

SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



**cornerstone**

SPRING 2023



# Community Improvement Initiative

Up to a \$30,000 grant is available for a single project.

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*Pictured: Groundbreaking day at the 2020 CII Grant recipient: Bethel Community Garden*  
PHOTO COURTESY: T. RASSMUSEN



**Saginaw**

community foundation

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FOR GOOD. FOR EVER.

# New funds established

The following new funds were approved by the SCF Board of Directors between Nov. 18, 2022 – Feb. 17, 2023:

### Celebrity All Star Basketball Game

The Tri-City Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod Men's Basketball League annually organizes an all-star basketball game to raise funds for a charity. In the past, faculty at Michigan Lutheran Seminary have set-up personal accounts for the funds raised. The group decided working with SCF would help add legitimacy to their event and assist with their general fundraising activities, as well as other administrative functions.

### COOPSTRONG Scholarship

Scholarship to be awarded to graduating senior, who plays varsity hockey at Heritage High School. The scholarship is established in honor of the donor's late son, Cooper Wobio, who played varsity hockey during his junior and senior year at Heritage high school.

### Gary L. and Florence J. DeShano Scholarship

A pass-through scholarship to be awarded to any Saginaw County high school graduating senior pursuing a certificate or degree in Career and Technical Education (CTE) with a concentration in construction or a construction related field.

### Handley Hills

A pass-through fund to assist Handley School and the Handley School Foundation with their fundraising efforts for a new playground at Handley School's new location.

### Health Equity Council

A pass-through fund to assist the Saginaw County Health Department with a grant received from the Michigan Public Health Institute to address COVID-19 disparities through an equity lens.

### Martin and Mary Kerr Family Fund

A designated fund that will support a one-time gift to the Birch Run United Methodist Church and St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenthum and provide a long-term annual support for Taymouth Presbyterian Church.

### Martin and Mary Kerr Family Scholarship

A scholarship to be awarded to Birch Run High School graduating senior. This scholarship is established in honor of the donor's late great uncle, who had strong ties to the Birch Run area and valued education – a value that runs through generations of the Kerr family.

### Juneteenth Celebration Activity Fund

A pass-through fund to assist with fundraising activities for the annual Saginaw Juneteenth Celebration.

### Dr. A. Michael Manzoni Veterinary Medicine Scholarship

A scholarship fund that was established to recognize the veterinary efforts of Dr. A. Michael Manzoni. This scholarship will benefit annually one student pursuing an education in veterinary medicine.

### Tittabawassee Township Historical Society

A pass-through fund to support the organization with the construction of a new building.

## 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.

Sign-up for electronic delivery of **cornerstone**  
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# 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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 a 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 (fencing, 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. The property will be used to create nature-based, passive recreation activities and an open space resource under the management of the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.

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 including: 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.

Read extended overviews of all  
CII Grant recipients

Visit: [saginawfoundation.org/site/cii](http://saginawfoundation.org/site/cii)

2013: Mission in the City  
Curriculum-Driven Playground



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 was constructed at the corner of Cathay and McGill Streets. The garden project features a fruit and vegetable garden, children's playground, walking path, a family picnic pavilion, and decorative fencing to surround the entire garden area.

2021

**The NEIGHB**

The NEIGHB Community Center

Located at the former Samaritas Neighborhood House on Russell St. in Saginaw, The NEIGHB made needed improvements to the facility including upgrades to the gymnasium and basic infrastructure needs that allow for the facility to restart services.

2022

**Restoration Community Outreach**

Restore, Renew, Recreate Life Skills Program

The Restore, Renew, Recreate Life Skills program to add even more services for men in the community. The program includes services like trauma informed care training, substance abuse training and services, as well as additional courses on self-motivation, improvement coaching and healthy financial habits.

**inner  
CIRCLE**

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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.

2017: Kingdom Builders Ministries of Michigan Restoring Saginaw's Abandoned Homes, Lots, and Lives (Beekeeping program pictured)



# Grant program continues decade-plus impact across Saginaw County

Tracing its roots back to 2012, the Board of Directors' Community Improvement Initiative (CII) Grant from Saginaw Community Foundation has helped support 11 community projects with a total financial impact of \$295,000.

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 René 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.



Read overviews of past CII Grant recipients

► SEE PAGE 3

*Pictured above: 2019 CII Grant project: National Fitness Court*

## 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-out plan for success and sustainability.

While this program is open to all applications that address community needs, a priority will be given to projects with a focus on diversity, equity, and/or inclusion. (See definitions below)

- **Diversity:** A community that appreciates and celebrates the unique differences that make us who we are.
- **Equity:** A community that provides equitable access to opportunities and elimination of barriers to participation.
- **Inclusion:** A community in which everyone is invited, has a sense of belonging, is heard and understood, is valued for their authentic self, and feels safe and secure.

## 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](mailto:brian@saginawfoundation.org) to discuss a project. Additional information can be found at [saginawfoundation.org/site/grants](http://saginawfoundation.org/site/grants).





## Notable Dates

APR  
01

Application deadline for  
Community Improvement  
Initiative (CII) Grant

MAY  
01

Application deadline for  
SCF General Grants

MAY  
15

Excellence in Education Event

MAY  
31

Application deadline for HSC  
Community CARES Grants

JUNE  
01

Application deadline for Nexteer  
Steering the Future Grants



Saginaw

community foundation



1 Tuscola St., Suite 100B  
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copies of **Cornerstone**, let us know,  
and please pass one on to a friend.

## Honor & Tribute Gifts

A great way to honor someone special is to give an honor or memory tribute gift. These gifts become lasting, living legacy's and help Saginaw Community Foundation make grants to a wide variety of charitable, educational, health and cultural programs throughout Saginaw County. These gifts will join many others and grow, creating an impact in our community, now and forever. These gifts were received between Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, 2023.

### HONOR GIFTS

KeShawn Banks  
Delores Gale

*"In honor of the difference you made, and continue to make in perpetuity. Thank you for your 26 years of service to the CAN Council. Enjoy your retirement."*

Patrick Moore  
Jack Provenzano  
William Haithco  
Ruth Weismiuller

### TRIBUTE GIFTS

Carol DeFrancesco  
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in Saginaw County

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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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