mizer Memorial Fund

Designated Agency Funds
(Distributions support organization)
- American Red Cross, Mid-Michigan Chapter Fund
- Laura Anne Barden Memorial Fund
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gratiot County Fund
- Central Michigan Youth for Christ Fund
- Forest Hill Nature Area Fund
- Gratiot County Commission on Aging Fund
- Gratiot Emergency Housing Fund
- Gratiot Medical Center Building and Equipment Fund
- Gratiot County Adult Literacy Fund
- Gratiot County Community Mental Health Fund
- Gratiot County Historical and Genealogical Society Fund
- Greater Gratiot Development, Inc.
- Dr. James K. Hall Memorial Fund
- Alma Public Schools Fund
- High School athletes
- Fulton High School graduates
- Alma Schools Athletic Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund-for graduating Alma High School scholar-athletes
- Ceo W. Bauer (Class of 1940) and Ardis (Bauer) Williams (Class of 1941) Scholarship Fund – for Carson City-Crystal High School graduates
- Paul P. Cameron, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund - for St. Louis High School graduating seniors
- Sue Dills Art Scholarship Fund
- Farming Family Scholarship Fund – for the pursuit of agriculture/ag-related degrees
- Carson Fraker Memorial Scholarship Fund – for Ithaca High School graduating seniors
- Anna Frutiger Memorial Scholarship Fund – for the pursuit of a graduate degree in medicine or dentistry
- Leo ‘Bud’ and Janet Goodyear Scholarship Fund – Breckenridge High School graduating seniors
- Melba Hagen Hollenbeck Memorial and Jerry Hollenbeck Scholarship Fund-for outstanding athletes of St. Louis High School
- Linn P. Kanitz Memorial Scholarship Fund – for band camp scholarships
- William R. Kirby Scholarship Fund - for outstanding Ithaca High School athletes
- Robert W. MacDonald Memorial Scholarship Fund – for pursuit of a degree in journalism or English
- Katherine Mullinax Endowment for Higher Education
- Ryan Owens Memorial Scholarship Fund - for Alma High School students to pursue advanced courses in agriculture or technical education
- Don and Irene Pavlik Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Richard D. Prestage Memorial Scholarship Fund for Nursing Education
- Loren and Becky Roslund Scholarship Fund – for pursuit of ag, CAD, engineering or similar degree
- Richard Thomas VanHafsten Family Scholarship Fund – for Breckenridge High School
- Youth Advisory Council Scholarship – for YAC Members

Family of Funds

Designated School Funds
(Distributions benefit school)
- Alma Public Schools Fund
- Alma Public Schools Fund for Science Education
- Ashley Community Schools/Marcie Fabus Memorial Fund
- Ithaca Public Schools Fund
- St. Louis Public Schools/Bill Skleener Memorial Fund
- Vestaburg Community School Foundation Fund
- Alma Community Pool Fund

Scholarship Funds
- Janet Cooper Abbott and Richard Abbott Scholarship Fund – for Fulton High School graduates
- Alma Schools Athletic Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund-for graduating Alma High School scholar-athletes
- Ceo W. Bauer (Class of 1940) and Ardis (Bauer) Williams (Class of 1941) Scholarship Fund – for Carson City-Crystal High School graduates
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- Youth Advisory Council Scholarship – for YAC Members

Field of Interest Funds
- Children’s Fund – Provides underprivileged children with items to meet basic needs
- Fraker Youth Fund – Supports Gratiot County youth programs
- Patrick Kenneth Luneack Memorial Fund – Provides equipment to emergency service agencies
- Mobility Needs of Disabled Individuals Fund – Provides funding for motorized carts for the disabled
- Public Affairs Intern Fund - Provides stipends to students interning in local government
- Senior Citizen Endowment Fund - Supports programs for homebound senior citizens
- YAC (Youth Advisory Council) Fund- Supports service programs carried out by youth

Donor Advised Funds
(Distributions are unrestricted)
- Rich Boyce Memorial Fund
- Mollie Castillon Happy Faces Memorial Fund
- Robert & Marcella Crumbaugh Memorial Fund
- Edward & Carol Hooper Fund
- Bill & Loraine Mayes Fund
- Doug & Nancy Mckim Fund
- Howard & Gladys Poindexter Fund
- Art & Carra Smith Fund
- Keith & Judy Wing Fund

Project Funds
(Non-Endowed)
- Community Recreation Fund
- Project Pride! Ithaca Football Stadium
- United Way Fund
2011 Grants by Program Area

The Gratiot County Community Foundation serves a wide range of community needs.

Donors may designate a program area, organization, activity, purpose, or give unrestricted gifts – which allow the foundation the greatest flexibility to adjust to the evolving needs of our community over the long term.

Field of Interest and Unrestricted Funds

The Children’s Fund
Basic Needs Grants to Ashley, Breckenridge, Fulton, Ithaca and St. Louis Elementary Schools..............$56,000

Fraker Youth Fund
Alma Public Schools-AHS Humanities
Field Trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts ....................... $225
Alma Public Schools-Explore Summer Parks Program..$756
Alma Public Schools-FFA Greenhouse and Livestock Laboratory Sanitation Project .......... $3,450
Gratiot County Community Mental Health,
Everyone Together Gratiot County-Art for Autism Project.............................................. $400
St. Louis Public Schools, Nikkari Elementary
School-Camp Nikkari 2010 ........................................ $560

Gratiot County Community Fund
Commission on Aging-Friend of the Foundation............ $500
Seventh-Day Adventist Church Community Services
Building-Basic Clothing Needs............................... $4,700

Patrick Kenneth Luneack Memorial Fund
Mid-Michigan Community Fire Department-Carbon Monoxide Monitor and DSPA Extinguishers........ $1,200

Carl L. and Esther M. Macklin Memorial Fund
MSU Extension-Gratiot County-Michigan/Kansas
Teen State Exchange........................................ $1,500

Clyde and Maude Mizer Memorial Fund
Alma College, Francis Academy of Performing Arts- Broadway and Beyond: Ballet for the Schools...... $3,600
Amazing Grace Church-Food Pantry ......................... $2,699
Ashley Community Schools-Latchkey Program........ $5,000
Ashley Fire Department-Equipment to Enhance Firefighter Safety........................................ $8,975
Big Brothers Big Sisters-Summer Camp................. $3,210
Breckenridge Police Department-Equipment to Improve Officer Safety..................................... $1,444
Breckenridge-Wheeler Area Historical Society-Drake House and Plank Road Museum Improvements...$5,300
Commission on Aging Air Conditioners............... $1,600
Fulton Schools-Mr. Winsor’s Salmon Raising Extravaganza! ..................................................... $2,760
Gratiot County Community Mental Health-Gratiot County Suicide Prevention Project.................. $1,750
Gratiot County District Court-Gratiot County Recovery Court................................................... $4,967
Gratiot County Fair for Youth-Livestock Exhibition Barn ................................................................. $10,000
Gratiot County Historical and Genealogical Society-Gratiot County Area Museum Barn Improvements................................................................. $2,300
Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission- Huffscher County Park Improvement Project ...... $6,000
Gratiot County Players-Assisted Listening Project........ $700
Gratiot Isabella RESD-Forest Hill Nature Area
GPS Project.................................................................. $1,200
Ithaca Police Department-Crossing Guard
Visibility Equipment................................................ $1,400
Mid-Michigan Community Fire Department-
Carbon Monoxide Monitor and Extinguishers........ $4,800
Mid-Michigan District Health Department-
Community Based Dental Clinic....................................... $33,000
Perrinton Fire Department-Wild Land Skid Unit for Emergency Response.................. $10,000
Salvation Army-Community Services Building
Improvements .......................................................... $10,372
Seventh-Day Adventist Church Community Services
Building-Clothing Needs for Families in Need........... $1,300
St. Louis Area Historical Society-Depot Museum ...... $2,300
St. Louis Police Department-Equipment to Enhance Officer Safety........................................... $12,268

Public Service Interns Endowment Fund
City of Alma-Internship Stipend................................ $1,200
Grants Awarded in FY2011

Senior Homebound Endowment Fund
Commission on Aging Air Conditioners for Low-Income, Homebound Senior Citizens............... $1,100

YAC Youth Endowment Fund
Alma College-Heritage Center Lobby Monitor Project
Showcase Grant in Memory of Anna Frutiger........... $300
Alma Public Schools-Explore/Mentor PLUS
Goody Bag Project.............................................. $361
Alma Public Schools-Alma Explore Program
Showcase Grant in Memory of Don Pavlik............... $300
Alma/St. Louis Rotary Club-Polo Plus Program Showcase Grant in Memory of Jim Hall....................... $300
American Cancer Society-Relay for Life.................... $281
Brekenridge Elementary School-Kindergarten Book Tour of Our School............................................... $2,237
Carrie Knause Elementary School-Goody Bags............. $390
City of Alma-Keep Alma Beautiful Showcase Grant in Memory of Irene Pavlik................................. $300
First Congregational Church Boy Scout Troop-Jaycee Park Enhancement Project................ $994
Gratiot County Community Foundation-Wings of Mercy Grant in Memory of Earl Davidson......... $300
Ithaca North Elementary School-7 Wonders of Ithaca Brochure....................................................... $500
Ithaca South Elementary School-Everybody Deserves a Birthday Cake................................................. $126
Ithaca South Elementary School-Books for Babies... $1,000
Mid Michigan Highland Dance-Highland Dancing Community Performances................................. $222
YAC-Advancing Philanthropy Grant........................ $970

Designated Funds
All Wars Memorial Maintenance.......................................................... $153
Gratiot County Wraparound & Children’s Respite Passthrough Fund................................................. $1,200
Gratiot Emergency Housing Organization.............................. $500
Leadership Endowment Fund....................................................... $4,500
Marguerite J. Brown Fund
Gratiot County Historical and Genealogical Society ...... $1,000
Patient Equipment Locker........................................................... $1,000
United Methodist Church......................................................... $1,000
United Way of Gratiot County Agency Fund.................. $1,700

Donor Advised Funds
Arthur and Carra Smith Donor Advised Fund
American Red Cross, Mid-Michigan Chapter.................... $3,200
Doug & Nancy McKim Donor Advised Fund
United Way of Gratiot County.................................................. $3,100
Howard and Gladys Poindexter Donor Advised Fund
St. Louis Public Schools for Little League..................... $500
Howard and Gladys Poindexter Donor Advised Fund
United Way of Gratiot County.............................................. $50
Robert & Marcelle Crumbaugh Memorial Fund
United Way-Gratiot Hunger Network................................. $750
Seventh-Day Adventist Church-Community Services Building........................................... $750

Scholarship Funds
Janet Cooper Abbott and Richard Abbott Scholarship.......................................................... $800
Alma Schools Athletic Hall of Fame Scholarship................................................................. $1,000
Ceo E. Bauer (Class of 1940) & Ardis (Bauer) Williams (Class of 1941) Scholarship................ $900
Paul P. Cameron, Jr. Memorial Scholarship................................................. $800
Sue Diltz Art Scholarship............................................................ $300
Carson Fraker Scholarship............................................................. $4,000
Anna Frutiger Memorial Scholarship......................................................... $2,400
Leo ‘Bud’ and Janet Goodyear Scholarship................................................................. $1,000
Gratiot VFW Post 7805 Scholarship...................................................... $1,400
Jerry Hollenbeck Scholarship.............................................................. $200
Melba Hagen Hollenbeck Memorial Scholarship................. $200
William R. Kirby Scholarship............................................................. $600
Clyde and Maude Mizer Memorial Scholarship............................. $1,000
Katherine Mullinax Scholarship.......................................................... $6,000
Ryan Owens Memorial Scholarship...................................................... $6,000
Richard D. Prestage Memorial Scholarship.............................. $700
Loren and Becky Roslund Scholarship...................................................... $1,000
Richard Thomas Van Haften Family Scholarship................................. $1,000
Youth Advisory Council Scholarship.................................................. $500

Total Grants Awarded....................................................... $269,055
### Historical Net Assets 1992 - 2011

![Historical Net Assets Chart]

The Gratiot County Community Foundation has a strong growth trend, with **2011 Net Assets totaling over $7.7 million**.

### Statement of Financial Position

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<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>$ 8,078,175</td>
<td>$ 7,808,653</td>
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A copy of all audited financial statements and Form 990 is available for review upon request.
Our Donors

We thank these generous donors who supported the Foundation with gifts from October 2010 through September 2011.

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