

President's Report

FROM RENÉE S. JOHNSTON

The power of Donor Advised Funds

Right now, somewhere in Saginaw County, there are two families who may never meet – and yet will profoundly influence each other. One needs a little extra help to get on their feet and may struggle to get by – like far too many do in our region. The other has been fortunate enough to be able to provide for themselves and their future and now they are eager to give back.

As president and CEO at Saginaw Community Foundation, I have the humbling job of interacting with both of these types of families firsthand. It reminds me that even though many of our neighbors face challenges, we are also blessed with families who want to help. That's why I'm proud that our foundation works to create opportunities for charitable giving that help more families be a part of making our community a great place to live for all its residents.

Donor advised funds are a philanthropic tool used by many different entities, and in organizations like ours, they play a unique role in the community. For example, the Carl Werth, Jr. and Sandra Werth Fund at SCF has been critical to supporting education broadly in our community. This is just one way that neighbors are helping neighbors locally.

Funds like the one Carl Werth, Jr. and Sandra Werth established allow residents to set a local agenda for how, where and what we focus on in advancing the common good. The fact is, over our 34 years of service to the region, we have built deep expertise in the non-profit landscape, as well as our community's unique needs. Donor advised funds allow potential donors to tap into this expertise, so they can rest assured their gifts will achieve the greatest good.

Our region's non-profits – and the residents they serve – also benefit from the added flexibility and nimbleness that comes with donor advised funds. This can be critical when crises hit or unexpected opportunities arise: whether it's a chance to build a grocery store in a neighborhood without one or responding to a natural disaster. Other funds managed by that community foundation may have less flexibility because they are reserved for supporting specific, non-related issue areas (i.e. healthcare or recreation) or are already committed to be granted as part of a specified grant cycle. Donor advised funds allow SCF to bring solutions to the causes and issues that matter most.

For our region's many charity-minded residents, donor advised funds offer a way to establish a tradition of giving that they can pass on from one generation to the next, without requiring the financial expertise, time or knowledge necessary to set up a private foundation. In families of more modest means, gifts might start with a few thousand dollars, or a donation of stocks or hard-to-value assets that can nonetheless do a lot of good right in their own community.

Of course, administering funds like these is a privilege that comes with big responsibilities. That's why the vast majority of community foundations, including yours, meet the rigorous qualifications of National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations® program, which sets strict measures for accountability and transparency in giving. These standards include a "fund activity" requirement specifically designed to ensure resources are distributed promptly and effectively. And once a donor makes their gift,

they relinquish control over how the resources are spent – just as they would with any charitable donation. While donors and designated family members can offer advice, final management and oversight stays with the community foundation to ensure resources go where they can do the greatest good.

At the end of the day, this community's greatest strength is in its people – and the ways neighbors find to help one another every day. That's how families from different walks of life can influence each other, even if they never meet. One may benefit from a food pantry with plenty on the shelves this month; another from showing their children the meaning of giving back. Either way, SCF is honored to be here to connect them, now and for years to come. For more information, see page 5.



Renée S. Johnston, President & CEO



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New and retiring community foundation Board members

Since our founding in 1984, Saginaw Community Foundation has been led by a visionary Board of Directors. We continue to benefit from the wise counsel and oversight of these accomplished civic leaders, and we are grateful for their service.

Retiring Board members

We especially wish to acknowledge retiring members of our Board of Directors, **Heidi Bolger**, **Luis Canales**, and **Dr. John Kosanovich**.



Heidi Bolger joined the SCF Board 18 years ago in 2000. In her dedicated years of service, Heidi served as assistant treasurer, treasurer, secretary, vice-chair, chair, and immediate past chair. In addition to serving in those roles, Heidi consulted with and provided guidance to our president and CEO as well as the Board at-large.



Luis Canales began serving on the SCF Board of Directors in 2010. Shortly after joining, he was slated to serve on our executive committee as our community liaison. Over the past eight years as part of the SCF Board of Directors, Luis served as liaison to the United Way of Saginaw County, treasurer, and secretary. He helped SCF develop a strong relationship with Nexteer Automotive (his employer) which allowed SCF to be the philanthropic vehicle for Nexteer Automotive to give back to its community.



Dr. John Kosanovich joined the SCF Board of Directors in 2012. He served as our assistant treasurer and also chaired our Investment Committee. John provided our

Board with his thoughtful, careful insights into issues challenging our community.

New Board Chair

Dr. Mamie Thorns, chief diversity officer, Saginaw Valley State University, assumes the role of Board Chair at Saginaw Community Foundation. A member of the

Board of Directors since 2006, Mamie served previously as the Board secretary and most recently, its vice-chair.

New officers elected

At our June Board meeting, the following officers were elected:

Laura Yockey, Vice-Chair
John Shelton, Secretary
Todd Gregory, Treasurer
Trish Luplow, Assistant Treasurer
Felicia Rose-Barry, SCF Liaison
Dana Tell, Community Liaison
Smallwood Holoman, Jr., Immediate Past Chair

New members appointed

Also at our June Board meeting, the following individuals were appointed to Board positions:

Jill Dralle, Nexteer Automotive
Rob Kain, Hemlock Semiconductor
Dr. Iris Marteja, Covenant Medical Group

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Online scholarship application opens Nov. 1

Beginning on Nov. 1, Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF) will start accepting scholarship applications. Each year, SCF awards hundreds of scholarships to post-secondary education students (community college, university, nontraditional and vocational students). Applications for 2019 scholarships are due Feb. 15, 2019.

To apply, students need only complete a single online application to be considered for one or more of the over 200 scholarships available, including the Saginaw Promise Zone scholarship. Many of the scholarships offered are awarded to multiple students and students can individually earn more than one award.

"Education is vital to the growth and future of every community. Scholarships can help people in our region obtain a degree, certificate or other training that will help further their aspirations and goals," said René Johnston, president and CEO at the Foundation.

Earlier this year, a total of 490 scholarships were awarded at the Saginaw Community Foundation's annual

Excellence in Education event. A total of \$617,234 was awarded to recipients. Of all applications received, 42% of applicants received a scholarship.

Since 1987, the foundation has awarded more than \$5.3 million to students to help them achieve their educational goals.

"People traditionally think scholarships are just for high school seniors," said LeeAnn Martuch, program officer at the Foundation. "Here at Saginaw Community Foundation, we offer scholarships for all types of individuals – from vocational students, displaced workers, active or inactive military, a single parent just returning to school, or a student working full-time and attending college part-time."

Visit saginawfoundation.org/site/scholarships/ to review instructions, begin an application or review a directory of scholarship opportunities. Besides offering scholarships for residents of Saginaw County, SCF offers many opportunities for residents of Bay and Midland Counties as well.

inner CIRCLE

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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.

apply for
scholarships
 UNDERGRAD • GRADUATE • VOCATIONAL



APPLICATION OPENS NOV. 1, 2018

Thinking of establishing a donor advised fund?

A hands-on approach to sustainable philanthropy

Donor advised funds enable you to make a gift to Saginaw Community Foundation, then remain actively involved in suggesting uses for your gift. This fund type is a convenient, flexible tool for individuals, families, businesses or groups that want to be personally involved in suggesting grants made possible by their gifts.

If you have a range of community interests, you may find that a donor advised fund is an ideal vehicle for fulfilling your charitable wishes.

Additionally, donor advised funds are typically less costly and easier to administer than other forms of philanthropic giving (such as family or corporate foundations).

How it works

Your gift to SCF will serve as the foundation for your fund. The fund can be set up in your

name, in the name of your family, or in honor of any person or organization you choose.

When you establish a donor advised fund, you'll have the opportunity to recommend uses for the fund. This enables you to support the causes and organizations you care about most.

How it grows

Your fund will be endowed at Saginaw Community Foundation. Earnings gained through investments will be used to make grants. If you prefer, grants can be made anonymously. Your donor advised fund and its earnings become a permanent source of community capital, helping to do good work forever.



Ready to get started?

We're here to help you achieve your philanthropic goals. Contact us today at (989) 755-0545 or visit saginawfoundation.org for more information.

Frequently asked questions about donor advised funds

Do I have to be wealthy to establish a donor advised fund?

Donor advised funds at Saginaw Community Foundation attract a wide range of people interested in helping our community and its residents thrive. In fact, donor advised funds offer a unique way to establish a tradition of giving for families that can be passed on from one generation to the next, without requiring the financial expertise, time or knowledge to set-up a private foundation of their own. Initial gifts might start with a few hundred dollars, or a donation of stocks or hard-to-value assets that can do a lot of good right here in Saginaw County.

Wouldn't it be better to give the money directly charities and non-profits?

The purpose of a donor advised fund is to provide much-needed resources to charities and non-profits. Saginaw Community Foundation, with our deep expertise with local non-profit agencies, acts as a knowledgeable steward of our donor's resources – especially for donors who lack the time or know-how to vet where their dollars can make the biggest difference.

One of the greatest benefits of donor advised funds is that they build a "community savings account" that allows charitable funds to grow and respond to immediate and future community needs. With their greater flexibility for distributing resources, donor advised funds are critical when opportunities arise in a community.

What reassurances does Saginaw Community Foundation offer that donor advised funds are managed properly?

Saginaw Community Foundation is powered by our mission to fulfill our donor's wishes and enable community initiatives to come to life, now and forever. We meet the rigorous qualifications of National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations® program, which sets strict measures for accountability and transparency in giving. These standards include a "fund activity" requirement specifically designed to ensure resources are distributed promptly and effectively.

Do donors get to dictate how the fund is spent?

What donor advised funds do offer is a chance for donors to "give where they live" and get involved in local causes or opportunities they might not know about. In some cases, donors have a specific idea in mind. But in other cases, donors want to tap into the knowledge of the Saginaw Community Foundation to understand where their gift can do the greatest good.

Once a donor makes their gift, they relinquish control over how the resources are spent. While donors can offer advice and recommendations, management and oversight stays with Saginaw Community Foundation.



Notable Dates

OCT
31

Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Scholarship applications due

NOV
01

SCF Scholarship Application opens online

NOV
01

Application deadline for SCF General Grants

NOV
01

Application deadline for Grants for Excellence

Application deadline for Louis & Karen Constan Science Education Fund Grant

DEC
01

Application deadline for Nexteer Steering the Future Fund Grants

DEC
10

Cornerstone Club/Pillar Society Open House & Reception



Saginaw

community foundation



1 Tuscola St., Suite 100B
Saginaw, MI 48607

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APPLY BY OCT. 31

MLK Regional Scholarship

Applications for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Scholarship are now available. This scholarship is for Bay, Midland and Saginaw County high school seniors, regardless of ethnicity, who actively embrace Dr. King's dream of improving racial harmony and social justice.

Scholarships are \$1,000 and nonrenewable. The awards will be presented at the annual Great Lakes Bay Regional Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration program to be held in early 2019 at Saginaw Valley State University.

Applications must be completed online at scf.spectrumportal.net and are due by Oct. 31, 2018.



For Good. For Ever.

Your generous donation will make an impact in Saginaw County

Name(s): _____

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Phone: _____ Email: _____

Gift amount: \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$: _____

Direct gift to fund/program (if applicable): _____

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