In January 2021, as part of the Michigan Opioid Partnership activities, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, in partnership with global public health organization Vital Strategies, announced grants to ten community foundations located throughout Michigan to reduce overdose deaths by expanding harm reduction services within their communities. Saginaw Community Foundation is one of the ten community foundations to receive this grant in the amount of $60,000.

Upon receipt of the grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, The Dow Chemical Company Foundation contributed an additional $50,000 to the program.

Opioid overdoses are the leading cause of death for Americans. Fatalities in Michigan are among the highest in the nation, behind just nine other states. Preliminary data from 2020 suggests that COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the trend, both locally and nationally. Many programs exist to educate others on the harms of opioid addiction, but not as well-known are harm reduction programs committed to engaging with and caring for the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs. Harm reduction strategies include naloxone distribution, syringe services programs, and partnerships with first responders – these are critical overdose and life-saving measures.

“For many communities, COVID-19 has turned a dire situation into a desperate one,” said Mariam Noland, president, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. “Community foundations like ours are well positioned to translate these funds into life-saving resources and support for individuals who truly need it. As we work to address this public health issue in Michigan, we are pleased to partner with a global public health leader in Vital Strategies, as well as our fellow community foundations to create immediate and effective impact.”

Within the City of Saginaw, Saginaw Community Foundation is collaborating with the following organizations to solidify harm reduction strategies in our community: Saginaw County Health Department, Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, Families Against Narcotics and their programs Hope Without Handcuffs and Comeback Quick Response Team, Peer 360 Recovery Alliance, Saginaw Police Department, Mobile Medical Response and Saginaw Transit Authority (STARS). The goals of the harm reduction efforts include opening a syringe service program in the Saginaw County Health Department, providing stigma reduction training to first responders, support the Comeback Quick Response Team, educate the public through art to help reduce the stigma attached to drug addiction and create awareness on where individuals can receive help for addiction.

Working together with our partners, the goals of the Harm Reduction Program are:

- Work with Saginaw City Council to change the ordinance prohibiting a syringe services program in the City of Saginaw
- Provide supplies to stock the syringe services program at the Saginaw County Health Department
- Establish a relationship with Mobile Medical Response to participate in stigma reduction training
- Fund the overtime costs for Saginaw Police Department and Mobile Medical Response staff to attend stigma reduction training
- Fund overtime costs for a police officer to accompany the Comeback Quick Response Team when they go to the homes of those who recently overdose

Continued on page 5 ...
SCF welcomes new staff members

We are so happy to welcome two new additions to our staff here at Saginaw Community Foundation.

Chamika Ford has joined our staff as our new Program Officer. In this role, Chamika will be responsible for managing our scholarship program as well as two educator-based competitive grant programs: Grants for Excellence and the Louis & Karen Constan Science Education Fund Grant.

Alexandria Martinez has joined our staff as our new Program Associate. In this role, Alexandria will be responsible for assisting with our scholarship program as well as our general competitive grant program.

Welcome, Chamika and Alexandria!
Grant program continues
grass-roots 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 Renée 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. 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.

Read extended overviews of all CII Grant recipients
Visit: bit.ly/3aI3AdM
We thank our corporate sponsors for their generous support of Saginaw Community Foundation general operations.

**Chairman’s Circle**

**President’s Circle**

**Friends Circle**

**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.
Important Information Regarding Donations via Check

With over 590 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.

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.

On July 26, 2021, Saginaw City Council approved an ordinance change allowing the Saginaw County Health Department to begin the process for opening a Syringe Services Program (SSP). The SSP is not limited to only city residents, but is available to all individuals in Saginaw County.

SSPs are designed to provide sterile injection equipment for individuals utilizing injection drugs. These programs are associated with a 50% reduction in HIV and hepatitis C virus (HCV) incidence. When combined with medications that treat opioid dependence, HIV and HCV transmission is reduced by over two-thirds.

“Overdoses are increasing in Michigan as COVID-19 amplifies the risks shaped by social isolation and economic decline,” said Reneé Johnston, president and CEO, Saginaw Community Foundation. “Harm reduction strategies like naloxone distribution, syringe services programs, and partnerships with first responders are critical overdose prevention and life-saving measures. This new funding will invest in community-rooted harm reduction programs that are committed to engaging with and caring for the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs.”
Notable Dates

**APR 01**
Application deadline for Community Improvement Initiative (CII) Grant

**MAY 01**
Application deadline for SCF General Grants

**MAY 16**
Excellence in Education Event

**MAY 31**
Application deadline for HSC Community CARES Grants

**JUNE 01**
Application deadline for Nexteer Steering the Future Grants

**JUNE 13**
SCF Annual Celebration at The Neighb

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**For Good. For Ever.**

Your generous donation will make an impact in Saginaw County

Name(s): ____________________________________________

Billing Address: ______________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _____ ZIP: ______

Phone: __________ Email: ______________________________

Gift amount: □ $500 □ $250 □ $100 □ $50 □ Other $: _____________

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

Please charge my: □ VISA □ MasterCard □ Discover □ American Express

Credit card #: __________________________ Expiration date (MM/YY): _____ / ______

Print name as it appears on credit card: ______________________________

Signature: ________________________________________________

Please make all checks payable to Saginaw Community Foundation. If applicable, indicate the fund name in the memo line you wish to support with your donation.

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

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saginawfoundation.thankyou4caring.org

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