A continuum of giving

If the Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF) were a book, its founders would be the authors. From the very beginning in 1984, it was their generosity and vision that scripted the Foundation’s future. The funds that were established and the dollars they contributed are still used to meet today’s needs and plan for tomorrow’s opportunities. Some funds were established for specific purposes; others to meet the most pressing needs of the current time.

As we enter our fourth decade, SCF is ready to add another exciting chapter to our book. We call it our Continuum of Giving.

A continuum is something that keeps on going and changing over time. It is a succession of events leading from the past to the present and into the future. In addition to meaning “a whole made up of many parts,” continuum can describe a range that is always present. For example, in a high school, at any time, there are students who are learning algebra, then advancing to geometry, trigonometry and calculus. Just as the ninth graders master their particular math, they move on to the next one, as new ninth graders enter the school and the seniors graduate.

To help illustrate our Continuum of Giving, we have developed the “We Are Impact” art element pictured above. The four colored squares collectively represent an abstraction of Saginaw County and the ways in which SCF touches the lives of everyone in our county, young and old alike, from Freeland to Birch Run, from Merrill and Hemlock to Chesaning and Bridgeport. Individually, each square represents a piece of our Continuum of Giving: FORCE, our youth advisory council; our Nextgen group; Cornerstone Club and Pillar Society; and the SCF Legacy Society. Please see page 3 of this issue of Cornerstone for more details.

As we enter our fourth decade, SCF is ready to add another exiting chapter to our book. We call it our Continuum of Giving.

We believe the Continuum of Giving will assist community members of all ages in realizing that the book of the Saginaw Community Foundation is one worth reading and one worth adding a chapter to for each individual donor.

Interested in starting your own chapter in the SCF book? Visit saginawfoundation.org/site/for-donors/donor-resources/ or call (989) 755-0545 to learn about how SCF can assist you in realizing your philanthropic goals.
It’s hard to believe that it’s already three months into 2014. Usually, at this time of the year some people have started drifting from their New Year’s resolutions, some have the winter blues, and some are making plans for spring break – or maybe even summer. Whatever the case may be, another year will pass us by, so we must enjoy it while it lasts.

It’s also hard to believe that one year ago, the Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF) staff and Board of Directors gathered together to develop a 3-year strategic plan, and 30 years ago the foundation was established as the result of a dream of a group of women from the Junior League of Saginaw Valley. How time flies when you’re having fun.

In the fall issue of Cornerstone, I mentioned that a new SCF mission statement was drafted as a result of the Board of Directors commenting that we could do a better job of communicating the role of the foundation. After spending quality time on choosing the most appropriate words to define our services in the community, the following mission statement was established:

“The Saginaw Community Foundation fulfills donor wishes and enables community initiatives to come to life, now and forever.”

In addition to a new mission statement the SCF staff and Board of Directors spent the past year establishing the 2014-16 strategic plan. With the help of a number of community members we identified what the foundation has been doing well, what we can do to improve and where our focus should be. In the end, we identified four Pillars of Success: 1) Providing strategic leadership in our community; 2) Growing our endowment; 3) Practicing impactful grantmaking; 4) Stewardship of our resources, human and financial. Also, the community suggested, and we agreed, that we should focus some of our efforts on early education, youth development and community development. After developing a new strategic plan over the past year, the SCF staff, Board of Directors and myself are excited to implement the new plan. We feel confident it will take the community to another level as well as the foundation.

If you are interested in reviewing the detailed version of the 2014-16 Strategic Plan, it is available upon request.

Speaking of plans, it was 30 years ago the initial plan was developed to establish a permanent endowment which would grow in perpetuity and be available to help meet the current and future needs of Saginaw County. Over the past 30 years, the foundation has grown to $48 million in assets (as of Dec. 31, 2013), eight dedicated full-time staff, two program assistant interns, one FORCE intern, over 500 endowment funds under management and hundreds of supporters who brought us to where we are today. Let’s just say, we’re 30 years strong and ready for many more. Think spring!

Reneé S. Johnston, President & CEO

P.S. Please save the date, June 9, 2014, for the SCF annual/anniversary celebration. We look forward to celebrating 30 years with you. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates.
For good. For ever.

What do we mean by a “Continuum of Giving”? As defined earlier, a continuum is something that keeps on going and changing over time. It is a succession of events leading from the past to the present and into the future. In our case, the continuum establishes a giving structure, allowing a donor or volunteer to grow with the Foundation through their various stages of philanthropy.

To create a truly “For good. For ever.” experience, it is our hope that individuals entering the continuum with FORCE would remain active constituents with Saginaw Community Foundation through all of the stages listed below.

Each phase of the Continuum of Giving builds upon the last – increasing an individual’s experience and exposure to SCF.

Of course, it is not required for anyone to progress linearly through the continuum. The continuum simply provides an easy-to-understand framework from which to operate within, like a road map or guide. While there are age limitations associated with FORCE and Nextgen, anyone can participate in the Cornerstone Club/Pillar Society and Legacy Society.

Driven by our mission to fulfill donor wishes and bring community initiatives to life, now and forever, we believe the continuum will create a lifelong partnership between donors and volunteers and the Foundation. Putting all of the pieces together – FORCE, Nextgen, Cornerstone Club and Pillar Society, and our Legacy Society – the Saginaw Community Foundation and you ... We Are Impact.

A CLOSER LOOK: THE CONTINUUM OF GIVING

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1. FORCE

FORCE encourages local youth to get involved in solving problems in their community. This diverse group of teens from across the county, ages 14-21, are actively engaged in community service and grantmaking. FORCE provides youth with a meaningful experience in philanthropy and volunteerism. FORCE was established in 1992 as a result of a $1 million challenge grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. These funds were permanently endowed for the benefit of youth.

2. Nextgen

Nextgen is a diverse group of young adults who care deeply about Saginaw County and its future. The program was created and is funded by individuals ages 21-40 and seeks to develop the “next generation” of philanthropic leadership in our area. This group uses its endowed fund to make meaningful grants to various nonprofit agencies or special initiatives in Saginaw County.

3. Cornerstone Club/Pillar Society

Membership in the Cornerstone Club and Pillar Society is a progression or outgrowth from Nextgen. Individuals can become a Cornerstone Club member by giving a gift at minimum levels and directing that gift to any endowed fund held here at Saginaw Community Foundation. For Pillar Society membership, donors give a gift at minimum levels directly to Saginaw Community Foundation’s operating endowment to allow the Foundation to practice impactful grantmaking.

4. Legacy Society

The SCF Legacy Society has been established to recognize and thank individuals who plan to leave a gift to the community foundation via a bequest, trust, life insurance policy, retirement plan or charitable annuity. Members of our Legacy Society realize that their gifts in the future will strengthen the projects and programs of local nonprofit organizations and the people they serve. By creating the Legacy Society, the Saginaw Community Foundation can thank these individuals for their foresight and generosity today.
Cleveland lawyer and banker Frederick H. Geoff established the first community foundation in 1914. His vision was to pool the charitable resources of community members – people of all means – into a single, great and permanent endowment for the benefit of all. Within five years, community foundations were established in Chicago, Boston, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, Indianapolis, Grand Rapids, Minneapolis, Buffalo and New York.

Community foundations are devoted to the people and places you love

We are making history together. Community foundations across the country are helping people invest in the future of the communities they care about. Trillions of dollars are expected to transfer from one generation to the next during the next 50 years. The philanthropic opportunity during this transfer has the potential to improve the quality of life – in urban centers and small towns alike – through economic development, education, health, human services, environment, arts and culture. Community foundations are helping people of all means give back and make a difference.

During the coming decade, $2.6 billion is expected to transfer from one generation to the next here in Saginaw County. Over the next 50 years, the estimated transfer of wealth in Saginaw County is $16 billion.

If just 5% of this transfer could be invested at the community foundation in endowed funds, an estimated $129 million would be gained. Figuring a 5% grant payout, $6.5 million could be available annually to improve the quality of life in our community and secure our future. Imagine the impact!

OVER THE NEXT 50 YEARS, THE ESTIMATED TRANSFER OF WEALTH IN SAGINAW COUNTY IS $16 BILLION.

We thank our corporate sponsors for their generous support of Saginaw Community Foundation general operations.

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WANT TO JOIN THE inner CIRCLE?

There are various levels of public and printed recognition available – including introductions at events, listings in foundation publications and logos on our website – depending upon your membership level. For more information, call (989) 755-0545.
2013-14 Grants for Excellence recipients

Freeland High School
Purchase model rockets and engines for special education physics class students to build and launch. (Ms. Marilyn Peters)

Havens Elementary School – Swan Valley
Purchase Seven Habits books to help improve students’ leadership and self-confidence. (Ms. Lori Vacik)

Ling Elementary School – Hemlock
Purchase books and art supplies to promote reading and interest in Greek mythology. (Ms. Louise Fleischmann)

Saginaw Intermediate School District
Purchase talking GPS units for visually impaired students, allowing for safe and independent travel in the community. (Ms. Rikilynn Layher)

Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy
Purchase teacher copy of Odyssey, a chemistry simulation software program that allows the instructor to demonstrate how the behavior of molecules relates to the behavior of substances. (Dr. David Allen)

Purchase various early writing forms such as clay, papyrus and antique papers. (Ms. Lisa Millar)

Shields Elementary School
Purchase science equipment to supply STOP, DROP and SCI, a program where, once a month, all teachers at Shields Elementary School stop and perform various science experiments at the same time. (Ms. Michelle Buggia)

St. Thomas Aquinas School
Purchase a comprehensive Pre-K science kit, allowing students to explore and investigate science topics at their grade level. (Ms. Molly Borges)

Swan Valley High School
Purchase classroom set of Radioactive Boy Scout novels for use in chemistry classes. (Ms. Kay Wojrowski)

Purchase Mini-Q civics program to help improve a student’s reading and writing skills. (Mr. Dave Adams)
Applications are due for:
• Dow Corning Donor Advised Fund grants
• Saginaw Community Foundation general grants

Excellence in Education scholarship event

Nexteer Steering the Future Fund grant applications due

Annual celebration

for more info, visit saginawfoundation.org

VOLUNTEER

HELP CHANGE A LIFE
Scholarship reviewers needed

Each year, nearly 200 people from all walks of life volunteer to help review scholarship applications for the Saginaw Community Foundation – and you could be one of them.

Volunteers review a packet of applications and score the students in 10 different areas – such as leadership, volunteer service, extracurricular activities and essays – according to the provided guidelines.

“The review process can be completed in just a few hours,” said LeeAnn Martuch, program officer at SCF. “You can review your packet of applications from home and we give you about two weeks to complete the entire process.”

For information about this volunteering opportunity, contact LeeAnn Martuch at (989) 755-0545 or leeann@saginawfoundation.org. Potential volunteers must sign-up by March 14.

MAKE AN impact IN OUR COMMUNITY
with your gift today.

Name(s): ____________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ______ ZIP: ______
Phone: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________
Gift amount: $ __________ Direct gift to fund/program (if applicable): ____________________________
Please charge my: □ VISA □ MasterCard □ Discover □ American Express
Credit card #: ____________________________
Expiration date (MM/YY): ______ 3-digit security code: ____________________________
Print name as it appears on credit card: ____________________________
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Please make checks payable to Saginaw Community Foundation

MAIL TO: Saginaw Community Foundation • 1 Tuscola St. • Suite 100B • Saginaw, MI 48607

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saginawfoundation.org/site/for-donors/give-now/