

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

GROWING THE GOOD



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
OF GREATER FORT WAYNE

Because We Love Our Community

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For the last century, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne has played a vital role in Allen County's success. We actively support and sustain our community's nonprofits whose missions are to serve our community's most vulnerable and to enhance our quality of life.

Over the last year, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne has continued to focus on three priority areas: helping make your charitable giving more impactful, connecting nonprofits with funding through effective grantmaking, and providing leadership and resources to address community needs while improving the quality of life in Allen County. These areas of service have been at our core for many years, and we know they will position us for success well into the future.

In 2022, we launched our vision plan — *Let's Rise!* — which serves as our guide to leverage our community momentum today, so we can sustain and steward the resources you have entrusted to us for tomorrow (and every tomorrow that follows). Based on community input, *Let's Rise!* is the roadmap for the Community Foundation to support the community through five pillars: *Connected Community*, *Inspiring Places*, *Everyone's Economy*, *Lifelong Learning*, and *Healthy Mind and Body*.

As you'll see in the following pages, with your help, we've made incredible progress on these pillars. We're grateful for the community's ongoing trust, which allows us to respond to today's needs, while keeping an eye on the horizon, anticipating the needs and wishes for the future. We remain steadfast in our belief that we're all here because *we love our community* — for the last 100 years, for the next 100, and beyond.

To the Next Century,

Heather Schoegler
Board Chair

Brad Little
President and CEO



YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Mission

The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne serves as a community leader to improve the quality of life by building permanent endowments, promoting effective grantmaking, fostering philanthropy, stimulating community dialogue, and helping donors achieve their charitable goals.

We Do Three Things

- 1** We help people make their charitable giving more impactful.
- 2** We connect funding to effective nonprofits through grantmaking.
- 3** We provide leadership to address community needs and improve quality of life.

Our Pillars

-  **CONNECTED COMMUNITY** Affecting change by being an advocate for the underserved; instilling pride and building relationships to create a sense of belonging.
-  **INSPIRING PLACES** Providing resources and support to create a community filled with spaces that engage, connect, and energize our residents and visitors.
-  **EVERYONE'S ECONOMY** Helping create an economy where every citizen has the opportunity for upward mobility and increased security and is motivated to achieve their goals.
-  **LIFELONG LEARNING** Working to build a culture of lifelong learning that helps people flourish, strengthens our workforce, and increases resiliency.
-  **HEALTHY MIND AND BODY** Helping YOU feel mentally and physically healthy, with access to tools and resources to reach your highest potential.

2021–2022 Board of Directors



Standing (L-R):	Sitting (L-R):	Not Pictured:
Christine Boles	Ron Menze VICE CHAIR	Rob Patrick TREASURER
Rob Slusser	Susan Wesner	Cindy Goodman
Doug Wood AT-LARGE	Heather Schoegler CHAIR	Damian Gosheff
Edmond C. O’Neal III	Bob Francis SECRETARY	Denita Washington
Paul Sauerteig	Sherry Early AT-LARGE	
Gary Shearer		
Todd Jacobs		
Shelley Walker		

Promenade Park, Fort Wayne



Photo Credit: M James Photography

A CENTURY OF VISIONARY STEWARDSHIP

ARTHUR F. HALL

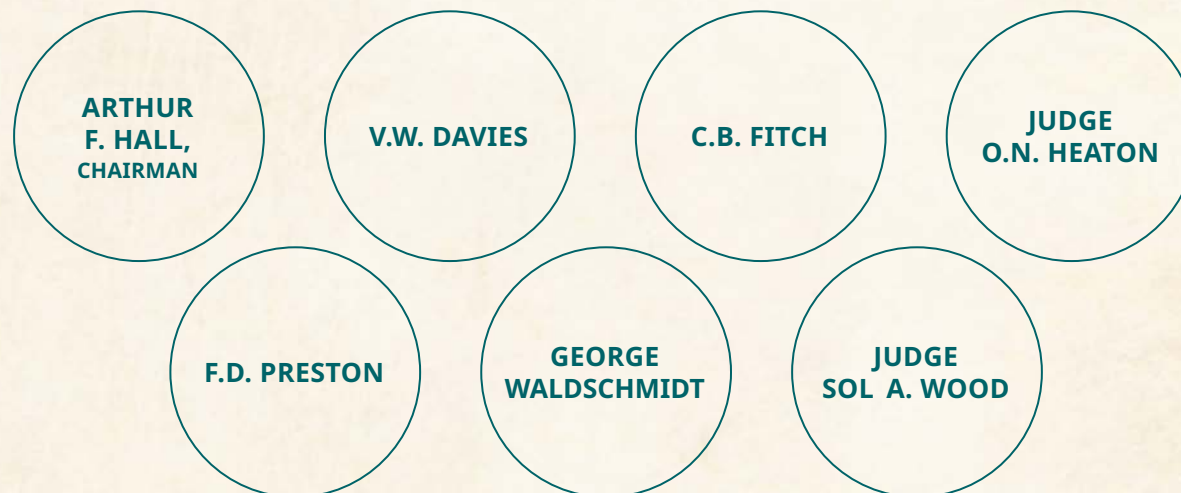


100 YEARS

In 2022, the Community Foundation celebrated its 100th anniversary. At a celebration event, we unveiled a new visual identity and our Vision Plan. In addition to rolling out this evolution, we also awarded five Legacy Partners grants, totaling \$100,000, and announced a new grantmaking program, focusing on finding new nonprofits and community groups to support.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, we also reflect on our successes—which wouldn't be possible without significant leadership, visionary action, and community involvement.

Founding Board Members



Milestones

1922

Community Foundation established.

1941

Foundation trustees resolve to sunset the organization due to the Great Depression.

1956

Foundation resurrected after 20 years of dormancy.



1966

First offices located in Lincoln Bank Tower.

1967

Unrestricted assets exceed \$250,000.

1973

Paul Clarke becomes first Executive Director.



1980

Assets exceed \$1 million.

2012

Children's Health Collaborative launches.



2009

Foundation receives Talent Opportunity Success grant.



2008

Headquarters move to The Steinger Center at 555 E. Wayne Street.

2007

Assets exceed \$100 million.

1998

Foundation selects first Lilly Endowment Community Scholars.



2003 Recipients

1983

Assets exceed \$2 million.

2015

Foundation receives \$1 million matching grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to support riverfront development efforts.

2016

Foundation helps secure a total of \$13 million to launch Riverfront Fort Wayne.



2017

Foundation provides a \$1.2 million loan to Downtown Development Trust to acquire buildings on Columbia Street for The Landing.



2019

Foundation provides a loan of \$500,000 for Electric Works.



2022

Foundation celebrates 100 years.

2021

Assets exceed \$220 million.

2020

Youth Empowered Philanthropy (YEP) launches.



2020

Women's Fund of Greater Fort Wayne launches.



2020

Foundation provides an additional loan of \$250,000 for Electric Works.

Century Stories

As part of our celebration, community leaders have written and shared stories that reflect the importance of the Community Foundation's history in our community.

To read all the articles, visit [CFGFW.org/CenturyStories](https://www.cfgfw.org/CenturyStories).

Downtown Fort Wayne
Alley off South Calhoun

Be There for Good

By David Bennett

The roots of the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne are deeply embedded in the history of Fort Wayne and Allen County. As the United States emerged from World War I, economic prosperity combined with optimism about the future led leaders across the country to create new community foundations. Our community foundation in Fort Wayne – created in 1922 -- was part of that early trend.

Committed to Change

Community Foundation's centennial cause for CTN, and us all, to offer thanks

By Justin Clupper

The anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

I'd like to make a small change to Mead's statement: Committed citizens can change their community. That's what happened 100 years ago when a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens found value in the creation of a community foundation, designed to serve as a perpetual community trust.

Since that time, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne has brought lasting impact to our

The Foundation of a Brighter Tomorrow

By Heather Schoegler

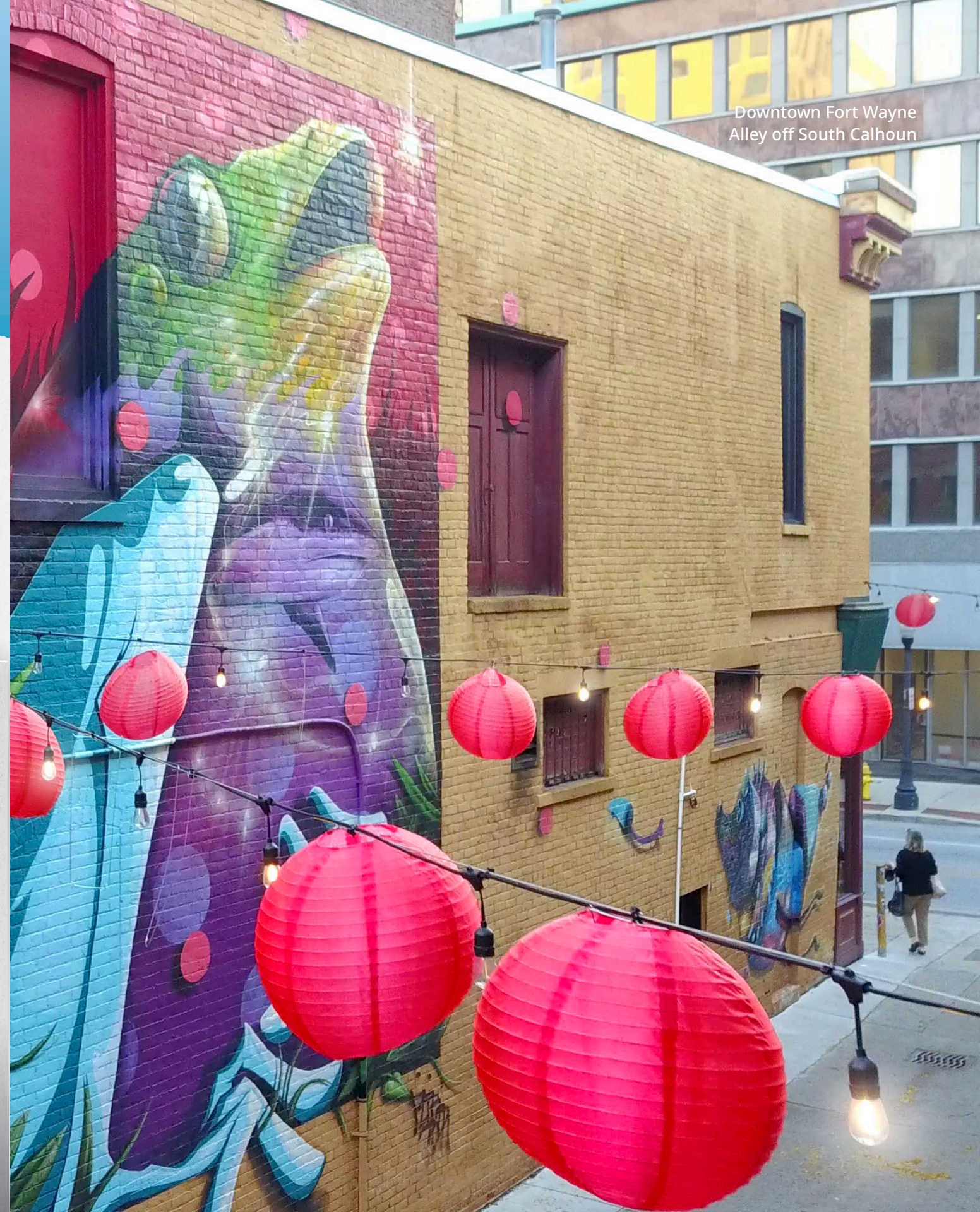
Consider the last century - 100 years - of Allen County and all that has transpired locally, in our state, region, nation, and world. Now consider that through it all, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne was there. Often, taking an active role in supporting and sustaining our community's non-profits whose missions are to serve the well-being of...


THE LEGACY OF PAUL CLARKE

By Harriett Inskip

The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne is now celebrating its 100th anniversary. Philanthropy is a very serious business but it also captures the imagination and touches the heart. It is deeply connected to people and to research and to results, and it also provides a "get up in the morning with a grin" kind of feeling. It's a selective process, tough decisions, hard choices, designated funding, not for the faint of heart. And when I think of philanthropy, I remember Paul Clarke.

Paul and his wife Helen came to Ft. Wayne in 1954 for his new role as the corporate attorney for North American Van Lines. Already in his fifties, Paul enjoyed the adventure and enthusiasm of a new job and a new





..... IN
MEMORY
..... OF

George Bewley

1947-2022

In 2022, with a heavy heart we said goodbye to George Bewley. George played an integral role in the growth of the Community Foundation. In the 1980s, George was the personal attorney of Paul Clarke, whose leadership and gifts were crucial to the growth of the Community Foundation. George was the architect of those gifts, along with the creation of the Paul Clarke Foundation, which has supported many local nonprofits through the years. George became the Community Foundation's corporate attorney in the early 1990s and remained in that position until 2016. After George retired from law, he volunteered at the Community Foundation a few hours a week to help the philanthropic services team. He also served on the 100th Anniversary Planning Committee. George will be missed in the community, but his legacy will forever be present.

Christine Meek

1967-2022

One hundred and thirty years ago, Charles Spurgeon penned, *"Carve your name on hearts, not on marble."* This quote embodies the spirit of the late Christine Meek, Vice President of Nonprofit Excellence at the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne. In April, the nonprofit community lost a confidant, mentor, professional, and true friend when Christine passed away. Christine served nonprofits through her work at the Community Foundation for nearly 20 years. She never wavered on her commitment to help and educate leaders, staff, and volunteers to better our community resources.

As the Community Foundation celebrates its 100th anniversary, we have been reflecting on legacy. Especially the legacies passed down from those who came before us and the legacies we pass down to those who will come after us. The legacy Christine leaves is full of impact and love for our community, as she discovered new training opportunities for nonprofits, aided organizations in finding valuable funding, and was willing to have tough conversations with leaders when needed. All of this for the sole purpose of moving our community forward.

Every day, Christine's presence is missed within the walls of the Community Foundation office, but we look out and can see her work everywhere in the community. Christine carved her name on the hearts of many and truly made this community a better place to live, work, and play. We will all forever be grateful for the extraordinary woman she was.

IMPACTFUL GIVING

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For Future Generations



Steve Hollander, an IPFW (now Purdue Fort Wayne) professor of 30 years, cared deeply about the growth and success of his students. He was known for always editing in brown ink — and giving generously, out of his own pocket, as students confided in him about their financial struggles.

That's what sparked the idea for **The Brown Ink Society** — when Steve passed away in 1998, faculty and staff created the scholarship fund to carry forward his legacy. The Brown Ink Society awards emergency grants up to \$575 to PFW students who face unforeseen circumstances that interfere with their education. More than \$105,000 has been distributed to over 390 students because of generous donations from faculty, staff, and retirees.

When the Brown Ink Society moved their fund to the Community Foundation, we worked closely with their board to understand not only their mission — but their hopes and dreams for the Fund's future.

As a volunteer board made of faculty and staff without fundraising expertise, they do this important work because they believe in the mission. We're proud to provide technical, administrative, and strategic support that allows them to focus on supporting students, just as Steve would have done.

The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne is inspired by the Brown Ink Society's commitment to honoring Steve Hollander's legacy, and ensuring that PFW students can obtain an education, despite unexpected financial challenges. Together, we support individuals as they create a brighter future for themselves — and our community.

// The Community Foundation provides the infrastructure so we can award grants," said Ann Livschiz, Brown Ink Society President, "but they also challenge and inspire us. They ask questions we wouldn't have thought to ask and give strategic guidance to help us accomplish the goals we've set for ourselves."

Charitable Giving Overview

The Community Foundation offers a wide variety of charitable giving options, all designed to help donors maximize their impact.



Donor Advised Funds

Donors can contribute cash, stock, and non-cash assets to a Donor Advised Fund, and the donor recommends grants to the things they are most passionate about.



Scholarship Funds

Scholarships are a way for businesses, organizations, individuals, and nonprofits to commit to helping students achieve their education dreams.



Designated Funds

Designated Funds allow donors to establish a named fund and designate specific organizations they would like to support through this fund, forever.



Field of Interest Funds

Field of Interest Funds allow donors to support the topics they are most passionate about, long into the future.



Legacy Funds

Legacy Funds are established through a bequest in a will with an estate planning attorney to a named fund created at the Community Foundation.

Contact the Community Foundation today to learn more about fund options.

AT A GLANCE

2020

501
FUNDS

2021

520
FUNDS

166
PAUL CLARKE
LEGACY SOCIETY
MEMBERS

2020

Anonymous (2)

Amani Family Services
Endowment Fund

Artemis Mills
Foundation Fund

Artist Relief Fund

Ash Hometown
Prosperity Fund

Bill & Todd Fritch
Vocational Scholarship
Fund

Capt. Brandon A. Barrett
Hero Fund

Charles & Kathryn
Carboneau Designated
Endowment Fund

Dick A. Rose Foundation
Fund

Fort Wayne Center for
Learning Endowment Fund

Founders Spark
Community Project Fund

Friends & Family Fund
for Southeast Fort Wayne

John & Emily Nussbaum
Charitable Fund

McCampbell Family Fund

N.E.W. - Nontraditional
Employment for Women
Fort Wayne

Nathaniel Saul Wittenberg
Scholarship Fund

New Haven High School
Art Scholarship Fund

Nurse Marce Scholarship
Operation Vaccine

Phillip & Froncie Gutman
Scholarship Fund

Phillips Financial Future
Hope Fund

Richard Dallas & Marni
McKinney Waterfield
Charitable Fund

Robert & Nancy Brooks
Charitable Fund

Saint John the Baptist of
Fort Wayne Endowment

Spencer & Christen Batt
Family Fund

Starr Family Foundation
Fund

The Andrew Maddox
Memorial Designated
Fund for Children

The Andrew Maddox
Memorial Fund for
Children

Tom & Monica Szymanski
Family Fund

United Front Fund

United Way Equity and
Diversity Fund

Wellspring Summer Camp
David B. McCracken Fund

Women's Fund Endowment

Youth Empowered
Philanthropy (YEP)

2021

Angeline Walczyk Friend
of the Poor Legacy Fund

Bob Wartenbe Fund

Bookstart Designated
Fund

Bookstart Endowment
Fund

BrightStar of Fort Wayne

Brown Ink Society Fund

Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do
Scholarship Fund

Chapman Sister Cities
Endowment Fund

DE 15:10

Dixie Durr Scholarship
Fund

Dorothy L. & Paul E.
Shaffer Foundation
Designated Endowment
Fund

Dorothy L. & Paul E.
Shaffer Foundation
Unrestricted Fund

Emily Settle Fund

Fort Wayne Astronomical
Society Fund

Fort Wayne Sister
Cities Fund

George Robert & Ora Davis
Scholarship

Hoosier Spirit Fund

James Davis Endowed
FOI Fund

Jon & Susan Sharpe
Scholarship Fund

L.L. Hopper Fund

Nicho Becerra Memorial
Scholarship Fund

Noll Team Legacy Fund

P-Rex Charitable Fund

P.A.S.E. - Project Activate
Southeast

Peter & Christine
Mallers Fund

Richard & Gloria Baker
Fund for the Arts

T & C Fredrick Family Fund

Ten Point Coalition Fund

Tony Beam Memorial
Scholarship Fund

Tree Canopy Growth Fund

United Response Fund

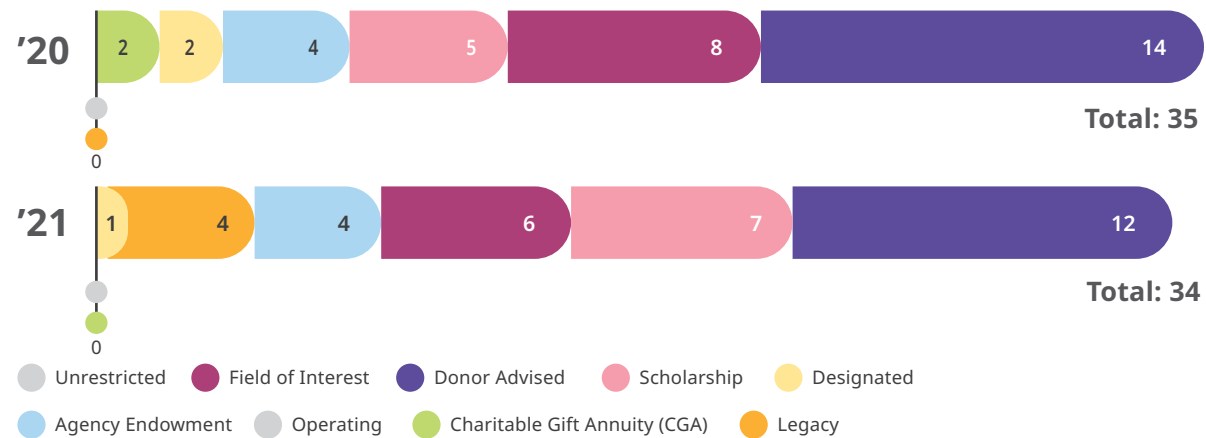
Valmassoi Family
Giving Fund

Webb Family
Charitable Fund

YEP Scholarship Fund

Charitable Giving Overview

NEW FUNDS BY FUND TYPE



TOTAL GIFTS BY FUND TYPE

	2020	2021
Unrestricted	\$607,298	\$87,774
Field of Interest	\$1,759,110	\$1,508,338
Donor Advised	\$3,976,007	\$6,658,188
Scholarship	\$840,151	\$206,566
Designated	\$249,284	\$3,200,793
Agency Endowment	\$740,244	\$468,686
Operating	\$283,485	\$2,819,786
Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)	n/a	n/a
Legacy	n/a	n/a
Total	\$8,455,579	\$14,950,131

Professional Advisor Partners

Thank you to participants in our Donor and Advisor Partner Program! This customized investment approach allows donors to work with an investment advisor they know and trust, while our expert staff work with the donors to help them accomplish their philanthropic goals.

- PHILLIPS FINANCIAL
- NORTHERN TRUST
- ROCKEFELLER
- FISHER INVESTMENTS
- VERITABLE
- EDWARD JONES (SHAWN WALL)

CONNECTED GRANTMAKING

For Collective Community Health

In 1992, Dr. Jane Imscher, Allen County Health Commissioner, and Sister Mary Conrad Kirchhoff, a Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ, voiced concern about the low immunization rate in Allen County. Together, they wondered, how can we change the trend, and who can help us do it?

They brought together community leaders, including representatives from Parkview Memorial Hospital, St. Joseph Medical Center, and Lutheran Hospital, to rally resources to make vaccines more accessible to children and families who find it difficult to access healthcare. They established a one-day pop-up event — Super Shot Saturday—which would eventually become the organization as we know it today.

Collaboration is at Super Shot's core. It's embedded in the organization's founding; it fueled their growth over the years and armed them to serve more people than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, Super Shot served more individuals than they normally would have in four or five years. The organization's nursing staff also grew from 23 to 35 to be able to meet the demand for vaccinations and provide support to local and state health departments.

Allen County is home to diverse populations who already have difficulty accessing

healthcare based on their economic status, zip codes, color of their skin, and more. The pandemic amplified the challenges. Many individuals cited not getting the COVID-19 vaccine simply because of the language barrier; they didn't know what they were supposed to do, or where to go.



The Community Foundation has supported Super Shot with operating grants since 1998. In 2021, Super Shot also received an Operation Vaccine grant, which funded translation services and transport coolers to take COVID-19 vaccines directly into disadvantaged neighborhoods.

"Like Super Shot, the Community Foundation is collaborative in nature. They support us through grants, but they also support us by forming a true partnership. They want to listen, understand, and be a part of the process—and they trust us as the experts in our field serving these communities," said Connie Heflin, Super Shot Executive Director.

We are proud to support Super Shot in their work to ensure our community's collective health. Thank you!

Grantmaking Overview

The Community Foundation invests in the vision, passion, and expertise of area nonprofit organizations through grantmaking. We fund requests that:

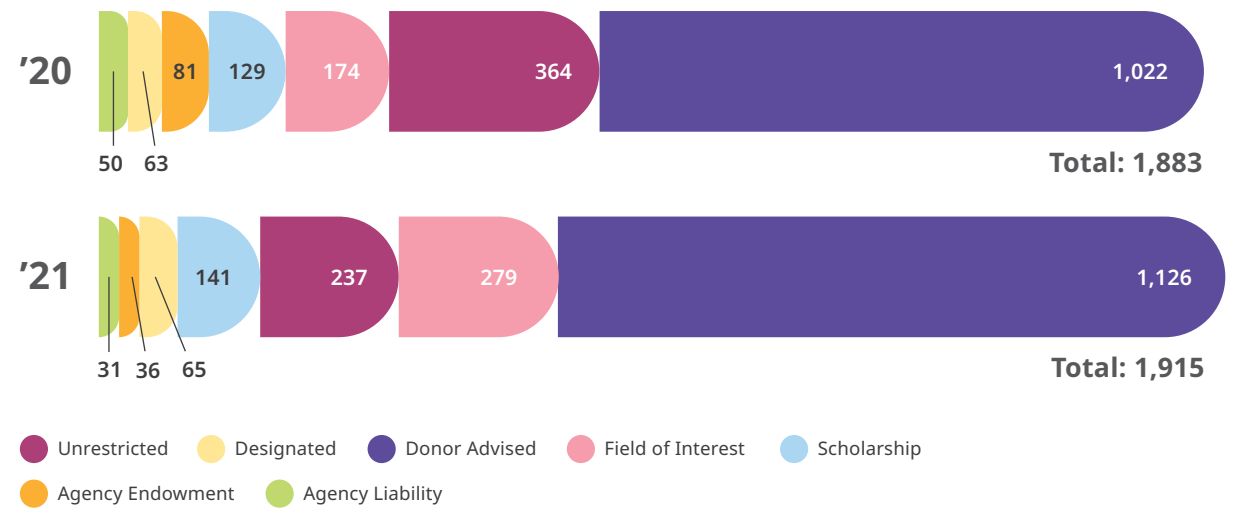
- ➔ Address community concerns.
- ➔ Encourage more effective use of community resources.
- ➔ Test or demonstrate new approaches and techniques to solve community problems.
- ➔ Are intended to strengthen the management capabilities of agencies.
- ➔ Promote volunteer participation and citizen involvement in community affairs.

IMPACT AREA SCHOLARSHIPS

2020
198
 ▼
159
 STUDENTS
 ▼
39
 FUNDS
 DISTRIBUTED

2021
182
 ▼
128
 STUDENTS
 ▼
54
 FUNDS
 DISTRIBUTED

GRANTS BY FUND TYPE



GRANTS BY IMPACT AREA

	2020	2021
Arts & Culture	\$887,400	\$667,191
Community Development	\$1,018,430	\$1,140,031
Education	\$1,407,376	\$1,738,428
Health & Human Services	\$3,803,638	\$3,590,022
Other	\$759,203	\$956,481
Total	\$7,876,047	\$8,092,154

LEADING COMMUNITY

Connected Community Women's Fund

Since August 2020, the Women's Fund of Greater Fort Wayne has been busy conducting research and acting on that research. In August 2021, on its one-year anniversary, the Women's Fund announced its first-ever Director, Cassie Beer.

After the Women and Girl's Study of Greater Fort Wayne, it became clear that further information and research were needed on young women and girls in Allen County. The Women's Fund convened three focus groups and conducted a survey for young women and girls ages 12-24. In March 2022, the Women's Fund celebrated International Women's Day by releasing the data at the Young Women + Girls Summit. The research focused on topics ranging from access to mental and reproductive health resources and education, to gender-based violence and experiences of racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination. The data highlights that 47% of young women experience anxiety, and 30% regularly experience anxiety, depression, and stress. In response to the themes in the research, the Women's Fund will be launching a Youth Gender Advocacy Council to educate

young people on how to use their voices to make meaningful change in gender-based issues.

"We don't need to give young women and girls a voice: they already have one. They know how they feel, the changes they want to see, and how to improve our community," said Cassie Beer, Women's Fund Director. "We need to not just listen to them, but empower them to find places to use their voices for change, inclusion, and equity."

In addition, the Women's Fund, under the leadership of Cassie Beer, launched the No Matter What campaign. No Matter What quickly, efficiently, and discreetly connects sexual violence survivors to up-to-date resources they need most. Because no matter what, survivors are worthy of community support.

The Women's Fund of Greater Fort Wayne continues to work toward understanding and overcoming the challenges women and girls face in Allen County. The Women's Fund is an initiative of the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne.

[Learn more at WomensFundFW.org.](https://www.WomensFundFW.org)





Inspiring Places

Electric Works

In 2019, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne announced a \$500,000 investment in Electric Works. The Electric Works project is transforming the former General Electric campus into a vibrant space in downtown Fort Wayne. Electric Works includes 39 acres, 18 historic buildings, and over 1.2 million square feet of space for office, education, retail, residential, dining, and entertainment use.

The Community Foundation is proud to play a role in the Electric Works development and help support an exciting downtown project. Phase 1 (West Campus) includes approximately 712,000 square feet of space and an estimated project cost of \$248 million.

“There is no doubt that Fort Wayne continues to stay relevant by advancing bold and transformative projects. The Community Foundation sees this as another opportunity to invest in the future of Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana. Similar to our support of and participation in Riverfront Fort

Wayne and The Landing, we want to see the momentum continue,” said Brad Little, President and CEO of the Community Foundation.

The Community Foundation gave an additional loan of \$250,000 to Electric Works in early 2020. Since then, both loans have been repaid to the Community Foundation. The Community Foundation continues to tour, get updates on, and offer support to the Electric Works development, which will be an inspiring place for our whole community.



Everyone's Economy

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Strategy



The Community Foundation partnered with Start Fort Wayne and the Don Wood Foundation to create the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Strategy. The report is a result of the convening of the Everyone's Economy Pillar Committee around the discussion of Allen County's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem and what's needed to help our local entrepreneurs succeed and access the resources they need.

Start Fort Wayne surveyed 622 local entrepreneurs representing 705 businesses and convened more than 500 interviews and focus groups. This resulted in a comprehensive strategy for the Greater Fort Wayne entrepreneurial ecosystem over the next decade. The comprehensive 10-year plan will elevate the importance of entrepreneurship in local economic development initiatives.

Visit cfgfw.org to read the full report.





Lifelong Learning

Lilly Endowment Community Scholars

The Community Foundation partners with Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) to provide the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship to five Allen County students each year. ICI receives a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to fund the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship program.

2021 SCHOLARS

- **Aja Wilson**, North Side High School
- **Cameron Branning**, New Haven High School
- **Chastity Craig**, Concordia Lutheran High School
- **Malachi Johnson**, Bishop Dwenger High School
- **Serena Stayer**, Leo Jr./Sr. High School

2022 SCHOLARS

- **Phu Le**, Carroll High School
- **Emily Clough**, South Side High School
- **Elay Htoo**, North Side High School
- **Gabriel Vargas**, Wayne High School
- **Taygen Marlow**, New Tech Academy at Wayne High School

The class of 2022 will be the 25th cohort of Lilly Endowment Community Scholars! More than 5,000 full-tuition scholarships have been awarded and over \$439M in scholarship tuition has been provided since the program was created in the 1998-1999 school year. This year, 75 Allen County students applied, and 27 finalists were reviewed by the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Selection Committee at the Community Foundation. After the applicants were narrowed down, nominees were submitted to the statewide administrator of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program, ICI, for the selection of scholarship recipients.

Lilly Endowment Community Scholars are known for their community involvement, academic achievement, character, and leadership. To be eligible, Allen County students have to demonstrate successfully overcoming an obstacle, as well as show financial need, academic performance, and community involvement and provide a personal statement of goals.



Healthy Mind and Body

Children's Health Collaborative

Children's Health Collaborative (CHC) is a county-wide collaboration led by the Community Foundation in partnership with the Allen County Department of Health and multiple direct service providers.

Started in 2012 by CFGFW Board Member and Allen County Director of Public Health Dr. Deborah McMahan, more than 100 individuals representing education, physical health, mental health, spiritual health, environmental health, social health, and justice contributed to a strategic plan to improve the health and well-being of our children, creating a pathway to prosperity for all youth in Allen County.

Amid the pandemic, CHC launched three initiatives, which focus on middle- and high-school aged youth.

Jump IN 5210 is a community-wide effort to empower kids to live healthier lives by promoting eating five fruits and vegetables daily, two hours of screen time or less, one hour of physical activity or more, and zero sugary beverages.

Annual Well-Child Exams give practitioners the opportunity to evaluate physical growth, as well as cognitive, emotional, and social development.

Academic Enrichment/Support Centers address academic gaps for our poorest youth.

The YMCA's Youth Services Bureau embedded fun physical activities and cooking classes into their programs serving youth from at-risk families as a Jump IN pilot site. The kids were excited to participate in healthy activities, learn about healthier eating options, and learn to connect participating in healthy activities as a way to promote healthier lives. As a part of this program, the kids made a fruit pizza and a stir-fry dish; both included fruits and veggies that they had never before tried.

"I like Jump IN 5210 because it gives me something to do with my youth advocate and I look forward to trying new healthy foods and learning about new healthy habits."

- YSB student



A Call to Action

The last two years have been undeniably challenging. Many individuals in our community have experienced job loss, health ramifications from COVID-19, business interruption, and more. As a community foundation, we know we don't have all the answers, and we know we cannot solve everything. However, we want you—our community—to know we are here.

We provide resources to build a more vibrant community. We also support those who are marginalized, connecting resources to those who need it. We stand together with those in our community who are intent on making a difference and supporting diversity. We know we are not at the finish line, and we will continue to make progress until our community is one where everyone thrives.

Since 2020, the Community Foundation has taken steps to ensure our community will emerge from this pandemic stronger, healthier, and more equitable. We sped up our competitive grant application process to reduce barriers and get funds to the organizations serving every part of our community. We also prioritized listening to stay aware of community needs, organizations who are standing in the gap, individuals looking to make a difference, and ways in which we can engage and connect while fulfilling our mission.

The following stories demonstrate our response to being called to action for our community.



Collaborative Funding with United Way

On Thursday, March 19, 2020, CFGFW presented a \$50,000 check to United Way's Emergency Relief Fund to "put these dollars where they can help the most in our community." This contribution, along with the generosity of many others, led to the United Way Emergency Relief Fund raising more than \$3.5 million throughout the year.

CFGFW President Brad Little and Chief Impact Officer Alison Gerardot serve on the Emergency Fund Advisory Committee, along with more than a dozen other community leaders to discuss urgent issues, review grant applications, and make funding recommendations. The Advisory Committee awarded 48 grants to 35 organizations totaling nearly \$900,000 in 2020. In addition to the grants, four initiatives were funded—a recovery site, a financial assistance program, a mental health collaborative, and a school credit recovery program, totaling \$1.7 million.

The positive impact has been enormous. Since March 2020, the Emergency Relief Fund has helped more than 400,000 people, provided 677,124 meals, distributed 531,000 pounds of food to local pantries, and provided 19,113 days and nights of emergency shelter for those in need.

Emergency Artist Relief Fund

Among those hit hardest by the pandemic were gig economy workers, especially those in the arts and culture realm, such as artists, musicians, dancers, and other performers. Employment for many artists has always consisted of stringing together gigs, short-term contracts, and freelance work; but it has never had the safety net classic employment has—unemployment benefits.

Thanks to the funding provided by the Knight Foundation Fund, the Edna Foundation Fund, and other donors, round one of the Artist Relief Fund awarded more than 85

rapid response relief grants totaling more than \$57,000 to self-employed artists of all disciplines, artists contracted by arts and culture nonprofits, and employees who have been laid off or furloughed by a nonprofit arts and culture organization or venue in Allen County. Funding helped with basic needs like food, shelter, utility payments, and healthcare.

One artist who received emergency relief was Gloria Minnich, a creative movement and drama teacher. Gloria has been teaching as an independent

contractor for more than 16 years, specializing in teaching students with disabilities. As both a teacher and a community theatre performer, Gloria's income was dramatically impacted by the pandemic-related closures. Gloria noted that the rapid response grant from the Artist Relief Fund was "the perfect gift." Not only did it show that the community values the arts, she said, but it showed they "value what I contribute" to the community as well.



Ash Hometown Prosperity Fund

The Ash Hometown Prosperity Fund was created in 2020 by Tim and Libby Ash in partnership with the Community Foundation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the local restaurant industry. Worried about local entrepreneurs, Tim Ash generously sold a portion of his specialty car collection, putting forward \$500,000 in support, creating a fund at the Community Foundation. Locally owned restaurants were eligible to apply for a recoverable grant of up to \$50,000 to help supplement their lost income and help them stay afloat during quarantine shutdowns. The entirety of the money was granted to 17 restaurants, coffee shops, and food trucks. That summer, in response to the Black Lives Matter movement, black and minority-owned restaurants and food trucks also received priority funding.



Giving Tuesday Now

One of the 125 nonprofits who participated in the Giving Tuesday Now campaign was CASS Housing, whose mission is to create and maintain customizable, affordable, sustainable, and safe living arrangements for individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities that promote independent living skills.

Due to the pandemic putting the agency's fundraisers on hold and impacting individual gifts, the agency participated in the Giving Tuesday Now campaign, raising more than \$25,000!

Adults with disabilities desire independence; however, there are often concerns families face when their adult children make this transition. That's when CASS Housing steps in, providing a safe living space where independence can be found with the help of an on-site or live-in support person whose role is different depending on the model of the home.

CASS's first home is a suite style. Half of the house has three suites for the residents to have private living quarters with a common living room and larger kitchen in the middle. Attached to that is a "mother-in-law" suite where the steward, or caregiver, lives. This creates a true homelike setting where the residents manage day-to-day life on their own but have a safe point of contact where they can share meals, have monthly outings, and on-site support when needed.

Fort Wayne United

We have supported Fort Wayne United since they first set up their fund at the Community Foundation in 2017. The Fort Wayne United Fund provides support for programs that address their vision that every black male in Fort Wayne be respected and valued, with the opportunity to reach their full potential.

In 2020, Fort Wayne United launched a new initiative: **United Front**. This initiative provides support to the community by offering a comprehensive program for citywide cultural competency training, racial healing, and unity. We are proud to have been one of the first supporters of this initiative, and are most proud of our community for stepping into the uncomfortable and having conversations that promote healing and understanding.



Family & Friends Fund for Southeast Fort Wayne

The Family & Friends Fund for Southeast Fort Wayne was created in July 2020 in response to the historic inequities the Southeast quadrant of Fort Wayne has experienced and the Black Lives Matter movement that was spurred from the death of George Floyd. The fund has been designed to distribute power and financial resources to leaders and residents in Southeast Fort Wayne—the most under-invested-in quadrant of the city. The fund continues toward a goal of raising \$1 million to be directed into economic opportunities in the Southeast that will build generational wealth and connectivity.



Women's Fund of Greater Fort Wayne

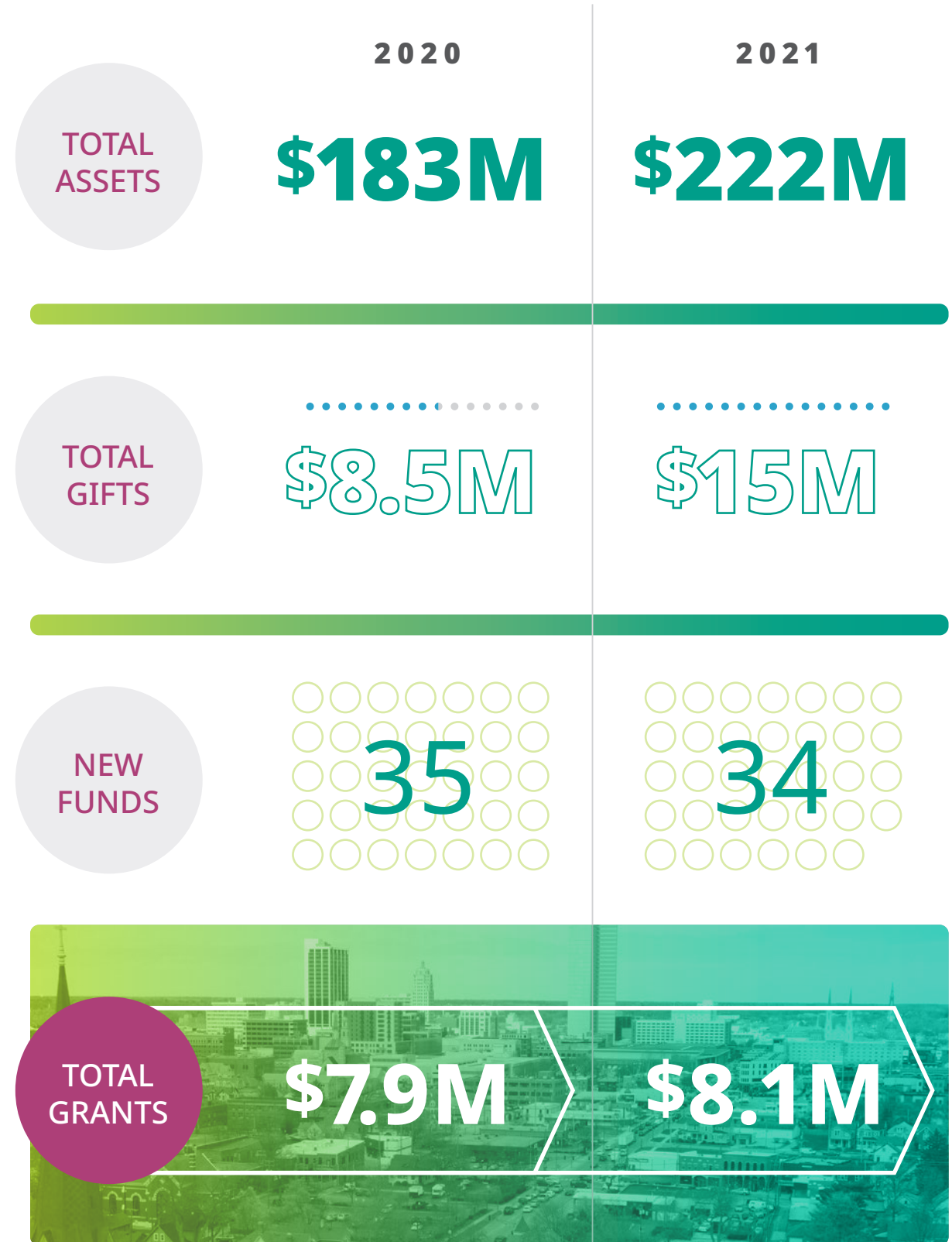
On August 26, 2020, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne launched the first Women's Fund of Greater Fort Wayne. This was a historic moment for Fort Wayne and Allen County, commemorating the past by recognizing the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in Indiana. Along with the Women's Fund launch, the Foundation unveiled the results from the first study on women and girls for Allen County in 46 years. With this study as a guide, the Women's Fund is focused on research, education, and advocacy in the areas of economic security, personal safety, and young women and girls.

Youth Empowered Philanthropy

For the inaugural year of Youth Empowered Philanthropy (YEP), ten students from Canterbury High School participated in monthly collaborative meetings, learning about philanthropy, becoming more aware of community needs, and developing leadership skills. In their time together, students were led by Kiley Tate-Potts and Antoinette Francher-Donald in sessions with active leaders in the community like Clint Faupel from Remedy Live and Juan Williams from WeFam. Elizabeth MacDonald from The Verbal Edge also provided a training session educating students how to strengthen their public speaking and interpersonal communication skills.

YEP students received firsthand experience in how actual decisions with real funding impact their community. With funding generously provided by the Joyce Schlatter Fund, students received 45 applications for funding and volunteer time totaling over \$189,000. Through application reviews, site visits, and interviews with local nonprofit organizations, the students collectively decided to divide the \$10,000 in available grants to St Joseph Missions, Out of a Jam, Lexi's Voice, and Gigi's Playhouse. YEP is well on its way to fulfill its mission of making our community a more vibrant place to live, work, and play while inspiring philanthropy as a core value for future generations.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



Thank You

Thank you for an impactful 2020 and 2021! In the face of a global pandemic, we remained steadfast in our mission. We helped individuals with their charitable giving, provided funding to local nonprofits, and provided leadership to address community needs. And our community stepped up, too, generously raising over \$700,000 for local nonprofits for COVID-19 relief. We also supported local artists and restaurants when they had little to no income.

Your support and enthusiasm for our community inspires us. Together, we are *growing the good*—ensuring our community is a vibrant place to live, work, and play.

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Let's Rise.

2020–2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Because We Love Our Community