



OSHKOSH AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT 2021



**LEARN | INVEST | ENGAGE
IN OUR COMMUNITY**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 2020, the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation didn't spend much time looking back. We took what we've learned over our 93-year history and sharpened our ability to be flexible, collaborative, and nimble like never before. Thanks to donors giving through the Community Foundation, we distributed a record \$9.48 million in charitable grants and scholarships.

Though we cannot be confident of what the future holds, we can be clear and resolved in our mission: To strengthen our communities. We are always learning and working to help our community improve. We continually convene and collaborate with nonprofits, municipalities, philanthropists, grantees, and more to learn about their issues and work together to develop plans to address them. We are a trusted, influential resource for our service area and are regarded as a strong community leader.

Having the Community Foundation as a partner will ensure that your valuable gifts truly make a difference in our communities. There are endless options to make an impact, and we're always here to help.

Thank you.

Bill Wyman
President & CEO

OUR MISSION

Our Mission is Simple:
To Strengthen our Communities

WHO WE SERVE

The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation serves the counties of Winnebago, Waushara, and Green Lake, and the city of Ripon.

CALENDAR YEAR 2020 QUICK FACTS

\$9,485,269

Total Grants + Distributions

487

Organizations Received Grants

365

Students Received Scholarships

\$1,624,194

Donor Advised Fund Holder Grants

897

Total Charitable Funds

\$4,916

Average Grant Amount

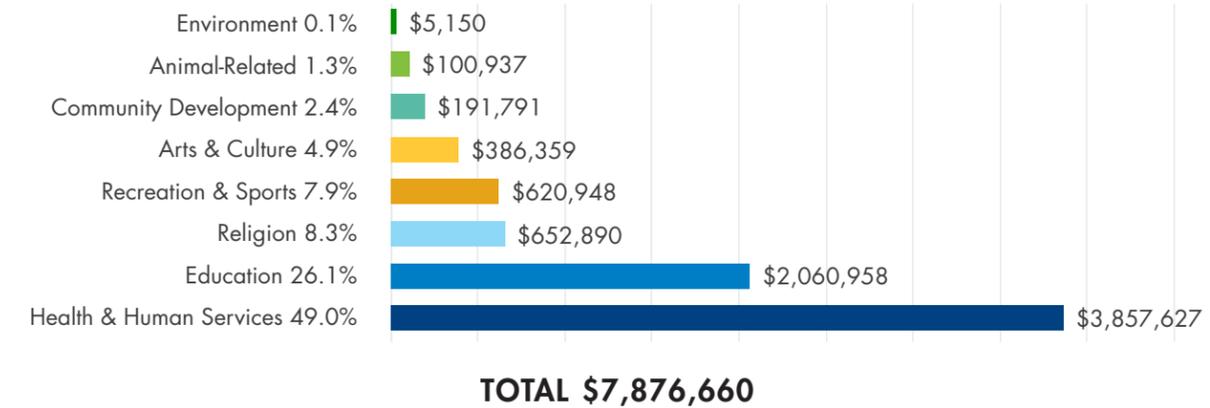
Unaudited Numbers

10-YEAR HISTORY: GRANTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS



GRANTS PROGRAM DISTRIBUTIONS

WHERE DID OUR GRANTS GO? 2020

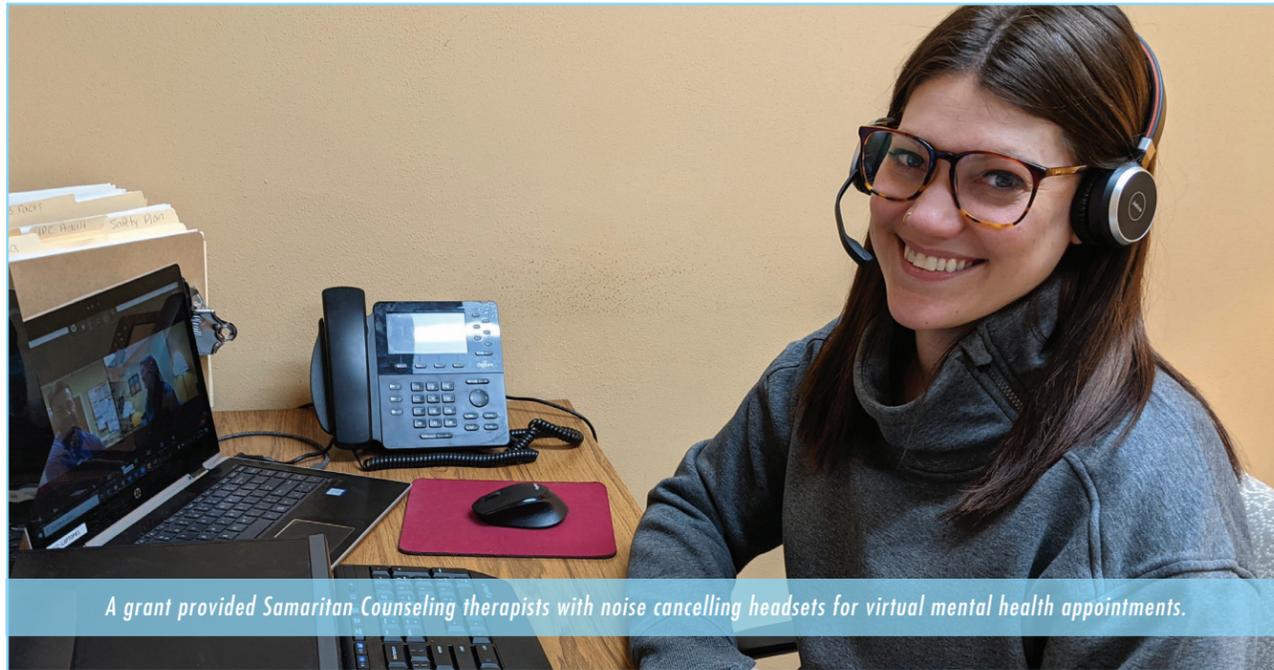


ABOUT THE COVER:
Children enjoy giggles with teacher Gina Daniels at Berlin Community Daycare & Preschool, a COVID relief grant recipient.

GIVING THROUGH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

“We gave all of our stimulus checks to the Oshkosh COVID-19 Relief Fund because we were not financially disadvantaged by the COVID-19 virus (although socially we were very much disadvantaged). We selected the COVID-19 Fund because we have a favorable opinion of the Oshkosh Area United Way and the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation both of which are sponsoring this fund. Also, we liked the idea that all of the funds were being distributed to disadvantaged people and none for administration or salaries.”

DICK & CAROL SHIKOSKI



A grant provided Samaritan Counseling therapists with noise cancelling headsets for virtual mental health appointments.

STRENGTHENING NONPROFIT EFFECTIVENESS

The Community Foundation spent a lot of time during the last year talking to our nonprofit partners and learning about their challenges, innovations, and outright determination in weathering the pandemic. Two frequently recurring words dominated these conversations: technology and fundraising.

Nonprofits have been forced to lean on technology like never before to continue critical service delivery, fundraising, and support of remote workers. They have also had to figure out how to pay the bills after fundraising severely declined when in-person fundraising events were canceled.

To help provide nonprofits with as much flexibility, certainty, and stability as possible, the Community Foundation:

- Added new options for general operating support.
- Established emergency funds for COVID-related expenses.
- Offered nonprofit adaptation grants for technology and consulting.
- Relaxed restrictions on current grants.
- Introduced more flexible grant application deadlines.
- Reduced reporting burdens.

These changes helped to build grantee capacity to not only survive the COVID crisis but to come out of it better positioned to achieve strategic goals and aspirations.

“As the Club scrambled to shift its service delivery model and continue to meet the evolving needs of our customers, so did the Community Foundation. Their willingness to shift giving practices and meet organizations, such as ours, where we were, was critical to our continued ability to stay relevant, maintain momentum and increase impact.”

JASON PRESTO

CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area

When discussing technology, we heard many nonprofits say, “We don’t know what we don’t know” — leaving them confused, overwhelmed, or paralyzed about where to start. This inspired us to offer free technology assessments and coaching in addition to grants.

“Like so many small non-profit organizations we do not have the benefit of staff that specializes in technology and have gotten by

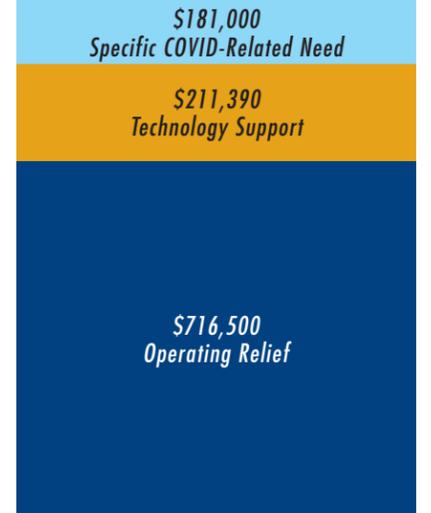
with hand-me-down recommendations and hardware in the past. I can’t say enough about how wonderful it has been to get help from someone with tech knowledge that understands nonprofit needs. It’s been such a relief to know I’m spending the organization’s money in the best/smartest way,” shares Nikki Hessel, Executive Director at Future Neenah.

Grants have supported a wide range of technology-related improvements including:

- Technology for telehealth appointments, virtual learning, and social connection for isolated individuals.
- Virtual fundraising and volunteer management software.
- Audio-visual equipment for livestreaming performances and fitness classes.
- Migration to cloud-based systems to improve remote employee collaboration and productivity.

While there was plenty of stress associated with making so many changes at lightning speed, the ingenuity and irrepressible spirit that we’ve witnessed during the last year has reinforced our belief that great opportunity can come from crisis.

TOTAL LOCAL COVID RELIEF
\$1,108,900



LOCAL COVID RELIEF GRANT RECIPIENTS

ADVOCAP
African Heritage
American Red Cross
Apricity
Bella Medical Clinic
Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass
Berlin Community Daycare & Preschool
Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin
Boys’ & Girls’ Brigade
Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh
Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area
Breathefree
Catalpa Health
Children’s Cancer Family Foundation

Christian Community Childcare Center
Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services
Community for Hope of Greater Oshkosh
Day By Day Warming Shelter
Discovery Preschool
Diverse Options
Evergreen Foundation
Father Carr’s Place 2B
Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin
Fox River Industries
Friends of Freeland Foundation
Friendship Place
Future Neenah
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church—Ripon

Grace Preschool
The Grand Oshkosh
Greater Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods
Green Lake Association
Green Lake County Health and Human Services
Green Lake Festival of Music
Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh
Jake’s Diapers
Jericho Road Ministries
Lourdes Academy
Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin
Mahala’s Hope
Miravida Living
Museum of Writing Instruments

NAMI Oshkosh
NEW Mental Health Connection
New Pawsibilities
Omro Care Center
Options for Independent Living
Oshkosh Area Community Pantry
Oshkosh Area Humane Society
Oshkosh Area School District
Oshkosh Community YMCA
Oshkosh Kids Foundation
Oshkosh Seniors Center
Oshkosh Youth Symphony
Paine Art Center and Gardens
Park View Health Center

Peace Christian Preschool
Ripon Children’s Learning Center
Salvation Army—Green Lake + Ripon
Salvation Army—Oshkosh
Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley
Solutions Recovery
Thrasher Opera House
Tri-County Community Dental Clinic
Valley VNA Senior Care
Water City Cares Mission
Winnebago Area Literacy Council
Winnebago Conflict Resolution Center

HELPING PATIENTS PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT

Nicole Kordus and Natalie Stanard offer patients much more than resources and help for their addiction. They also bring “street cred.”

As peer recovery coaches, they have walked the walk and use their own journeys to recovery as launching pads to encourage patients with substance use disorder in ThedaCare’s Emergency Departments in Neenah, Berlin and Shawano.



When someone comes to the emergency department in the middle of an addiction crisis, a new program offers hope and support from a peer that has walked a similar journey.

“When I am talking with someone in the emergency department, I will disclose things about myself to help them not feel ashamed or embarrassed and to also let them know that I have been in their situation and I understand. I always tell them that there isn’t much they can say that will surprise me, and that I have most likely done the same thing at some point in my life.”

NICOLE KORDUS
Peer Recovery Coach

When Natalie shares her story with patients, she can feel them let their guard down. At a time when they are feeling hopeless, exhausted and alone it lets them know, “I’ve been in that same spot. I overdosed twice myself and you don’t have to do this alone anymore.”

Nicole and Natalie are two of 13 recovery coaches and certified peer support specialists in the new Emergency Department to Recovery Plus Program (ED2R+) that was recently launched by ThedaCare.

Their roles are to connect with patients and offer support, resources, community recovery options and most importantly - to offer hope from someone who has been there. They are motivators, allies, role models, problem solvers and advocates for individuals with these disorders.

Both Nicole and Natalie have been trained and certified through Apricity, a Neenah-based recovery organization.

“Peer support is shown to offer a level of backing that increases success in recovery. It can be as simple as having someone to call when they are having a difficult day, or suggestions about speaking with loved ones about their addiction. We want those who are in the beginning stages of their recovery to have access to any resources that might support them.”

SADIE BODENBACH
Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor and Recovery Coach with Apricity

To get the program started, funding from numerous sources was essential. ThedaCare and Apricity, as partners, received a \$100,000 grant from Wisconsin Voices for Recovery, as well as support from the Fox Cities CHAT Team (Community Health Action Team) and Basic Needs Giving Partnership, which is supported by the U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs within the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, the J. J. Keller Foundation, and other community partners.

ACHIEVING EQUITY VACCINATION RATES

COVID-19 vaccine distribution is picking up speed in many places. With a plentiful supply of vaccine, there will be more urgency to persuade those reluctant to accept it. The good news is that vaccine hesitancy is falling. In September 2020, 49% of Americans told the Pew research group they probably or definitely wouldn’t take the vaccine. By February, that number had fallen to 30%.

The early data we have on vaccination rates shows that Black Americans are getting vaccinated at a much slower rate than their white counterparts. This is troubling given how hard the pandemic has hit Black Americans.

Some say vaccine hesitancy is caused, in part, by a history of medical exploitation and mistreatment toward people of color in the United States. A grant from the Oshkosh COVID-19 Relief Fund supporting African Heritage’s “Get The Shot” campaign aims to address this. It features well-respected community leaders who live and work across northeast Wisconsin getting their vaccinations.

Others point to a lack of vaccination access as a cause. To help make sure that all who are eligible have access to vaccine appointments, the Winnebago County Health Department has reserved a portion of their appointments to directly assist people that experience barriers such as technology access and language and communication challenges. Furthermore, the Community Foundation established the COVID Vaccine Transportation Fund to make sure that transportation to vaccination appointments is not a barrier.



Dr. Temple, a supporter and medical consultant for African Heritage, Inc., received his vaccination at Aurora Baycare in Green Bay.

GIVING THROUGH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

“I really enjoy working with the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation because they are an outstanding organization that is truly customer-driven. The Neenah Joint School District has partnered with the OACF for almost a decade. My only regret is that we didn’t start working with them earlier in my tenure. The staff are hard workers and do an incredible job assisting our school with numerous scholarships and donations. I think our Fox Valley community is very fortunate to have a foundation like the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation in our backyard.”

JONATHAN JOCH
Chief Financial Officer
Neenah Joint School District

GIVING THROUGH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

“We have a long and fruitful relationship with the Community Foundation. I was on the board of directors when the Oshkosh Foundation was converted from a private foundation to a public charity in 1992 and hired Andrew Swinney as the first executive director and Foundation staff member. Sandra & I established the Fund for the Arts as a field of interest fund because of our long support for the arts in the Oshkosh area. We make annual gifts to this fund and it gives us great satisfaction to know that many worthy arts organizations have prospered as a result.”

GARY R. & SANDRA YAKES



Local volunteers tackle yardwork and other exterior home improvement projects during the 2019 Rock the Block

**BUILDING COMMUNITY
ROCK THE BLOCK**

Rock the Block will roll into the River East neighborhood in Oshkosh this summer with its volunteer-powered home repair program. Launched locally in 2019 by Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh in partnership with Oshkosh Healthy Neighborhoods and the City of Oshkosh, the Rock the Block program creates a sense of neighborhood. It brings homeowners and community volunteers together to do dozens of exterior projects in a short period – often involving several homes on the same block in a manner of days.

The program specializes in “muscle” projects including landscaping, painting, and repair of broken porches or railings – projects where many hands make light work.

“We bought our home three years ago and neither my wife nor I have green thumbs so everything was super overgrown and leaves were everywhere. The clean-up



took a couple of hours and it’s something my wife and I couldn’t do in a couple of years. We are super thankful. Thank you so much for Habitat for Humanity for coming and helping us out.”

DAN CLAYTON
Oshkosh Homeowner

Even a pandemic couldn’t stop last year’s Rock the Block. Liz Last, Rock the Block Manager at Habitat Oshkosh, felt that a promise had been made to 30 homeowners in the Congress Field Neighborhood that work would be done and wanted to avoid cancellation if at all possible. With assistance from Construction Manager Rob Rabe, Liz spent countless hours working on proposals, guidelines and the steps needed to get each job done safely and correctly with the smallest crew possible.

Rock the Block Oshkosh jokingly rebranded itself “The World’s Slowest Parade” and set out with a team limited to 16 volunteers a day, working on 4-5 homes on one block at a time. The parade slowly made its way through multiple blocks over eight workdays spread throughout July and August.

All of the planning and program adjustments paid off. Not one Rock the Block volunteer, homeowner or Habitat staff member tested positive for COVID-19. After all was said and done, 30 homes were repaired by 78 volunteers.

The Community Foundation helped Rock the Block get its start by funding a manager to oversee the effort, supplies for the initial wave of projects, outreach, and direct support of coalition partners through a three-year grant from the Basic Needs Giving Partnership, which is supported by the U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs within the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, the J.J. Keller Foundation, and other community partners.



“Without this grant, Rock the Block Oshkosh would not exist. This program is now an annual part of Oshkosh. It has been a catalyst for neighborhood associations to increase their efforts and formed a unique public-private coalition that promises to last for years to come. And the Basic Needs Giving Partnership can be proud to have been a leader in the growth of this program.”

TOM SIMON
Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity of Oshkosh

The excitement surrounding Rock the Block draws people’s attention and creates a “we are in this together” spirit. Even during the pandemic, neighbors walking their dog or isolated in their homes came outside to converse with volunteers, bringing a sense of connectedness during a difficult time of physical distancing.



**ROCK THE BLOCK
OSHKOSH**

2019

*Sacred Heart Neighborhood
23 homes repaired
140 Volunteers*

2020

*Congress Field Neighborhood
30 homes repaired
78 volunteers*

2021

*River East Neighborhood
20 homes scheduled for repair*



TACKLING DIAPER NEEDS IN GREEN LAKE AREA

One in three families struggles to afford diapers, and the pandemic has made things worse. But there are people helping. In Green Lake County, Jake's Diapers has partnered with the Health and Human Services Department, Bella Medical Clinic, and the Children's Wisconsin Start Right Home Visitor program to get free diapers into the hands of those who need them the most.

A \$15,000 grant from the Green Lake Basic Needs Fund accelerated efforts to create a network of key service organizations to distribute diapers and other basic hygiene essentials throughout the county.

"In rural areas where people and nonprofits have limited access to resources to help others out, it can be challenging to identify and reach families in need. Through this grant, we hope to develop a deeper understanding of what it takes to reach these rural communities and develop repeatable systems to make this happen."

LYSSA SCHMIDT

Director of Communications for Jake's Diapers

10 REASONS TO GIVE THROUGH THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

- 1. We are a local organization with deep roots in the community.*
- 2. We have broad expertise regarding community issues and needs.*
- 3. We provide highly personalized service tailored to each individual's charitable and financial interests.*
- 4. Our funds help people invest in the causes they care about most.*
- 5. We accept a wide variety of assets and can facilitate even the most complex forms of giving.*
- 6. We partner with professional advisors to create highly effective approaches to charitable giving.*
- 7. We offer maximum tax advantages for most gifts under state and federal law.*
- 8. We multiply the impact of gift dollars by pooling them with other gifts and grants.*
- 9. We build endowment funds that benefit the community for decades and help create personal legacies.*
- 10. We are a community leader, coordinating collaborative resources to create positive change.*

SHOWING PRIDE WINNECONNE WELCOME SIGNS

When entering a town, welcome signs are usually the first thing visitors see. Through careful deliberation, Winneconne's Beautification Committee recently picked a new sign that incorporates the town's new bridge design, features simple and elegant colors, and is maintenance free.

A \$1,500 Community Impact Grant from the Winneconne Area Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, helped kick start the project. In four months, the committee raised enough funds to purchase both east and west side signs. An additional \$5,000 will be raised to cover lighting and landscaping needs.

"We chose our tagline as Community of Opportunity to be all inclusive. Winneconne offers opportunities to small businesses, restaurants, tourism, religions, schools, etc. The sign also says we value our community. The Community Foundation kept us up-to-date on all donations to our special project fund. They made the whole process easy, rewarding and very positive."

LAURA BRODERICK

Member of the Beautification Committee





Serving Winnebago County, Waushara County, Green Lake County and Ripon, along with our affiliates:



www.women.oshkoshareacf.org



Just **Imagine**

www.winneconneareacf.org



Green Lake County / Ripon
Community Foundation

www.greenlakecountyriponcf.org

Photography By: Thompson Photo Imagery



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