Community Impact REPORT



IMPACT

Strengthening the nonprofits that strengthen Lapeer County

At the Lapeer County Community Foundation, we believe that when our local nonprofits thrive, our whole community grows stronger. Over the past year, we've focused on amplifying the voices, capacity, and impact of these essential organizations through storytelling, education, and donor partnership.

Our Rooted in Impact campaign brought together Lapeer County nonprofits to share their stories through a series of short, professionally produced videos. Each one captures the heart of their mission, the lives they touch, and the ripple effect of community giving. This project showcased not only the remarkable work of our nonprofit partners, but also the interconnectedness of donors, volunteers, and neighbors who make their work possible.

Beyond storytelling, we've continued investing in the strength and sustainability



Six Rivers Land Conservancy

of our nonprofit community.

Through a series of free workshops, the Foundation provided tools, training, and collaboration opportunities designed to help organizations grow their impact—from improving governance and fundraising strategies to enhancing

strategies to enhancing community outreach and partnership development.

Together, these efforts reflect our shared commitment to lift up those who serve others. By shining a light on their stories, providing resources for success, and connecting donor generosity to community need, we're helping ensure that Lapeer County nonprofits have the support they need to continue changing lives—today and for generations to



Child Advocacy Center



Pregnancy Center of Lapeer



Habitat for Humanity of Lapeer



Through our Rooted in Impact storytelling campaign and nonprofit workshops, the Lapeer County Community Foundation is helping local organizations grow stronger and more connected.



Give today. Impact tomorrow.

Our Mission

The Lapeer County Community Foundation leads and supports projects and initiatives that impact the quality of life in Lapeer County today, tomorrow and for future generations.

Desired Impact

The Lapeer County Community Foundation (LCCF) serves as the philanthropic leader in the county by partnering to support and lead projects that advance opportunities for people to learn, work, play, and care about one another.

Rooted in GENEROSITY

Generosity shows up everywhere in Lapeer County. It's in the wave from a neighbor driving by, the smile shared at the coffee shop, and the volunteer who takes time to check in on someone who lives alone. It's in the casseroles dropped off after a hard week, the meals served at a community event, and the hands that show up to build, clean, teach, or comfort.

This is who we are—a community rooted in kindness, compassion, and connection.

The Lapeer County Community Foundation was founded on that same spirit of generosity—connecting people who care with causes that matter. For nearly three decades, we've been helping local generosity grow, linking neighbors, families, and businesses to opportunities that make life better for everyone.

Just as farmers tend their fields with care, we nurture the people, programs, and causes that help our community thrive. You don't have to be wealthy to make a difference. Every act of giving—whether it's a donation, a volunteer hour, or a simple act of service—helps strengthen the roots of Lapeer County. Together, those individual acts create something powerful: a community where everyone belongs, contributes, and flourishes.

We are proud to be part of this enduring story of care. Rooted deeply in the values of this place we call home; we're here for the long term—nurturing the good that already exists and helping it grow for generations to come.

So wherever generosity shows up—in a smile, a handshake, or a helping hand—you'll find the heart of Lapeer County, and you'll find us, too. If you're ready to join us—through your time, your talents, or your treasure—we invite you to reach out, stop by, or give us a call. Together, we can keep generosity growing, right here at home.

Together, we: Give today. Impact tomorrow.



contact us

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With the support of generous donors, we're shining a light on their vital work, providing resources for growth, and ensuring every nonprofit has the tools to continue changing lives across Lapeer County.



"YAC allows me to feel more connected to my community and know that I am making real, lasting, impactful change."

– Kailyn Woodruff YAC Co-Chair



Each year, YAC attends a Summer Youth Leadership Conference. This year, eight committed students participated, eager to bring back what they learned and apply it to our YAC. The conference empowers them to lead confidently and ask questions that drive meaningful change. Service to others is a guiding principle of YAC. Whether it's making blankets for communities in need or packing backpacks with essential school supplies, LCCF YAC is proud to be on the front lines—meeting needs, creating impact, and making a difference.

~Rooted in~ THE FUTURE

We know that the best way to grow a strong community is to invest in our kids and their learning. This year, our grants have helped in all sorts of ways. From building model classroom libraries and supporting agriculture education and small animal projects at the county fair to restoring a pool at a local camp and hosting a community baby shower for new expecting moms

donor dollars are impacting the future of Lapeer County. The Lapeer County Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) makes sure that youth voices are heard through grants, community service projects, and leadership development. By planting these seeds, we're helping young people and families thrive today and setting the stage for a brighter tomorrow.



New Poultry Cages

"Thanks to the investment from LCCF, we empowered youth, educated the public, and made a lasting impact on small animal welfare in our community."

- Ian Kempf, General Manager, Eastern Michigan State Fair

"Lapeer County Intermediate School District is striving to support all five public school districts and one charter school in Lapeer County with intentionally building 'model' K-3 classroom libraries, but this cannot happen without community support. With combined efforts, we have targeted 29 classrooms and reached close to 800 students just this school year! We couldn't have made such an impact around Lapeer County without LCCF!"

> - Kristal White, Literacy Consultant and Coach Coordinator for LCISD



Marketing and Foundation Manager



Skyline Pool Project

Grants from the Lapeer County Community Fund and YAC Fund helped Skyline Camp and Retreat Center restore not just a pool, but an essential part of the camp experience, a place where memories are made, confidence grows, and community thrives.





Ruth Fox Middle School Golden Apple Award recipient

what is LEA

At the Lapeer County Community Foundation, we believe in the future of every child in Lapeer County. Together with our community partners, we are actively empowering students with lifelong financial skills while nurturing their career aspirations. By working hand in hand, we're building a stronger, more vibrant future for our entire community—one student at a time.

• All PreK–K students in Lapeer County schools automatically have a LEAF deposit-only savings account established to help them save for future dreams through inschool, branch, and direct deposit opportunities.

• These accounts can be used for educational expenses related to traditional two- or fouryear colleges, trade schools, apprenticeship programs, and

certificate programs.

• Grade-specific financial education and money management lessons are taught across Lapeer County during in-school Education

Days, helping students understand the Total value of money **Enrollment:** and build smart financial habits. • Each fall,

> every 4th grader visits a local financial institution through the LEAF Bank Bound program to learn

how banks work, explore careers in banking, and discover how saving and interest grow their money. • New this year, the LEAF360!

itiative integrates healthy behaviors with LEAF savings incentives. Families can look for the LEAF360! logo at community events, where students can grow their accounts while also building healthy habits.

"Education is the foundation for every future opportunityit opens doors, shapes character, and inspires possibility. Through the LEAF Program, we can help ensure every student has the chance to pursue an education that transforms their life."

> - Kim VonHiltmayer Superintendent, Almont Community Schools



"We are happy we chose LCCF to establish the Daley **Acres Agricultural Memorial** scholarship in 2011 following the loss of my brother. LCCF takes all of the managerial and administrative tasks off our plate so we can focus on raising funds, and choosing recipients and causes to honor my brother. It was an obvious choice to go with LCCF again when we decided to create the **Thomas Daley Memorial** Fund. I think Thomas would be proud to know we're working with a local Lapeer organization to help others in his honor. Thank you LCCF for allowing us to carry on the legacy of Thomas Daley!"

– Michael Daley

local youth. Another family hosted a

fund that keeps their loved one's

spirit alive through grants that uplift

At the Lapeer County Community 5k and gave a grant to AgrAbility, an Foundation, every gift tells a story — of love, legacy, and a deep connection organization that supports disabled farmers so they can continue farming to community. This year, we've seen and provide for their families. Some donors honor cherished memories and meaningful causes in inspiring ways. One family gives through a memorial

~Rooted in~

CONNECTION

Donors Making A Difference

donors quietly give, preferring their impact to speak for itself. Whether supporting broad community needs or a specific passion, each donor reminds us that giving is most powerful when it comes from the heart.



Karen Wranosky Memorial Fund

The Karen Wranosky Memorial Fund hosts an annual golf outing to honor Karen's legacy and grow her impact through grantmaking. This year they presented a check to the Almont High School Dance Team for the purchase of new uniforms.



Dave & Jackie Whitton/Big Sky Acres Memorial Fund

The Dave & Jackie Whitton/Big Sky Acres Memorial Fund supports the needs of the most vulnerable, such as hunger, homelessness, domestic violence, and compassionate care through hospice.

"It is such an honor to have the ability to continue my mom's legacy in such an impactful way. We can't thank our community enough."

- Riley Wranosky



-Rooted in-

THE ARTS

Grants that Inspire and Connect

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Lapeer County Community Foundation is proud to support the performing arts across our community. From enhancing theater lighting and sound systems in local schools to providing essential production equipment for plays, concerts, and performances, our grants help bring creativity and culture to life. Projects like the Imlay City pavilion project, Lapeer Symphony Orchestra upgrades, and

new sound systems at the Center for the Arts of Greater Lapeer ensure students, musicians, and audiences alike can enjoy high-quality performances where neighbors will gather and memories will be made. Each grant reflects our commitment to enriching community life, supporting local talent, and making the arts accessible to all residents. Over the past year, nearly \$72,000 was granted across Lapeer County supporting arts and culture.



Hispanic Service Center of Imlay City Cinco de Mayo Celebration



The Chatfield School Stage Upgrades



- Christine Malzahn, Executive Director, Imlay City Downtown Development Authority

"The Downtown Depot Pavilion has truly transformed the heart of our community. It's more than just a structure—it's a gathering place that brings people together, supports local

business, and celebrates the spirit of Imlay City.

We're incredibly grateful to the Lapeer County **Community Foundation for helping make this**

> **Lapeer Community Schools** Lapeer High School Performing Arts Program -Sound System and Production Support



Almont High School Spring Play Production, You Can't Take It With You

"I graduated from North

Branch High School in 1955,

and I participated in sports

all throughout high school.

teachers in high school who

college. I received a full ride

scholarship to MSU and was

to college and I have always been proud of that. My hope is that I can help someone like

the first in my family to go

I had several coaches and

encouraged me to go to

vision a reality."

"The Center for the Arts is thrilled about the generous grant from the Lapeer County **Community Foundation, The PIX Theatre will** be able to boast a brand-new state-of-theart sound system. This investment not only enhances the quality of our performances and audience experience but also brings longterm sustainability to our operations. The new installation ensures that The PIX can continue to provide exceptional live entertainment while better supporting the needs of our talented performers and visiting artists."

- Jill Lyons, Executive Director, Center for the Arts of Greater Lapeer



Lapeer Symphony Orchestra New Keyboard and Equipment



Center for the Arts of Greater Lapeer New Digital Sound System for PIX Theatre

Rooted in-

LEGACY

At the heart of our community are forward-thinking individuals who choose to leave a legacy of giving gifts that will continue to make a difference long into the future. For some, this might mean establishing a scholarship to open doors for local students; for others, it could be providing life-changing experiences, like sending children with disabilities to summer camp, or preserving a treasured collection so it can be shared with the public for generations to come. Each legacy is unique, reflecting the passions and values of the donor, yet all share a common purpose: creating lasting impact that will touch lives for years to come.

"This fund honors both of our sons and celebrates the joy Cornell found at camp. We hope other children will experience that same sense of happiness and belonging."

Ron and Laura Barnard





Virgil Horton Scholarship Fund A graduate of North Branch Area Schools and stand out athlete - Virgil never forgot his roots. A lifelong educator, Virgil has made a commitment to providing opportunities for students to pursue their dreams through the Virgil Horton Scholarship Fund which supports graduating seniors of North Branch High School.

"As long-term educators in the **Lapeer Community Schools,** Verna and I are pleased to sponsor an annual scholarship to an aspiring teacher. Perhaps that person or persons will someday take our place in the Lapeer district. We applaud the fine work of the Lapeer County **Community Foundation that** gives direction and support to making that possibility a reality."

- Bill Valley

Consider your own Legacy

Have you thought about how you'd like to be remembered? What causes are close to your heart? Leaving a legacy is about more than money; it's about passing on what matters most to you. We invite you to consider making a planned gift, whether large or small, to support the things you love in Lapeer County. From scholarships

to community projects, every gift helps make sure the good

work continues. If you're ready to talk about leaving your own legacy, give us a call. We're here to help you explore how your generosity can continue to touch lives and strengthen our community for years to come.

Together, we can give today and impact tomorrow.





Christian & Cornell Barnard Memorial Camp Fund

The Christian & Cornell Barnard Memorial Camp Fund shall provide grants to cover the cost for special needs and developmentally disabled youth in Lapeer County to attend camp, ensuring they have access to meaningful and enriching experiences that support their growth, development, and well-being.



John C. Loeding Memorial Train Collection Fund Through a thoughtful planned gift, one donor's lifelong passion for toy trains will continue bringing smiles to kids and train lovers alike. His collection will be cared for through a new endowment, with permanent displays at Durand Union Station and in downtown Lapeer.

"This scholarship has opened so many doors for me. I can get more involved with my community, take on new opportunities, make new friends and focus on my studies without having to constantly worry about accumulating debt. I am so grateful for this opportunity and to those who have helped me along the way."

Cadin Berry



Bill and Verna Mae Valley Scholarship Fund



Lapeer High School Legacy Scholarship Established through a planned gift by an anonymous donor, the Lapeer High School Legacy Scholarship Fund covers 100%

of the cost of attendance for four years at a Michigan public university, supporting students with exemplary character and determination as they pursue their college dreams. By removing financial barriers, this transformative scholarship helps students like Cadin pursue a college degree and achieve their full potential, leaving a lasting

impact on both their lives and the community.

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+Non-endowed





Give today. Impact tomorrow.

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- 70 Lapeer County Emergency Relief Fund+
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Nate & Molly Muir

Lura Myers