

*changing lives  
forever*



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



GRAND TRAVERSE REGIONAL  
community foundation

*Like you, we love our communities and want to see them thrive, forever.*



CHANGING LIVES HERE, FOREVER.

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Across our region, throughout Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau Counties, we see the many ways giving generously has enriched the places and lives of people we hold dear.

We see kids and families biking and walking as part of daily life, committed to better health and well-being. We see water, forest, and farming landscapes protected, preserving the natural environment we enjoy today for future generations. We see libraries creating essential community spaces for social connections and endowing a deep sense of belonging.

At your Community Foundation, we are focused on the people and the places in our community. We partner with you, making long-term investments in causes that matter most and improve life for all in our region. Every day, we see how the generosity of our donors has enriched our region. By continuing to work together, we can envision how that generosity, passed on through generations, will change lives in our region, forever.

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WHAT WE DO BEST

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We steward local giving, ensuring the impact of those gifts are long-lasting by investing in the people and places that are building healthy, resilient, thriving communities now, and for the future.

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*meaningful grants*



*collaborative leadership*



*legacy stewardship*

We award grants and scholarships to organizations that are **MAKING LIFE BETTER** in our region.

We partner across sectors throughout our region to make **OUR COMMUNITY MORE VIBRANT.**

We help people make **LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS** to ensure giving is sustainable and ongoing for generations.

# GRANTS

## LEVERAGING FUNDING FOR KALKASKA

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For the past several years, the Kalkaska DDA has been planning a major downtown revitalization project called Railroad Square. They knew that the multi-faceted design—including an information center, large indoor event space, commercial kitchen, greenspace, and a number of other public amenities—would require access to funding. In 2014, they were suddenly faced with the reality that the Village no longer had access to significant resources needed to make the project a reality. Being removed from the low- and moderate-income list administered through HUD significantly limited funding opportunities for the project.

Cash Cook, Director of the Kalkaska DDA, rallied local groups, including the Community Foundation, to pool the funds necessary to get the community re-surveyed. With the results of the survey, Kalkaska was back on track to unlock government funding and matching grants.

“Without the help of the Community Foundation, we wouldn’t have gotten the survey done and we wouldn’t have gotten this project off the ground,” said Cash.

Construction is underway and the Kalkaska DDA hopes Railroad Square will be completed by the end of the year and serve as a community asset that catalyzes continued economic growth for their downtown.

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## GRANTS

### SUSTAINING GENERATIONS AHEAD

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Generations Ahead launched in 2018 with support from the Community Foundation and in collaboration with local donors. Though a new organization, Generations Ahead continues a decades long history of supporting pregnant and parenting teens in our community.

“We provide meaningful programming and support for our clients to strengthen their social interactions and engagement with their families, peers, mentors, and most importantly, their children,” said Marjie Rich, Generations Ahead executive director.

Generations Ahead focuses on three key elements—providing a network of support services to its clients, matching teen parents with mentors, and focusing on the parents’ completion of high school—all of which have significant long-term impacts on the lives of teen parents and their children.

“Definitely the support was the most valuable thing about Generations Ahead, because I felt extremely alone,” said a program client. “When I had a mentor, it was the best thing ever. I had someone who was unbiased, who just listened, and was compassionate. That’s all I needed, even if it was for five minutes.”

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# YOUTH PHILANTHROPY

## YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Jaeger Griswold, an incoming senior at Ellsworth Community School, was introduced to the Youth Advisory Council program when he was a sophomore. YAC students are responsible for awarding grants of more than \$70,000 annually to support nonprofits focused on youth and family programs.

Through YAC, Jaeger and his fellow members have opportunities for hands-on learning related to grantmaking, connecting with meaningful youth programs and services in the region, and developing their own leadership skills.

YAC has also unlocked new opportunities for Jaeger to continue learning and growing as a leader. He now serves on the YAC Leadership team and was recently named to the Keep America Beautiful National Youth Advisory Council—a national program that accepts just 17 representatives.

“The Youth Advisory Council has given me the opportunity to learn about organizations in our community,” said Jaeger. “YAC helps our surrounding communities in ways that just one person cannot do on their own.”

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“Participating in YAC means I get to be a part of an organization bigger than myself, to further benefit my peers. Because of YAC, I am able to work with other students my age for the betterment of our society.”



*economic*

We are building a diversified, thriving **REGIONAL ECONOMY.**



*societal*

We are focused on improved **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING** for all people.



*environmental*

We are restoring and protecting **OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.**

# COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COALITION

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With a shared pursuit of overall growth, prosperity, and sustainability for our region, the Community Development Coalition was formed in 2019 to tap into the collective power of working together to achieve transformational change for our region.

The Community Foundation has provided focused and collaborative leadership—convening government, business, and nonprofit partners to set shared goals and priorities that promote sustainable economic development, societal, and environmental outcomes.

“As an organization built to serve and enhance the entire community, the Community Foundation is uniquely suited to serve as the connector and convener of this effort,” said Warren Call, Traverse Connect President and CEO. “Foundation leadership holds a broad view and vision to support a comprehensive, coordinated effort like this.”

The Coalition is driven by the power of working together to ensure the region is a thriving place for all people who live, work, and play here.

“Our region is full of vibrant, wise, dedicated leaders and organizations within the public, private, and nonprofit sectors,” said Call. “This project is our collective opportunity to work better together to create the region we want to be today, and in generations to come.”

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**COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
COALITION**  
NORTHWEST MICHIGAN

# LEGACY GIVING

## COMMUNITY GUARDIANS

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The Community Guardian Legacy Society honors community-minded individuals and couples who are dedicated to making a long-term investment in our region by ensuring their gifts are sustainable and future generations will benefit from their legacy of giving.

Our Community Guardians love this place, and want to see it, and the people here, thrive forever.

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## LEGACY GIVING

RICHARD & KIMIKO WILLIAMS

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“We see good things happening in the area and are happy to support these issues. We hope we’re making a small impact by making our area a great place to live now and into the future.”

During their years working in education, Richard and Kimiko started a savings plan, putting away small amounts of their paychecks each month. They worked hard and lived frugally, and as they approached retirement, saved even more and took advantage of contributing to their IRA.

For the Williams, using their IRA for giving now offers them tax advantages and the opportunity to use those funds to benefit the community.

“We like to focus our impact on education about the environment; encouraging others to be involved in their natural environment; and preserving and encouraging the use and enjoyment of the natural resources we have.”

Through endowment giving and plans for an estate gift, Richard and Kimiko have also ensured that the giving they’re doing now will be sustained long into the future.

“We know gifts we make today will still be gifted for the benefit of the community after our lifetime. It’s good to know our gifts will last.”

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# LEGACY GIVING

WILL & JOAN LARSON

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Will and Joan Larson shared their commitment to community through their giving. For 30 years, they gave through their family foundation.

“Will and Joan had a great fondness for the Leelanau County area and the people who live here,” said Larry Nelson, a friend of the Larsons. “During their lifetimes they generously assisted many individuals and community organizations.”

As part of a strategy to ensure they could continue to give beyond their lifetime, the Larsons gifted a portion of their foundation assets to create an endowment at the Community Foundation. This allowed them to remain actively engaged in their philanthropy while living and also be assured that the causes and communities they cared about would be supported in their name, for generations to come.

After Joan’s passing in 2017 and Will’s in 2019, the Wilfred and Joan Larson Endowment was the beneficiary of gifts they planned for during their lives—further growing the impact that the Larsons will have on causes they cared about in our region.

“It is wonderful to know that as a result of them establishing an endowment at the Foundation, their generous support to the region will continue in the future.”

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**\$3M** TOTAL GRANTS

**728** AWARDS TO SUPPORT  
**311** NONPROFITS

**\$272K+** IN SCHOLARSHIPS

**230** AWARDS TO SUPPORT  
**194** STUDENTS

**1,122** GIFTS  
FROM **883** DONORS

RANGING FROM  
**\$10 TO \$1M**

## LETTER

### TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Friends of the Foundation,

Throughout this report, there are stories focused on what we do best—awarding grants, collaboratively leading on key issues, and partnering with donors to plan and steward their giving.

These stories are made possible because of generous contributions made by you and others over the course of our history. Investing in our mission and work provides grant dollars that sustain effective organizations and unlock access to new resources. Your support enables leadership focused on connecting diverse partners and developing future generations of leaders. Your gifts—large and small, given now and in the future—make meaningful impact possible in our region and local communities.

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the support we've received and that we, in turn, have been able to offer. As we look ahead, we are optimistic about opportunities to have even greater impact for the benefit of this place, and the people that work, play, and live here.

Like you, we love it here, and we want to see our communities—and the people here—thrive, forever. Thank you for being a part of making this possible.

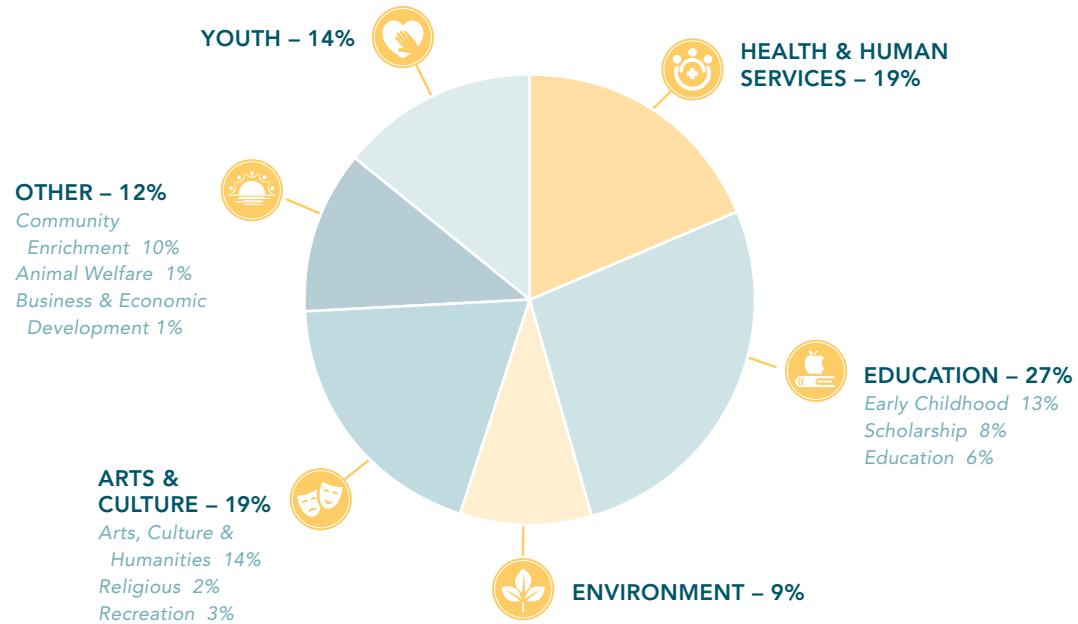


Roger Perry  
Board Chairman



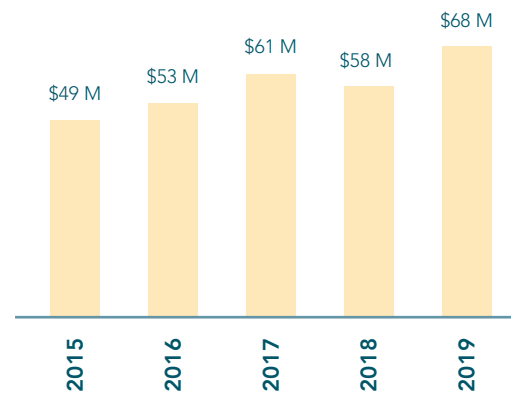
David Mengebier  
President and CEO

# 2019 *financials*



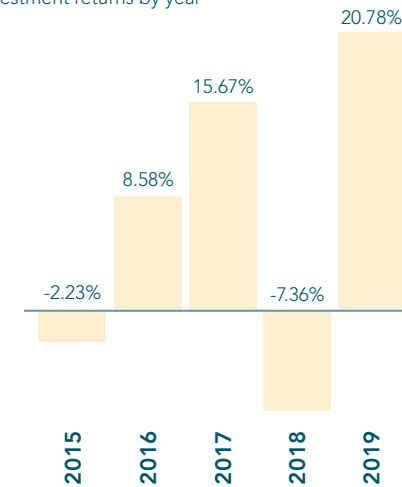
## *history of assets*

total assets by year

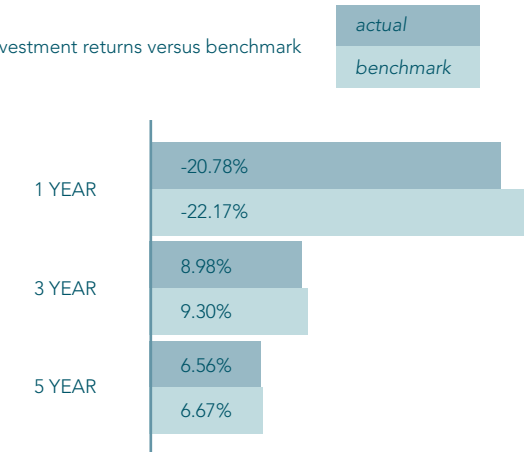


## *investments*

investment returns by year



investment returns versus benchmark



## *statement of activities*

	2019	2018
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$57,827,422</b>	<b>\$61,011,702</b>
<i>beginning of year</i>		
Endowment Gifts	\$ 2,351,234	\$ 3,259,103
Non-Endowment Gifts	\$ 1,125,603	\$ 1,243,587
<b>Total Gifts</b>	<b>\$ 3,476,837</b>	<b>\$ 4,502,690</b>
Investment & Other Income	\$ 1,567,729	\$ 2,050,553
Unrealized Market Gain or (Loss)	\$ 9,663,252	\$ (6,058,797)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$14,707,818</b>	<b>\$ 494,446</b>
Endowment Grants	\$ 2,193,711	\$ 2,034,519
Non-Endowment Grants	\$ 1,103,641	\$ 679,040
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$ 3,297,352</b>	<b>\$ 2,713,559</b>
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,024,333	\$ 905,806
Other Expenses	\$ 246,054	\$ 59,361
<b>Total Grants &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,567,739</b>	<b>\$ 3,678,726</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$67,967,501</b>	<b>\$57,827,422</b>
<i>end of the year</i>		

# 2019 *board officers*

Roger Perry, Chairman,  
Benzie County

Amy Schindler, Vice-Chairman,  
Benzie County

Linda Kehr, Secretary,  
Benzie County

Beth Dunckel, Treasurer,  
Grand Traverse County



## *board of directors*



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Laura Asiala  
Amy Burk  
Matt Davis  
Rich Hannan  
Mary Peterson  
Royce Ragland  
Joe Short



### KALKASKA COUNTY

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Cash Cook  
Ann Neuenschwander  
Janet Sieting  
Troy Stobert  
Andi Wagenschutz



### BENZIE COUNTY

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Linda Kehr  
Carol Marsh  
Rex O'Connor  
Roger Perry  
Amy Schindler  
Troy Terwilliger



### LEELANAU COUNTY

Ed Arbut  
Terry Beamsley  
Sara Brubaker  
JoAnne Cook  
Peter Finch  
Ranve Martinson  
Carolyn Rentenbach



### GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

Marina Ascione\*  
Marty Colburn  
Annie DeVries  
Beth Dunckel  
Damian Lockhart  
Bill Smith

*Board List as of February 2020*  
*\*Youth Representative*

Additionally, thank you to the following individuals for their years of service on the Board:  
Tom Wiltse  
Julie Falconer  
Chuck Mueller  
Jeff Wonacott

## *staff*

David Mengebier, President and CEO  
Paul Kester, Vice President, Finance and Administration  
Alison Metiva, Vice President, Strategic Engagement and Programs  
Steve Wade, Vice President, Gift Planning  
Gina Thornbury, Program Officer  
Pam Amundsen, Communications Officer  
Joan Hughes, Administrative Donor Support Associate  
Brittany Morton, Program and Administrative Associate





## CREATE YOUR LASTING IMPRESSION

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When you give to the Community Foundation, you are making a statement—you care about this place and the people here both now and for generations to come. You demonstrate your commitment to building healthy, resilient, thriving communities today and for the future.

Your gifts—large and small—make a meaningful difference. You make it possible for our arts organizations to bring vibrant, dynamic, creative experiences to our region. You protect our water supply, land, and natural resources. You provide support and stability for local families if and when local economics shift. You offer support for our region to be resilient in the face of change. You help make this community better.

Your investment in the Community Foundation is an investment for good. Your gifts today mean this region will be an even stronger, healthier place in the future—one we all love, and one that is better for all of the people here.

---





# THANK YOU

## 2019 donors

3 Sisters Foundation  
Ward and Ingrid Abbey  
Advisors Charitable Gift Fund  
Alabaster Fund  
Barbara Alldredge  
Maurie and Betsy Allen  
Jeanne Altschuler  
American Assoc. of University Women - TC Area  
American Proficiency Institute  
Pam and Roger Amundsen  
Diana Anderson  
Rev. Rosanne Anderson  
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Jim and Lynn McAndrews  
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Don and Terry McCall  
The Family of Survivor Donald C. McCall  
Jeff and Cathy McCall  
Dick and Honnie McClear  
Helen McCurdy  
Thomas and Shelle McElwee  
Richard McEndarffer  
Brian and Cornelia McGrath  
Mark and Patricia McGrath  
Harold and Kanda McKee

James McKimmy  
George and Clara McManus  
W.G. McPherson  
Allen and Sandra McSweeney  
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Phillip and Nancy Meek  
David Mengebier  
Alison and John Metiva  
Peter Meyer and Lisa DelBouno  
Catherine Meyer-Looze and Kelly Looze  
Piotr Michalowski and Deanna Relyea  
Michigan Association of United Ways  
Michigan Health Endowment Fund  
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