2019 ANNUAL REPORT
Because we love our community.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Greater Fort Wayne
Thank you from all of us at the Community Foundation for a spectacular 2019! We were inspired by your support and enthusiasm for our community. In 2019, we created 45 funds, completed our strategic planning journey, and continued to support local nonprofits in the community. We also helped passionate individuals with generous hearts make an impact in Allen County.

We spent 2019 thinking strategically and setting a vision for our organization. This resulted in our new Vision Plan for how we can contribute to the continuing momentum to make our Community a more vibrant and thriving place for all to live, work, and play. Allen County has so many amazing things to offer; now we want to make sure our whole community can experience them, enjoy them, and thrive.

Brad Briscoe
Rhonda Hinkle
Nancy McPhail
Christo Meg
Yiun Dawson

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER FORT WAYNE
Our Donors’ Impact in 2019

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Toni and Harald work in engineering roles that depend heavily on technology. Had technology been as heavily relied on when they were younger as it is now, they are not sure this avenue would have been opened to them and they could have afforded to enter science and engineering fields for their careers. Toni and Harald first had the idea of donating calculators to local schools after seeing a mom buying several $100 graphing calculators for her school aged children. They began wondering how families struggling to make ends meet would afford this pricey yet necessary tool for school. After hearing Toni and Harald’s goals, the Community Foundation’s Philanthropic Services team began to investigate how to accomplish the Blaettner’s goals while making an impact for students. The Community Foundation learned that schools have calculators on loan for students who cannot afford to purchase them. However, there is a real need for chrome books to support students in continuing their education. After presenting the idea of donating chrome books instead of graphing calculators to the Gallegos-Blaettner Family, they were thrilled to help provide students with needed technology that they otherwise would not be able to afford. The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne is honored to help people like Toni and Harald with their charitable giving while making an impact in our community. We thank the Gallegos-Blaettner Family Fund for their partnership, open minds and passion for philanthropy. Working together allows us all to make our community a better place to live, work and play.

The Gallegos-Blaettner Family Fund

The Gallegos-Blaettner Family Fund was founded in 2019 to provide students in STEM programs access to technology that they need to be successful in the classroom. The Gallegos-Blaettner Family first heard about the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne from their financial planner. They decided that opening a fund at the Community Foundation was the best way for them to give back to the community and achieve their family philanthropic goals.

"We are migrants to this country and we are simply trying to pay forward for what our parents did for us. The reality is that technology is now such a big part of the education experience that we knew we had to do something with technology. If one student is able to overcome any socio-economic barriers due to technology needs that we are able to assist with, it would accomplish our goal of leaving the world a better place than how we found it.”

– The Gallegos-Blaettner Family Fund

Funds Created

45

$8,581

Average Gift

177

New Donors

Paul Clarke

Legacy Society Member

95

New Donors
Grants and Scholarships

The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne connects funding to effective nonprofits through grantmaking, while also providing education, training opportunities, and additional resources for Allen County Nonprofits.

$2 Million Invested in Allen County Nonprofits

Since 1922, the Community Foundation has awarded $74,583,900 in grants and 1,956 nonprofits have received funding. In 2019, the Community Foundation granted $2 million in competitive grants to 100 Allen County nonprofits. In addition to funding, we also provide resources and services to help nonprofits become sustainable. We believe that nonprofits are the backbone of our community and provide essential services to make a stronger Allen County for all.

We funded nonprofits in our four giving areas: Arts and Culture, Community Development, Health and Human Services, and Youth and Education. In addition to the Community Foundation granting $2 million in competitive grants, our donors gave over $3 million from their funds held at the Community Foundation to nonprofits.

We awarded 84+ students scholarships:

$673K in scholarships

The Innovation & Neighborhood Renewal Fund

The Innovation and Neighborhood Renewal Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne was established in 2019 to support charitable activities related to research and development, educational programming, small business development and neighborhood revitalization for projects such as Electric Works in our community.

$98,000 was Raised on Giving Tuesday!

Over $98,000 was raised for Agency Endowments at the Community Foundation! Congratulations to Fort Wayne Sister Cities, Healthier Moms and Babies, ACRES Land Trust, and The Phil! They were the winners of the 2019 #GivingTuesdayFW Challenge and raised the most money for their endowments at the Community Foundation!

In order to do their work effectively, nonprofits need to not only rely on grant funding or individual gifts, but for true sustainability, need to be supported by an endowment. Agency Endowment Funds are permanent funds wherein the initial gift and subsequent gifts are invested for long term growth. A percentage of earnings goes directly to the nonprofit to support their organization and mission creating a permanent predictable and autonomous source of revenue.

To create change and improve lives, we invest in local nonprofits and their clients. As a part of our competitive grants, we gave a $25,000 grant to Healthier Moms & Babies in 2019. A grant to Healthier Moms & Babies is an investment in a prenatal home visitation program in which experienced home visitors and nurses are paired with a pregnant woman early in her pregnancy until the baby is 3 months old, providing prenatal health education, encouragement, and acting as advocates and mentors to our community’s most at-risk pregnant women to support a healthy pregnancy and baby.
In 2019, 45 funds were created at the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne. This is the record for the highest number of funds opened in one year at the Community Foundation. The Community Foundation will follow the donors’ wishes and use the new funds to make an impact in our community. We are honored that our Fund Holders have trusted us to be stewards of their resources to help them fulfill their philanthropic goals.

$100,000 Grant to The Rescue Mission

As a commitment to those who are the most vulnerable in our community, we provided a $100,000 matching grant to The Rescue Mission to kick off the public phase of their capital campaign for the City on the Hill. We are honored to partner with The Rescue Mission as this campaign isn’t just about changing locations, it’s about changing lives.

A Successful National Philanthropy Day

The Community Foundation participated in a National Philanthropy Day Celebration with the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. National Philanthropy Day is a celebration of philanthropy, giving, volunteering and charitable engagement, and to recognize the great contributions of philanthropy. On National Philanthropy Day, keynote speaker Dr. Lorenzo Suter energized the War Memorial Coliseum audience with his “I’ve Got Gas” message that was part biographical and definitely inspirational. Lorenzo is the CEO of Lutheran Health Network’s DuPont Hospital. He is also an author and motivational speaker.
A Letter from Our Board Chair

The events of the past year remind me of Martin Luther King Jr.’s counsel that “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’ I am proud of the impact the Community Foundation made in our community this year. From opening a record number of funds, to the opening of Promenade Park and The Landing Phase I, to the continued support of local nonprofits through our grantmaking and to assisting local students to attend college through our scholarship funds, this has been a banner year for helping others.

Additionally, we have laid a path for future endeavors through the completion of our Vision Plan. This outline encompasses six areas of focus: Connected Community, Inspiring Places, Everyone’s Economy, Lifelong Learning, Healthy Mind and Body and Organizational Excellence. Committees have been formed and each will work to identify our objectives and metrics under each pillar and determine our role as either Investor, Educator, Partner or Champion. We already have several initiatives underway as a result of the Vision Plan, with many more to come.

We succeeded this year in expanding awareness of the Community Foundation. We connected with over 300 new donors, we partnered with other local non-profits to launch the Fort Wayne Forward initiative and we expanded our Philanthropic Services team to provide more opportunities to educate and serve our current fund holders. As a board, we continue to learn about the needs in our community through our monthly speaker series. Each panel discussion has revolved around an area of focus in our Vision Plan. The insights gained from these discussions will help drive our efforts into the future.

None of this would be possible, however, without the generosity of our donors, the time and commitment from our board and committee members, and the persistence of our staff. In this hour of unprecedented challenges, our vision of connecting people and resources to build a more vibrant community is more important than ever.

Sincerely,

Shannon Hardiek
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne Board Chair
Thanks to donors and partners like you, we are able to help our community be a more vibrant place. In 2020, with your generous support, we will continue to be able to provide support and resources to nonprofits, help donors achieve their philanthropic goals, and provide support to the community for Allen County’s most pressing needs.