

SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SCF

cornerstone

AUTUMN 2023



# Saginaw STEM receives \$25k grant

2023 Community Improvement Initiative grant recipient awarded in June at SCF Annual Celebration

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PHOTO COURTESY: SAGINAW STEM





Saginaw

community foundation

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# President's Report

FROM RENEÉ S. JOHNSTON

## It Takes Each of Us

Fall is upon us once again. The leaves are changing colors, pumpkin spice lattes and apple cider and donuts are on the menu, and football has returned. We all may enjoy something different about this time of the year, but I think we can all agree that it's definitely a beautiful, and colorful, time in Michigan.

At the Saginaw Community Foundation, fall marks a time for Philanthropy Uncorked, our upcoming fundraiser on November 29 (details will be announced soon), as well as the kick-off for our annual year-end Lucy R. Allen Cornerstone Campaign. Fall is also a time when the SCF Board of Directors comes back together to resume meeting after a brief summer break. During our September Board meeting we were delighted to introduce two new Board Members, Dr. Katherine Ellison, marketing coordinator, Castle Museum of Saginaw County History and Scott Ellis, executive director, Great Lakes Bay Pride. Their first Board Meeting was an enlightening one as our Board Chair, John Shelton, asked Board Members to come prepared to share why they are a SCF Board Member. As people were sharing their "why", some were brought to tears and others exuded joy. It was beautiful to hear a common theme of "this is my home and my community", and "I want to do all I can to give back". It was definitely a proud moment for me and the staff to be surrounded by a table of amazing volunteers who chose SCF as a way to give back to the community they all love and recognizing it takes each of us to make an impact.

## A way to give back

If you or someone you know is looking for a way to give back to the community, the SCF staff and I would love the opportunity to share how the Foundation can assist. One way of giving back is through establishing an unrestricted fund. An unrestricted fund allows SCF the ability to address the current needs and opportunities in our community, supporting those agencies, organizations, municipalities, etc., with the services and activities they provide. See page 4 for an overview of unrestricted funds. If you are interested in learning more, visit [saginawfoundation.org](http://saginawfoundation.org) or contact us at (989) 755-0545.

## Wellness and Wellbeing

Saginaw Community Foundation recognizes that employee wellbeing is a critical component of a healthy work environment and organization. On August 30, the SCF Staff participated in a staff wellness day that allowed each of us to pause, reflect, relax and recharge. We participated in meditative activities, brought in a massage therapist offering 10-minute chair massages, and enjoyed an outing to Freeland for lunch and outdoor games. Our wellness day was a great time for the team at SCF to engage with each other and take a break from our regular schedules.

Have a Fantastic Fall!



Reneé S. Johnston, President & CEO

# Welcome new SCF Board members



Scott Ellis



Dr. Katherine Ellison

At our June Board meeting, **Scott Ellis** and **Dr. Katherine Ellison** were appointed to a Board position at Saginaw Community Foundation. Welcome to the Board, Scott and Katherine!

Sign-up for electronic delivery of **cornerstone** [saginawfoundation.org/site/newsletter-sign-up/](http://saginawfoundation.org/site/newsletter-sign-up/)

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Web: [saginawfoundation.org](http://saginawfoundation.org)

Email: [info@saginawfoundation.org](mailto:info@saginawfoundation.org)



Confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations

# New funds established

The following new funds were approved by the SCF Board of Directors between Feb. 18 – June 16, 2023:

## Andersen Enrichment Center Facility Enhancement

A pass-through fund to assist the Andersen Enrichment Center Administration raise funds for much needed enhancements to the facility.

## Henry Marsh Plaza Project

A pass-through fund to support fundraising/management activities for the design and installation of interactive art pieces under the Henry Marsh Bridge (I-675 at N. Washington Ave.). This project is considered one of the legacy projects which was a requirement for the Canadian Hockey League's 2024 Memorial Cup Tournament bid process submitted by the Saginaw Spirit Hockey Club.

## Remember the Trojans and Lumberjacks

A pass-through fund to assist with fundraising for the publishing of a book commemorating highlights of rival basketball games between the Arthur Hill Lumberjacks and the Saginaw High Trojans. Funds are being raised to lower the cost of the book to make it equitable for all to purchase. Any remaining funds will go

towards the establishment of a scholarship for a graduating senior from Saginaw United who also play sports.

## Saginaw Police Reserves

A pass-through fund to assist the Police Reserves with reimbursements and fundraising for safety/patrol equipment.

## Burris "Buss" Smith, Jr. Memorial Fund

A pass-through fund established in memory of Burris "Buss" Smith, Jr., son of Kathy and Burris Smith, who died unexpectedly. The funds will be used to purchase knitted hats that will be embroidered with a logo memorializing Buss, and those hats will be distributed to people in need at local shelters and The East Side Soup Kitchen.

## United Cancer Alliance Fund

A pass-through fund to support cancer resources in Saginaw. The organization is in-process securing its 501(c)(3) certification.

## Youth for Understanding (YFU)

### Jason Pollington Latin America Program

A designated fund to support the expenses for a student to participated in the YFU Latin America program.

## Mridha Foundation Teacher of the Year Award

Craig Coopersmith, science teacher from Carrollton High School, received the Mridha Foundation Teacher of the Year Award.

Founded in 2010 by Dr. Debasish Mridha, the Teacher of the Year Award was established to help teachers inspire students to reach beyond their potential. Teacher's receiving this award will be presented with a grant to be used for continuing education and professional development.

"Teachers are one of our community's greatest assets," said Dr. Mridha. "I believe in recognizing teachers who are imaginative and creative – who go the extra mile – and get students to really believe they can do more."

## Joseph W. Madison Youth Award

Joseph Courville, a senior from Frankenmuth High School, was awarded the 2023 Joseph W. Madison Youth Award at our Annual Celebration. Established in 2007, the Joseph W. Madison Youth Award recognizes an area youth who gave a little more and went above and beyond to serve the community. A longtime community volunteer and champion, Joseph Madison spent countless hours giving back to help make Saginaw County a better place and remarked: "Everybody's got something to give. There are so many ways to take your skills and talents and help the community."

Joseph Courville was nominated by Ms. Kate Conzelmann, Counselor at Frankenmuth High School.



Joseph Courville, senior from Frankenmuth High School, receives the Joseph W. Madison Youth Award. Also pictured (l to r): John Shelton, board chair, Saginaw Community Foundation and Reneé Johnston, president and CEO, Saginaw Community Foundation.

## Interested in starting your own fund?

The fund you establish with the Saginaw Community Foundation can be set up in your name, in the name of your family, or in honor of any person or organization you choose. You also may choose to give to an existing fund.

Your fund will be endowed at the Saginaw Community Foundation. Earnings gained through investments will be used to make grants that address needs in Saginaw County. If you prefer, grants can be made anonymously.

To get started, meet with your professional advisor or contact the Saginaw Community Foundation at (989) 755-0545 or visit [saginawfoundation.org](http://saginawfoundation.org) for more information.



## Scholarships Made Simple. Your Dreams Await!

One Application.  
Hundreds of Opportunities.

**Our online application opens Nov. 1**  
**Due date: Feb. 9, 2024**

# Unrestricted funds

## Meeting ever-changing community needs

When you establish an unrestricted fund, your gift addresses a broad range of local needs – including future needs that often cannot be anticipated at the time your gift is made.

Because you set no restrictions on the use of your gift, it enables our experienced program staff and board to do what they do best – assess community needs and respond by awarding grants to nonprofit organizations that undertake our community's most critical work.

We evaluate all aspects of community well-being: arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, health and human services, neighborhood revitalization and more.

## Unrestricted funds help SCF support:

- long-term solutions
- respond quickly to emergencies
- meet changing social, cultural, educational, or environmental needs in Saginaw County

To start your fund, you can make a bequest or give cash, appreciated stocks, real estate or other assets. The unrestricted fund can be set up in your name, in the name of your family, or in honor of any person or organization you choose.

You'll receive tax benefits in the year your gift is made and you can add to the unrestricted fund you establish at any time – and so can others who share your interests in community.

Your fund will be endowed at SCF, serving as a source of community capital. Earnings gained through investments will be used to make grants that address needs in Saginaw County.

The flexibility of your unrestricted gift enables your community foundation's program experts to respond to the community's most pressing needs, today and tomorrow.



## Giving is personal

Many people come to a point in their lives where they feel inclined to give back. They do so for a number of reasons, all very personal to them.

There are as many ways to give as there are motivations. The key to a rewarding giving experience is finding the best fit for your charitable priorities, financial goals and personal preferences.

Saginaw Community Foundation is here to help you determine a custom giving solution that's right for you.

## Ready to get started?

For more information and ideas on ways to integrate your financial planning with charitable giving, ask your financial advisor, contact Saginaw Community Foundation at (989) 755-0545, or visit [saginawfoundation.org/site/for-donors](http://saginawfoundation.org/site/for-donors).

# inner CIRCLE

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

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## President's Circle



YEO & YEO

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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.



# Saginaw STEM receives \$25K grant

## 2023 CII grant recipient awarded in June at SCF Annual Celebration and community awards presented

A program geared for students in grades K-12 that brings learning opportunities and activities centered around STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) is getting a huge boost. Saginaw STEM's "STEM Saturdays" initiative was awarded in June Saginaw Community Foundation's Board of Directors' Community Improvement Initiative \$25,000 grant at our Annual Celebration.

STEM Saturdays are hands-on interactive experiences with STEM activities. Hosted at a Saginaw Public School's building, the venue is transformed into a laboratory where students participate in hands-on STEM experiences supervised by community volunteers including engineers, teachers, parents, local leaders and high school peer leader students.

"The Community Improvement Initiative grant is a game changer for us," said Danté Davis, executive director and founder of Saginaw STEM. "The funds will be going towards expanding the program and increasing the number of events per year. We will be able to plan and schedule our programming on a monthly basis for an entire year – something we have not been able to do. This grant has helped save the STEM Saturdays program."

Each Saturday program guides students as they create projects related to a STEM theme. Students build items like catapults, rocket cars, rockets, circuits, motorboats, mechanical hearts and lungs, traffic lights, robots and electric charging stations, to name a few.

"Our mission is to grow, engage, expose, and inspire future innovators, creators, makers, and entrepreneurs," said Davis. "We strive to help members of the community to learn about opportunities in the fields of STEM."

STEM Saturdays launched in 2021 and quickly became a hit with students, with attendance quickly growing into hundreds of attendees at each session. The sessions are offered free-of-charge to participants.

"Interest in STEM Saturdays was nearly instant," remarked Davis. "It really proved to us

that there was a great need in our community to get students engaged in STEM."

Davis shared that receiving the \$25,000 Community Improvement Initiative grant is a huge accomplishment for Saginaw STEM and its STEM Saturdays program.

"Being awarded the grant has definitely created more buzz around our program," said Davis. "The grant has helped legitimize what we are doing. With the backing of Saginaw Community Foundation, other funders in our community are offering their support, especially with helping us match the grant amount to receive additional funding from SCF."

A component of the Community Improvement Initiative grant is if the initial \$25,000 is matched with another \$25,000, SCF will award an additional \$5,000.

"It's more than just receiving the dollars," said Davis. "We're aligning the ideas and goals of STEM Saturday's to match SCF's goals for our community, which comes down to putting kids first. They are our future, and we are helping prepare and instill in them the tools and knowledge needed to compete in the world."

### Frank N. Andersen Spirit of Philanthropy Award

Sarah and Mike Jury were this year's recipients of the Frank N. Andersen Spirit of Philanthropy Award.

In 1994, the Frank N. Andersen Spirit of Philanthropy Award was created to honor Mr. Andersen. The award is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have a history of outstanding philanthropic leadership and demonstrated generosity of time, talent, and dollars. This award honors its recipient, who like Mr. Andersen, is a philanthropist in the truest sense of the word – with a personal commitment to making a difference here in Saginaw County.

Through the Jury Foundation, Sarah and Mike are focused on making our community a better place through focused giving "from A-to-Z."

"If we invest in making our community a better place to live, more people and families will stay in the Saginaw area," said the Jury's.



*Danté Davis, executive director and founder of Saginaw STEM, accepts the \$25,000 Community Improvement Initiative grant award at our Annual Celebration in June.*



*Mike and Sarah Jury, recipients of the 2023 Frank N. Andersen Spirit of Philanthropy Award.*



*Craig Coopersmith, science teacher at Carrollton High School, recipient of the 2023 Mrihda Foundation Teacher of the Year Award.*



## Notable Dates

OCT  
31

Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Scholarship applications due

NOV  
01

SCF Scholarship Application opens online

NOV  
01

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023 SCF General Grant Applications Due

NOV  
29

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Philanthropy Uncorked beer, wine and bourbon tasting event at The Saginaw Club

DEC  
01

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023 Application deadline for Nexteer Steering the Future Fund Grants

DEC  
04

Pillar Society Champagne Toast Reception – SCF Boardroom



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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 are scheduled to be presented at the annual Great Lakes Bay Regional Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration program to be held in early 2024 at Saginaw Valley State University.

**Applications must be completed online and are due by Oct. 31, 2023.** Visit [saginawfoundation.org](http://saginawfoundation.org) for details.



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**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.**

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