

Important Information Regarding Donations to Saginaw Community Foundation via Check

With over 580 unique funds each with their own area of impact, there are a variety of ways you can match your giving area of interest with your philanthropic goals and give back to your community with a gift to Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF). Gifts of cash, checks, real estate, fine art, retirement savings, appreciated securities, stocks, bonds or business assets are accepted – and each type of gift has requirements to meet in order for SCF to accept your gift.

Changes in the way checks are validated and processed for deposit at SCF's primary financial institution necessitate a modification to the way SCF can accept gifts made by check. If you give to SCF with a personal or business check, and may have donated in the past to SCF by making your check payable to a specific fund (i.e., Saginaw Promise Scholarship Fund) or a special project fund, we want

to make you aware of a new way for you to prepare your check for a donation to SCF.

Effective immediately, if you wish to donate via check, please make your check payable to Saginaw Community Foundation and indicate the fund name or special project you wish to direct your donation to on the memo line. You may also indicate the name of the fund or special project you wish to support with your gift by using a SCF donation envelope, a SCF donation form, or separate note enclosed with your contribution. **In order for SCF to be able to accept and deposit any donation made via check, it is important that all checks are made payable to Saginaw Community Foundation.**

If you would like to donate electronically via credit or debit card, please visit <https://saginawfoundation.thankyou4caring.org>.

Our secure donation page features a search function that allows donors to find and select a fund to direct a gift towards. Donations to multiple funds can be compiled into a "shopping cart" and processed at one time with a single transaction. Receipts are emailed within minutes using the email address provided during the transaction. If you would like to set-up a recurring automatic donation charged to your credit or debit card, please contact us at (989) 755-0545 for details.

For any questions about contributing via check, or for any other concerns, please contact us at (989) 755-0545. The Saginaw Community Foundation staff and Board of Directors wish to thank all of our amazing donors for their support, for it truly takes a village ... for good, for ever.

AMAZING DONOR
1234 MAIN ST.
SAGINAW, MI 48601

March 28, 2021
DATE

0101

1 → PAY TO THE ORDER OF Saginaw Community Foundation \$ 250.00

Two hundred fifty and ^{no}/₁₀₀ DOLLARS

2 → MEMO Saginaw Promise A. Donor

⑆ 23457890⑆ ⑆000⑆ ⑆⑆⑆32415⑆ 0101

Check Donation Requirements

- 1 To make a donation to any fund or special project at SCF, the check must be made payable to **"Saginaw Community Foundation."** Do not make your check payable to a specific fund name or special project.
- 2 Use the Memo Line to indicate the fund name or special project you wish your donation to support.



Saginaw

community foundation

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saginawfoundation.org/site/newsletter-sign-up/

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President's Report

FROM RENEÉ S. JOHNSTON

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As a leader in the community, and as an organization motivated by relationships and partnerships, the Saginaw Community Foundation (SCF) must represent the diversity of the community it serves, provide equitable grant opportunities to support broad community needs, and listen to resident's voices when making impactful decisions. We recognize that for our community to thrive, now and in the future, SCF must affirm its commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in the work it does and the culture it creates in its workplace.

According to the Council of Michigan Foundations, diversity includes "all the facets and characteristics that make each person unique, including but not limited to their race, nationality, age, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, education, region, language and documentation status." Diversity is important because, acknowledging "difference helps to drive smarter decisions, increased innovation and stronger performance".

Mindfulness of Equity means "intentionally elevating equity to the center of all of our work to guide our priority setting and decision making; and marshaling our resources to advance equitable opportunities and outcomes at a systems level that positively affects the lives of individuals."

Inclusion is defined as "intentionally creating environments in which all individuals and groups are welcomed, respected, supported, valued and encouraged to participate fully; ensuring that all voices and perspectives are heard and understood; sharing power and leadership; being mindful of both who is at the table and who is not at the table; and thoughtful of how, when and where the table is set."

The SCF staff and Board of Directors are taking this journey with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion very seriously – a journey that will no doubt be on-going. Recently we surveyed ourselves to identify what we know, what we

don't know, what we need to know, and how to get there, as it relates to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. At this point, we've identified the need for continuing education and training, the need to better understand our community's demography and needs, and the need to better articulate our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion intentionality in SCF's policies, procedures, and materials. In doing so, this process will allow SCF to develop the tools necessary to address our community's critical needs through a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion lens and also articulate to the community partners and agencies we serve the importance of embodying principles of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the work they perform.

All of us at SCF along with our Board of Directors hope that you will support our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts, and that you'll join us on this journey. Together, we can and will make an impact in our community.

Until next time, happy spring!

Reneé S. Johnston, President & CEO



Grant program marks ten years of impact

Tracing its roots back to 2012, the Board of Directors' Community Improvement Initiative (CII) Grant from Saginaw Community Foundation has helped support ten community projects with a total financial impact of \$265,000. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the grant program.

Every year, Saginaw Community Foundation awards its CII Grant to a single project. The project, as selected by the Foundation's Board of Directors, receives \$25,000. An additional \$5,000 is granted if the selected project matches the initial \$25,000 grant amount.

The goal of this initiative for Saginaw Community Foundation is to create a funding vehicle that enables organizations to be more proactive in addressing community improvement needs. A desired outcome is to encourage the community to create and implement community improvement initiatives on its own.

What exactly is "community improvement"?

"We have defined a community improvement initiative as a project that will create indelible, measurable impacts in the immediate and broader community," said Renee Johnston, SCF president and CEO.

This initiative extends beyond existing charitable organizations, churches, schools and county/city officials. Individuals, community groups, neighborhoods, businesses and youth groups can apply if they utilize the Foundation as a fiscal sponsor. New and existing community projects are eligible.

What types of projects are eligible?

The projects submitted must create indelible, measurable impacts in the immediate and broader community; be supported and planned by a broad range of users; and have a clear, well-laid plan for success and sustainability.

Who can apply for the grant?

Any 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization is eligible to apply. The Saginaw Community Foundation, another nonprofit, a local unit of government, or a religious institution can be used as the fiscal sponsor for individuals, community groups, neighborhoods, businesses and youth groups if not a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

How to apply

Applications are due by April 1 each year. Before beginning an application, please contact Brian Jackson, director of donor services and special initiatives, at (989) 755-0545 or brian@saginawfoundation.org to discuss a project. Additional information can be found at saginawfoundation.org/site/grants.

A look back at past CII grants

2012

Deindorfer Woods Park Revitalization

A total of \$250,000 in total donations from a variety of partners were used to renovate the trails, replace dead trees, add a new playground and put lights, security cameras and a new parking lot into the park. The Consumers Energy Foundation contributed \$125,000 towards the project in matching funds to celebrate the company's 125th anniversary.

2013

Mission in the City Curriculum-Driven Playground

The CII grant was used to construct a curriculum-driven playground geared for children ages 2-5 within the Sports and Fitness Park located in city block at N. 6th and N. 7th Streets and Federal and Janes Avenues in Saginaw.

2014

Thomas Township Parks and Trails Partnership for a Better Today

This project was a partnership between Thomas Township Parks and Recreation department and Swan Valley High School that completed safety projects on the Thomas Township Trail (including fencing and a solar caution light), clear out overgrown and downed trees at Roethke Park, build benches and bike racks for the Thomas Township Trail and initiate Phase One of a trailhead pavilion that provides restroom facilities for trail-goers and a picnic shelter.



2015

New Beginnings Enrichment Center

“One Week, One Street”

This grant helped New Beginnings Enrichment Center continue improvements to a neighborhood enrichment center located within its One Week, One Street program area. The enrichment center will impact approximately 800 neighborhood residents allowing for activities like reliable internet access, classes, trainings, seminars, workshops and also provide a safe and supervised place for students to go after school.

2016

Saginaw County Parks & Recreation

Saginaw River
Headwaters Rec Area

Saginaw Community Foundation was one of many community, state, and federal partners that aided in the purchase of just over 334 acres of former industrial property along the west bank of the Saginaw River from the RACER Trust, to be used for nature-based, passive recreation activities and an open space resource under the management of the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission with the 2016 CII Grant Award.

2017

Kingdom Builders Ministries of Michigan

Restoring Saginaw's Abandoned
Homes, Lots, and Lives

Kingdom Builder's Ministry serves young men who are unemployed or underemployed by teaching marketable job skills in construction trades and agriculture. The Ministry buys abandoned houses and remodels them as well as buying vacant lots to create urban farming plots full of apple and peach trees and honey bee hives.

2018

Saginaw County Community Action Committee, Inc.

Minor Home Repairs Program

Focused in the Unity in the Community Neighborhood Association, this project addressed blight and other needs of the neighborhood specifically: interior and exterior painting, window repairs, lead remediation, improving accessibility such as ramps and handicap railing, fixing outdoor lighting and addressing other safety and code violations.

2019

City of Saginaw

National Fitness Court

Located on Fordney St. in front of the Frank N. Andersen Water and Skate Park, The Fitness Court® is an outdoor bodyweight circuit-training system featuring a series of full-body exercises that can be completed in just seven minutes.

2020

Bethel AME Church

Bethel Community Garden

On Saginaw's northeast side, a new community garden will be constructed at the corner of Cathay and McGill Streets. The garden project will feature a fruit and vegetable garden, children's playground, walking path, a family picnic pavilion, and decorative fencing to surround the entire garden area.

Read extended
overviews of all
CII Grant recipients

Visit: bit.ly/3al3AdM

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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.

Regional Census efforts will lead to stronger communities

Great Lakes Bay Region top area in Michigan for 2020 Census engagement rate

Back in 2018, Foundations across Michigan were encouraged by the Michigan Nonprofit Association to work closely with community organizations and partners to promote and educate the importance of the 2020 Census. The thought was that the positive philanthropic partnerships and relationships of Foundations could help communicate effectively the importance of completing the census along with help combat myths surrounding the census in regards to how information would be collected and used.

Following the results of the 2010 Census, the state of Michigan was the only state to lose population. As a result, Michigan lost a seat in the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. (a decrease from 15 to 14) and millions of dollars in federal funding over the ten-year period from 2010-2020. It was crucial for Saginaw County, the Great Lakes Bay Region, and the entire state of Michigan that we get a complete count in the 2020 Census.

Together with the Bay Area, Midland Area, Mt. Pleasant Area, and Saginaw Community Foundations a 2020 Regional Census Hub was established, with each Foundation providing financial support to hire a regional Census Coordinator. Chloe Updegraff, the Great Lakes Bay Regional Census Hub Coordinator, worked closely with each of our communities to promote and



encourage a complete count. Here in Saginaw County, the Saginaw Community Foundation also provided funding for mini-grants to support the efforts of community organizations who organized events and activities to encourage residents to complete the census.

The 2020 Census kicked-off in March 2020 and concluded in October 2020. Despite some initial setbacks in the beginning related to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 200 census-related events were safely held with proper social distancing and mask protocols across the Great Lakes Bay Region with more than 35,000 people attending.

When data was tabulated in Michigan, the Great Lakes Bay Region was ranked the top area for census engagement in the state. Michigan was ranked 8th in the nation for self-response rates and also ranked 3rd best in the nation for largest gain in state-wide responses to the 2020 Census versus the 2010 Census. In total, Michigan had a 71.3% self-response rate – an increase from the 67.7% self-response rate of 2010. Saginaw County also saw a gain in the self-response rate moving from 72.2% in 2010 to 74.2% in 2020. Each individual counted in the census results in \$1,800 in federal funding each year for ten years in Saginaw County.

“I am so proud of the level of collaboration, teamwork and outreach that has been accomplished over the past two years of this project, with such a diverse group of nonprofits, local governments, businesses, schools and individuals not just being involved but leading the charge,” said Updegraff. “My hope is that we set the standard for collaboration and community impact, and that this Census Hub model is replicated and utilized to create impact for many years.”

◀ *City of Saginaw City Council Members volunteering at a Census event.*

▼ *STARS wrapped one of their buses with a promotional graphic reminding residents to complete the Census.*



2020 Census Partnership Highlights

Promoting the 2020 Census was a team effort in Saginaw County with 30 organizations assisting with getting the word out about the importance of completing the census. To aid in communications efforts, a Communications Toolkit was created. The Toolkit contained customizable print and digital materials allowing organizations the ability to tailor messaging for their audiences. SCF granted over \$65,000 to ten organizations in Saginaw County for census related activities. Here two SCF grant funded examples:

Saginaw Transit Authority and Regional Services (STARS)

Coordinating with the City of Saginaw, STARS hosted three events in the fall to encourage census participation. The City of Saginaw provided giveaway items, tables, chairs, tents and voter registration cards. Local food vendors and music provided by a DJ helped draw people to the event. The Complete Count Committee helped people take the census.

Prior to the events, 4,000 households had not been counted. After the events, only 500 remained.

Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute

Understanding the importance of getting the Hispanic population counted, representatives of the Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute attended church fish fries and food distribution events and stood outside popular Latino stores educating people about the census and providing iPads for people to take the census right there. When the pandemic hit, they quickly pivoted to digital promotion with Facebook Live videos and chats, virtual townhalls, videos, an informational webpage, radio ads and online contests.

“Our collaborations with many local organizations made the outreach efforts possible. We are certain that if we hadn’t utilized the Census Hub resources, there would be a gap in the Hispanic count in our region,” said Monica Reyes, Executive Director, Great Lakes Bay Hispanic Leadership Institute.

We're here for you

In our efforts to help stop the spread of COVID-19, our office remains closed to outside visitors for the time being until we receive word from state and local health officials that it is safe to fully open. Limited numbers of SCF staff are in the office to perform essential tasks and operations when needed. Otherwise, the SCF staff is working remote.

If you need to reach a member of the SCF team, we are here for you and are just a phone call or email away to assist. Our office phone number is (989) 755-0545. A directory of staff emails and phone extensions is available on our website at saginawfoundation.org/site/about/staff/. Our regular business hours remain Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

A box has been placed outside our office door to accommodate contactless drop off/pickup of items. The box is located on the first floor of the Morley Building, 1 Tuscola St., in Downtown Saginaw and is accessible during our regular business hours.

Follow SCF on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn as well as our website for updates on our office operations and visitation policy.



Saginaw

community foundation



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

*If you are receiving duplicate copies of **Cornerstone**, let us know, and please pass one on to a friend.*



Notable Dates

APR
01

Application deadline for
Community Improvement
Initiative (CII) Grant

MAY
01

2nd Quarter Application deadline
for SCF General Grants

MAY
31

Application deadline for HSC
Community CARES Grants

JUNE
01

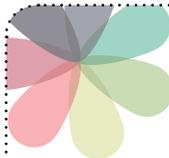
2nd Quarter Application deadline
for Nexteer Steering the Future
Grants

JUNE
2021

Virtual recognition for 2021
Excellence in Education
Scholarship Recipients on
SCF website *(details to come)*

FALL
2021

SCF Annual Celebration
*(details to come - subject to change due to
public health gathering limitations)*



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in Saginaw County

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