

*Celebrating 25 years of philanthropy in Sanilac County*



Sanilac County  
community foundation

# GROW GREAT WITH US

SANILAC COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | [WWW.SANILACFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.SANILACFOUNDATION.ORG)



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# 25 YEARS

Webster defines an anniversary as, “a notable event.” What could be more notable than 25 years of philanthropy? As we reflect on the achievements of the Sanilac County Community Foundation (SCCF) in the last 25 years we can certainly celebrate our awesome accomplishments. The many students, families and organizations that have been helped by the SCCF is something we can all be proud of.

What started as an idea in early 1994 has grown to over \$6 million in assets through two and a half decades of donor generosity and endowments. During that time the SCCF has held the belief that philanthropy has the power to transform. It transforms the giver and the communities they live in for the better.

As we take the time to look back on where we’ve seen transformation, we ask that you join with us in celebrating the good that has happened and help us create what the next 25 years will bring.



# Community Foundation hits \$100,000

The Sanilac County Community Foundation has reached its first goal of \$100,000.

"The \$100,000 comes in the form of cash and pledges from area individuals, businesses and other endowments," said George Benko of Crowell, chairman of the 30-member board.

The goal was reached by the Sept. 1 deadline set by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

This entitles the foundation to receive a \$50,000 matching grant from Kellogg, which "will be earmarked exclusively for youth programs in the county." This is part of the criteria for qualifying for the match," said Bill Sarkella of Port Sanilac, the foundation's Youth Committee advisor.

"Provided that Kellogg

accepts our donation report and that we have met the criteria set by them, our \$50,000 in matching funds will be available for our endowment before the end of the year," said Rita Ostrowski, Foundation director.

"The interest accumulated off our endowment will be spent back into the community in the form of grants."

For example, grants could be awarded for scholarships, youth programs, senior citizen programs, and various neighborhood and community projects, said Ostrowski.

The goal was met through many contributions throughout the county, including:

- \$5,000 donation by Huron Inc. of Lexington
- \$10,000 donation by a Lexington couple

\*\$10,000 from the United Way.

\*\$10,000 from the Brown City Area Health Center Board.

\*Contributions from Lions clubs in Deckerville, Lexington and Port Sanilac.

\*A bowl-a-thon with radio personality Ken Cenci that raised \$3,000.

"The cooperative spirit involved in reaching this first milestone is something that our area can be proud of," said our area can be proud of," said Fred Cady of Brown City.

"We are very grateful for the expression of support through both finances and community involvement."

"Our next steps will include some seminars for the CPAs, bankers and financial advisors

in our county," said Ed McGraw, of Crowell, Foundation chairman.

"The more information that we can get out to those people, the more their clients will be able to take advantage of the tax credits involved in donation to the Community Foundation."

The foundation is preparing to kick off the second phase of its fundraising campaign, a goal of \$250,000 by April 1, said Ostrowski.

Altogether, the Kellogg Foundation has earmarked \$1 million in challenge grants for Sanilac County.

The local foundation will be eligible for the entire amount if it can raise \$2 million by

the end of the year.

"The Kellogg Foundation is a grant-making organization that is looking for innovative ways to help the community," said Ostrowski.

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## A way to help all people

New foundation to serve Sanilac

By JEROME ALLIOTTA

Times Herald

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# COMMUNITY LEADERS SUPPORTING BOLD SOLUTIONS

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Foundation, responsible for administrative policy and the authorization of all grants. Each of the members brings his or her own experience and background, whether in business, community service, law, education, finance or other areas to bear on the direction of the Foundation's work. Their experience with local issues and knowledge of changing economic and social conditions sharpens their ability to function on behalf of the Foundation. It is their responsibility to represent the donors' interest, to monitor grantees and to ensure through the years a most advantageous application of grant dollars.

Their dedication and leadership over the past 25 years has been beyond worth and we would like to take this moment to recognize each and every one of them for what they have contributed to Foundation and its mission.

## *Board Members Past and Present:*

Mutee Abdeljaber  
Judy Albrecht  
Bob Armstrong  
Bill Arnold  
Curt Backus  
Andrew Barnes  
Robert Barnes  
Jay Barry  
George Benko  
Louise Blasius  
Helene Bridge  
Henry Buxton  
Fred Cady  
Dick Carncross  
Ray Clendenan  
Steve Coffelt  
Dorothy Conklin-Ross  
I. Lee Cork  
Emily Cowley  
Paul Cowley  
Bill Coyne  
Randy Cutler  
Sharon Danek  
Roger Dean  
Rita Decker  
Ray Denison

John Donovan  
Susan Dreyer  
Katie Dunn  
Jeff Dunsford  
Lauren English  
John Espinoza  
Judy Ferguson  
Stan Fetting  
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Myrtle Kohn  
Tom Kosal  
Duane Lange  
Gage Larson  
Helene Liebler  
Daniel Macha

Gary Macklem  
Ed McGraw  
Sue Meissner  
Frank Merriman  
Bill Monroe  
Lyn Mossett  
Marisa Munro  
Ryan Murray  
Paul Muxlow  
Tricia Muxlow  
Joan Nagelkirk  
Gail Nartker  
Joe Nartker  
Sandy Oldford  
Jennifer Ostrowski  
Tony Parker  
Connie Peters

Mark Ruggles  
Bill Sarkella  
Lukas Schmitt  
Aileen Selick  
Erica Sheridan  
David M. Simmons  
Joanne Stoutenburg  
Charles W. Thorley  
Harold Titus  
Dave Tubbs  
Kim Rhead  
Gertie Van den Goor  
Scotty Wadsworth  
Jane Walls  
Ruth Walls  
Sandy Willis

**Thank you to all our dedicated board members who have served the Foundation and this community well.**







**Sanilac County**  
youth advisory council

## LET'S YAC ABOUT IT

**T**he Youth Advisory Council is the “next generation” component of the Sanilac County Community Foundation, comprised of high school student-leaders representing each school district in Sanilac County. YAC is an integral part of Foundation functions, and contributes in grantmaking, volunteering, and raising awareness around community issues. YAC keeps busy throughout the school year, engaging in several annual activities as well as periodically taking on new projects:

- **Grantmaking** - this is perhaps the most important function of the Council, as they are responsible for issuing grant award dollars to non-profit applicants within the community who have a plan to enhance the lives of its young person population.
- **Needs Assessment Survey** - every other year, as a mandatory function of SCCF, YAC issues a survey to every high school student

in the county to identify and address the most critical issues challenging the young people of Sanilac County. This data is used to decide where grant funding dollars are best spent to tackle those issues. Some top categories have been teen pregnancy, bullying, underage drinking, peer pressure, and access to activities.

- **Cardboard City** - the annual event staged on the courthouse lawn each spring raises awareness and between \$4,000 and \$21,000 in an effort to end homelessness in Sanilac County.
- **Collaboration** - on numerous occasions in its history, YAC has partnered with other agencies, non-profits and groups to help them achieve their project goals and ensuring those efforts are successful.





## FUN YAC FACTS:

- YAC has granted over \$250k toward youth initiatives in Sanilac County.
- Approximately 13,000 Youth Needs Assessment surveys have been completed and compiled by YAC. That is 13,000 youth voices being heard in our county!
- It is estimated that over 500,000 moments of impact have happened because of grants given by our Sanilac YAC!
- Recipient of the 2018 Fundraiser of the Year Award through the Michigan Community Foundations Youth Project.



When the first discussions were initiated to establish a community foundation in Sanilac County 25 years ago, I was asked to participate to assist in creating a Youth Advisory Council. The Kellogg Foundation had challenged us to raise up to \$500,000 that they would match for a YAC endowment. With those kinds of numbers at stake how could I say no. Besides, Eileen Selick, a retired school administrator, was going to work with me in the process. If anybody remembers Eileen you would know that she was quite the spitfire and got things done. We discussed recruiting students, principals, and other administrators to help us achieve the Kellogg criteria. Eileen said let's go present to the superintendents and the rest will follow. Well, we did just that and the rest is history as they say. 25 years later we are still going strong and Sanilac County's YAC continues to remain one of the most dynamic YAC in the state of Michigan.

– Bill Sarkella – Co-Chair & YAC Advisor

Personally, I know that I am where I am today because of the influence the Youth Advisory Council and the SCCF board members had on me. I volunteered to go to every large board meeting I could because I knew I would have the chance to interact with some of the most powerful leaders in our county. I learned and grew in ways I never would have had the chance to in a regular classroom setting. The people of the SCCF are always giving back and growing the people in this community. Their example and tireless efforts to give back have changed the lives of so many residents in this county. Seeing this first hand as a youth was the motivation I needed to know that I wanted to grow up with the same mission in mind. It was with that that I decided to become a teacher and knew I wanted to come back to this area: I wanted to bring the same opportunities I had to this generation of youth. As an adult, I now see how important it is to give youth the opportunity to give back. If we start early enough, it just becomes a way of life. The SCCF paved the way for me to create a new path of future leaders. This is why the community foundation is so powerful. They don't just live in the moment...they create for the future.

– Erin Carlson, Sandusky High School Teacher  
& YAC Alumna



# WHAT IS PHILANTHROPY?



**M**ost easily defined, philanthropy is “the giving of your time, talent, or treasure for the good of the community.” Another great way to define it is as a “voluntary action for the common good”. In all of its definitions the aim of philanthropy is to improve the quality of human life.

Philanthropy is not defined by wealth. It is not a posture reserved for the rich or powerful. It is the responsibility and privilege of every man, woman, and child to participate in the task of building more just and humane societies. Everyone can give. Many choose to give. It doesn't have to be in dollars or cents, but it is all valuable and bettering the community.

"One of the greatest moments of philanthropy I have ever seen, happened with two dollars," states Melissa Anderson Executive Director of the Community Foundation. "I had spent a cold April day huddled up

in an empty school building with our Youth Advisory Council raising money to renovate that very building we were standing in for use as a homeless shelter. Our goal was to raise \$40,000 that day and donations had slowed, and the kids were beginning to show signs of discouragement. Just when the silence of the slowly ticking moments was getting to be too much to bear, the door opened and an elderly lady of small stature entered the building. She handed us a small white envelope and explained that her home ridden neighbor had asked her to bring what was left from her monthly check over so that someone else could have a bed and a warm place to sleep. Inside of the envelope were two wrinkled dollar bills, and that \$2 donation was the greatest gift we received all day. Little did that lady know, but those two dollars brought us to the half way point of our goal for that day. When word got out that we were half way there,

others joined the cause and finished the last half of the campaign within two hours. Now a local Rescue Mission has been in operation since October of 2018 and provided hundreds of nights of shelter to 20+ individuals. All because someone gave their time, talent, and treasure for the good of the community. "

In every community there are stories just like this of how philanthropy has changed the landscape. If you are ever wondering if what you can do is enough, just remember that philanthropy, in its truest form, is the glue that holds communities together and causes them to flourish. You can stand proudly and say, "I am a philanthropist."







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Congratulations  
Sanilac County Community Foundation  
on achieving your 25th silver anniversary.  
25 more for gold!

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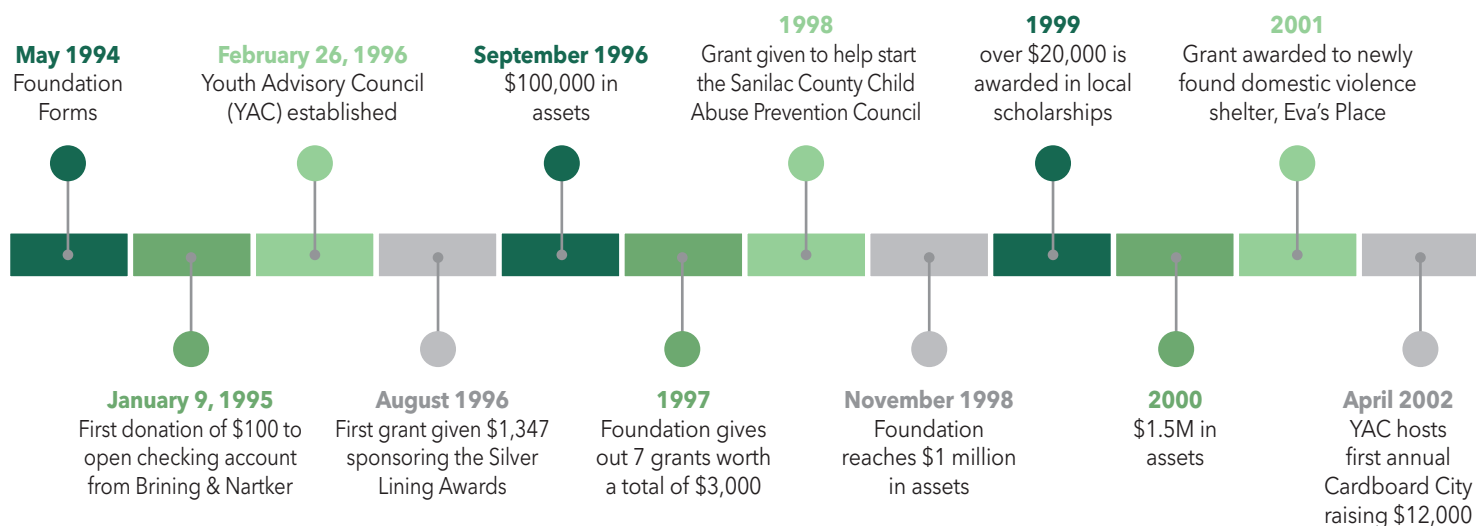
# HOW DO YOU MEASURE IMPACT

**H**ow do you measure the impact that one act of philanthropy can have? The answer is, you can't. Dollars and cents can be quantified and many individuals coming together to do multiple acts of philanthropy can be calculated into numbers.

Yet the true impact of philanthropy would only be felt if it had never happened. What would our neighborhoods look like without 25 years of people just like you giving of their time, talent, and treasure for the

good of the community? No afterschool programs, scholarships, funding for the arts, for seniors, for health and wellness?

For the past two and a half decades, the Sanilac County Community Foundation has strived to partner with the individuals and organizations in the greater Thumb area and support bold solutions. Our mission to strengthen community wellness and quality of life through endowed philanthropy is becoming a reality because of the great work that we do together!



# - 25 YEARS OF PHILANTHROPY



## *In the past 25 years...*

Over **1,143** Individual Scholarship Awarded

Over **475** Organizational Grants Awarded

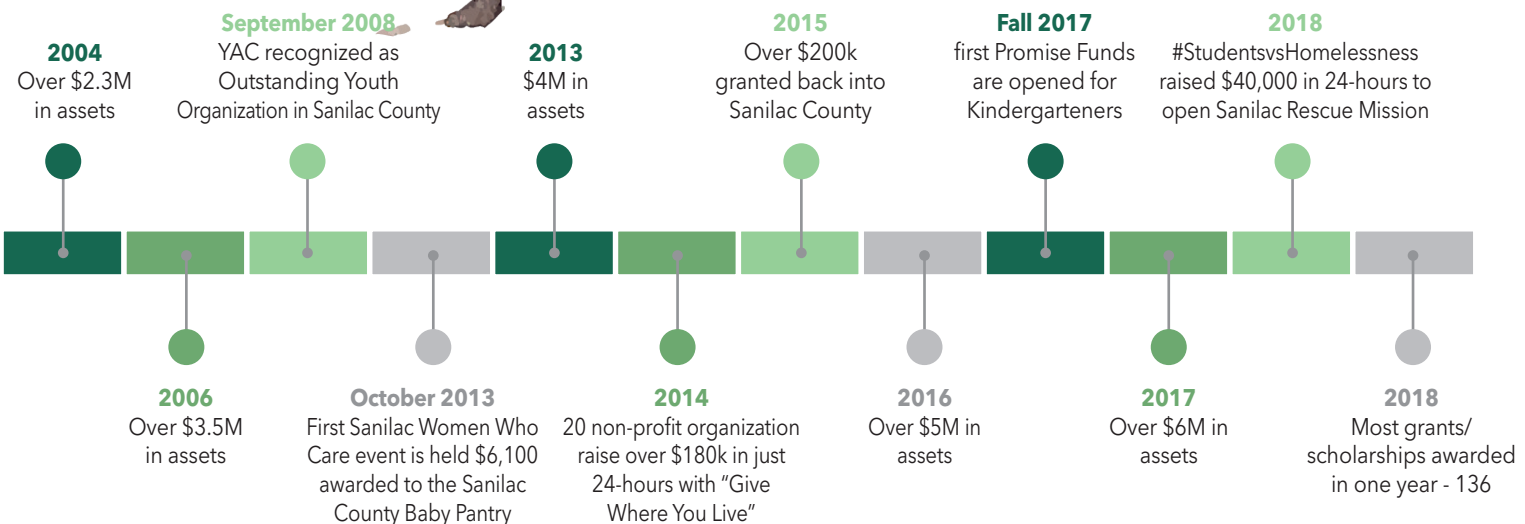
Over **3,500** individual donors

Over **\$1.3 million** in scholarships

Over **\$1.5 million** in grants

25 years = **\$3 million** invested back into Sanilac County

*And this is just the beginning.*





# INNOVATIVE PHILANTHROPY...



## Give Where You Live

In the spring of 2014, the Sanilac County Community Foundation co-sponsored Give Where You Live. A 24-hour giving event where individuals far and wide could give to their favorite Sanilac County non-profit for the opportunity to receive matching funds. The buzz and excitement created throughout our county resulted in over \$180,000 being raised enabling projects to be sustained or started. One major project, the Sandusky Splash Pad, became a reality because of this event and the generous support of the community.

While this was a one-day event, the name "Give Where You Live" represents the concept that makes a foundation work. It is the reason the many fundraisers that our local charities hold each year are successful. When you give into your local community you are investing into future generations that will live, work, play, and give here.

**STUDENTS**  
**VS HOMELESSNESS**



## Cardboard City/Students vs. Homelessness

April 2002 the Sanilac County Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) began the work of eliminating homelessness in Sanilac County, and Cardboard City was born. Every year since, YAC members have spent cold, rainy, and sometimes snowy nights outside on the courthouse lawn to raise awareness and funds. Over 1,200 youth have participated in the event with over \$80,000 being raised to provide emergency shelter in our county.



In March of 2018, YAC was at it again and took Cardboard City a step further. For 24-hours they challenged the community to help them raise \$40,000 to open the first emergency shelter for men in the county. Within just 13 hours the goal had been reached and this group of young leaders taught us that big things can happen when a community comes together.

## Promise Funds

"Every child, one promise...We believe in you."

In 2017 the Sanilac County Community Foundation made national news when it announced that every child that enrolled in kindergarten in Sanilac County would be given a Promise Fund. This long-term savings account would be seeded with \$50 from local donors, and as the students continued through their K-12 experience

# MAKING BOLD SOLUTIONS POSSIBLE.



*A Promise is a Promise.*

there would be opportunity to earn prize and incentive money. These funds will be growing and waiting for them so that upon graduation they will have a scholarship to pursue their dreams. The generosity of this community has been evident and not only have the students received the initial \$50 dollars, but the first two cohorts have received a matching \$50!

The goal of the program is to continue in perpetuity. That Promise Funds will inspire

every child to reach their fullest potential. To earn a college degree, a certificate, to start their own business, to pursue a job and life they love, right here in Sanilac County.

## Sanilac Women Who Care

Since 2013 women from across the Thumb have come together to "Experience the power of charitable giving" through an innovative initiative that we call Sanilac Women Who Care. This event allows the attending participants to join forces and grant large dollars in just a few hours. Since its inception the group has granted \$50,100 back into our community.



**A small group of women asked "why not us?" when reviewing an initiative in a neighboring county. The conclusion was "We can!" and the Sanilac Women Who Care was started. They will be hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> annual event in October 2019.**

**- Nona Walker,  
Chair - SWWC**

## What matters most to you in life?

It's a big question. But it's just one of many questions we'll ask to better understand you, your goals and your dreams using our *Confident Retirement*® approach. All to help you live confidently - today and in the future.



**Scott C. Long,**  
CPA, PFS, CFP®  
Financial Advisor  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™  
practitioner

**Lyn J. Mossett,**  
CFP®, ChFC®, RICP®, CLU®  
Financial Advisor  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™  
practitioner

**William J. Lackowski,**  
AWMA®  
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# HELP US GIVE AWAY \$25,000!



**N**onprofits from around the county have signed up to participate in the 25k for 25 Challenge. Through the power of online giving each non-profit will fundraise for THEIR organization for the entirety of our "birthday" month, May 1 - 31, 2019. At midnight on the 31st fundraising will stop and the 3 organizations who have raised the most funds will be given the opportunity to give a 3-minute presentation at the Anniversary Celebration. This is where it gets interesting...

Every person in attendance at the Anniversary Celebration will then be given

the ability to vote on which one of the 3 organizations will be given a \$25,000 permanent endowment at the Sanilac County Community Foundation!

For more information about these, and other nonprofits who are joining the 25k for 25 Challenge, please visit our 25th Anniversary website [www.sanilacfoundation25.org](http://www.sanilacfoundation25.org) Or become our friend on social media:

 /sanilacgives

 /sanilacgives

**If you would like to attend our 25th Anniversary Celebration and help us select the organization who will receive a \$25,000 endowment please visit: [www.sanilacfoundation25.org](http://www.sanilacfoundation25.org)**



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Thank you for your loyalty. We appreciate you.



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[www.McKenzieHealth.org](http://www.McKenzieHealth.org)

# List of Participating Nonprofits:



**Blue Water Folk Society**  
www.bluewaterfolk.org

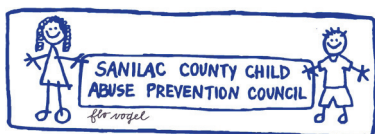


**Sanilac County**

**Great Start Collaborative  
Sanilac County**  
www.greatstartsanilac.com



**Sandusky Key Club**  
www.facebook.com/  
Kiwanis-Club-of-Sandusky-  
SHS-Key-Club



**Child Abuse Prevention  
Council & Child Advocacy  
Center**  
www.sanilacchild.org



**Sanilac County 4-H**  
www.canr.msu.edu/  
sanilac/4-h



**Community Health and  
Fitness Center**  
www.facebook.com/  
Community-Health-and-  
Fitness-Center



**Lexington Arts Council**  
www.lexington-arts.org



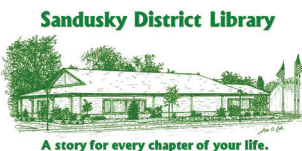
**Sanilac County Humane  
Society**  
www.  
sanilacountyhumanesociety.org



**Croswell-Lexington  
Community Band**  
facebook.com/  
CroslexCommunityBand



**McKenzie Health System**  
www.mckenziehealthsystem.org



**Sandusky District Library**  
www.sandusky.lib.mi.us



**Sanilac County Historical  
Village & Museum**  
www.sanilaccountymuseum.  
org



**Goodtimers**  
www.goodtimers.org



**SAVE Council/EVAS Place**  
www.evasplaceshelter.org



# GOOD, FOREVER – ENDOWED PHILANTHROPY

You may be wondering what makes the Sanilac County Community Foundation different from any other nonprofit in our county? And the answer is endowed philanthropy. Every time a gift is given to the community foundation, we plant it as a seed. That seed is planted inside the community foundation and grows just like a tree. Then every year, the fruit of that tree is used to further the philanthropic intent of our donors and address the needs in our community.

During our 25 years we have grown to a \$6 million organization with a variety of different funds and points of interest. Our celebration would not be complete without acknowledging the funds creating positive change in our community.

David W. & Judith A. Albrecht Scholarship Fund  
Albrecht Field Endowment Fund  
Kenneth Alexander Memorial Scholarship  
Weekend Food Backpack Fund  
Backus Family Scholarship  
Doug & Rose Banker Scholarship  
Philomena Falls Endowment for Beta Tau  
Joseph G. Biernasz Memorial Scholarship  
David Blank Athletic & Leadership Scholarship  
Blue Water Center for Independent Living Endowment  
Blue Water Council Boy Scouts of America Fund  
Blue Water Habitat For Humanity "Power" Fund  
Eleanor M. Bowman Scholarship  
Daniel James Brabant Memorial Scholarship  
The Bradley Fund  
Aaron Brown Memorial Scholarship  
Trina V. Buskirk Endowment Fund for Community Enhancement  
Fred Cady Scholarship Fund  
Sanilac County Child Abuse Prevention Council Fund  
The David Chmielewski "Mr. C" Memorial Scholarship  
Richard M. Coffelt Memorial Scholarship  
Shelby Sanderson Combs Scholarship  
Elfrieda Conrad Endowment  
John & Lila Chook, Peck United Methodist Church 4-H Scholarship  
Robert Cork Scholarship  
Carol A. Crake Scholarship  
Cros-Lex Community Fund  
Croswell-Lexington Eagles Aerie 4465 Scholarship  
Cros-Lex Pioneers Scholarship  
Croswell Boy Scouts Fund  
Croswell Rotary Scholarship  
Esther M. Cuppen Scholarship  
Deckerville Community Hospital Fund  
Deckerville Education Foundation Fund  
Dawn M. Dennison Scholarship  
John & Lois Donovan Endowment  
Eastern Michigan Bank Scholarship  
Exchange State Bank Scholarship  
Edward & Amelia Falls Scholarship

Corey William Farr Scholarship  
Stanley R. Fetting Scholarship  
Lee & Thelma Flannigan Scholarship  
France Outstanding Educator Award  
Kent & Lucille Freeland Scholarship  
Andrew Ronald Gerstenberger Memorial  
Gielow Pickles Scholarship  
Girl Scouts of South East Michigan Fund  
Goodtimers Fund  
Grow Sanilac Fund  
Gruber-Dahmen Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund  
Dr. R. K. Hart American Legion Scholarship  
Healthy Youth & Seniors Fund  
Stanley G. Herron Memorial Scholarship  
Hewitt-Riley Scholarship  
Monica Higgins Sopha Fund  
Joseph B. Hoppinthal Scholarship  
Mark S. Hund Scholarship  
Edward & Vivienne Huntoon Memorial Scholarship  
Elwyn K. Johnson Fund  
Fred Kalis Athletic Scholarship  
Andrew Kautz Memorial Scholarship  
Edward Ralph & Ina Kinsley Scholarship  
Robert Kenneth & Janette Grace Knight Scholarship  
Lexington Arts Council "Artistic Future" Scholarship  
Lexington VFW Scholarship  
David Lockwood Sr. Memorial Scholarship  
Marvin Longuski Educational Scholarship  
Marlette Art Scholarship  
Marlette Community Schools Fund  
McKenzie Health Systems Endowment  
Joseph V. McNichol Memorial Scholarship  
Oscar & Amy Merriman Memorial Scholarship  
James Mitchell Memorial Scholarship  
Joan Monte Memorial Scholarship  
Darwin Moriarty Memorial Scholarship  
Sheila Olbrich Fine Arts Scholarship  
Oldford Family Endowment  
Kevin M. Pearce Memorial Scholarship  
Inez Peasley Scholarship  
Peck United Methodist Church Scholarship  
Melinda Philpot Scholarship  
Port Sanilac Garden Club Scholarship

Promise Fund Endowment  
Terry & Jackie Reid Scholarship  
Replogle Fund  
Kim Rhead Leadership Scholarship  
Robb Family Scholarship  
Joshua Ross Memorial Scholarship  
St. John's Wallace Fund  
Sacred Heart Church Women's Auxiliary Scholarship  
Samczyk/Ball "Pay It Forward" Scholarship  
Sandusky Alumni Foundation Fund  
Sandusky District Library Endowment  
Sandusky FFA Scholarship  
Sanilac County Blood Bank Endowment  
Sanilac County Community Foundation Endowment  
Sanilac County Youth Advisory Council Endowment  
Homelessness Prevention Fund  
Sanilac County Historical Society Endowment  
Sanilac Medical Services EMS Tuition Fund  
Sanilac Rescue Mission Fund  
Sanilac Women Who Care Fund  
Sarkella Family Endowment  
SC4 Foundation Scholarship  
Isaac "IKE" Selick Law Enforcement Scholarship  
Gary Shaw Fund  
Suzanne Spencer Scholarship  
Steps for Success Fund  
Mike Stevens Scholarship  
Thee Valhalla Scholarship  
Cheryl Thomas Memorial Scholarship  
Thorley Family Endowment  
Thumbs Up For Kids Fund  
Harold & Dawn Titus Scholarship  
Tubbs Family Endowment for the Arts  
Sanilac County United Way Endowment  
Daryl Walker Scholarship  
Bonnie Wallace Endowment  
Walls/Flannigan Scholarship  
Wark Family Fund for Peck Community Schools  
Purl L. & Helen B. Wark Fund  
Joseph & Nellie Pepper Wegner Administrative Fund  
James T. Whitfield Scholarship  
John Wilder Memorial Scholarship  
Wixon Trust Scholarship

# VISION FOR THE FUTURE: BOLD QUESTIONS FOR GROWING GREAT

**P**hilanthropists at the early part of the twentieth century asked a bold question that remains relevant today: How can wealth be wielded for change that benefits society at large? In the latter half of the twentieth century, sustained economic growth expanded the philanthropic community. As more companies, communities, families and individuals began to believe in their ability and responsibility to have impact, the questions became more strategic:

- What levers of change can philanthropy influence to move the needle on critical issues?
- What innovations will lead to significant breakthroughs?
- How can donors best integrate efforts that are strategic, opportunistic and responsive?

The Best Way To  
**PREDICT THE FUTURE**  
Is To Create It.

- Abraham Lincoln

Today, these questions are starting points for those seeking to achieve deep social impact. Philanthropy requires renewed attention to bold questions:

- How can philanthropy create a new age of opportunity?
- How can we best harness the power of networks and work across sectors to grow philanthropy's impact?
- What is the highest and best use of philanthropy?

*With the practice in place to dream big and write down those dreams, the future is bright because as soon as you write down a dream, it became a plan with measurable goals that **will be** reached.*

*Doubling the endowment fund is a good place to start. The foundation is not only about money but also about a network of people that share dreams and goals for the common good. The more we develop leadership for the common good, the better it is, and I am excited to be a part of that and to see where that is going to take us.*

- Gertie Van den Goor, Board Member

These are the questions that we hope to answer with you, our community, in the next 25 years. The Sanilac County Community Foundation's mission remains constant, "to strengthen community wellness and quality of life through endowed philanthropy." The SCCF has always encouraged donors and corporate leaders to be proactive, and to look for gaps and opportunities where resources can be applied to tackle important social issues. As such, changes in the field of philanthropy over the past 25 years are easily marked by the bold questions asked by the SCCF and this community.

The focus remains on the concept and practice of high-impact philanthropy. Join us on your philanthropic journey to seek answers to your bold questions.

*Continued on the next page*



# VISION FOR THE FUTURE

## (CONT.)

*To act boldly we must ask bold questions. I foresee the next 25 years as an opportunity to be the people that cause change to happen. We need to start asking the hard questions that face us as a community and boldly step out in pursuit of the answers. For me, some of those questions are:*

- *How do we work together to wrap around our most vulnerable citizens and extend a hand up so that they can achieve their full potential?*
- *What can we do better to create vibrant communities and attract the next generation of residents?*
- *Are we continuously looking "outside of the box" to address systematic issues within our communities?*
- *What do we want Sanilac County to look like 25 years from now?*

*This is the journey we are on. To ask bold questions and support bold solutions. The SCCF is in a unique position because we are a cheerleader for the entire community. We don't represent just one entity, we are the embodiment of many entities, many people, and resources. And when we celebrate our 50th anniversary I know we will look back at today and be glad that we came together to grow great.*

**- Melissa Anderson, Executive Director, SCCF**

**ALL THE BRANDS  
YOU NEED TO  
KEEP MOVING!**



**JOHN DEERE**



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Marlette  
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