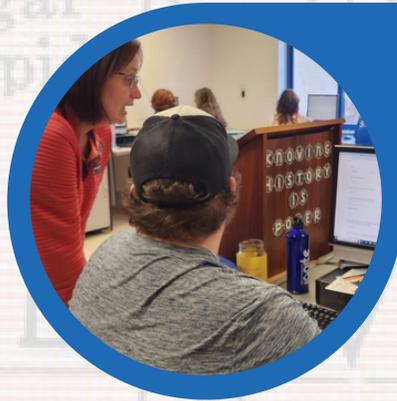
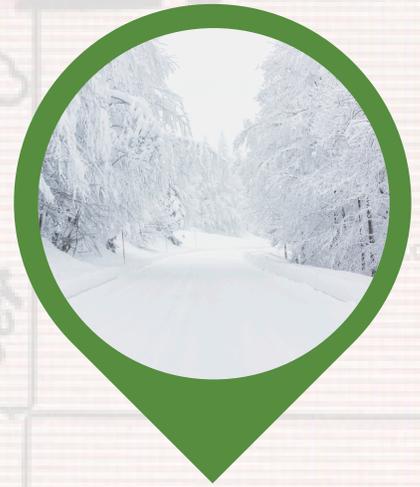


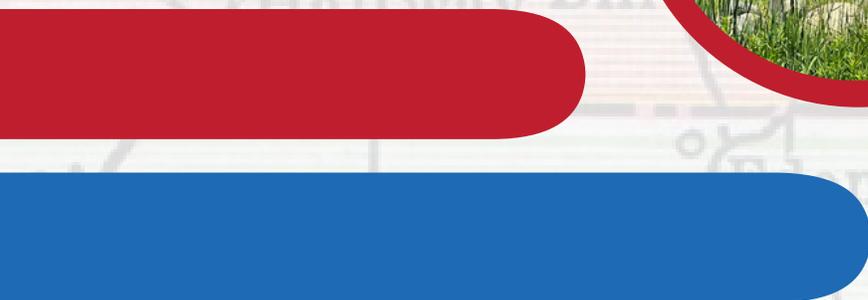


GLADWIN COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2024





GLADWIN COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

We exist to cultivate the power of giving within our community, support long-term transformation, and help ensure all residents thrive.

The essence of a community foundation is many people putting their money together to address the diverse needs where they live. Year in and year out, we utilize community gifts to help meet the needs here at home in Gladwin County. As money is endowed, the gifts grow forever, providing ongoing support to help our community grow and prosper.

Your Gladwin County Community Foundation works to impact arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, health, human services, and recreation. We do this in a variety of ways.

In this annual report, you'll learn about the impact we're having throughout Gladwin County by bringing donors together for positive change. We invite you to learn more about the Community Foundation and how you can make an impact in Gladwin County. Through grants, scholarships, and collaboration with community leaders and initiatives, we're creating a stronger Gladwin County together.

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing commitment to the Gladwin County Community Foundation. Your generosity strengthens our county, fosters growth, and supports the Foundation's purpose to transform our communities. Together, we remain dedicated to cultivating the power of giving, supporting transformative initiatives, and investing in a bright future for our community.

In 2024, your support allowed us to achieve remarkable milestones:

- More than \$100,000 was granted to local nonprofits, addressing vital needs such as health and human services, education, arts and culture, community development, and environmental initiatives.
- Our scholarship program awarded over \$60,000 to local students, opening doors for educational success and future opportunities.

A highlight of our year was the tremendous growth of the Ready For School Preschool Scholarship, a groundbreaking initiative detailed in this annual report. Thanks to generous donors and matching funds from partners like the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation and the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, this initiative has quickly grown. Currently, every \$1,000 contributed generates at least \$3,000 toward preschool education in Clare and Gladwin Counties.

Our work is made possible by supporters like you; individuals who choose to establish personalized funds honoring loved ones, targeting specific community causes, or supporting scholarships. These endowments create lasting legacies of generosity that benefit Gladwin County forever.

We invite you to continue partnering with us in this journey of philanthropy. Your gifts, large or small, have the power to create sustainable change, enhance the quality of life, and ensure the success of our community today and for generations to come.

In service,



Ed Hubel
Director



Monica Wolfe
Board Chair

2024 RESPONSIVE GRANTMAKING

Gladwin Community Schools: \$6,000 (Including \$3,000 Youth Action Council Grant)
Gladwin Elementary Care Closet

Gladwin Community Services Corporation: \$10,000
Generator for Gladwin County Council on Aging

Gladwin Conservation District: \$10,000
Improving Delivery of Conservation Via Digital Signage

Gladwin County Sports Complex Maintenance Board Inc.: \$5,000
Completion of the Concrete Under Bleachers Project

Gladwin Rural Urban Fire Protection District: \$6,933
Update Equipment for Readiness

Isabella Community Soup Kitchen: \$7,500
Delivery Vehicle Replacement Program

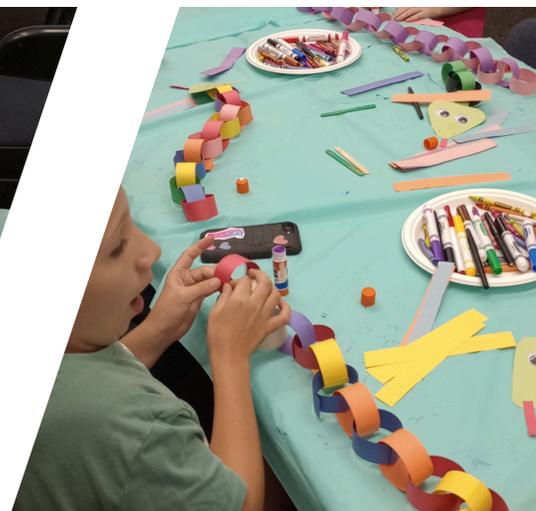
Michigan Works - Region 7B Consortium: \$2,000
MiCareer Quest Middle Michigan 2024

New Dawn Shelter: \$5,000
Technology Upgrades

Rayola Inc: \$2,000 (Including \$1,000 Youth Action Council Grant)
Comfort Care Packages for Foster Children in Gladwin

Sacred Heart Mission: \$10,000
Mission Resource Connection Center

Gladwin Area Artists Guild: \$2,500 ▼
Gladwin Kids Art Camp Program





“The Gladwin Fire Department is always trying to improve its training and the tools used to protect the community. This grant will help foster that goal with battery-powered tools to speed response.”

-David Sprang
Gladwin Fire Department

“The Gladwin Community Services Corporation, on behalf of the Council on Aging Gladwin County, applied for a grant to Gladwin County Community Foundation for the purchase of a commercial generator for the main kitchen at Antler Arms. This purchase will ensure that our senior participants will be able to receive a hot meal even on days there is no power.”

-Lori Stout, Executive Director
Gladwin County Council on Aging



“Thanks to the support of the Clare County Community Foundation and the Gladwin County Community Foundation, 311 students from Clare County schools and 187 students from Gladwin County schools will have the chance to attend this region’s premier hands-on Career Exploration event – MiCareerQuest Middle Michigan.

Without this funding, some of our schools may have missed out on this event due to the cost of transporting students to Saginaw Valley State University. Funding from these foundations will help eliminate that transportation barrier.”

-Mark L. Berdan, Executive Director
Michigan Works! Region 7B Consortium



DEVELOPING OUR TALENT

Ready For School

Early childhood education lays the groundwork for a child's lifelong success, shaping cognitive, social, and emotional skills crucial for future learning. In Gladwin and Clare Counties, ensuring every child has access to high-quality preschool is both a challenge and an essential goal. Recognizing this, the Gladwin and Clare County Community Foundations partnered with the Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District (RES D) and the Great Start Collaborative to launch the Ready For School Preschool Scholarship Fund.

According to Kendra Curtiss-Tomaski, Early Childhood and Family Services Director for the Clare-Gladwin RES D, the need is particularly pronounced in this region, which is considered a "childcare desert." Kendra notes, "With that comes a lack of services or supports for children and families, particularly for child care or preschool programming. Families often piece together childcare—grandparents in the morning, neighbors in the afternoon—which can create instability for children."

The scholarship fund directly addresses this issue by offering financial support to families, enabling them to enroll their children in consistent, high-quality preschool programs. The fund leverages matching dollars, meaning every \$1,000 raised results in an additional \$3,000 contribution to preschool education, significantly amplifying the impact of each donation.

"The preschool scholarship fills a critical gap," says Kendra. "We aim to get children into structured educational experiences early. Research confirms that children who participate in high-quality preschool programs develop foundational skills faster, helping close learning gaps early and ensuring they're ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten."

The Ready for School initiative underscores that 85% of a child's brain development happens by age five or six, making these early years pivotal. Moreover, economically disadvantaged children often enter school behind their peers, lacking essential readiness skills. High-quality preschool can dramatically change this trajectory. Data provided by the Clare-Gladwin RES D shows children enrolled in these programs significantly outperform their peers academically, setting the stage for future educational success.



Ed Hubel, Executive Director of the Gladwin County Community Foundation, emphasizes the community-wide benefits of investing in early education, "This is an investment in our community's future, improving not just individual lives, but the overall health, economy, and vibrancy of Clare and Gladwin counties."

To maintain high standards, the Clare-Gladwin Great Start Collaborative provides oversight, conducting thorough quality assessments of participating preschool programs. Evaluations include curriculum reviews, classroom environment assessments, and observations of adult-child interactions, ensuring a consistently enriching educational experience.

The anticipated outcomes for Gladwin and Clare counties are substantial:

- Increased readiness for kindergarten
- Improved third-grade reading proficiency
- Higher rates of school attendance and high school graduation
- Greater participation in post-secondary education or successful integration into the workforce

"Our preschool scholarship program isn't just about early education—it's about creating lasting, positive impacts throughout our communities," adds Hubel. "We believe every child deserves a strong start, and we're turning that belief into reality through generous community support."

Donations can be made directly through the Gladwin County Community Foundation to support the Ready For School Preschool Scholarship Fund. Each contribution, no matter the size, significantly enhances the educational opportunities available to local children.

Together, Gladwin and Clare Counties are making strides toward ensuring that all children enter kindergarten equipped, confident, and ready to learn. The commitment of community foundations, educators, and generous donors is transforming the landscape of early childhood education, building stronger communities, one child at a time.



FUND TYPES & FINANCIALS

Agency Funds

Endowing a nonprofit organization

A simple and efficient way to build an endowment and help create sustainability for local nonprofits.

Community Investment Funds

Meeting ever-changing needs

Help address a broad range of local needs, including future needs that often cannot be anticipated today.

Designated Funds

Helping local organizations sustain and grow

Make a lasting impact for a particular nonprofit organization - a senior center, museum, or other organization.

Donor-Advised Funds

A personal approach to giving

Be actively involved in grantmaking! Donors can contribute to the fund as frequently as they like, and then recommend grants to their favorite charitable organizations whenever it makes sense for them.

Field-of-Interest Funds

Connecting personal values to high-impact opportunities

Target specific areas of community investment such as arts, recreation, youth development, or other passions.

All these types of funds can be set up in a way to memorialize a loved one or honor a family or individual.

The Community Foundation has over \$5.9 million in assets, enabling us to give now and in the future. Over 45 funds are represented in the dollar amounts to the right. Many of the funds are endowed, and all have the purpose of helping with causes our donors care about.

Anyone can be a philanthropist. Whether the gift is large or small, donations to the Gladwin County Community Foundation help our communities thrive.

Giving Circle Funds

Giving with a group

Combine your contributions with other like-minded individuals so that everyone can collectively make a lasting difference on the causes they value. We will manage the details while your group focuses on making an impact.

Project Funds

Focus on fundraising, not fund management

The ideal vehicle for a short-term community projects. We will manage all accounting, tax receipts, and donor communication so you can focus on fundraising.

Scholarship Funds

Investing in deserving students

Develop talent by helping hardworking area students achieve their lifelong dreams.

\$5,949,459

TOTAL ASSETS

\$101,663

GRANTS AWARDED

\$370,967

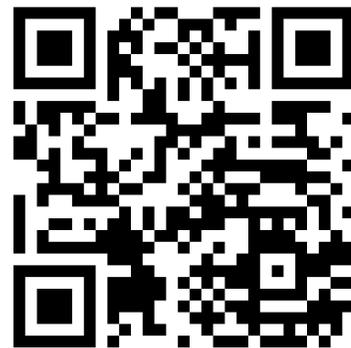
CONTRIBUTIONS

\$65,000

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

OUR FUNDS

Beaverton Activity Center Endowment Fund
Beaverton Church of the Nazarene Endowment Fund
Beaverton Helping Hands Mission Endowment Fund
Beaverton Lions Club Endowed Scholarship Fund
Beaverton Lions Club Endowment Fund
Beaverton Public Schools Endowment Fund
Beaverton World War I Memorial Endowment Fund
Brokoff Scholarship Fund^Terry and Eileen
Garmon and Ava M. Calhoun Memorial Scholarship Fund
Donna "Teach"Comfort Endowed Scholarship Fund
DeVere and Carole Dennings Donor-advised Endowment
Kenneth J. Dubiel Memorial 4-H Endowed Scholarship Fund
Chase Erway Endowed Scholarship Fund
Kristina Garafalo, A Person of Excellence, Memorial Scholarship Fund
Gladwin Area Friends of the Theatre Building Project Fund
Gladwin Athletic Association Endowment Fund
Gladwin Community Schools Education Endowment Fund
Gladwin County Community Foundation Administrative Fund
Gladwin County Community Investment Fund
Gladwin County Conservation District Endowment Fund
Gladwin County Disaster Relief Fund
Gladwin County Economic Development Corporation Endowment Fund
Gladwin County Health Improvement Endowment Fund
Gladwin County Healthy Senior Endowment Fund
Gladwin County Healthy Youth Endowment Fund
Gladwin County Historical Society Endowment Fund
Gladwin County Historical Society Museum Roof Project Fund
Gladwin County Veterans Park Fund
Gladwin County Veterans Relief Fund
Gladwin County Youth Endowment Fund
Gladwin Kiwanis Dallas Falls Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund
Gladwin Ministerial Association Christian Ministry Endowed Scholarship Fund
Gladwin Rotary Ken Kerswill Endowed Scholarship Fund
Gladwin Rotary Splash Park Project Fund
L. Scott Govitz Donor-Advised Fund
Linda Haight Gladwin County Animal Shelter Endowment Fund
Mark Hayes Career Technical Education Endowed Scholarship Fund
Amy Horton Skilled Trades Scholarship Fund
Kinne-Millard Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund for Gladwin High School
Donald and Grace Irene Lyons Endowed Scholarship Fund
Jessie Maxwell Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund
Michael and Karen Moore Community Endowment Fund
David and Janet Poxon Fund
Ready for School Preschool Scholarship Endowment Fund
Esther Keeley Rodabaugh Foreign Language Endowed Scholarship



**DONATE
TODAY**

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OUR 2024 BOARD



Monica Wolfe
Board Chair



Jason Pahl
Vice Chair



Brent Mishler
Secretary



Lauren Essenmacher
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Lynn Govitz
Board Member



Karen Moore
Board Member



Dave Poxon
Board Member



Beverly Przystas
Board Member



Ed Hubel
Director



Gladwin County Youth Action Council

Our Youth Action Council is a group of local youths giving back to the community through service, leadership, and philanthropy. Any student in grades 9-12 in Gladwin County are welcome to join. The goal of the Youth Action Council is to empower youth to be involved in decision-making, be active participants in community service and leadership and take part in awarding grants that will improve the quality of life in Gladwin County.



The Gladwin County Youth Action Council is an initiative of the Gladwin County Community Foundation



GLADWIN COUNTY
YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL



For More Information:

As part of the Gladwin County Community Foundation's continued efforts to grow with the community and offer support, the Teacher Mini Grant Program was established in 2018. These grants can go toward any project or program that positively impacts or enhances learning for local students. Any teacher can apply throughout the school year.

Please contact Martin Hodge

 revmhodge@yahoo.com



GLADWIN COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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