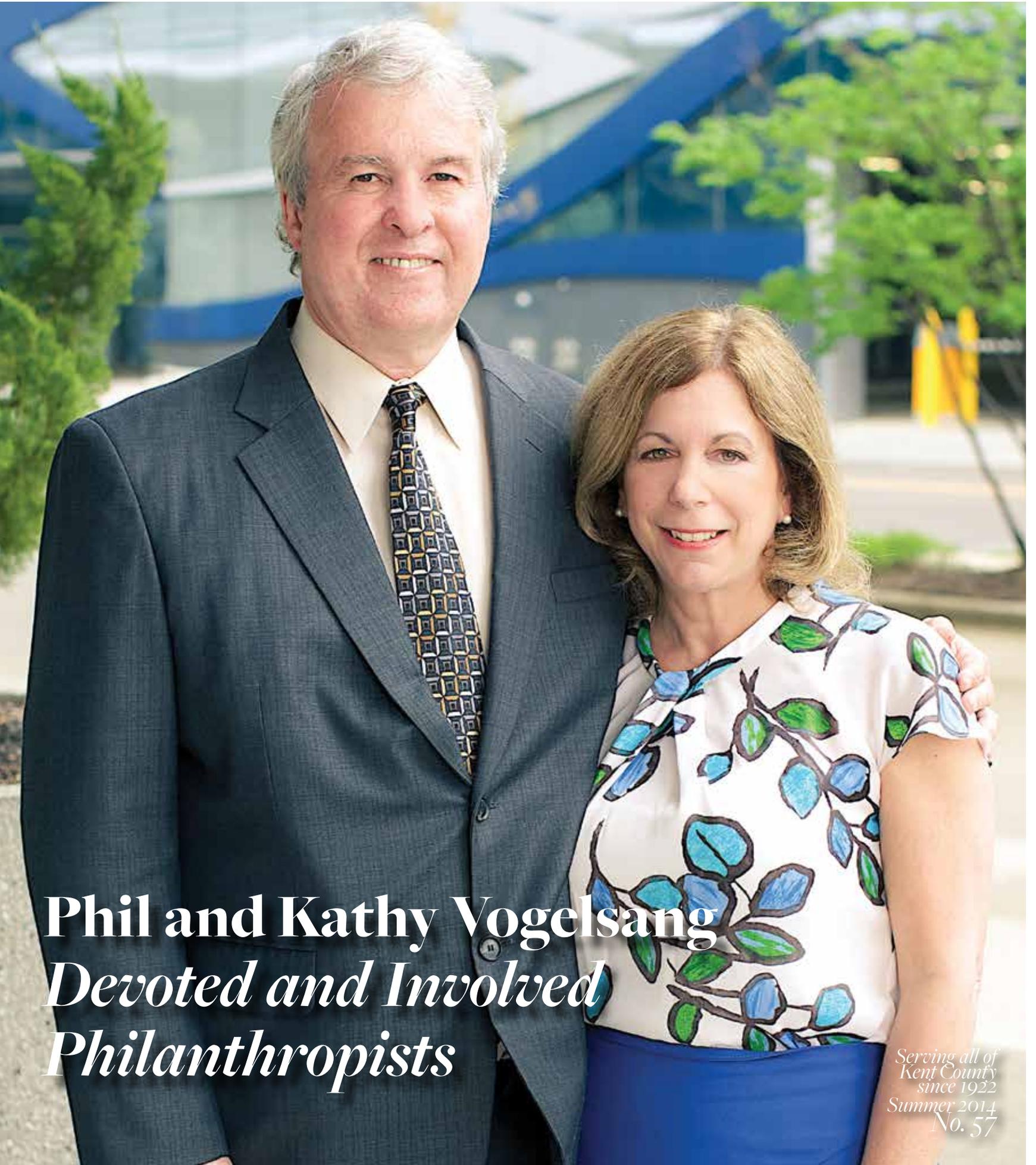


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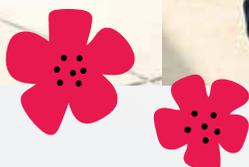


Phil and Kathy Vogelsang
Devoted and Involved
Philanthropists

*Serving all of
Kent County
since 1922
Summer 2014
No. 57*

Summer 2014 / Volume No. 57

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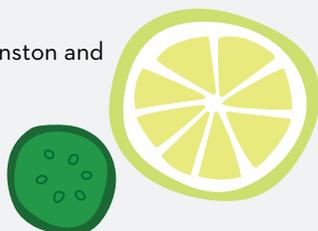
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About the Cover

Phil and Kathy Vogelsang are two of our One Hundred New Philanthropists. They're involved in a variety of great causes and are fully committed to building a brighter Kent County through Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

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Each issue of *Current* features some of our One Hundred New Philanthropists. Being included is easy: an annual gift, sharing your philanthropy story, community volunteering and a provision for the Community Foundation in your estate plan.



Phil and Kathy Vogelsang

Ada residents and devoted Grand Rapidians, **Kathy and Phil Vogelsang** support causes that are local, visible and personally meaningful. Their passions lie with medical and educational nonprofits, and, when these intersect with children, they're willing to give of themselves as volunteers *and* donors.

Events meant to raise awareness and funds, along with personal relationships and experiences, often bring the couple into a relationship with a nonprofit. "We come to much of our philanthropy through friends who are involved with causes and know firsthand how the work gets done. It is important for us to have personal relationships with people in organizations," Phil said. An exception to this was an event sponsored by the Literacy Center that fostered a new giving relationship. "That's one we were blindsided by. We went to an event the Literacy Center sponsored, but really never knew a thing about it. We liked what we heard and saw, and we've been supporters ever since," he said. Other nonprofits they support include Van Andel Institute, Grand Valley State University, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, Ele's Place, CASA of Kent County and Ada Arts Council.

What do you get from giving?

"It's great when the wealthiest people give back to the community, but giving back is something everyone can do. Sustainability of an organization depends on the contributions of many," Phil said. Kathy believes so much in grassroots funding that she created *West Michigan 100 Strong*. Each member donates \$100 four times a year. The group collectively chooses a local nonprofit during each quarter. "Usually it is a smaller charity that doesn't get a lot of funding, and what we do makes a difference in their work," Kathy said. "There are hundreds of small nonprofits in Kent County where a few hundred or a few thousand dollars can really help them do their job," Phil said. The group has raised and granted around \$90,000 since its existence.

"It's our duty to give back—we're able and it is the right thing to do," Kathy said.

Why Grand Rapids Community Foundation?

"The Community Foundation wraps up all the things we care about—education, health and children. It is here to enrich our community, and that's important to us. When we were working on our estate plan and thinking about how we could spread what we have to the most people in our community, the Community Foundation came to mind and made a lot of sense," Kathy said. "We've been involved with the Community Foundation for many years and see good things happening. The people who work there and those who support it are powerhouses," Phil said.

Ryan Slusarzyk



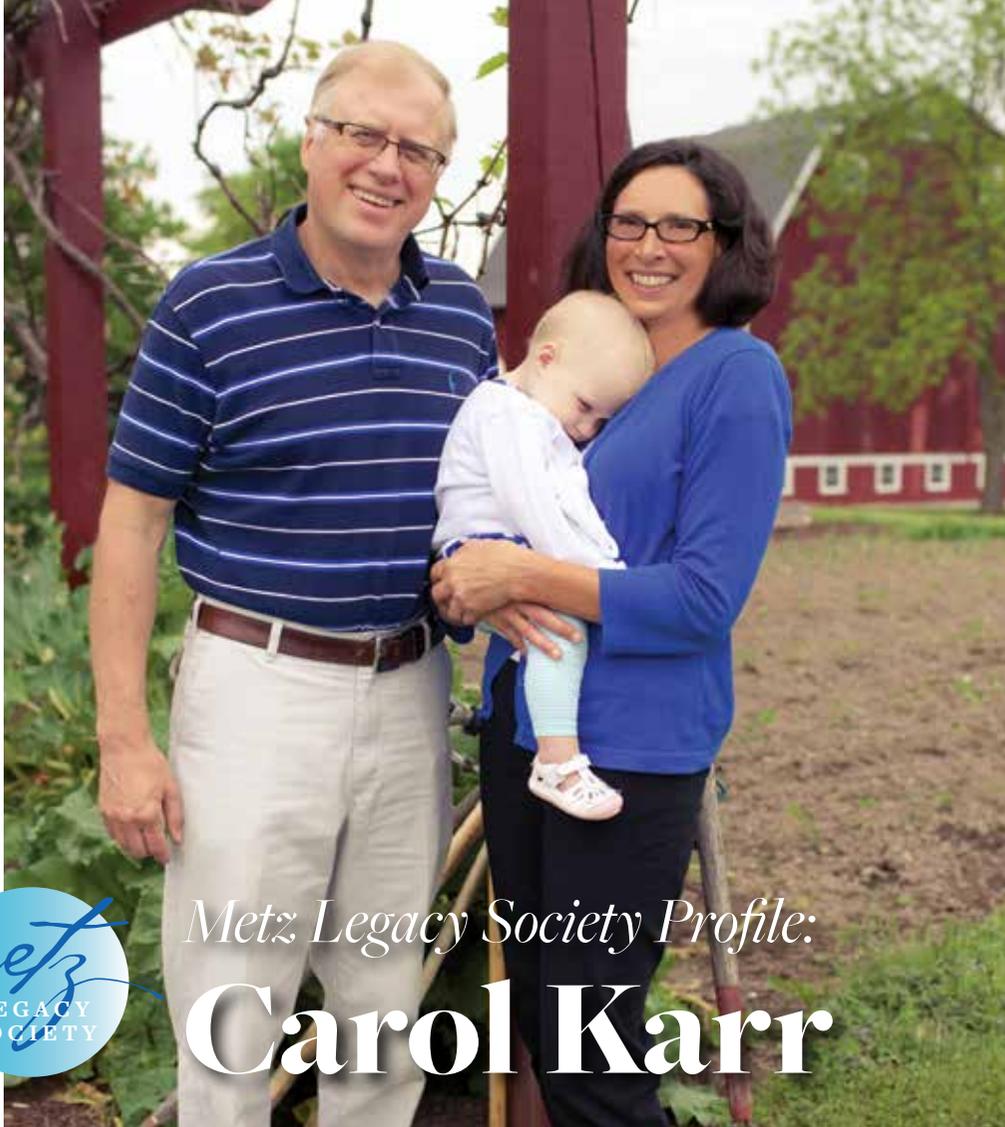
Ryan, one of our youngest **One Hundred New Philanthropists**, is discovering the world of philanthropy and recently joined Grand Rapids Community Foundation's Advisory Council for a two-year term. The Council helps the Board of Trustees promote the Community Foundation to build a younger, more diverse donor base for future major and planned gifts. Ryan supports a variety of local causes—often those where he volunteers. He admits that his giving habits were somewhat sporadic, but are becoming more defined. "My giving is really directed at three components, some which overlap: children, health and education. All the organizations I give to incorporate at least one of those components. To me, this is the biggest need and most important need. Children are our future and truly need the right foundation to grow and have a bright future."

What do you get from giving?

"I give for the sole reason of helping others. Not to be recognized, praised or rewarded, but to know that I am somehow making a difference in someone's life. But the feeling you get from giving—it gives a sense of worth and purpose, probably greater than anything I've ever felt. It is an emotion that is somewhat indescribable, yet entirely rewarding. I was taught to help others who can't help themselves, and my mother always said, 'If it doesn't hurt a little, then you didn't give enough.'"

Why Grand Rapids Community Foundation?

"I support Grand Rapids Community Foundation because of what it stands for and the bravery, positive attitude and continued leadership that the Community Foundation brings to our community. I have faith in the Community Foundation and the staff, knowing they want to make this area better and that community needs do not go unnoticed."



Metz Legacy Society Profile: Carol Karr

Grandparents Kevin Briggs, Carol Karr and baby Abby.

Carol Karr doesn't regret that she established her legal career in her hometown of Grand Rapids. With an undergrad degree from the University of Michigan and a law degree from Harvard, she observed her classmates heading for big cities on the coasts after graduation. "I didn't truly appreciate this community until I left here for Harvard. Although I loved Boston, I soon realized I was a Midwesterner at heart," Carol said. She found it easy to become involved with the community, even with her busy career as an estate planning attorney at Miller Johnson and as a mother to four sons. Being active and involved in the community was important to her. "It is one of the assets of Grand Rapids—people

are involved to make it a better place to live for all residents. That's what being a community is about," she said.

Carol recently retired after 35 years. "One of my favorite parts of my practice was working with clients to effectuate their philanthropic goals. A number of my clients used Grand Rapids Community Foundation, and I was impressed by the professional staff as we helped people plan their legacy," Carol said. She found the Community Foundation to be a good match with both her clients' philanthropic desires and her own. She said she was "inspired" by the Community Foundation's depth and variety of grants, an opinion bolstered by knowing clients and professional colleagues who served

"One of my favorite parts of my practice was working with clients to effectuate their philanthropic goals. A number of my clients used Grand Rapids Community Foundation, and I was impressed by the professional staff as we helped people plan their legacy," Carol said.

on our Board of Trustees. "I jumped at the chance to serve," she said. She's now finishing up her second three-year term and said, "I'll miss the work very much." Part of Carol's legacy on the Board of Trustees will be her role in guiding the creation of Challenge Scholars. She served on the Education Task Force, a small group of Trustees and staff that moved the program from concept to reality. "The future of this community is its children. I believe that Challenge Scholars has the potential to be a game-changer in how we equip the children for the future," she said.

Both she and husband, Kevin Briggs, have been active in school based volunteering and a long-term mentoring relationship. They also established a scholarship fund at the University of Michigan. Her involvement with Challenge Scholars and Kevin's work as an educator prompted them to create an estate plan with an education-focused gift.

"Who knows, though, what Grand Rapids will look like in the future? Having the Community Foundation shepherd our gift seems like the best way to make a difference for generations to come. I realize I won't really be remembered, certainly not beyond my grandchildren's generations and only by them in the way that grandchildren remember their grandparents. But I hope the seeds I plant in my family and my community will bear fruit in a positive way so that my life will have made a difference," she said.

📷 R.K. / 📷 T.J.

Will You Always Love Grand Rapids?

We hope your answer is yes. Showing your love for the community is easy when you make a provision in your estate plan for Grand Rapids Community Foundation. It is as easy as mentioning us in your will, naming us as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy or trust—or any variety of other options. We hope that when you think of the future of Grand Rapids and Kent County, you'll think of us too.

If you have already included us in your estate plans, please let us know. We want to make sure we carry out your intentions as you wish. You may contact any member of the development team at 616.454.1751. Just ask for Marilyn, Shaun, Jonse or Gina.



ENVIRONMENT

With our grantmaking, we seek to do good for the environment through:

Expanding tree canopy. Our grantees are increasing tree canopy in the urban core through education and advocacy. They are mobilizing more citizens to enhance, expand and protect the urban tree canopy.

Restoring river water. Our grantees are using assessment and intervention to restore river water in the urban core. Their work is improving water quality in public access rivers and tributaries.

Acquiring land. We support land purchases for permanent preservation in the urban core.



\$13 million

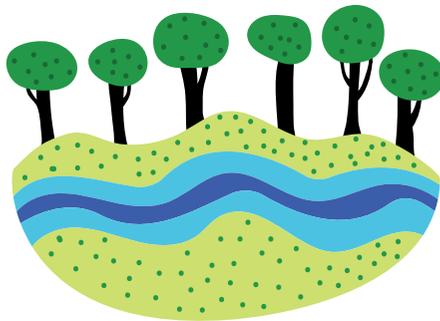
has been given to community organizations to support the environment throughout Grand Rapids Community Foundation's history.

“What does a warmer planet, a warmer West Michigan, mean for us? And what sorts of investments do we need to make today in preparation for that future? Grand Rapids has shown national leadership in answering these questions... future generations of Grand Rapidsians will look back on this time with gratitude for the farsightedness of our city.”

—Mayor George Heartwell in his 2014 State of the City Address, supporting the many local strides to address climate change

50 miles

of lakeshore and rivers were permanently protected as a result of our \$125,000 grant to Land Conservancy of West Michigan in 2008.



“Having a strong tree canopy is a sign of health for a city, and we have not enough tree canopy for Grand Rapids. The only way to get some real power behind the 40-percent goal is not just planting trees in parks. It’s engaging the citizens in wanting to have trees on their private property.”

—Marcia Rapp, vice president of programs for Grand Rapids Community Foundation, addressing the need for more urban foresters in Grand Rapids

Just a few of our environmental grantees include:

- Blandford Nature Center
- Frederik Meijer Gardens
- Friends of Grand Rapids Parks
- Humane Society of Kent County
- John Ball Zoological Society
- Land Conservancy of West Michigan
- West Michigan Environmental Action Council

“Various research demonstrates that trees help to make streets safer, deter crime, improve property values, strengthen social cohesion, contribute to neighborhood vitality and attract people to business districts. By understanding these values, our community has adopted goals to protect, enhance and expand tree canopy throughout Grand Rapids.”

—Steve Faber, executive director of Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, in his September 2013 Rapiidian article, “Planting Trees, Growing Community,” on the importance of expanding tree canopy for Grand Rapids’ future vitality



18,563 trees

were mapped and 15 new Citizen Foresters were certified as a result of our grant made to Friends of Grand Rapids Parks in 2011.

“One of the reasons I love living in Grand Rapids is because I can get the best of both worlds. If I want to get a little break from the city, I can easily go on a hike somewhere close. If I want to go on a bike ride, I can ride the Fred Meijer M-6 or Kent Trails, all within 10 miles from downtown.”

—Jenean Zahran in her May 2014 Rapiidian article, “Discovering A City Thriving With Nature,” discussing how natural abundance impacts her life here



CELEBRATING OUR **CHALLENGE SCHOLARS!**

What happens when 138 members of the inaugural class of Challenge Scholars, their families, their teachers, their donors and their biggest supporters all join together in one room? Happiness and celebration ensue.

On May 6, hundreds of Challenge Scholars' number one fans came together to celebrate the bright futures ahead for these sixth graders. To make the evening more exciting, we announced that \$26.5 million has already been raised in the \$32 million *Rise with Us* campaign.

The evening was filled with laughter and even a few happy tears as school mascots joked with kids, college presidents addressed students, donors told their stories about why they believe in Challenge Scholars and parents shared their greatest dreams for their children. Everything culminated with Challenge Scholars, teachers, donors and parents sharing a special family-style meal together.

Diana Sieger, president of Grand Rapids Community Foundation, gave a special message to the students: "We believe that you, the very first class of Challenge Scholars, are indeed special. Not only are you destined for great things as Grand Rapids future leaders, you will show other students and, maybe, your younger brothers and sisters, the meaning of hard work, dedication and reward."

As our first class of Challenge Scholars proudly marched across the stage—shoulders back and smiles big—all of us in the room were keenly aware that, indeed, these Challenge Scholars *will* achieve, they will dream, they *will* graduate. They do have the brightest of futures ahead.

📷 M.F. / 📷 T.J.H.

Photos clockwise: Challenge Scholars students on the stage; Challenge Scholars speakers and guests; Campaign Co-Chairs Greg and Meg Willit; Challenge Scholars supporters Armen Oumedian, Doug Rathbun, Ken & Judy Betz, and Patsy Eisler; Challenge Scholars writing on chalkboards.



Our Community, Our Grants

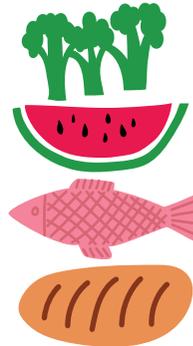


Local First was awarded \$200,000 to increase the number of B (benefit) corporations in Grand Rapids. B corporations are legally required to benefit people and the planet while earning a profit, just as fair trade and green building movements seek to do. Local First will educate the community, support businesses and increase opportunities for local investment in businesses committed to the triple bottom line of social impact, environmental sustainability and economic profit.

ArtPrize will use \$50,000 to become more welcoming and inclusive with diverse audiences. Through internal

policies and external programs, ArtPrize will engage more with cultural and ethnic minorities, the LGBT community, those with physical or developmental disabilities and those of underserved socioeconomic status.

The Downtown Market received \$250,000 to provide greater access to healthy food for local residents, empower entrepreneurial food producers, and spur economic development and job growth in downtown Grand Rapids.



Grand Rapids Community Foundation awarded **Grand Rapids Public Schools** \$500,000 for the fourth year of Challenge Scholars. This money will fund academic coaches, college/career



coordinators and data specialists working to create a culture of college-readiness for Challenge Scholars within Harrison Park School, Westwood Middle School and Union High School.

Grand Valley State University will use \$10,000 to launch e-Merge West Michigan, a hub for current and future entrepreneurs and business owners. E-Merge West Michigan will provide educational and mentoring experiences and increase entrepreneurial activity throughout West Michigan.

The Michigan League of Conservation Voters received \$25,000 to engage and inform Kent County residents and public officials about the importance of sustaining and increasing the amount of farmland and open spaces. Regional benefits of preserving farmland and open space include economic vitality, access to fresh foods and more efficient, livable communities.



Spectrum Health Foundation was awarded \$40,000 to continue school-based youth tobacco prevention programs in several Grand Rapids Public Schools. Tobacco-No Way!, NicoTEAM and Teens Against Tobacco Use have all proven effective in preventing youth from experimenting with tobacco and empowering them to choose a tobacco-free lifestyle.

MEET OUR GRANTMAKERS: MARCIA RAPP, VP OF PROGRAMS



Area of expertise: Diversity and inclusion, along with general grants

What I look for in a great grant: I look for a great idea that will have solid, measurable impact on at least one of our priorities. The most exciting grants are “flipping the switch” on an issue, questioning assumptions and thinking bigger about possible solutions.

Examples of grants I’ve reviewed that have exceeded my expectations: Kent School Services Network (KSSN) brings existing health and human services directly into public schools that have high percentages of children living in poverty. The highly collaborative and sustainable approach provides easy access to services, so students can more easily be in school every day ready to learn. The model is being replicated across Michigan.

How to be more strategic in my area with your philanthropy: When deciding how to give your money, look for organizations that seek to prevent problems, empower people, change systems—and do all this through a diversity and inclusion lens.

Good questions for a nonprofit organization you want to support in this area: Do your organization’s demographics reflect the population you serve? If not, can you demonstrate how you “work with” your customers, as opposed to “doing to” your customers?

Cultural competence is critical to success, yet hard to gauge. That’s why Grand Rapids Community Foundation staff begin the conversation by looking at demographics. It is exciting when an organization’s culture becomes inclusive and intentional, as diversity helps improve impact.



BRIAN BURT, CHOOSING COLLEGE AS A PROFESSION

Throughout his college career, from his bachelor's degree to doctorate, Brian Burt felt connected to Grand Rapids Community Foundation. He received his first scholarship when he graduated from Ottawa Hills High School in 2000, and, for the next decade, while he was pursuing his goals, the Community Foundation was with him. "It was significant and symbolic to receive the Community Foundation scholarship—knowing that someone outside my family valued and affirmed my dreams. It was the support I needed. Every year that I received a scholarship was like someone telling me, 'You made it, keep pushing.' I felt like the Community Foundation was there with me every single step of the way. To me, that's what a family is like," he said.

Brian began his college career at Indiana University, which he chose for its music program. "At the end of high school, I wanted to be a world-renowned symphony conductor," he said. Once there, though, he discovered his passion was more for teaching people to love music than for performance. He changed his major from music to English education. "I always wanted to be a teacher, and, in school, it was always English and music for me.

"When I left high school, I felt so fortunate to have the scholarships and support, so I made it my mission to go back on breaks and talk with students. Things weren't always perfect for me in college, but I felt like I was an example of keeping going and persistence," Brian said. He didn't wait to visit Ottawa Hills until he earned his degree. Instead, he talked with students as he made his way through college, so they could know of his real-time experiences.

EVERY YEAR THAT I RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP WAS LIKE SOMEONE TELLING ME, 'YOU MADE IT, KEEP PUSHING.' I FELT LIKE THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WAS THERE WITH ME EVERY SINGLE STEP OF THE WAY. TO ME, THAT'S WHAT A FAMILY IS LIKE.

In grad school at the University of Maryland, he discovered he could devote himself professionally to his passion for the college experience. "Most of my mentors and friends were graduate students and Ph.D. candidates in the field of higher education. Lots of signs were pointing me to this field—coming back to Grand Rapids to talk to kids about college admissions, being an orientation leader at Indiana and being a residence hall advisor. I found that I really loved college and was spending my time talking to students about college, so I wanted to test out the higher education field," he said.

Of the 14 years Brian has been out of high school, there were only two where he wasn't pursuing a degree. "I stayed at the University of Maryland after my master's and worked in the business school, where I was in charge of scholarships and special programs. I knew there was more I wanted to and could do. I wanted to be at the decision-making table and needed to get a terminal degree. I chose a Ph.D. in the field

I love, higher education, and at my dream school, the University of Michigan."

Brian is finalizing his doctorate in higher education at U of M this summer and will start an assistant professorship at Iowa State University in fall 2014—teaching higher education. His research looks at the educational pipeline and workforce pathways. "I study students in kindergarten through 12th grade to understand how they're experiencing education and how their education prepares them for college. And I'm looking at how college-through-grad-school experiences prepare students for the workforce," he said. He also studies Black male students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and how they cultivate community rather than competition to ensure one another's success.

Youth Grant Committee Creates *Great Community of Youth*

Grand Rapids Community Foundation's Youth Grant Committee (YGC) plays an important role in making our community great for youth. After many meetings, lots of discussion and a bit of compromise, the YGC recently made 12 grants totaling \$41,325.

The YGC meets monthly throughout the school year. Members survey peers to identify grant priority areas. They develop a grant application review, review grant proposals and make funding recommendations to the Board of Trustees (BOT).

"As the YGC, we aim to support youth and the organizations that benefit them. As much as we would love to help everyone, we must allocate our limited funds strategically. We undergo a long and detailed grantmaking process to reach as many youth as we can," explained YGC member Hannah Creasey.

Deciding between 38 grant requests totaling \$150,000 was tough. "It is difficult to reject grant requests, because the money could have helped that organization immensely. It was outstanding, though, to know we were making an amazing difference in people's lives." Mackenzie Kraus said.



At the annual celebration dinner and grant presentation ceremony in May, YGC and BOT members presented grants to 12 local organizations:

Artists Creating Together: Visual Art and Creative Movement received \$3,000.

Bethany Christian Services: The Reach Weekly Meeting Group received \$3,500.

Bridge Street House of Prayer: Resurgence Tutoring Program received \$2,500.

Calvin College: Excel ACT Tutoring/ Mentoring Program Expansion received \$2,500.

D.A. Blodgett-St. John's: Sisters in Support Mentoring Program received \$5,000.

Creative Youth Center: Writing Workshops received \$3,975.

Grand Rapids Track Club: FIRE Summer Youth Track & Field Program received \$5,000.

Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities: Teen Leaders in the Arts received \$5,500.

Harrison Park School: College Connect received \$1,850.

Junior Achievement USA: Empowering Economic Success received \$2,900.

OLHSA/Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative: We Are What We Eat received \$2,000.

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts: ArtWorks Summer Teen Education Program received \$3,600.

M.F. / I.A.



Grantmaking and so Much More!

By Khaysirah Muhammad Smith and Lexie Sweat, YGC Co-Chairs

The Youth Grant Committee had an exciting year. We welcomed an amazing group of students who brought many talents to the committee. It's important that we are all comfortable around each other, so our year began at summer orientation, where veteran members met new recruits. We played games and made friends.

Though making grants is a huge part of what YGC does, we do much more. This year we added a new element to our grant review process—making site visits to last year's grantees to see how their program was going. This exciting new experience helped us see the effect our grants had on local youth.

Philanthropy and youth volunteerism are both important aspects of our work. Because we believe in making Grand Rapids a greener community, we went to Riverside Park to plant trees. We helped with Challenge

Scholars at Harrison Park School by making Valentine goodie bags and writing thank you notes for parent volunteers. We also hand-tied college fleece blankets for Reading Month winners.

The real fun began when we got to delve into the grant review process. We try each year to put emphasis on how serious this step is. It is always cool to hear people's opinions on what programs will be most beneficial to the community. Members who were quiet and shy in the beginning are guaranteed to be outspoken later on. And that's great, because the Youth Grant Committee truly is family—no one is judged here for their opinions or what they think is best.

The YGC provides high schoolers with the opportunity to share their voices, give back to the community and become part of a family—something we know will continue to impact us all in the future.



MY COMMUNITY MATTERS

Looking Forward with Challenge Scholars

In my 26 years of leading Grand Rapids Community Foundation, I can't remember a more exciting or important day than May 6, 2014. Surrounded by donors, Challenge Scholars families, Grand Rapids Public Schools staff, college presidents, community leaders and the media, we announced that we have raised \$26.5 million of a \$32 million goal for Challenge Scholars. Parents dabbed their eyes and smiled. Challenge Scholars students stood tall, walked across stage when their names were called and gave their principal a high five. The energy at the Ford Fieldhouse that night was contagious, thanks to the 138 students in our very first class of Challenge Scholars. I was so proud of what brought us together that evening—the belief that all children deserve equal access to opportunities to achieve their full potential.

Earlier that morning, after a TV interview, Grand Rapids Public Schools Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal had asked, “Diana, do you have any idea of the impact that the Challenge Scholars program will have? Do you really know how this will forever change the lives of these young people and their families?”

It hadn't really sunk in yet, even though the program has been operating for three years and was in creation for many years before that. What I'd only vaguely pondered was this: how often do we take part in something that will so profoundly change the lives of families in our community for multiple generations? Not often! I'm so proud that we're seeing this important program to fruition. Though Challenge Scholars has a college or vocational scholarship

as the reward, what's most important is that we are providing the rails for first generation students to stay on track to attend college. Through intense programming at Harrison Park, Westwood and Union High School, we are ensuring that Challenge Scholars will get into the college of their choice. Better yet, they'll have the tools and skills to succeed when they get there.

Earning a college degree or vocational certificate does more than fulfill dreams for students and families. It benefits the entire community, because West Michigan's prosperity depends on having a talented, diverse, entrepreneurial workforce. The more college (or skilled trade) students that Grand Rapids produces, the better we will be as a community. The more education people gain, the more likely they are to vote, volunteer and engage with the community.



I believe this is the first time in Grand Rapids' history that this much money has been raised for a program. There's no brick and mortar here, nowhere for donors to put their names or to announce that Grand Rapids Community Foundation has led this effort. Yet, we raised more than \$26 million from donors who, like us, all believe that all children deserve equal access to opportunities to achieve their full potential. Those lead and major donors include Ken and Judy Betz, M.E. Davenport Foundation, Douglas and Maria DeVos Foundation, Richard and Helen DeVos Advised Fund, Mike and Sue Jandernoa Foundation, John and Nancy Kennedy, Sligh Memorial Fund, Steelcase Foundation, Wege Foundation and Kate Pew Wolters Fund. I'm proud, too, that all staff, Trustees and campaign cabinet contributed to this effort. Paul Doyle, Greg Willit, Meg Miller Willit and Kate Wolters are leading this already-successful-but-ongoing campaign.

Diana A. Sieger

We still have several million dollars to raise, and Gina Bovee from our development team is heading up this effort. If you are interested in hearing more about Challenge Scholars, going on a tour of one of the schools or making a donation, please don't hesitate to contact me at 616.454.1751 or dsieger@grfoundation.org or visit www.challengescholars.org.

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Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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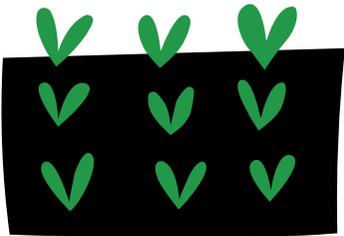
If you are receiving duplicate copies of Current, let us know, and please pass one along to a friend.

NEWS BITES

Getting Greener!

Grand Rapids Community Foundation recently added composting to its trash disposal and recycling. Staff members have (mostly) given up desk-side trash bins and take waste materials to centrally located containers in the office. Each is marked for landfill, recycling or composting. “The principle behind

composting comes down to a simple belief: our waste is valuable. About 30 percent of our waste is organic and could be returning nutrients to the



land to fertilize our food. If instead we choose to fill landfills with this rich, organic material, then we have failed to collect the full return on our investment,” said Ben Oliver, Challenge Scholars advisor and a Sustainability Committee leader at the Community Foundation.

Stand Against Racism 2014

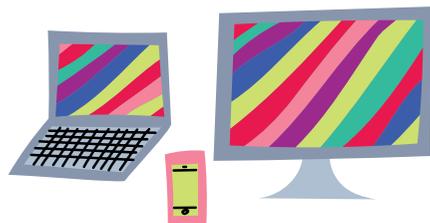
Each year the Community Foundation participates in the YWCA Stand Against Racism Day. This year, our staff decided to take action toward helping black owned businesses prosper. From Jamiel Robinson and his enterprise Grand Rapids Area Black Businesses, we learned about



the economics of supporting black-owned businesses. Jamiel’s business directory and “30 days 30 dollars” campaign challenges people to spend money at locally owned black businesses. The Community Foundation staff signed on to the program and is supporting black owned businesses and sharing reviews and experiences. Learn more at Grand Rapids Area Black Businesses on Facebook.

Diversity and Inclusion Resources

Want to learn more about the power of inclusion for individuals and organizations? Check out the new list of diversity and inclusion resources on our Community Foundation website, www.grfoundation.org/diversityandinclusion.



All Things Tech

We’re thankful to have the following people serving on our newly formed Technology Advisory Committee, helping us effectively maximize our mission of service to donors and grantees: Freddie Avalos, systems administrator, Founders Bank; Matt Anderson, network engineer; Bill Corkill, director of technology, Council of Michigan Foundations; SourcIT; Scott Montgomery, security practice manager,

Open Systems Technologies; Shawn Rathbun, independent consultant; and Andy Wolber, professor, Grand Valley State University.

Welcome to New Community Action Committee Members

The Community Action Committee, which helps review grants for Board of Trustee approval, welcomes four new members: Sean Huddleston, assistant vice president for strategic implementation, Grand Valley State University; Emily Loeks, director of education & community partnerships, Celebration Cinema; Allison Lugo Knapp, principal, Knapp Consulting LLC; and Dottie Rhodes, chief financial officer for Plenty, a design firm.

Summer Reading Idea

Congratulations to Roberta F. King, vice president of PR & Marketing, on the publication of her memoir, *He Plays a Harp*. The book is the story about the life and death of her son, Noah, at the age of seventeen. It was released in May by Principia Media and is available in local bookstores and on Amazon.

