



IMPACT REPORT 2022

**Learn | Invest | Engage
IN OUR COMMUNITY**

YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

We begin 2022 with fresh optimism inspired by the generosity of our caring donors, fund holders and partners. Last year, the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation granted a record-breaking \$9.75 million in charitable distributions and scholarships thanks to people like you that are making a difference in the communities we live in.

As you read this report, we all should be proud of how our community has come together to address area needs. Donors with similar passions have co-invested to support important projects and programs. Organizations have found new, meaningful ways to collaborate. Funders are taking risks and encouraging grantees to experiment with new approaches to solving long-standing challenges.

Let us help you make the impact you want to see in your community.



Bill Wyman,
President/CEO



Jeff Trembly,
2021 - 2022 Board Chair

ABOUT THE COVER

Park View Health Center resident Marly Joy Lund snuggles in a blanket from one of the four blanket warming cabinets recently purchased with a \$14,800 grant from the Ladies Benevolent Society: Advocates for *Older Adults Fund* within your Community Foundation.

ABOUT THE OSHKOSH AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

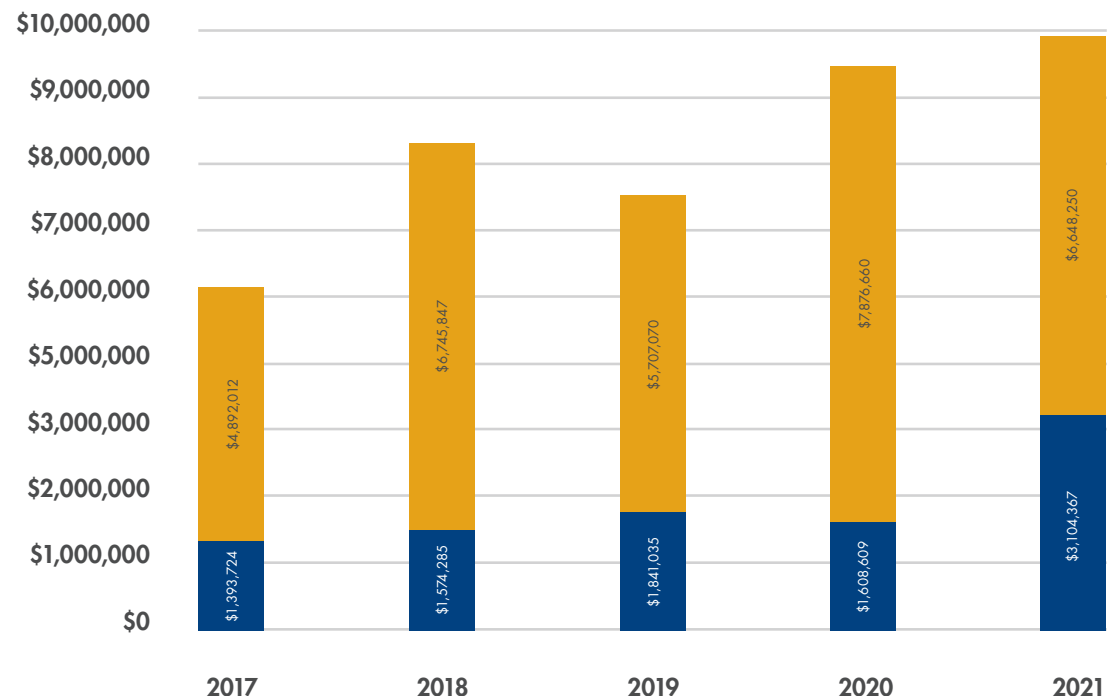
The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization created by and for the people of Winnebago County, Waushara County, Green Lake County and Ripon. We offer a range of flexible giving tools to help our donors make a positive impact on the community and causes that align with their interests and passions.

We have an in-depth understanding of the issues, opportunities, and resources that shape our communities and can help you learn more about

local organizations and programs that make a difference in the areas you care about most.

Through our grantmaking, we invest in the long term and bring people and organizations together to address local issues and opportunities. Our mission is simple: to strengthen our communities. Our business is in building community and helping the places we call home continue to flourish and grow.

TOTAL GRANTS & DISTRIBUTIONS



*Program distributions are payments made for goods or services provided by a third party for the benefit of a tax exempt organization

Grants Program Distributions

CALENDAR YEAR 2021 QUICK FACTS

94 Years

of connecting donors to the causes they care about most

920

Total Charitable Funds

\$12,342,611

Contributions to OACF Funds

383

Students Received Scholarships

\$99,332

Donated in honor or memory of loved ones

36

New Charitable Funds

\$1,311,306

Contributions to OACF's Community Impact Fund (all donations to unrestricted funds)

4,215

Donations Received

\$166,308,087

Unaudited Assets as of December 31, 2021

1,658

Grants Awarded

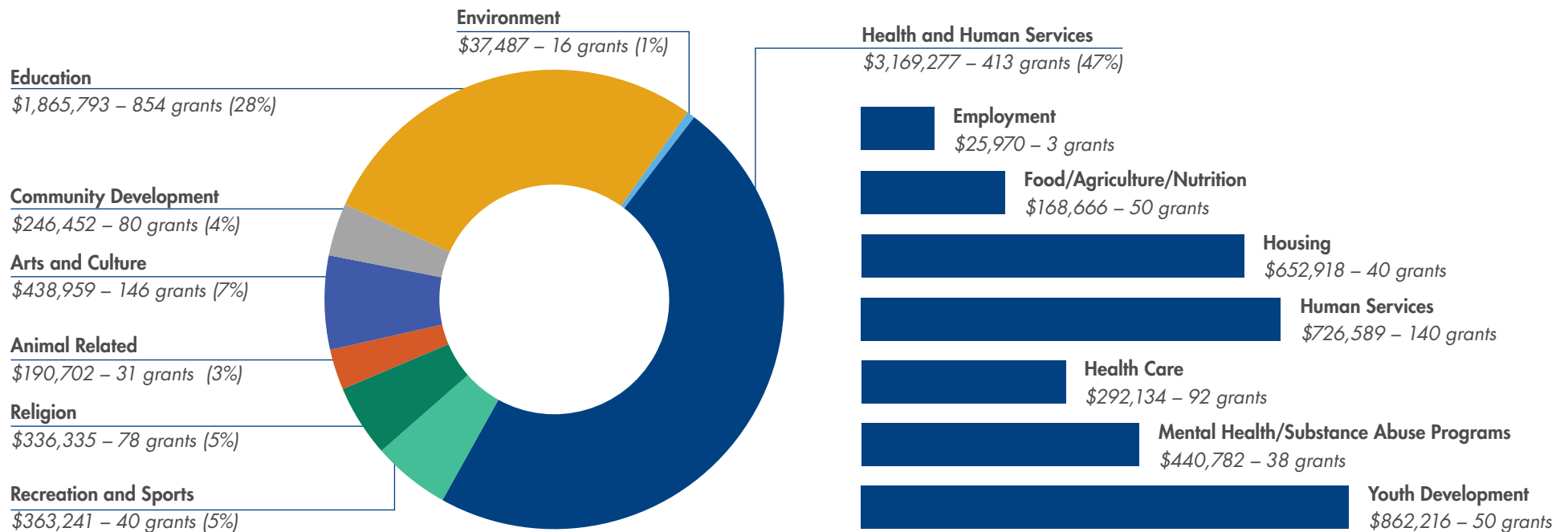
\$4,009

Average Grant Amount

35%

of Dollars Granted thru Competitive Process

TOTAL GRANTS: \$6.64 M



See our audited financial statements for the period ended June 30, 2021 at oshkoshareacf.org/who-we-are/financials | See our investment results at oshkoshareacf.org/who-we-are/investments



ARTS AND CULTURE

USING MUSIC AS A TEACHING TOOL

What do the symphony and engineering have to do with each other? How do you connect fractions with music? In many area classrooms, the answer is arts integration.

Arts integration goes beyond including art projects in class; it is a teaching strategy that seamlessly merges arts standards with core curricula to build connections and provide engaging context. This school year, the fourth-grade curriculum within the Oshkosh Area School District featured a new unit called Full STEAM Ahead. STEAM is an acronym that stands for science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

Students learned about the science of sound, used technology, engineering, and math skills to build musical instruments from recycled materials, and tackled the arts element by playing their instruments in a concert.

"The kids were so creative about how they put their instruments together," says Kellie Ruedinger, a fourth-grade teacher at Emmeline Cook Elementary School in Oshkosh.

Instrument designs ranged from rubber bands stretched across cardboard boxes to friction drums made with a large bucket and stick.

"I liked how the music was really loud and booming and it was dramatic, I like things that are dramatic," says Norah who is a fourth grader. "Sounds can sound more different than I thought they could," adds fourth grader Mooka.

Full STEAM Ahead is a collaborative effort involving the Oshkosh Area School District, the local parochial schools, and the Oshkosh Youth Symphony. A \$4,500 grant from the Fund for the Arts within your Community Foundation supported the creation and offering of this unique educational experience.

Yukiko Grine, the music director for the Oshkosh Youth Symphony, helped develop the lesson plan for the Full STEAM Ahead unit. *"I love working with young people because they are still uninhibited and willing to take risks and their ideas are amazing and inspiring," she says. "It is rewarding to see the kids recognize new skills in themselves and nurture collaboration among both students and teachers. Plus it's just plain fun."*

"My favorite part of the program is when the students had the chance to play their homemade instruments along with the orchestra. It was a symphony of music and laughter," shares Renee Schumacher, ArtsCore Coordinator for the Oshkosh Area School District.



SCIENCE

how the speed and amplitude of sound waves affect what we hear.



TECHNOLOGY

using knowledge of sound to invent a tool to create music.



ENGINEERING

building and testing their musical instruments.



ARTS

participating in a music making concert with their instruments.



MATH

how rhythm is based on fractions and repeating patterns in music.

ANIMAL-RELATED

CARING FOR ANIMALS

Many people think of animal shelters as places that provide temporary housing to cats and dogs in need or somewhere to go if they are interested in adding a fur companion to the family. ***“While both are true, they don’t paint the full picture of how a humane shelter serves the community,” says Cindy Flaeger, Neenah Animal Shelter executive director.***

Most shelter organizations have common goals of trying to reunite owners with lost pets, rehoming adoptable animals, controlling stray populations through spay and neutering, and providing shelter and care for vulnerable animals.

The Neenah Animal Shelter (NAS), a little shelter that has been doing big things for almost 60 years, has launched a capital campaign to build a new facility for the more than 500 animals it takes in each year. A \$25,000 grant from the *Community Impact Fund* within your Community Foundation is supporting this campaign.

The new space will benefit pets staying briefly before being reunited or adopted into their forever home and others facing longer lengths of stay because of their age or special needs.

Eagle (pictured) was born with a neurological condition causing uncontrolled body tremors. He was fostered by a NAS team member who carried him around in kangaroo type pouch and crafted a walker to help him build strength. Eventually just the right people came along and welcomed Eagle into their hearts and home.

Our donors’ love of animals of all shapes, sizes, and ages comes through in the funds that they have established at your Community Foundation.

Funds benefiting area animal shelters:

- Love of Animals Fund – Veterinarian care for abused or sick animals in Winnebago County.
- Green Lake Area Animal Shelter Fund.
- Cog Cat Fund - Care for cats in shelter at Oshkosh Area Humane Society (OAHS).
- OAHS Senior Cats Fund, ROXEE Fund and Vandenberg Older Cat Fund - Care and adoption of older cats at OAHS.
- OAHS Staff Professional Development Fund OAHS staff development.
- Ronald J. and Marion E. Bell Fund, Karen M. Gremminger and S. Mark Bullard Fund, Robert G. Hatch Endowment Fund, Arline E. Meier Fund, Mary Jo Reichenberger Fund, Luida E. Sanders Fund, Howard and Enid Schafer Designated Fund, Kay Wilde Memorial Fund, Jazz Memorial Fund, and Oshkosh Area Humane Society Fund - OAHS operating support.

Funds supporting the Menominee Park Zoo in Oshkosh:

- Tom and Penny Harenburg Zoo Fund - Operations, exhibits and improvements.
- Jim Ryan Menominee Zoo Fund - Educational programming.



\$190,700 granted to animal-related causes



31 grants awarded



9 grant recipient organizations

FOOD

RURAL PANTRY WITH ABUNDANCE MINDSET

With one unexpected life-changing event, such as a loss of wages, a medical emergency or a worldwide pandemic, people who have never needed help before can find themselves visiting a food pantry for the very first time.

The can-do attitude and collaborative spirit of the Waushara County Food Pantry has resulted in two years of profound growth. They've gone from distributing just over 3 million pounds of food to families in need in 2019 to more than 8.5 million pounds in 2021.

At the height of the pandemic, this rural food pantry was running nine mobile pantries per week in addition to food distributions out of its primary site, located on the outskirts of Wautoma. All while supporting and assisting 12 smaller rural pantries in the area.

"Thanks for all of the hard work in getting donations of food," a pantry guest writes in a thank you note. "We are so grateful for the help with our depleted grocery budget."

Marty Lee, the pantry's executive director, says that it was not uncommon for her to spend 60 hours a

week during the pandemic managing the pantry's fleet of two semis and three refrigerated trucks, coordinating 300 volunteers, and sourcing food from regional food banks, government programs, and local donors.

"Over time, there was a realization that this has grown into more than what a volunteer could reasonably be asked to do and it has been at that point for years," says board president Joanne Nelson. "The issue was that we didn't have a stable enough budget to make that commitment to hire someone."

A \$75,000 grant from your Community Foundation helped the Waushara County Food Pantry take that important first step to move to a paid half-time executive director and half-time program coordinator. Another \$4,300 Nonprofit Resilience Grant helped to provide much needed technology to manage office and warehouse operations. And the pantry team's unwavering faith that there is more than enough food and funding for everyone continues to be met with an outpouring of support from near and far.



"It's hard to ask for help," acknowledges Marty Lee, executive director at the Waushara County Food Pantry. "It's our job to make sure that we provide access without judgement. Everybody goes through hard times in life, and when people are struggling for whatever reason, we want them to feel comfortable reaching out and trust that we will be there to help."



7,000 households per month



12 rural pantry partners



710,000 pounds of food per month



HUMAN SERVICES

MORE THAN JUST CLOTHES

There is a popular cartoon in the teaching community. Maybe you've seen it? It shows a child carrying large bags labeled with various challenges—hunger, illness, homelessness. It reads, "Could someone help me with these? I'm late for math class."

Most of us understand at a glance what it represents. Before a student can remember, understand and apply what they're learning, their basic needs like shelter, food, and clothing must be met. They must feel that they are safe, loved, and that they belong.

Thanks to a new partnership between the Oshkosh Area School District (OASD), the Community Clothes Closet and the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh, area children are receiving the clothing they need.

Each month during the school year, a large truck from the Community Clothes Closet in Menasha is filled with clothing, bedding, winter wear, and personal care items for its visit to the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh. Students referred by OASD school social workers shop at the Traveling Closet, and everything is free of charge.

A different age range of students from grade school up through high school is served each month. Approximately 70 children receive items each time the Traveling Closet comes to Oshkosh.

"With the cost of good going up, families are finding it harder to make ends meet, so if we can help families stretch their income by providing the basic need of clothing, that is very impactful and that's what our mission is," states Lisa Jones, executive director of the Community Clothes Closet.

A mom of three children that visited the Traveling Closet, sums up the impact and expresses her gratitude in a note saying, *"Thank you! My husband and I are currently living in a one-bedroom apartment with our three boys and saving to get a bigger place. This is such a blessing."*

The Traveling Closet got its start in fall 2021 with \$52,500 in support from the *Take Five Fund* and *U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs* within your Community Foundation.



377 student in oshkosh area school district



717 new pairs of underwear



70 pairs of winter boots

"The Traveling Closet is about so much more than just providing clothing to students in need — it's about building confidence and self-esteem and keeping kids safe from inclement weather. All of this can lead to better decision making and engagement in school," says Lynn Ryerson, school social worker at Oshkosh North High School.



RECREATION

SUMMER CAMP: A PLACE TO PLAY

In “normal” times, camp is already invaluable for kids of all backgrounds. Camp provides opportunities for problem solving, learning together, meeting new people, and navigating social interactions in a relaxed and fun setting and, most importantly, outside of the house.

Last summer, children were coming out of a school year marked by an unnatural life of screens, quarantines, and hybrid schooling. It is safe to say that summer camp was beacon of hope, a lifeline towing them back to their normal selves.

Sebastian, age 17, who received a scholarship to attend the Brigade’s Camp Onaway for the first time last summer reflects that, “Camp was not only a good learning experience for life skills but also for my mind. I felt at peace at camp and full of love.”

Caregivers saw their kids come back from Camp Nan A Bo Sho more confident and with a willingness to try things they have never done before. **“My child learned how to become more independent and how to work through some of her anxiety of being away from her parents,” shares one parent. “Because my grandson was the oldest of the group of three camp friends, he was able**

to lead in many activities. With an older brother, he doesn’t always have that opportunity,” adds a grandparent.

For some families, the fees to attend overnight camp can put the experience out of reach. *The Hiwela Youth Fund* within your Community Foundation helps to remove this barrier. More than 360 youth from Winnebago County received nearly \$30,000 in scholarships to experience the magic of camping in summer 2021 at:

- Camp Anokijig, Plymouth
- Camp Birch Trails, Irma
- Camp Onaway, Waupaca
- Camp Radford, Weyauwega
- Camp Nan A Bo Sho, Lakewood
- Camp Wawbeek, Wisconsin Dells
- Camp Winni-Y-Co, Oshkosh
- Trees for Tomorrow, Eagle River
- Upham Woods 4-H Camp, Wisconsin Dells
- Wisconsin Badger Camp, Platteville



10 camps in wisconsin



\$29,075 camp scholarships



362 youth from winnebago county

“I think camp is more than getting a little sun, more than having a little fun. It’s intentional, purposeful play that you can’t find anywhere else,” explains Kate Corey, Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes chief development officer. “While playing shoulder to shoulder, campers learn how to do life together and care for one another. The essence of camp is in the friendships forged, something we all lacked and craved due to the pandemic.”

EMPLOYMENT

BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

With multiple certifications and a construction job under his belt, Leon is achieving his dreams while doing what he loves three years into his court-ordered probation period. His path may sound like a simple success story, but he'd be the first to tell you that he didn't reach this point easily and he didn't do it alone.

Thanks to a new partnership between the Winnebago County Department of Corrections and Forward Service Corporation (FSC), Leon has realized that he can do great things.

Leon's probation officer connected him with Marissa, the new FSC case manager at the Probation and Parole office in Oshkosh. When their initial conversation had nothing to do with rules, he was taken by surprise. **"What do you want for you?" Leon remembers Marissa asking.**

It was a daunting question. He paused for a few seconds and then told Marissa about his goals: getting a steady job and finding a comfortable home where he can spend quality time with his family.

The guidance and encouragement that Leon received from his case manager to achieve these goals was made possible by a three-year \$246,830 grant from the Basic Needs Giving Partnership, which is supported by the U.S. Venture Fund for Basic Needs within your Community

Foundation, the J.J. Keller Foundation and other community partners.

Marissa helped Leon enroll in the FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) program that helps recipients of FoodShare, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, build their job skills and find jobs. Leon pushed himself to earn his commercial driver's license, OSHA 30 safety training and CPR certification, and more. **"These classes meant the world to me," Leon insists.**

His attitude made him a perfect candidate for the Transportation Alliance for New Solutions (TrANS) program that helps people start careers in road construction. Without missing a beat, his case manager Marissa helped him apply.

Marissa helped Leon learn how to talk with employers about his past, so they considered him for jobs previously out of reach. Plus, these were jobs he wanted — not just something to get by.

Leon is now a full-time employee at the Local 8 Iron Workers Union; a job with benefits, a pension plan, and a \$32 hourly wage he can see leading to the house of his dreams.

"Best thing that has happened to me. This offered me a career. I feel like I am set for life with this career," Leon says.



92 job placements



\$15.18 average hourly placement wage



177 people served



MENTAL HEALTH

NURTURING CARE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

It's not uncommon for preschoolers in Hannah Beduhn's Head Start class to get upset. They might hit another person, throw a toy, or in many cases start screaming. ***"They have all these big emotions in their tiny little bodies, and they are still learning what to do with those feelings," says Beduhn, a teacher of 3-year-olds at the UW Oshkosh Head Start Center in Oshkosh.***

Head Start has a multi-tiered approach to helping students in their moments of crisis. Its staff includes three social emotional development specialists that divide their time between 29 classrooms at eight early learning centers throughout northeast Wisconsin including two in Oshkosh.

These specialists help students learn how to manage difficult emotions and coach teachers on effective ways to guide students through distress.

In addition, Head Start teachers are trained on how to create a classroom environment that promotes kids' social-emotional development through specialized, research-based approaches called the Pyramid Model and Conscious Discipline. Teachers also benefit from regular classroom observations by a mental health professional from Catalpa who can conduct individual child observations and meet with families upon request.

When pandemic safety protocols prevented in-person classroom observations in 2021, virtual classroom observation was introduced using a SWIVL robot. The robot, which allows teachers to record or live stream videos for coaching and self-reflection, is programmed to follow markers containing a microphone that are placed on both the teacher and individual child.

"Often the kids forget that they are wearing a microphone. I have used SWIVL recordings from playtime to try to understand what triggered a child's aggressive behavior or to look at speech concerns in a more natural setting," shares Head Start teacher Debra Longworth.

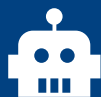
Some of these interventions, like the expanded presence of social emotional specialists and partnership with Catalpa mental health professionals, are being piloted at the two Oshkosh Head Start Centers with the support of a three-year \$301,000 grant from your Community Foundation. The hope is that the project demonstrates positive outcomes and Head Start federal funding could be realigned to support the additional specialized staff and training expenses at all locations.



170 head start preschoolers



10 oshkosh classrooms



1 SWIVL robot

"When I'm in the classroom, I might be modeling behaviors for students, like how to play with others or sit at a table, or helping teachers swoop in when a child needs help calming down or managing their feelings, working with them through whatever underlying stress, anxiety, or trauma is fueling the behavior," says social emotional development specialist Lisa Kortbein.

YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

When you are ready to make a lasting impact on your community, the Community Foundation is here to help. Your gift, combined with those from other caring individuals, can strengthen our communities for generations to come. Almost any kind of asset may be used to make a charitable contribution, including cash, stock, property, life insurance, and IRA distributions. We have a variety of options to help you make the impact you want to see in your community:



**MAKE A GIFT TO THE
COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND**



**DONATE TO A FIELD
OF INTEREST FUND SUPPORT**



**SUPPORT A NONPROFIT'S
ENDOWMENT FUND**



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