



Giving Back. Moving Forward.

Charlevoix County Community Foundation Celebrates 25th Anniversary

East Jordan, MI – January 23, 2017 – The Charlevoix County Community Foundation celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year. On August 12, 1992, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation officially opened its doors. For more than two years leading up to that day, a group of committed volunteers led the charge to establish the organization and inspire generous community members to support it. In 1993, the Community Foundation made grant awards of just over \$25,000 - a tremendous milestone and a great source of pride for early supporters and board trustees. Scott Beatty, Chair of the founding Board of Trustees, noted that “when we started, we thought our original goals were ambitious. Although we hoped that we would see exponential growth through the years, I don't think any of us could envision just how much the Community Foundation would impact Charlevoix County,” said Beatty. In 2016, that annual total of grants distributed snowballed to over \$2 million. In the twenty-five years since the Community Foundation was founded, cumulative grants have exceeded \$20.5 million. Foundation assets have grown by leaps and bounds as well. In 1993, after one year of existence, the Foundation's assets were \$206,000. Today, 25-years later, Community Foundation assets top \$34 million.

Bob Tambellini, the President of the Community Foundation for the first 18 years, worked to establish the organization as a solid, supportive entity in the region. “We were bolstered along the way by the generosity of our donors, and by our mission to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Charlevoix County. It was such a privilege to be a part of this work from the start,” he said.

Grants from the Community Foundation have supported activities that have positively influenced youth, encouraged health and wellness, restored and protected the environment, promoted arts and culture, and much more. And while the Community Foundation isn't responsible for any one outcome that has changed the path of this community we love, each grant dollar has contributed to projects that have benefited the people of Charlevoix County in a positive way, moving our county forward to a brighter future.

This kind of long-term impact would not be possible without the early donors who gave without much evidence, but with hope for what was possible. Over the years, more than 6,000 individuals, couples, families, businesses, and organizations have joined with the Community Foundation to make a difference close to home. Today the Community Foundation continues to offer donors a personal, powerful, permanent way to give. Donors may choose from a number of funds that support causes they care about, such as the urgent needs of friends and neighbors, precious natural resources, or vibrant arts opportunities. Some may prefer to give to locally-focused enrichment funds that make grants on Beaver Island, and in Boyne City, Charlevoix, and East Jordan. Many will opt for giving back through the Community Fund, which is able to flexibly meet needs and nimbly advance opportunities, even as those needs and opportunities change over time. “The needs in Charlevoix County aren't likely to be smaller in the years ahead,” said Bill Aten, the current Chair of the Board of Trustees, adding, “the work we're doing today at the Community Foundation is positioning the organization to be the kind of philanthropic resource the community will need years from now.”

The Community Foundation will continue the growth of this charitable resource in Charlevoix County by working with individuals, couples, and families who choose to leave a lasting legacy in this place they love. Charlevoix County is already benefiting from estate gifts of individuals who gave generously to accomplish their personal charitable goals even after they were gone. Estate gifts will continue to be instrumental in enhancing the quality of life in Charlevoix County in the next 25 years and beyond. The Community Foundation works closely with anyone who is motivated to have a lasting impact in this community, and has established a Legacy Society to honor these special and thoughtful gifts. Together, we can make a powerful mark on our community through giving, and because of the nature of endowment, the Community Foundation will impact our region positively, forever.

As we celebrate all that has come about at the Community Foundation since that group of local citizens took action back in 1992 to establish the organization, we invite you to learn more about how the Charlevoix County Community Foundation can help you achieve your own charitable goals. By joining in our work, you join us in giving back and moving our community forward.



Front row (l-r): John Frey, Mike Stowe, Vel Kammermann, Lou Hollow; Middle row (l-r): Steve Weber, Joyce Herbert, Gen Varnum; Back row (l-r): Scott Beatty, John Dixon, Bill Lorne, Cal Diller; Not pictured: Philip Schairbaum