

Rochester Area Foundation



80 1944 - 2024 YEARS

Of Impact: Then, Now, & Always



2024 Grants

by Impact Area

1104
Grants

\$3,987,409
Invested



Youth & Family
41 grants
\$184,160



Health & Human Services
361 grants
\$1,364,988



Arts
68 grants
\$130,408



Environmental & Animal Welfare
69 grants
\$121,180



Education
248 grants
\$652,168



Housing
20 grants
\$297,690



Community Development
138 grants
\$724,011



Faith Based
107 grants
\$374,833



Disability Services
42 grants
\$119,680



Culture & Diversity
10 grants
\$18,291





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President's Message



Jennifer Woodford
President

Thank you for your partnership and the numerous ways in which you have been a part of Rochester Area Foundation's mission of putting philanthropy into action. Together, as partners, we have joined with many who have come before us as part of the enduring legacy of our community foundation.

In 2024, the Foundation celebrated 80 years of growth and achievement. You are part of this journey, as donors, fundholders, volunteers, and thought leaders. You have encouraged the growth of our communities by supporting initiatives and nonprofit organizations in a wide variety of focus areas.

This annual report focuses on the celebration of Rochester Area Foundation's 80th Anniversary. One of the best ways to celebrate these 80 years is to reflect on our collective past, while also looking to the future. Thanks to experienced leadership combined with significant investments of resources from partners like you, the Foundation has distributed thousands and thousands of charitable grants throughout the years. Take a moment to reflect on the positive impact of our 80 years of community grantmaking – from resources to support our youngest, earliest learners, to those who need a hot meal or a place to rest for the night, to programs that engage our senior population and provide meaningful connections, and so much more. As partners, you have joined us in creating an innumerable number of opportunities to directly and positively impact lives in the greater Rochester area.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in Rochester Area Foundation's dedication to our communities. As we honor our mission to build and improve the quality of life in the greater Rochester area through philanthropic leadership and community partnerships, we are ready to take the steps necessary to address the changing needs of the generations to come, continuing to build better communities for all for another 80 years and beyond.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the staff of Rochester Area Foundation, I hope you enjoy this collection of data and stories that reflect our past and our hope for the future. I encourage you to continue to join us in sharing your time, talents, treasures, and advocacy for our community foundation, because together we achieve remarkable things.

Jennifer Woodford



Rochester Area Foundation





Rochester Area
Foundation

**We are proud that individuals, families and businesses trust
Rochester Area Foundation as their charitable giving
partner for many reasons**

- ✓ We provide highly personalized service tailored to meet each donor's charitable and financial needs enabling you to broaden your charitable giving by building on our philanthropic expertise.
- ✓ We accept a wide variety of assets and facilitate even the most complex forms of charitable giving while offering the maximum state and federal tax advantages under the law.
- ✓ We are a local organization with a deep understanding of the community and our knowledgeable staff understand current needs and issues.
- ✓ We are a community leader convening agencies and coordinating resources to create positive change: multiplying the impact of gift dollars by pooling them with other gifts and grants.
- ✓ We offer permanence to donors demonstrated by our 80-year history through endowed funds and multi-generational relationships.
- ✓ We offer Donor Advised Funds to help donors invest in the charities they care about and to learn about new initiatives they may want to support.
- ✓ We offer oversight by professional investment managers to ensure investment objectives are met.



From left to right, Carrie Moscho- Community Impact Officer, Jennifer Woodford-President, Ellen Hegge-Philanthropy Officer, Eddie Abarca-Finance Officer, Ellen Brennan-Community Impact Associate, Amanda Pelley-Administrative Services and Equity and Inclusion Manager



Rochester Area Foundation

Imagining Pathways to a More Equitable Future

TOGETHER WE CREATE COMMUNITY



The greater Rochester, MN area is a region full of creativity, vibrancy, and resiliency. At the same time, our region's potential is not fully realized due to inequities that exist within our communities. Unravelling these complex problems and creating a more just and equitable future requires shifting the status quo and boldly seeking out new ways of thinking and accomplishing. As a community foundation, we



strive to be strategic and responsive to the changing needs of our area and the many communities and individuals that add to the vibrancy and resilience of our region. We recognize that foundations have access to forms of power, such as capital, networks, and influence. As such, it is important for Rochester Area Foundation to be explicit in our commitment to equity.

In 2024, the Foundation implemented its first-ever Equity Policy, which guides the Foundation on ways to operationalize our values of diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and belonging.

Outside of our own organization, the Foundation continues to be a community leader in the provision of resources, opportunities, and event sharing to help individuals and organizations engage in equity and inclusion work locally. To promote information sharing for local DEI practitioners working across different sectors in our community, the Foundation supports a variety of communication networks.

Rochester Area Foundation was proud to sponsor the “Still We Rise” traveling exhibit featuring stories and photographs of local Black history and notable figures. In conjunction with this exhibit being on display at the Foundation, we also hosted a special discussion panel, “Still We Rise: Rising Black Leaders” that featured local artists, real estate professionals, community activists, educators, and entrepreneurs.

This event was open to the public and allowed community members to learn about and celebrate Rochester’s Black leaders, past and present, and to understand the positive ripple effects of building a community of belonging that extends across generations.

Additionally, the Foundation partnered with United Way of Southeast Minnesota to offer the BIPOC Community Engagement Series, a series of targeted educational sessions for members

of our local BIPOC communities to learn about opportunities for leadership, advocacy, and running for elected office. These sessions featured local leaders with diverse volunteer roles and career pathways who shared their experiences, insights, and ideas for the future of our communities.

This work was promoted further when The Women’s Foundation of Minnesota selected Rochester Area Foundation as their partner to host a Community Conversation, focusing on themes of place, identity, intersectionality, and community changemaking.

Throughout 2024, the Foundation was also able to support volunteer-led, community-based initiatives such as Rochester’s Back to School Block Party, NAACP Rochester Branch, and Community Engagement Response Team (CERT) through gifts of time, talents, and treasures. In recognition of the Foundation’s work in the community, CERT awarded Rochester Area Foundation their “Team Award” at their annual gala event.

Rochester Area Foundation President, Jennifer Woodford, states, “Rochester Area Foundation was honored to receive the TEAM award from C.E.R.T. in 2024. This was meaningful because our work in this space really is a team effort. I am grateful to our volunteer leadership, our staff, and all our partners who stand beside us to ensure that our strategic goals will be achieved through a lens of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.”



Girls On The Run

Inspiring Young Girls Through Movement and Mentorship

In a world where young girls often face increasing societal pressures, declining self-confidence, and decreasing physical activity levels, Girls on the Run Minnesota stands as a beacon of empowerment. By blending physical activity with social-emotional learning, this transformative program helps girls build confidence, resilience, and a lifelong appreciation for health and wellness.

Girls on the Run (GOTR) Minnesota operates with a clear mission: to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. Serving girls and gender-nonconforming youth in grades 3 through 8, the program fosters not just physical fitness but also mental and emotional well-being. Through structured lessons, engaging discussions, and goal-setting activities, GOTR equips participants with the tools they need to navigate challenges and embrace their true potential.

Since its inception in 2011, Girls on the Run Minnesota has expanded its reach across the state, with a strategic focus on increasing its presence in Southeastern Minnesota. With dedicated teams, local partnerships, and passionate volunteers, the program has seen tremendous growth, particularly in Rochester and surrounding communities.

GOTR's curriculum is carefully designed to progress through themes of self-empowerment, healthy relationships, and community engagement. One standout lesson involves positive self-talk: girls start by identifying negative thoughts they have experienced, then transform them into positive affirmations while completing laps. By the end of the session, they not only improve their physical endurance but also build a collection of affirmations to reinforce their confidence and self-worth.



The impact of Girls on the Run is measurable and profound. The program aims to:

Serve 265 girls in the Rochester area in the coming year, with an 85% program completion rate.

Ensure that at least 50% of participants receive financial aid, allowing all interested girls to participate regardless of economic background.

Provide necessary items needed for exercise and running to eliminate barriers to participation.

Empower girls through community service projects, reinforcing the importance of leadership and giving back.

The effectiveness of GOTR's approach is backed by research. A University of Minnesota study confirmed that Girls on the Run fosters transformative change in 97% of participants by strengthening confidence, character, connection, and leadership. Participants not only develop essential life skills but also apply them in real-world settings, from handling conflicts to making positive choices for their futures.

TOGETHER WE CREATE COMMUNITY



Each season culminates in an exciting 5K event, where girls showcase their progress, resilience, and determination. The race is not about competition but about celebration and personal achievement. Completing the 5K instills a sense of accomplishment and reinforces the idea that with dedication and support, anything is possible.

True to its commitment to inclusivity, Girls on the Run operates on a pay-what-you-can model. The program covers costs well beyond the \$200 maximum family fee, ensuring that financial constraints never stand in the way of participation.

After receiving a Rochester Area Foundation Better Communities Grant, Kathleen Cannon, Girls on the Run executive director shared, "We're deeply grateful for this support, which allows more girls than ever to experience the magic of Girls on the Run in southern Minnesota. No matter her background, every girl belongs at Girls on the Run, and it takes significant resources to keep it that way providing pay-what-you-can financial aid, offering shoes, pants and sports hijabs to girls who need them, training and supporting amazing coaches

that deliver a fun, research-based curriculum that incorporates movement, and more. Because of the Foundation's support, girls in Rochester and beyond are learning to stand up for themselves and others, make intentional decisions, and create a kinder, more inclusive community. Thank you!"

In 2024, Rochester Area Foundation awarded Girls on the Run Minnesota a \$10,000 competitive grant award. This will allow for continued expansion in its presence and deepen impact in the Rochester area. According to Carrie Moscho, Community Impact Officer, "When we award competitive grants to nonprofit organizations, we understand that we affect change in our area by allowing these organizations to utilize these financial resources in the best way possible."

By investing in community relationships, volunteer engagement, and financial accessibility, the program is on track for sustained growth. With an ambitious goal to reach even more young girls, the organization remains dedicated to shaping the next generation of confident, strong, and compassionate leaders. Rochester Area Foundation is proud to support a youth organization like Girls on the Run and others each year.





Community Impact And Investment

TOGETHER WE CREATE COMMUNITY

Rochester Area Foundation (RAF) has long been a cornerstone of support for nonprofits dedicated to uplifting our community. Leading up to 2024, RAF undertook a comprehensive evaluation of our Better Communities Grants, engaging in best practice research, data analysis, and extensive collaboration with nonprofit partners. This introspective exercise led to a reimagined grant process, aligning RAF's resources more closely with the evolving needs of the community.

Fhrough this evaluative process, we engaged our partners and identified three pivotal themes:

Operational Support Needs: Nonprofits are increasingly tasked with addressing diverse community challenges. While programmatic initiatives receive attention, the essential operational facets of these organizations often remain underfunded.

Streamlining Support: Traditional funding mechanisms can inadvertently hinder nonprofits, introducing delays and perpetuating inequities. There is a pressing need to empower these organizations to leverage their expertise without unnecessary obstacles.

Clarity and Transparency: Stakeholders across the spectrum—nonprofit partners, donors, and grant reviewers—seek a grantmaking process that is both clear and transparent, fostering trust and mutual understanding.

In response, RAF unveiled a revitalized vision for Better Communities Grants in 2024, grounded in the following core values:

Responsive Stewardship: Diligently managing resources to balance careful oversight with agility.

Collaborative Partnership: Engaging with nonprofits in a spirit of service, emphasizing trust and humility over rigid compliance.

Equity Focus: Crafting grantmaking practices that reduce bias and champion justice, inclusion, and equity, especially for historically underfunded nonprofits.

Embracing Learning: Remaining open to growth, learning, and evolution to enhance community impact.

Relationship-Centered Approach: Valuing transparent communication to diminish power imbalances and foster shared learning.



Recognizing the challenges nonprofit organizations face in securing operational funding, RAF's Better Communities Grants now offer unrestricted support, enabling organizations to:

Innovate and Expand: Pursue transformative ideas without financial constraints.

Strengthen Infrastructure: Build robust systems and capacities for sustained growth.

Financial grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 are awarded across four focus areas annually:

Spring: Youth and Education; Vibrant Communities (culture, arts, environment, recreation).

Fall: Historically Marginalized Communities; Basic Needs and Economic Mobility.

Each focus area also honors emerging nonprofits, ensuring that new and small organizations have opportunities to thrive.

A Transparent and Inclusive Process

The application journey begins with a letter of intent, followed by invitations for full applications. Community volunteers play a crucial role in reviewing proposals, ensuring diverse perspectives guide funding decisions. Instead of traditional reports, RAF fosters ongoing dialogue through semi-annual group conversations, promoting shared learning and deeper engagement.

Celebrating Collective Impact

RAF's commitment to transparency and community engagement is exemplified in biannual Grant Showcases, where grantees share their stories, challenges, and triumphs. These events not only celebrate the impactful work being done but also inspire others to join in the mission of community betterment.

Through the reimagined Better Communities Grants, the Rochester Area Foundation reaffirms its dedication to empowering nonprofits, fostering innovation, and building a resilient, inclusive community.

Better Communities Grants Revisioning Working Group

Terri Allred
Tony Benson
Deneene Graham

Jean Locke
Don Supalla

Better Communities Grants Steering Committee

Tony Benson, *Chair*
Tracy Austin
Dave Herder

Bonnie Schultz
Erin Sexton

Better Communities Grant Reviewers

Basic Needs And Economic Mobility Grants

Tracy Austin
Tony Benson
Mandy Cutshall
Jeremy Emmi

Dave Herder
Dave Oeth
Meaghan Sherden
Janessa Winters

Historically Marginalized Communities Grants

Belinda Brandon
Duc Chu
Zainab Jaffar
Dave Jasperson
Sue Luebbe

Lisa Lundquist
Beth Martinez
Olajide Olaleye
Evelyn Schlichting
Erin Sexton

Vibrant Communities Grants

Tracy Austin
Jeremy Emmi
Gary Hayden
Dave Jasperson

Beth Nienow
Meaghan Sherden
Jodi Williamson
Janessa Winters

Youth And Education Grants

Tony Benson
Belinda Brandon
Lida Casper
Susan Haskamp
Dave Herder

Evelyn Schlichting
Bonnie Schultz
Soaleha Shams
Wendy Shannon





Lucille R. Phillips

Donor Advised Fund



TOGETHER WE CREATE COMMUNITY

Lucille was an active community member who in her 93 years of life held various careers and volunteer roles. When she passed away in 1997, her daughter Joy Fogarty and son-in-law Mike wanted to honor Lucille and her generous spirit. Thanks to Joy's service on the Rochester Area Foundation Board of Trustees, she and Mike felt that opening a Donor Advised Fund would be the best fit to meet their charitable goals. According to Joy, "I became so impressed with the Foundation during my time on the board, that Mike and I knew this was the best place to set up a Donor Advised Fund in honor of my mother."

Since opening the Lucille R. Phillips Donor Advised Fund twenty-six years ago, the Fogarty's have been able to positively impact the nonprofit organizations they have donated to utilizing their Donor Advised Fund through the Foundation. With this type of charitable fund, donors receive the benefit of an immediate tax-deductible donation when contributing to a fund but can also take time to be thoughtful about

distributions from the fund and recommend charitable grants at their leisure to organizations that align with their areas of interest. Joy and Mike have chosen to concentrate much of their grant-making on education-related organizations as a way to honor Lucille's background in the field of education. Through the strategic guidance of the Foundation's Finance Committee, the original donation used to open the fund has grown over time and made more resources available to support organizations they are enthusiastic about.

With the assistance of Foundation staff, the Fogarty's are now determining plans for the next generation of charitable giving and involving their adult sons in stewarding the Lucille R. Phillips Donor Advised Fund into the future. "We know that the community foundation will be here for a long time, and we feel confident in planning to continue partnering with Rochester Area Foundation in the future to honor Lucille, and continue to invest in our community," acclaims Mike.

Donor Advised Funds

Ahlquist Family
Patricia and Colin Aldis
Craig and Linda Allen
George Leighton Allen Sr.
and Dorothy Hammett
Allen
Amadio Family Fund for
the Arts
Neil P. Anderson
The Arc Minnesota SE
Region
Sarah J. Armstrong
Mark and Lucy Bahn
Gail D. Baker
Andrea J. Beck
Beech Family
Lynn Behnke
Cathy Belhumer
Memorial
Dr. Claire Bender
Allison and Aaron Benike
John and Cindy Benike
Jim Bier and Rita Till
Art and Maryann Birdseye
Jane Brandhagen
Richard and Nancy
Brubaker
Bruce Buller
Dennis Busche
Byron School District
Impact Fund
Dr. Martin and Mary
Campion Fund
Dr. Stephanie K. Carlson
Chosen Valley - Bob and
Ruth Jefferies Memorial
Fund

Chosen Valley - Chatfield
Firefighters
Chosen Valley - Haven
Wall Fund
Chosen Valley - Manahan
Nursing Scholarship Fund
Chosen Valley - Marvin
and Mary Ohlrogg
Chosen Valley - Melvin
and Mariel Greenlee Fund
Chosen Valley
Community Foundation
Ed and Mary Clark
Jim Clausen
Dr. Judith and Judge
Lawrence Collins
Wyatt M. Coy Memorial
Curley Family
Dauntless
Davidson Family
Dan Davidson
Daphna Davidson
Sidney and Iris Davidson
Tal Davidson
Donald and Barbara
DeCramer
Al and Ann De Boer
Patrick and Teri Deutsch
Dodge Center Foundation
Community Advised Fund
Dodge Center Foundation
Library Fund
Dodge Center
Foundation-Jessica Marie
Arnold
Dodge Center
Foundation-Riverside
Cemetery Fund

Dodge Center
Foundation-Triton
Foundation
Dodge Center
Foundation-Veterans
Memorial
Michael and Nancy
Domaille
Joel and Sandra Dunnette
Karen Edin
Ron and Marsha Durst
Terri and Brooks Edwards
Rachel Ehmke Memorial
Foundation
Eudaimonia
Richard and Ingeborg
Emslander
Family Service Rochester
Ronald and Linda Fess
Cristine Fischer
Patricia and William
Fitzgerald
Barbara A Flasch
David B. and Barbara
Frogner
T. Emil and Dorothy
Gauthier
Halcon Furniture
Scholarship Fund
Chuck Handlon Century
Scholarship Fund
Ashley Marie Hanson
Memorial Fund
Carol and Keith Hartley
Hartzell Family
Gary and Nancy Hayden
Family Foundation



Donor Advised Funds Continued

Ironwood Springs
Christian Ranch
Dave and Jan Jaspersen
Family
David and Della Jenkins
Janet and Larry Johnson
Jeffrey E. Johnson
L.J and Judy Johnson
Patricia Judd
Neal and Cynthia Karels
Dan and Mary Jo Kelly
Kelzer Family
Cheryl McGrath Key
John and Dottie Klopp
KM Telecom
Janet and Joe Knobbe
Family Memorial
Allen and Anne Koenig
Kremin Family
M.P. Krieger
John Kyle
Law Enforcement
Memorial Foundation of
Southeast Minnesota
Lasker Jewelers
Greg and Donna Layton
Locke Family
Christie Lohkamp
Missions Fund
Kathryn and Phillip
Lombardo
Sue and Doug Luebke
Mayo Clinic
McGuire Family
Eric McNamara Live Love
Laugh Foundation
Thomas and Patricia Miller
VM Miller Family
Mindset Foundation Fund
Audrey M. Nelson
Beverly Nelson Arts
Education

Beth Marie Nienow
Nuss Family/Nuss Truck &
Equipment
William and Heidi Oehler
Oeth Family Fund
Richard Orvold and Marita
Heller
Palmer Family
Penz Family
Merle Peterson
Irvin P. and Maureen
Plitzuweit
Post Family
Joe Powers
Don and Barbara Prow
Purrington Family
Rea Family
Rochester Music Guild
Rochester Public Library
Foundation
Rochester Rotary Club
Jill and Chris Rock
Dick and Joanne Rosener
RT Autism Awareness
Foundation Fund
Ryan Windows & Siding Inc.
Forrest and Faye Sargent
Lisa J. Schlesinger
Evelyn Schlichting
Robert Schoenfelder
Victor Scott Trust
Seasons Hospice
Ronald and Theresa Seeger
Dennis and Rita Semerad
Larry and Wendy
Shannon
Patrick and Karen Sheedy
James and Jeanne
Sheehan
Soldier's Field Veterans
Memorial
Slightam Family Foundation
Jim and Judy Sloan

Hugh and Aynsley Smith
Sperling Family Foundation
David and Sara Stenhaug
Stewartville Community
Foundation
Randall Stone and Kim
Norton
P & K Streit Gratitude
Mary and Fred Suhler
Superior Mechanical
Don and Stephanie Supalla
Mark and Sheryl Tasler
Thompson/Kirkland
George Thompson
Community Advisory
Wayne L. Trahms
Alan O. and Sharon
Tuntland
Urban Oasis
Mark and Julia Utz
Van De North-Knight Family
Van Dellen Family
Paul and Lucille
Vermeersch
Veterans and Emergency
Services Museum
Janet Notheis Volkmar
Louis and Linda Wagner
David and Julie Warner
Natalie Webb Memorial
Fund
weGive365
Karel Weigel
Dr. Margaret Weglinski
Wells Fargo Bank
Charles and Barbara
Withers
Ron and Judy Yaggy
Yanish Family
Fred and Roxanne Ziecina
Zubay Family Foundation



Heritage Society Members

Jeffrey G. Allman
Neil Anderson
Lora Anderson
George and Lois Annis
Dick and Judy Argue
John and Lois Bakke
Robert and Olive Barnhart
William and Mary Ann Boyne
Margaret Brieese
Barbara L. Brown
Philip and Virginia Brown
Mark T. Bucher
Bernelda Busian
Alan Calavano
Jane K. Campion
James and Sue Clausen
Borge M. Christensen
Portia Corbin
Al and Ann DeBoer
Janet Denny
Stephen Dow Mills
Benedict and Eloise Dresbach
Dr. Joseph and Lois Duffy
Dr. Richard and Ann Ferguson
Barbara Flasch
Martha Frey
Dorothy and T. Emil Gauthier
Marjorie Ginn
Velva A. Gitsch
Viola Glasby
Toni A. Hanson

Oscar and Ella Hanson
Donald R. Hardy
Paul and Rebeca Harkess
Linda Harwick
Gary and Nancy Hayden
Wallace and Margaret Herrell
Marianne Hockema
Roy L. Hoffman
John and Rita Hunt
Lois A. Jorstad
Dan and Mary Jo Kelly
Emily J. Kennedy
Carl and Rhonda Koontz
Dag Knudsen and Deirdre Flesche
Dr. Donald and Phyllis Layton
Jon and Sue Losness
Violet Lucius
Lois and John McDougall
Kenneth and Louella McGhie
Dr. Wallace A. Merritt
Harold and Shirley Miller
Thomas and Patricia Miller
Dr. Mary E. Mussey
Dr. Audrey M. Nelson
James and Jean Newcomer
David and Gwen Oeth
Richard Orvold and Marita Heller
Virginia Payne
Daisy B. Plummer
Joe Powers

Bruce and Sara Qualey
Marilyn Rahman
Richard and JoAnne Rosener
Christine Sadowski
Al and Julie Schafer
Robert Schoenfelder
Larry and Wendy Shannon
Jim and Judy Sloan
Drs. Hugh and Aynsley Smith
Marguerite Smith
Mary Sorensen
William and Luella Stensrud
Otto Sundvoll
James and Patricia Talen
James and Joyce Talen
Steve and Nancy Thornton
Leslie and Crystal Thornton
Al and Sharon Tuntland
Dr. Gertride M. Tyce
Mark and Julia Utz
Glenn and Ella VanLaningham
Amy L. Waugh
Karel M. Weigel
Joseph and Darlene Weis
Joyce M. Wenz
John and Nedra Wicks
Jennifer and Eric Woodford
Ronald and Dianne Yanish



Legacy of Leadership Jane Champion



Rochester Area Foundation is privileged to have been supported by community leaders throughout our 80 year history. The investments made by countless individuals have provided the Foundation with the benefit of expertise, guidance, relationships, and connections that have made the Foundation what it is today, building a strong legacy and a bright path to the future. In the midst of our anniversary celebration, we pause to remember one of those integral people, Jane Champion.

Jane gave of herself to ensure that our community foundation had the financial resources, the knowledge, and a sustainable model to continue investing in building better communities for all. Jane had many roles within our organization over the years, including Trustee, Interim Executive Director, and committee member. Jane utilized her strong leadership skills to guide the Foundation and engage others in impactful work. She was trusted

by all her knew her, and was known to speak the truth, seek positive solutions, and maintain the highest integrity. Jane was firm and fair, handling all situations tactfully and with grace. She was a woman who was instrumental in so many aspects of the Rochester community. She kept her finger on the pulse of this community that she loved so dearly, and impacted significantly, including Rochester Area Foundation. Her leadership and legacy live on through the work we do today, continuing to serve the community and all its residents.

It was our honor to recognize Jane during her lifetime as one of the inaugural recipients of Rochester Area Foundation's Legacy of Leadership award. We will always remember her gifts, cherish her memory, and do our best to "Be good to yourself," as Jane always reminded us to do.

Field Of Interest Endowment Funds



Affiliated Credit Services, Inc.
George and Lois Annis
Barbara Brown
Gael Entrikin and Raymond Schmitz
Marilyn Haglund
Dr. Virginia Hartridge
Walter and Ellen Kleist

Bernice Krug
McDougall Family
Jennie Mo
Shirley A. Nelsen
Hugh and Aynsley Smith
Steve Thornton
Support the Children

Donor Designated Endowment Funds

Deana Anderson Memorial Scholarship
Steve Bakke Memorial Scholarship
Kris Brown Memorial
Bernelda Busian
Cain Family
Alan Calavano History Center of Olmsted
County
Chosen Valley-Chatfield Lutheran Church
Christ United Methodist Church
James and Janet Denny
Dodge County Historical Society
Dorothy Day Hospitality House
Benedict M. and Eloise B. Dresbach
Pam Frangipane Memorial Fund For
Habitat for Humanity
Rickee Henoeh Memorial Arts
Alan E. Hiley Memorial Hockey
Iwen Scouting
Koontz Family

Bernice Krug
Elizabeth LaRoque Memorial
Mayowood Residence Collection
Midwest Melanoma Partnership
Harold and Margaret Neece
Charles Nelsen Memorial Fund for the
Dorothy Day House
James and Jean Newcomer
Paula Rome Endowment for Reading
Center
RAF Staff Endowment
Rochester Area Foundation Estate Fund 1
Rochester Area Foundation Estate Fund 2
Rochester Area Foundation Tribute Fund
Rochester Symphony Jere Lantz
Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial
St. Olaf Heritage Association
Stewartville Area Historical Society
Mark and Sheryl Tasler Excellence Fund
WeGive365



Scholarship Highlight

As the first recipient of a new Rochester Area Foundation scholarship, the student awardee had these thoughts to share, "Earning the Lance Pfrimmer Memorial Scholarship has allowed me the first opportunity in our community to carry on his name, passions, and legacy. Through this application process, I have learned just how big Lance's heart was. He was a bright light in his community. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to represent Lance by keeping his bright light shining wherever I go. This scholarship will support me financially as I begin my first year of college as a two-sport athlete. I am honored to receive this scholarship as I can only imagine the pool of amazing candidates. However, I know I will do my best to live every day like Lance."

The Lance Pfrimmer Memorial scholarship was created by Lance's family after his tragic passing in 2024. Unsure of how to best honor Lance's memory, pay tribute to his life, and invest the memorials that friends and family provided, the family turned to RAF for guidance.

"We were honored to collaborate with Lance's family to create a legacy in the form of an endowed annual scholarship award," expresses Ellen Hegge, Philanthropy Officer. Each donor can decide the applicant eligibility and award criteria for their specific scholarship. After reviewing applications, volunteer committee members meet and discuss which student best represents the vision of the scholarship.

"Every year, I am inspired by the quality of student applicants, and the thoughtfulness of each volunteer committee in making these life changing decisions," extols Ellen Brennan, Community Impact Associate.

In 2024, in cooperation with our partners, the Foundation awarded \$76,300 in financial scholarship awards to 40 students pursuing a wide variety of studies. These awards provide extra aid for students who desire to pursue higher education degrees, graduate from technical programs and obtain certifications.

"Over the past few years, I have had the honor of serving on the Rochester Area Foundation Scholarship committee. Learning about the dedication, resiliency, and leadership of our local youth has been truly inspirational. The application of a young immigrant student with a single mom was particularly moving. This young man managed to excel in school despite being one of the primary caretakers for his younger siblings and working while attending school to support his family. Rather than focusing on these hardships, he expressed gratitude that his part time work at a care facility sparked a passion in helping others and spurred him to pursue a nursing career," conveys JoMarie Morris, Volunteer Scholarship Committee Member.

These university logos represent the institutions where some of the award recipients are currently studying.



The Lance Pfrimmer Memorial Scholarship was one of two new scholarships that were created and made available in 2024, the other is the Tammy Schettl-Morris Memorial Scholarship.

The Tammy Schettl-Morris Scholarship Fund honors the legacy of an incredible woman, with grit and determination. Tammy grew up in multiple broken homes. She could have let those experiences change her negatively, but she chose differently. She chose to break the cycle and to dedicate her life to helping children and young adults by being a foster mom and creating positive change for so many young people. Her legacy will continue by providing scholarships to young people who have experienced challenges in life and want a better future.

With each of the 25 endowed scholarships that Rochester Area Foundation hosts, area students will have opportunities far into the future to pursue the education and skills needed to set audacious goals and meet those goals with support from generous donors, who understand that education is the foundation to success.

Scholarship Committee

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Harold Burden
Mary Ehmke
Patty Geerdes
Kathy Harowski
Denise Kelly
JoMarie Morris
Tracey Rutherford
Wendy Shannon
Don Supalla
Therese White



Scholarship Endowment Funds

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Aviation Pathways
Blenkush, Dilley, Tvedt, Tyce and Olson Memorial
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Walter and Theodosia Castner
Wyatt M. Coy Memorial
Amy Donahoe Memorial
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Mary Sorensen John Marshall Memorial
Stewartville Tiger
Stewartville Merit-Based
Sustainable Agriculture & Forestry





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Income Statement

TOGETHER WE CREATE COMMUNITY

The Investment Fund in 2024 increased by over \$7M from the end of 2023. The Rochester Area Foundation Investment Fund constitutes an enduring legacy. Employing careful oversight and planning, we are dedicated to using our financial resources to build better communities for all, including promoting equality of opportunities and developing effective methods to aid those in need in the greater Rochester area. The Investment Fund is composed of over 425 funds including Donor Advised, Donor Designated, Nonprofit Agency, Field of Interest, and Scholarship.

At the end of **2023**
Rochester Area Foundation
had assets under financial
management totaling

\$78,842,579

At the end of **2024**
Rochester Area Foundation
had assets under financial
management totaling

\$86,145,490





Revenue

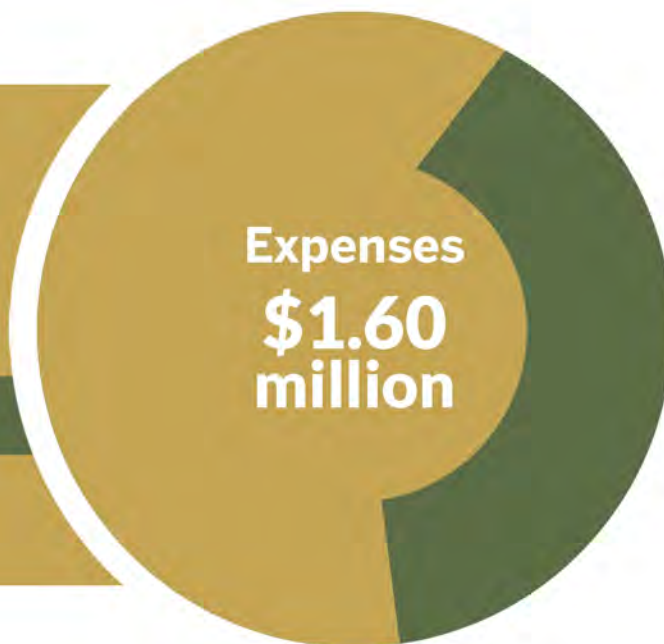
Rochester Area Foundation	\$1,235,091
First Homes	\$569,755
Total	\$1,804,846



RAF FIRST HOMES

Expenses

Rochester Area Foundation	\$1,062,746
First Homes	\$540,770
Total	\$1,603,515



RAF FIRST HOMES



Coalition for Rochester Area Housing

Committed to creating and preserving affordable housing, the Coalition for Rochester Area Housing proudly shares its 2024 achievements, including an investment of over \$8.4 million in affordable housing initiatives.

Creating

36 multi-unit rental apartments
134 home ownership units

Preserving

85 multi-family rental apartments
30 home ownership units

Key Priorities

The Coalition for Rochester Area Housing invests in projects supporting five key priorities:

- ✓ Creating new homeownership opportunities
- ✓ Increasing homeownership for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities
- ✓ Expanding housing options for households earning less than 50% of the area median income
- ✓ Preserving existing affordable housing options
- ✓ Developing additional senior housing options

BIPOC Homeownership Mentorship Program

Recognizing the need to increase homeownership among BIPOC communities, the Coalition partnered with BIPOC community members to identify barriers, evaluate opportunities, and recommend strategies to close the homeownership gap. A key recommendation was the creation of a mentorship program for prospective BIPOC homeowners.

The Coalition collaborated with Three Rivers Community Action to develop and launch a BIPOC Homeowner Mentorship Program. The program aimed to recruit up to ten mentors to provide one-on-one guidance to home-seekers, in partnership with a Mentorship Coach. The pilot program successfully served 20 BIPOC households, pairing them with ten trained mentors.



From left to right: JoMarie Morris, Executive Director of the Coalition for Rochester Area Housing, Jennifer Woodford, Rochester Area Foundation President, Jeff Urban, Project Development and Community Outreach Director

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Success Story: Abiola's Journey

Abiola and his family arrived in the U.S. with the dream of building a new life. At an outreach event at his employer, he learned about the BIPOC Homeowner Mentorship Program. Excited about the prospect of homeownership but unsure of the process as a New American, Abiola and his wife joined the program. Matched with a mentor, they gained confidence and knowledge through homebuyer education. Their hard work paid off, they were approved for a mortgage loan and received First Generation community downpayment assistance. Today, Abiola and his family are proud homeowners, achieving a major milestone toward their American dream.

Mentor Perspective

MyKitta Davis, Homeowner Advisor with Three Rivers Community Action, shares, "Through community co-design, we learned that prospective homebuyers could benefit from personal mentors with shared cultures and lived experiences. Traditional funding channels did not account for this approach, but partnering with the Coalition made all the difference. Half of the mentees have already achieved homeownership, and more are actively seeking homes with preapprovals in place. Having mentors who reflect the communities being served, share similar lived experiences, and speak the same language made the process more accessible and supportive. This program is creating real change, and Three Rivers is committed to integrating mentorship into our programming long-term."

Investing in Affordable Homeownership

To further increase affordable homeownership, the Coalition invested in an entry-level homeownership

project in Eyota. Once completed, this development will feature three two- and three-bedroom town homes designed for individuals and families earning 70-115% of the area median income.

Jamie Judisch, a project developer, highlights the impact, "The Coalition's revolving loan program balances risks and rewards for investors and landowners, making it more attractive to develop affordable workforce housing. With the Coalition's \$1M investment, we are creating homeownership opportunities for 36 households in Eyota. Because the loan is repaid to the Coalition, these funds can be reinvested repeatedly, leading to a sustainable increase in affordable homeownership options."

JoMarie Morris, Executive Director of the Coalition for Rochester Area Housing, expresses optimism about the progress, "The Coalition set ambitious four-year investment goals, and thanks to strong collaborations and partnerships, we have already achieved 50% of our target. The Coalition remains committed to expanding affordable housing opportunities, supporting innovative homeownership programs, and ensuring a thriving, inclusive community."

The Coalition for Rochester Area Housing continues its mission to ensure stable, accessible, and affordable housing for all. Through strategic investments, strong partnerships, and innovative solutions, we are building a future where homeownership is within reach for more families in our community.



First Homes



For the past 24 years, First Homes has had the privilege of being a small part of many family's lives as they work through the process of finding and purchasing their first home. "Home is the place where we feel secure and connected," passionately states First Home homeowner, Zeni Aly. In 2021, Zeni was thrilled to become a homeowner through First Homes Community Land Trust (CLT) program. Zeni and her daughters, along with hundreds of others, are building stability and wealth for their families through homeownership.

For people of all ages, where we live matters significantly as it relates to every aspect of our lives. When we have access to safe, secure places to live, the positive impacts are evident: parents earn more, kids do better in school, health and well-being improve, communities prosper, and we all thrive.

First Homes' CLT model creates and preserves affordable housing by providing a subsidy that stays with the home. Even as properties transition from buyer to buyer, CLT homes retain this investment by First Homes, keeping the homes affordable in perpetuity. The CLT controls the resale price of the houses through a ground lease and set resale formula.



Homeowners within the CLT enjoy security, control, tax advantages and ability to build equity just like any homeowner. The CLT model has proven to be one of the only affordable housing examples that ensures permanent affordability.

First Homes celebrated a milestone in 2024 by expanding the affordable homeownership option to 300 homes within the CLT portfolio. This achievement is due to the hard work of the First Homes staff team, Board of Directors, Rochester Area Foundation leadership and the many community partners who understand the need for affordable housing options in our community.



From left to right: Jennifer Woodford President, Afton Zelinski First Homes Director of Community Land Trust, Justin Voss First Homes Director of Projects, and Emily Neville-First Homes Program Assistant.

In addition to meeting a milestone in the number of homes supported by First Homes, a partnership with Olmsted County Housing Redevelopment Authority was expanded to work in cooperation to create 10 affordable new construction CLT homes. The project was developed by Olmsted County, and upon completion these new construction homes were placed into First Homes CLT. The partnership, unique in nature, was very successful in getting more affordable single-family homes to the market for families.

"At First Homes we have created a process to support homebuyers and walk alongside them as they are fulfilling a dream of finding and buying a home for their family," explains Afton Zelinski, First Homes Director of CLT and in-house realtor. As homeowner Zeni describes, "the home-buying process is very complex, involving multiple steps, guidelines, requirements, and a significant amount of paperwork. It can be challenging to keep up with all the documents, especially since some are time-sensitive and others require a clear understanding of responsibilities and obligations. It was great to have professionals in the field break down the information into less technical terms and help me understand the process."

With the First Homes team to support the home buying process and community partners who are in full support of our mission to create and preserve affordable housing options, we can be successful in assisting families and individuals just like Zeni.



First Homes Investment



Community Land Trust Sales and Resales:

300



People Served:

1140

Children Served:

464

BIPOC Families:

15%

of homeowners



Communities Served:

Rochester, Byron, Chatfield,
Dover, Grand Meadow,
Cannon Falls, Hayfield, Kasson,
Pine Island, Plainview,
Spring Valley, St. Charles



Counties Served:

Olmsted, Dodge,
Goodhue, Fillmore,
Wabasha, Winona, Mower



weGive365: The Story of Collective Impact



It all starts with \$1 a day and caring individuals. While it may not seem like much, when combined, those dollars and individuals create incredible possibilities!

Rochester Area Foundation's weGive365 giving program was created in 2013 to encourage charitable giving in an easy, convenient method. In the 12 years since its inception, members have distributed 59 grants totaling \$65,500.

Angie Severson, Miss Angie's Place and a grant recipient states, "Because of the generous support of weGive365 and its members,



we are able to continue offering quality programming for our after-school students."

weGive365 member investments are split into two funds; half of the donation is invested in the weGive365 Endowment Fund, and the other half of the donation is invested in the weGive365 Donor Advised Fund. Utilizing this method of investment allows for yearly growth and distribution of program funds.

According to Jason Hegge, General Manager Signature Aviation, "weGive365 events have been a fantastic way to learn about various

TOGETHER WE CREATE COMMUNITY





nonprofit organizations in our community and the groups that they each support. In addition to my wife and I's individual membership, I also invest in a business membership, so our staff team have opportunities to learn and participate in service projects as well."

Each year, weGive365 members can participate in various educational events, service projects, and the yearly grantmaking event. "The educational event allowed us to share our passion and mission with weGive365 members and let them know how much we care for and love our first responders and neighbors," states George Beech, Executive Director Salt & Light Partners.

"As a member you get to be directly involved in decision making on which organizations receive funds. It allows you the opportunity to learn about and interact with individuals representing organizations who are doing truly impactful work within our community. I've learned so much about some really cool organizations at the weGive365 events that I've attended. It's inspiring to see how a little donation can go such a long way," states Natalie Jones, Second Vice President West Bank.

Grants given each year by weGive365 members are typically provided to nonprofit organizations that are smaller in scope and size, many of which are volunteer-led, or new to serving the community. A grant of \$1,000 or \$2,000 provides impactful support for an organization meeting these criteria.

"For just a dollar a day, less than the price of my favorite morning beverage, my weGive365 contribution is pooled with others to provide annual grants and build an endowment that will support area nonprofits in perpetuity. Better yet, as a weGive365 member, I have a grantmaking vote, an opportunity to join other members in community service opportunities, and a chance to network with others whose mindset is building better communities for all. Come join us and find out how your dollar a day can make a difference," member, Don Supalla, states.

The program offers a collaborative way to give that connects generous, community-minded people together to make positive impact in our community.

"My membership and participation in weGive365 allow me to engage and build friendships with other generous members, all while learning and supporting so many non-profit organizations and the important work that they do in our communities," succinctly states weGive365 member Tamsen Leimer, VP Business & Mortgage Banking F&M Community Bank.





Empowering Nonprofits: Building a Stronger Community Together

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Nonprofits are the heart of our communities, working tirelessly to uplift those in need, bridge gaps, and create lasting change. However, as the landscape of charitable work continues to evolve, organizations face unprecedented challenges that demand innovation, collaboration, and strategic support. Since 2022, Rochester Area Foundation has been the backbone of the Rochester Nonprofit Consortium. The Consortium is a vibrant network of nonprofit organizations of all sizes and serving a variety of sectors across Olmsted County.

Through our commitment to the Rochester Nonprofit Consortium, our mission is clear: to create a more efficient, effective, and collaborative nonprofit sector. By fostering connectivity, strengthening leadership, and providing essential resources, we empower organizations to maximize their impact and build a stronger, more resilient community.

Capacity building is the key to nonprofit success. Working to equip organizations with the tools, knowledge, and resources they need to reach the next level of operational, financial, and programmatic excellence. This could be refining leadership skills, improving financial stability, or fostering deeper

collaboration, capacity building helps nonprofits sustain and expand their vital work.

A 2024 report on the state of the nonprofit sector from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits shed light on the conditions facing nonprofit organizations across the state. Three major takeaways highlight the urgent need for support and strategic action:

Financial Stability is Under Threat – With decreases in government funding and ever-increasing demands for services, many nonprofits struggle with funding, limiting their ability to serve their communities effectively.

Ingenuity and Resilience are Thriving – Despite financial constraints, nonprofits continue to innovate and adapt, filling critical service gaps with limited resources.



“ I joined the Rochester Nonprofit Consortium as I sought sound advice from experienced nonprofit executives to deliver the best service that I can offer to my constituents. What a blessing this group is to our community! ”

George Beech, Executive Director Salt & Light Partners

Advocacy is More Important Than Ever –

Nonprofits are taking a more active role in addressing systemic issues and advocating for lasting change.

Recognizing these challenges, the Rochester Nonprofit Consortium is committed to providing meaningful opportunities for growth and connection. Our initiatives include:

Leadership Development: Executive and board training programs that equip nonprofit leaders with the skills to drive change.

Community Building: Creating spaces for nonprofit professionals to collaborate, share ideas, and find solutions to pressing issues.

Strategic Support: Offering tailored resources to help organizations enhance their impact, reduce duplication, and use resources more effectively.

The work of nonprofits is essential, and by coming together, we can amplify our efforts, tackle challenges head-on, and build a future where every organization has the tools it needs to thrive.

At Rochester Area Foundation, we are proud to stand alongside the nonprofit community, fostering connections, supporting innovation, and championing the causes that make a difference in people's lives. Together, we can create lasting impact and ensure a brighter future for all.



Rochester Nonprofit Consortium Collective Impact



Resource Sharing

87% of member executive directors report that they have gained access to resources as a result of participation in the Consortium.



Learning and Support

93% of member executive directors report that they have received helpful support with the issues they are facing as a result of participation in the Consortium.



Community Connections

94% of member executive directors report that their relationships with other leaders in the community have been strengthened as a result of participation in the Consortium.



Member-Driven Programming

Since its inception in 2016, local nonprofit leaders have served as Consortium leaders - prioritizing community needs, bringing forward concerns and opportunities, and recommending how best to serve members.



Geographic Affiliate Partners



Rochester Area Foundation proudly partners with four regional community foundations in our area. These are mutually beneficial relationships that allow for sharing best practices, leadership development, and most importantly, spreading the positive impact of charitable giving further into our region. Each foundation operates independently focusing on what will best support their community, offering grants, support for initiatives, scholarships and more.

In 2024, our affiliate partners held over \$870,000 in assets with RAF for future investments into their communities that will create lasting positive impact.

Since 2012, Greater Lake City Community Foundation (GLCCF) has been connecting philanthropic resources with programs and projects for the betterment of their community. The Foundation was founded and initially funded through a seed grant from the J.A. Wedum Foundation and became

a geographic affiliate partner with Rochester Area Foundation in 2014.

Board member Greg Langfield states, "Our connection to Rochester Area Foundation has allowed us to become credible so much faster through advice and support in areas such as policies, procedures, best practices and programs. We are pleased to say that over \$155,000 in grants have been awarded since our inception, and our current fund balance is over \$800,000!"

Greater Lake City Community Foundation has five pillars of focus: Community Development, Economic Development, Environment, Scholarships and Arts. In 2024, GLCCF awarded grants totaling \$41,100 that provided support in each of these five pillars.

In 2024, GLCCF distributed a record amount of \$21,000 in scholarship awards that supported future careers in the trades, personal care, agriculture, and nursing. Scholarship support by GLCCF donors has had tremendous growth, exemplified by the financial support provided in 2024 and with the establishment of a new engineering scholarship starting in 2025.

Within the last three years, eight projects have been completed for restoration of old settlement ponds





that no longer were reducing flow of sediment into Lake Pepin. This partnership with the City of Lake City and Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District secured a \$1.2 million renewable grant from the State of Minnesota. This partnership has proposed extending the working agreement to include cover crops. Cover crops germinate, cover the soil, and hold it in place during the fall and winter. In the spring, they are allowed to die and contribute nutrients back to the soil. Farmers utilizing using cover crops routinely see an increase in yield per acre while using lower levels of fertilizer. GLCCF has allocated \$2,000 per year to pay participating farmers who plant cover crops on farms within the Wells Creek and Gilbert Creek watersheds an extra \$10/acre. GLCCF dollars supplement the financial contributions of the Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District and the participating farmers.



Two projects within community development included GLCCF donors supporting Friends of the Library through distributions from Donor Advised Funds totaling \$3,500 and a \$2,000 grant to the Peters Memorial Fund which was used to provide aid to Lake City High School students who are in need of financial assistance with drivers education fees and prom attire expenses.

In 2024, GLCCF kicked off weInvest365, a new giving circle modeled after a Rochester Area Foundation program.

program. This dollar-a-day giving program pools gifts from members and utilizes those investments to distribute annual grants to area non-profits organizations.

Additionally, the program provides an opportunity to educate those that participate about the missions and work of area non-profit organizations building stronger connections to the community. Since its inception in July, GLCCF is excited to have 23 members who have given \$365 or more to support weInvest365. They anticipate awarding grants from \$800 to \$1,200 to a handful of area non-profits in 2025. Terry and Bonnie Smith recently donated to the weInvest365 program and expressed, "We know there are many national and international opportunities, however we choose to support our local Foundation because those donations will be distributed to local nonprofits in the greater Lake City area. Greater Lake City Community Foundation purpose aligns with our beliefs."

The work of Greater Lake City Community Foundation and our other affiliate partners amplifies the vision of Rochester Area Foundation of building better communities for all.

Regional Community Foundation Affiliates



Fiscally Sponsored Projects

2024 Revenue:
\$1.3M Received By Fiscal Projects For Operational Support

2024 Year End Total Funds Held:
\$811,000

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Rochester Area Foundation expands our reach into the community by partnering with community organizations through fiscal sponsorship. Currently the Foundation sponsors ten charitable projects. Fiscally sponsored projects operate under the umbrella of Rochester Area Foundation. This allows organizations to accept tax deductible donations and receive grant funding, while also receiving the benefit of financial infrastructure, regulatory oversight, grants, and donor management. Having a supportive structure surrounding these emerging and grassroots organizations allows their time and efforts to be expended on programming and capacity building.

Since 2020, a remarkable grassroots organization has been making a lasting impact on the lives of East African women and families. Pamoja Women, a fiscally sponsored program of Rochester Area Foundation, is dedicated to empowering and amplifying the voices of East African women and girls. Their mission is built on the values of equity and community support, ensuring that women can prosper and, in turn, help their children thrive.



Pamoja Women offers an array of essential services that cater to the unique needs of East African families. From employment coaching and translation services to cultural awareness programs and health education initiatives, the organization is a beacon of hope and support to the community. Their initiatives bridge the gap between underserved communities and vital resources, ensuring that language, cultural differences, or financial barriers do not prevent access to essential services.

Fiscally Sponsored Projects





One of their most impactful programs is the Pamoja Afterschool Program. This initiative, modeled on evidence-based best-practices, serves over 70 students three days a week at Franklin Elementary. During the week, the program's structure ensures time for homework help, language support, cross-cultural enrichment activities, and health-focused play. Not only does this program support students, but it is designed to foster parent engagement during critical learning years.

The need for Pamoja Women's services is clear. The East African community in Minnesota, particularly Somali immigrants, faces significant challenges, including language barriers, limited access to education, and economic hardships. Many Somali families live near the federal poverty threshold, and a high percentage of Somali adults lack a high school diploma or GED, making employment and self-sufficiency difficult.

Understanding these struggles firsthand, Pamoja Women's founders, one of whom now serves as the Executive Director, have built an organization rooted in lived experience. With a background in public health and education, Khadija Ali has crafted programs that directly address the gaps in early childhood education, healthcare access, and community engagement.



While currently operated by volunteers and part-time staff, Pamoja Women is striving for long-term sustainability. Their plan includes securing grants, developing partnerships, and organizing donor campaigns to maintain and expand their critical services. Collaborations with organizations like Mayo Clinic, Rochester Public Schools, Olmsted County Public Health, Channel One Regional Food Bank and others further enhance their ability to support East African families.

Pamoja Women stands as a testament to the power of community-driven change. Their dedication to uplifting East African women and children is not only transforming lives but also fostering a future where every child, regardless of background, has the opportunity to succeed. Through their tireless efforts, Pamoja Women is creating a stronger, more inclusive community—one family at a time.

“ I am so grateful to Rochester Area Foundation for their fiscal sponsorship. They provide significant support in terms of resources, best practices, networking, and credibility. Fiscal sponsorship has been a critical step toward organizational stability and greater capacity to fulfill our mission. RAF isn't just a part of the Pamoja team, they're part of the Pamoja family.”

Khadija Ali, Pamoja Women Executive Director



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