

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



Charlevoix County Community Foundation Continues Leading Role

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation saw an increase in charitable donations in 2011, an ongoing reflection of the generosity that has characterized the community since the foundation began in 1992. This information, and much more, is chronicled in the foundation's recent annual report, titled, "It's Showtime!"

In spite of ongoing economic challenges in Michigan and across the country, more than 1,000 people made a charitable contribution to the foundation, with overall gifts totaling more than \$1,275,000. As a result, the foundation was able to distribute nearly \$950,000 in grants that supported the area's outstanding nonprofit agencies and other worthwhile causes. In addition, the foundation played a supporting role by providing more than \$147,000 in scholarships to deserving local students who are pursuing further education.

Some of the foundation's grants provided assistance for programs that benefit the area's young people, including the \$20,500 distributed by the members of the foundation's Youth Advisory Committee. Programs that helped meet the community's most pressing needs – purchasing clothing, covering fuel and utility expenses and helping to stock the area's food pantries – also received extra attention, as did programs aimed at economic development and community leadership.

2011 was a year of growth on the organizational side of the ledger too, as the foundation was reconfirmed in the Council on Foundations (COF) National Standards process, a designation that signifies that the Charlevoix County Community Foundation meets or exceeds all of the requirements of the COF's accreditation process. Other highlights included the implementation of the organization's new strategic plan, which was developed by the Board of Trustees and foundation staff, including Chip Hansen, the foundation president. "Developing a strategic plan was an important step for us to take," Hansen said, adding, "the plan is filled with ideas and activities that will help us move the organization forward in a positive way in the years ahead."

"In a lot of ways, 2011 was a significant year for us," Hansen continued. "We were able to get the most out of our resources, while responding positively to key needs in our community, in spite of ongoing economic challenges." The foundation's endowed funds and the generosity of so many donors helped to provide a balance against the effects of the economy. "Our endowed funds are a huge advantage," Hansen explained, adding, "as they allow us to enjoy a certain level of predictability in an economy that has otherwise been unpredictable."

With an asset base of nearly \$20.3 million and the generous support of so many people on an annual basis, the foundation has been able to grant more than \$11 million since 1992. "2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the community foundation," Hansen said, adding, "we've come a long way in 20 years, and our growth is a reflection of the generous nature of our community," he concluded.

More information about the community foundation is available in their annual report, which was distributed in mid-November. The report summarizes the organization's highlights, while providing an opportunity to consider making a tax-deductible, year-end gift. Those who would like a copy of the report may call the foundation office at 231/536-2440 or access it online at www.c3f.org, where they will also find information about grants, gifts, donors, funds and financials.