

Lowell Area Community Fund

ANNUAL UPDATE 2023-2024

Updating Firefighters’ Protective Gear

The Lowell Area Community Fund helped the Lowell Area Fire & Emergency Services Authority invest in updating their protective gear and increasing their inventory. Protective gear is critical for keeping our community firefighters safe. Carcinogens emitted in a fire (including car fires, trash fires, and structure fires) settle on the gear and seek “hot spots” on the firefighter’s body. And, having more than one set of gear per firefighter ensures they are able to respond to emergencies without downtime for washing and drying the gear. The gear is custom fit for each firefighter to ensure the highest level of protection.

One recommendation by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the Firefighter Cancer Network is to provide two sets of turnout gear to each firefighter.

Over the last few years, LACF has provided continuous support to Lowell Area Fire & Emergency services by helping to fund an updated medic and command officer vehicle and a 17-year-old front line fire engine.



Rebuild of Creekside Kingdom

Creekside Kingdom is a historical playground that has long stood as a family and community favorite. However, the thirty-year-old, treated southern yellow pine wood, which the playground was originally built with, has been in disrepair and not compliant with today’s safety standards. To reimagine what the playground could be, The Rotary Club invited elementary children to create drawings of their dream playgrounds. Now, the final plan of the playground is finished, and the next phase is building. The Lowell Area Community Fund supported rebuilding this historical playground so that families and community members could safely play and enjoy.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year LACF prioritizes students by setting aside resources for scholarships that benefit students in the Lowell Area. It has remained one of the fund’s priorities. Since the inception of the fund, LACF has contributed a total of \$649,310.

Lowell Community Fund Financial Highlights

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	
REVENUE	
Investment Earnings/(Losses)	\$2,060,361
Contributions	\$2,500
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,062,861
EXPENSES	
Grants and Scholarships	\$771,445
Investment Manager Fee	\$86,558
Support Services	\$74,042
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$932,045
Change in Net Assets	\$1,130,816
Net Assets, Beginning of the year	\$15,765,976
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$16,896,792

Community Fund Advisory Committee

Michael Burns
Lowell City Manager

John Darling
representing the Englehardt Family

Ray Duimstra
FVP, Commercial Lending, Mercantile Bank

Dave Emmett
Risk Manager, AIC Insurance Services

Nate Fowler
Superintendent, Lowell Area Schools

Stephen Gough
Principal, Lowell High School

Misty McClure-Anderson
Executive Deputy to the President and Board of Trustees Liaison, Grand Rapids Community College

LOWELL COMMUNITY FUND GRANTS JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

PROGRAM NAME	DESCRIPTION	ORGANIZATION	GRANT AMOUNT
Lowell Area Splashpad	To construct a splashpad to be operated by the City of Lowell and Lowell Township	City of Lowell	\$72,000
Lowell Historic District Commission (LHDC)	Supporting an ongoing program of historic restoration and preservation of 54 buildings in Lowell	City of Lowell	\$25,000
Construction of restrooms	Modernize and create two enclosed restroom areas with ADA accessibility	Dairy Discovery	\$24,000
Security Camera System and Exterior Lighting	Install security cameras and a recording system, as well as low-level, downward facing exterior lighting	First Congregational UCC of Lowell	\$4,697.14
Building Foundations, Building Hope Capital Campaign	Support the construction of 17 units of affordable housing in the Lowell community	Flat River Outreach Ministries, Inc.	\$50,000
LaughFest 2024	Presenting support for LaughFest 2024 in the Lowell community, which brings community members together in laughter-focused activities and engage them in dialogue about emotional health	Gilda's LaughFest	\$5,000
2023-2024 Community Marketing Grant (Part2)	Implementation of the Greater Lowell Community Marketing Plan, including a one-time rebranding effort	Greater Lowell Chamber Foundation	\$25,000
2024 Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts	To provide funding for the 2024 Lowell Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concerts	Greater Lowell Chamber Foundation	\$16,000
2024 Greater Lowell Community Calendar Kaleidoscope	Lowell's community calendar ads, print brochure and community-based website	Greater Lowell Chamber Foundation	\$13,398
Weekend Food for Lowell Students	Weekend and extended break food and backpacks to 25 Lowell students	Hand2Hand	\$1,000
Agricultural Education Center at The Grand	To support the Agriculture Education Center construction. Once complete, the center will host classes, fieldtrips, and learning opportunities for all ages	Kent County Youth Agricultural Association	\$300,000
Firefighter Protective Gear	Protective gear to reduce the risk of cancer to our communities firefighters	Lowell Area Fire & Emergency Services Authority	\$31,250
Vergennes Township Interpretive Board Project	Supporting community-building and cultural heritage with the installation of historic Interpretive Boards along trail ways in Vergennes Township	Lowell Area Historical Museum	\$6,700
ABCs of Lowell History Volume 3	Creation and printing of a third volume of the ABCs of Lowell History	Lowell Area Historical Museum	\$6,000
Exhibit Updates to Early History Gallery	To update and improve the Early History Gallery Exhibit at the Lowell Area Historical Museum	Lowell Area Historical Museum	\$6,900
LEF 2023-2024	To fund innovative projects that enhance and support the learning experience at Lowell Area Schools	Lowell Area Schools Education Foundation	\$25,000
2024/25 Marketing	Supporting marketing efforts to reach more prospective showboat renters both locally and throughout the state	Lowell Showboat VI	\$5,000
LowellArts: Engaging Community, Supporting Artists	General Operating Support	LowellArts	\$25,000
Rebuild Creekside Kingdom	Demolition and rebuilding of Creekside Kingdom playground	Rotary Club of Lowell Community Foundation	\$100,000
Scholarships	College scholarships awarded to Lowell Area residents	Scholarships	\$53,501
TOTAL GRANTS			\$795,446.14