



ROSCOMMON COUNTY
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Rooted in Generosity
STORIES THAT INSPIRE



A Year of Growth and Gratitude

As we reflect on 2024, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for your continued support of the Roscommon County Community Foundation (RCCF). This year has been one of remarkable growth and impact, and it is all thanks to you.

A key milestone this year was welcoming our first development manager, enhancing our ability to serve Roscommon County and ensuring the continued growth of RCCF. We were also thrilled to add two passionate community leaders to our board of trustees: Gary Gandolfi, a Houghton Lake Rotary member of over 30 years; and Christine Riley, a dedicated advocate for health and suicide prevention initiatives.

One of the highlights of 2024 was our inaugural Scholarship Awards Dinner, where we celebrated students and donors. As part of this meaningful event, we also honored Carol Morley Beck with RCCF's first-ever *Change Maker Award*. Our Scholarship Awards Dinner will now be an annual tradition.

Additionally, we proudly launched a *40 Under 40* initiative to recognize outstanding contributions from young leaders across our community.

This year, over \$200,000 in scholarships was awarded to 40 Roscommon County students. New funds, like the Char Fitzgerald Literacy & Education Fund and the Bertl Family Scholarship Fund, promise lasting impact in key areas of need. Our grantmaking efforts supported initiatives addressing literacy, education, and workforce development.

As we look ahead, RCCF is committed to meeting our community's most pressing challenges, from expanding scholarship eligibility to addressing food insecurity and housing. Together, we can continue creating lasting change in Roscommon County — for good, forever, for everyone.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey.

Suzanne E. Luck

Suzanne Luck
Executive Director

Diane Nielsen

Diane Nielsen
President

Photo by Sally Gilley
of Houghton Lake Flats
Observation Gazebo



Pictured (l-r) are: Development Manager Heather Marra, Trustee Pastor Bryan Thompson, Secretary Tracy Bosworth, Trustee Calvin Hissong, Treasurer Anita Sheppard, Executive Director Suzanne Luck, Trustee Gary Gandolfi, Trustee Ben Elliott, President Diane Nielsen, Trustee Troy Romancky, and Business Manager Cassandra Freeman. Not Pictured: Vice-President Sara Morley LaCroix, Board Trustee Holly Holm and Board Trustee Christine Riley.

Why do they do it?

"As a community member, I am glad I found the RCCF as a way to help the community. Each year, I try to donate to an organization or a cause that has a personal connection to my year. By donating to RCCF, I am confident my donations are helping organizations doing great work in our community."

- Troy Romancky

"I support the Roscommon County Community Foundation because I believe in investing in our community through various different funds that support different needs across in the community throughout the year."

- Sara Morley LaCroix

"Whether increasing access to appointments for cancer treatments, supporting education for our up-and-coming workforce, or bringing to reality a project of a healthcare facility, the foundation has a fund to support that. I believe strongly that our health is the base of accomplishing anything, and it is such a wonderful feeling to know that you can be part of helping others in such a key piece of their life, just by donating to one of these funds."

- Christine Riley

Growing a Stronger Community

2024 Local Grants & Scholarships

Total Granted in Roscommon County

\$477,808.00



\$273,953.00

54 Grants Awarded
to 36 Organizations
Read more - Pg 7

\$203,855.00

81 Scholarships Awarded to
46 Students
Read more - Pg 17

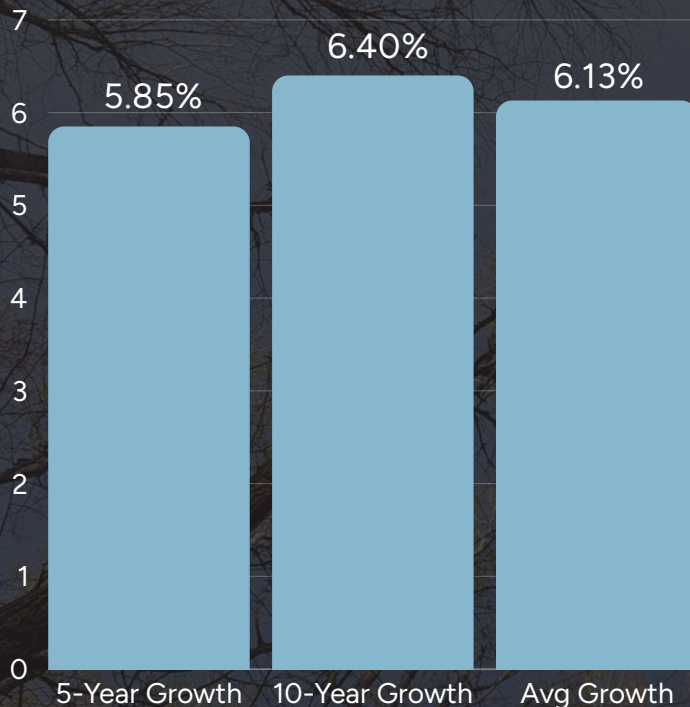
\$635,063.25 Donations Received

Full Tributes & Donor List - Pg 22

\$12,490,904.05

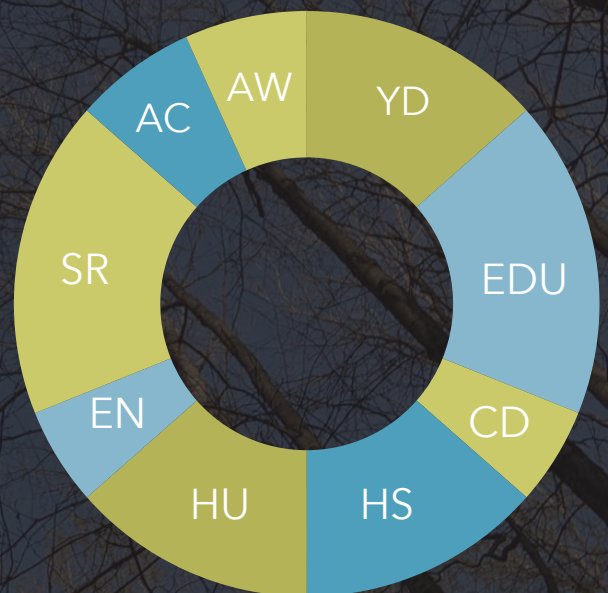
Total Assets as of 12/31/24

Growth Rate for Endowments

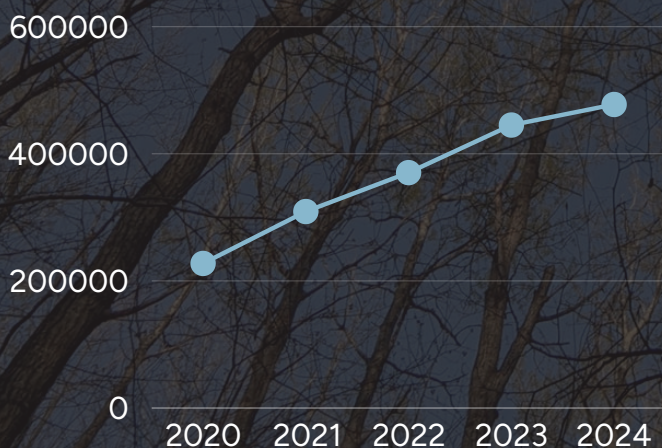


2024 Grants By Type

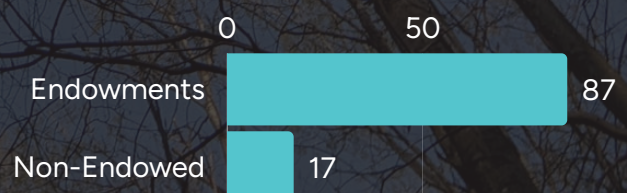
AW: Animal Welfare | 6.76%
AC: Arts, Culture | 6.76%
CD: Community Development | 5.41%
EDU: Educational | 7.57%
EN: Environment | 5.41%
HS: Health Services | 13.51%
HU: Human Services | 13.51%
SR: Sports/Recreation | 17.57%
YD: Youth Development | 13.51%



Total Grants Awarded by Year



104 Total Funds





Featured Grant



St. Vincent de Paul Our Lady of the Lake Conference

In 2024, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Our Lady of the Lake Conference in Prudenville, continued its remarkable mission of serving the most vulnerable members of Roscommon County. With two grants from the RCCF, this vital organization has significantly expanded its impact, addressing the growing needs of those facing hardship in our community.

Meeting Immediate Needs through Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds allow the foundation to address the most pressing needs in the community as they arise. The following unrestricted funds were used for this grant: The Cornerstone Fund, Marilyn Brown Fund, Morley Family Foundation Fund, and Roscommon County General Fund. Through a spring 2024 grant from RCCF, and help from other community partners, St. Vincent de Paul was able to provide critical support to over 1,100 individuals in Roscommon County. This included assisting more than 340 households with food, as well as providing emergency housing, rent assistance, and utility assistance. These essential services offered a lifeline to families and individuals navigating unexpected crises, helping them stabilize and regain footing.

Building on this success, a fall 2024 grant was awarded to St. Vincent's to continue addressing food insecurity, expanding their services to provide heating assistance, gas cards for medical appointments, and emergency housing support. These grants enabled St. Vincent's to extend its mission of service, creating a safety net for those in need.



A Legacy of Service

Since its founding in 1985, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Our Lady of the Lake Conference has remained steadfast in its commitment to Roscommon County. Beyond food assistance, their services include a diaper and hygiene bank, emergency shelter, transportation, and in-kind support such as clothing and household items. They also coordinate food giveaways and an annual Christmas food and gift program.

Collaborating for Long-Term Solutions

In addition to meeting immediate needs, St. Vincent de Paul recently collaborated with other local agencies to upgrade and expand its food pantry. This effort reflects the increasing prevalence of food insecurity in our community and ensures that nutritious food is available to those who need it most. By strengthening its infrastructure, St. Vincent's is better equipped to address this critical issue for years to come.

In the past year alone, the organization has served over 3,500 individuals, distributed 1,300 food boxes, and provided nearly \$10,000 in utility assistance. This ongoing work not only addresses immediate needs, but also guides individuals toward pathways of self-sufficiency and economic security.

A Partnership Rooted in Care

RCCF is proud to support St. Vincent de Paul's tireless efforts to build a stronger, more compassionate Roscommon County. Their continued growth and deepening impact stand as a testament to the power of community partnerships and the collective generosity of donors.

*Together, we are making a difference —
for good, forever, for everyone.*



Grants Awarded

Alexa Luck Memorial Fund

CHARLTON HESTON ACADEMY
\$1,200 - Skills USA

Annie Williams Rackerby Fund

ROSCOMMON COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL
\$2,500 - Dolly Parton Imagination Library
HOUGHTON LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
\$2,000 - Collins Elementary School Library
Revitalization
CHARLTON HESTON ACADEMY
\$3,000 - Girls Empowerment Society

Community Impact Fund

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL- PRUDENVILLE
\$3,500 - Food Pantry
ROSCOMMON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY
\$3,500 - HOPE Spring 2024

Cornerstone Endowment Fund

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL- PRUDENVILLE
\$350 - Helping Neighbors in Need

Endowment for Higgins Lake

HIGGINS LAKE FOUNDATION
\$1,000 - 2024 Limnological Assessment of
Higgins Lake

Gerrish-Higgins Education Fund

ROSCOMMON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
\$3,000 - Water Sampling and Analysis

Greatest Human Needs Fund

RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
\$1,070 - Garden to Table Programming
RIVER HOUSE, INC.
\$210 - Transportation Cards

**Houghton Lake Community School District
Support Fund**

HOUGHTON LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
\$2,500 - TeamBuildr Online Conditioning & Strength
Software Curriculum
\$130 - Mackinaw Island Field trip
\$130 - Tigers Game 2025

Houghton Lake Education Fund

HOUGHTON LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
\$3,800 - Collins Elementary Library Revitalization
\$1,470 - Mackinaw Island Field trip
\$1,470 - Tigers Game 2025

Howard B. "Corkey" Gaylor Memorial Fund

MIDMICHIGAN COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
\$890 - Pathful Explore for Pathways Program

Jim Mahoney Memorial Music Fund

ROSCOMMON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
\$400 - Beetlejuice

John Morley Family Endowment for Higgins Lake

HIGGINS LAKE FOUNDATION
\$1,000 - 2024 Limnology Assessment of Higgins Lake

Marilyn Brown Memorial Fund

MIDMICHIGAN COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
\$615 - Pathful Explore for Pathways Program
ST. VINCENT DEPAUL- PRUDENVILLE
\$150 - Helping Neighbors in Need

Morley Family Foundation Fund

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL- PRUDENVILLE
\$400 - Helping Neighbors in Need
OASIS OF HOPE HOUSE
\$1,000 - Administrative Support
LAKE TOWNSHIP
\$3,000 - Lake Township Rustic Nature Trail

Nester Family Charitable Fund

GOOD SHEPHERD UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF THE NORTH
\$1,200 - November 2024 Food Distribution

Robert R. Thalner Endowment Fund

HIGGINS LAKE FOUNDATION
\$500 - 2024 Limnological Assessment
of Higgins Lake
U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, FLOTILLA 26-03
\$1,200 - Boating Safety Classes

Rogers Family Endowment for Houghton Lake

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, FLOTILLA 26-03
\$600 - Boating Safety Classes

Roscommon Area District Library Building Fund

ROSCOMMON AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY
\$17,440 - New Digital Sign for Library

Roscommon County General Fund

HOUGHTON LAKE PERFORMING ARTS ASSOCIATION

\$1,000 - Houghton Lake Blues Festival

VILLAGE OF ROSCOMMON

\$1,000 - 2024 Rocktober Fest

ROSCOMMON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

\$1,500 - Shelving

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL- PRUDENVILLE

\$4,700 - Helping Neighbors in Need

\$2,500 - Food Pantry

NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT
CENTER

\$2,500 - Training for Staff

ROSCOMMON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

\$2,500 - HOPE Spring 2024

HOUGHTON LAKE PICKLEBALL CLUB

\$725 - HLPC Polywood Benches

MARGUERITE GAHAGAN NATURE PRESERVE, INC.

\$624 - Those Who Wander Should Not Get Lost-Gahagan
Trail Wayfinding Updates

Roscommon County Health Improvement Fund

C.O.O.R. INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

\$1,200 - Sensory Sense

\$1,000 - Food Pantry / Care Closet

RIVER HOUSE, INC.

\$290 - Transportation cards

LAKE TOWNSHIP

\$2,500 - Lake Township Rustic Nature Trail

Roscommon County Health Services Fund

MIDMICHIGAN COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

\$5,059 - Retail Shelving-Roscommon Pharmacy

Roscommon County Kellogg Youth Fund

MIDMICHIGAN COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

\$900 - Pathful Explore for Pathways Program

ACT NOW

\$1,000 - Kids Helping Kids Project 11/12/24

ARTESIA YOUTH PARK

\$1,500 - South Gym All Purpose floor recovery

\$850 - Indoor Batting Cages

ROSCOMMON / ST. HELEN LITTLE LEAGUE

\$1,750 - 2025 Equipment

CHARLTON HESTON ACADEMY

\$1,800 - Skills USA

HOUGHTON LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

\$900 - Mackinaw Island Field trip

\$2,800 - Tigers Game 2025

Roscommon County Lakes & Rivers Fund

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, FLOTILLA 26-03

\$500 - Boating Safety Classes

Roscommon County Mental Health Services Fund

COMMON GROUND

\$5,000 - Behavior Health Urgent Care
(BHUC) Outreach Plan

NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHILDREN'S
ASSESSMENT CENTER

\$5,000 - Community Outreach & Education

OASIS OF HOPE HOUSE

\$1,500 - Oasis Navigation Office

Roscommon County Recreation Fund

MARGUERITE GAHAGAN NATURE
PRESERVE, INC.

\$175 - Those Who Wander Should Not Get
Lost-Gahagan Trail Wayfinding Updates

Roscommon County Tobacco Settlement Endowment Fund

LAKE TOWNSHIP

\$1,000 - Lake Township Rustic Nature Trail

Sarah Eulaine Tucker (Class of 1977) Fund

ROSCOMMON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

\$3,600 - Beetlejuice

St. Helen General Fund

RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

\$230 - Garden to Table Programming

The Erickson Family Fund

ROSCOMMON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

\$2,940 - Chicago Trip-Blue Man Group

\$2,500 - Quiz Bowl's trip to National
competition

ROSCOMMON COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL

\$5,000 - Dolly Parton Imagination Library

NMCAC BUILDING FUND

\$50,000 - Building Project

ACT NOW

\$3,000 - Kids Helping Kids Project

\$800 - Kids Helping Kids Project 11/12/24

CAMP WESTMINSTER ON HIGGINS LAKE

\$5,950 - Roscommon Public School Summer
School Partnership

Weede Family Community Recreation Fund

MARGUERITE GAHAGAN NATURE
PRESERVE, INC.

\$400 - Those Who Wander Should Not Get
Lost-Gahagan Trail Wayfinding Updates

Zonta Club Women's & Children's Fund

MIDMICHIGAN COMMUNITY HEALTH
SERVICES

\$470 - Pathful Explore for Pathways Program

Annual Disbursements

Houghton Lake Public Library Excellence Fund

HOUGHTON LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

\$779 - 2024 Annual Disbursement

Jenni's Foundation - Michigan Cancer Support Fund

MIDMICHIGAN COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

\$400 - 2024 Annual Disbursement

Larry Eastley & Clare Fisher Eastley Animal Support Fund

ARK ASSOCIATION TO RESCUE KRITTERS

\$1,164 - 2024 Annual Disbursement

ROSCOMMON COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

\$1,164 - 2024 Annual Disbursement

Kirtland Community College Educational Fund

KIRTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

\$1,527 - 2024 Annual Disbursement

Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve**General Fund**

MARGUERITE GAHAGAN NATURE PRESERVE, INC.

\$1,285 - 2024 Annual Disbursement

Rubye Cunningham Memorial Fund Supporting the Roscommon County Animal Shelter

ROSCOMMON COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

\$706 - 2024 Annual Disbursement

Tom & Jan Richardson Family Endowment for Roscommon Area Historical Society

ROSCOMMON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

\$397 - 2024 Annual Disbursement

Viola J. Moore Animal Fund

ARK ASSOCIATION TO RESCUE KRITTERS

\$114 - 2024 ANNUAL DISBURSEMENT

MISSAUKEE HUMANE SOCIETY

\$114 - 2024 Annual Disbursement

ROSCOMMON COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

\$114 - 2024 Annual Disbursement

Grant FAQs

Who can apply for a grant?

We welcome applications from a variety of community-focused organizations! This includes nonprofits, schools, government entities, and charitable groups. In some cases, individuals with a specific program or initiative that aligns with our mission may also be eligible. Just reach out and ask!

What kinds of projects do you support?

Our grants cover a wide range of causes that matter to our community (such as) education, health and wellness, the arts, environmental efforts, economic development, and social services. If your project is designed to make life better in Roscommon County, we'd love to hear about it.

When are grants awarded?

We offer grant opportunities twice a year—in the spring and fall. Application deadlines are shared on our website and through local channels, so be sure to keep an eye out or sign up for updates! We encourage you to contact our office directly if you are applying for a grant that exceeds \$5,000.

ROSCOMMON COUNTY
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Our Vision

To enrich and improve the
quality of life in our community

Our Mission

To encourage positive change for generations to come
For **Good**. For **Ever**. For **Everyone**.



Photo by Sally Gilley of Houghton Lake

Audit Information

The three most recent audit and IRS Form 990
are available online at myrccf.org.

Investment Manager Information

Names of investment managers, fees charged, and body
or individuals responsible for investment and oversight
are available upon request.

Statement of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Roscommon County Community Foundation is continuously
committed to the ongoing effort of striving for diversity, equity,
and inclusion in every facet of operation. We exist to serve for
good, for ever, for everyone; and value the importance of
ensuring an accessible, equitable, inclusive environment - for
everyone.



Growing the impact of Michigan philanthropy

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

CFNS

**ACCREDITED
FOUNDATION**

New Funds

Thomas Niekamp Scholarship Fund

The Thomas Niekamp Scholarship Fund was established by Tommy's family to honor his memory and legacy. This scholarship will support local students in Roscommon County, reflecting the values that Tommy held dear throughout his life.

Thomas Niekamp enjoyed snowmobiling, skiing, boating, tubing, waterskiing and started doing e-sports. The scholarship fund is a lasting tribute to Tommy and his love for old cars and fixing things.



The Thomas Niekamp Scholarship Fund will provide financial assistance to Roscommon County students who demonstrate a commitment to academic achievement, community involvement, and a passion for hands-on craftsmanship.

The Niekamp family hopes that this fund will help local students pursue their dreams and carry on Tommy's legacy.

Char Fitzgerald Literacy & Education Fund

The Char Fitzgerald Literacy & Education Fund was established in honor of Char's career as an educator at Houghton Lake Community Schools. Char's career has made an impact on the lives of many students who have attended Houghton Lake Community Schools over the years.

This fund aims to enhance literacy for Houghton Lake Community Schools students in grades K-6 by removing obstacles to accessing books and educational materials through their school's library. For example, funding can be used to waive library fines or replace lost or damaged books for students.



Bertl Family Scholarship Fund

In 1936, Fritz Bertl purchased Roscommon Motor Sales from his father and, in 1950, opened a new brick garage and showroom for Chevrolet cars on M-76. Fritz continued the family tradition of innovation and service until 1969. Meanwhile, Frank Bertl took over Bertl Garage, which became a Ford Agency in 1956, proudly selling one of the first Ford Mustang cars in 1964.



The Bertl family's contributions to the Village of Roscommon were not limited to their business successes. They were active and dedicated members of the community, helping to drive the growth and evolution of the local automotive industry. Their legacy of hard work, innovation, and community service is precisely what the Bertl Family Scholarship Fund seeks to honor.

By supporting students in industrial technologies, this scholarship ensures that the spirit of the Bertl family's dedication and craftsmanship continues to inspire future generations.

Lions Club Scholarship Fund

The Roscommon-Higgins Lake and Houghton Lake Lions Clubs have joined forces to establish the Lions Club Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is designed to support students pursuing careers in industrial technologies, a growing and essential field that offers numerous career opportunities.



The Lions Clubs have a rich history of service in Roscommon County. The Houghton Lake Lions Club, has touched countless lives through its Halloween events at Bobcat Field through the 80's, 90's, and 2000's. Similarly, the Roscommon-Higgins Lake Lions Club, has earned recognition for its popular chicken dinner fundraisers during the 4th of July celebrations and the Fireman's Memorial weekend.

Through this scholarship, the Lions Club of Houghton Lake and the Roscommon-Higgins Lake Lions Club hope to encourage students to pursue careers in industrial technologies, ensuring that Roscommon County continues to benefit from skilled workers who can contribute to the region's economic growth and sustainability.

Ways to Give

Outright Gift

Give cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, or other assets and enjoy potential tax advantages.

Employer Gift Matching

Multiply the impact of your donation! Many employers offer matching gift programs that can double or even triple your contribution.

Bequest by Will

Include RCCF in your will to leave a personal legacy of generosity that lasts forever.

Charitable Gift Annuity

Receive steady income for life while creating a gift that benefits your community long-term.

Charitable Remainder Trust

Provide income for yourself or others, then leave the remainder to support community causes.

Charitable Lead Trust

Benefit RCCF during the trust's term, then pass the remaining assets to heirs with tax advantages.

Beneficiary Designation

You can designate RCCF as the beneficiary of all or part of your IRA or life insurance policy (using beneficiary designation form provided by your custodian). The full value of the gift is transferred tax-free at your death and your estate receives an estate tax charitable deduction.

Give today, Impact Roscommon County tomorrow.

Choose a fund to make a gift to with our Fund Directory on page 14. Explore the many RCCF administered funds that support local needs, from scholarships to the arts, environment, healthcare, and youth development.

Each fund is a story of generosity at work in Roscommon County.

Establishing a Fund

Creating an endowed fund at the Roscommon County Community Foundation is a powerful way to leave a lasting legacy and support the causes you care about forever. The principal is permanently invested, with only the earnings used for grantmaking, ensuring ongoing impact year after year. Contact RCCF to learn how we can help you establish your fund and achieve your charitable goals.

Photo by Sally Gilley of Houghton Lake

Funds List

UNDESIGNATED FUNDS

Marilyn Brown Memorial Fund
The Linda Chwan & Ken DePerro Memorial Fund
The Cornerstone Fund
Community Impact Fund
The Family Donor Advised Fund
Greatest Human Needs Fund
Morley Family Foundation Fund
Nester Family Charitable Fund
Roscommon County General Fund
St. Helen General Fund
The Wade Family Donor Advised Fund

EDUCATIONAL FUNDS

Gerrish-Higgins Educational Fund
Houghton Lake Community School District Support Fund
Houghton Lake Educational Foundation Fund
Kirtland Community College Educational Fund
Alexa Luck Memorial Fund
Annie Williams Rackerby Fund
Jim Mahoney Memorial - Music Program Support Fund
Sarah Eulaine Tucker (Class of 1977) Fund
Bonnie Biggar Music Fund
Char Fitzgerald Literacy & Education Fund

YOUTH FUNDS

Big Buck Open" Athletic Scholarship
Howard B. "Corky" Gaylor Memorial Fund
Kimberly Mires Athletic & Music Scholarship
Roscommon Area Youth Booster Club Fund
Roscommon County Kellogg Youth Fund
Jim "Smitty" Smith Athletic Fund
Larry Sumerix Memorial - Summer Music Scholarship
Richard & Margaret Torongo Memorial Scholarship

ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDS

Endowment for Higgins Lake
Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve General Fund
The John Morley Family Endowment for Higgins Lake
Rogers Family Endowment for Houghton Lake
Roscommon County Lakes & Rivers Fund
Robert R. Thalner Endowment Fund

ANIMAL SUPPORT FUNDS

Rubye Cunningham Memorial Fund Supporting the Roscommon County Animal Shelter
The Larry Eastley & Clare Fisher Eastley Animal Support Fund
Viola J. Moore Animal Fund

ORGANIZATIONAL FUNDS

Ambassador Club
Habitat for Humanity General Fund
Houghton Lake Public Library Excellence Fund
Houghton Lake Rotary Club General Fund
Lynda's Food Pantry Fund
Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center Fund
RCCF Independence Fund
Rob & Sue Morley Family Administrative Fund
Tom & Jan Richardson Family Endowment for Roscommon Area Historical Society

HEALTH FUNDS

Jenni's Foundation - Michigan Cancer Support Fund
Roscommon County Health Improvement Endowment Fund
Roscommon County Tobacco Settlement Fund

SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDS

Friends for Safe Schools Fund
Roscommon County Health Services Fund
Roscommon County Mental Health Services Fund
Roscommon Area District Library Building Fund
Roscommon Area District Library Community Outreach Fund
The Ryan McDonald Memorial Fund
Higgins Lake/Roscommon Non-Motorized Trail Way System Fund
Thomas L. McNamara Memorial Rotary Parks Fund
Urgent Needs Fund

OTHER FUNDS

Doug Allen Fire & EMS Support Fund
Zonta Club Women's & Children's Fund
Roscommon County Recreation Fund
Weede Family Community Recreation Fund

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Kyle Akin Scholarship Fund
Karen & Frank Arleth Memorial Scholarship
Grace Bernardo, M.D. Memorial Health Careers Scholarship
The Bertl Family Scholarship Fund
Lawrence C. Dashner Scholarship Fund
Jack Danieleski Scholarship
Kelly Dunmire Memorial Scholarship
Fidelity Chapter #50 Order of the Eastern Star Scholarship
Ruth & Ralph Fisher Scholarship
Evelyn Fraser Scholarship
Ava Raye Gasper Scholarship Fund
Gerrish-Higgins Roscommon Alumni Association Scholarship
The Rex & Arlene Gillen Scholarship
Char Goddard Memorial Scholarship
Forest & Rita Hacker Family Sportsmanship Scholarship
Sharon A. Hacker Nursing Scholarship Fund
Robert A. Hess Memorial Scholarship
HLHS Class of 1983 Memorial Scholarship Fund
Houghton Lake Rotary Club Memorial Scholarship
Houghton Lake Sports Booster Scholarship Fund
Mike M. & Patricia M. Ignat Scholarship
The Mr. J's Buckeye Nuts College Scholarship
Robert J. Kunik Memorial Scholarship
Layton International Scholarship
Lions Club Scholarship Fund
Bobbe Morley Scholarship Fund
Donald W. & Beverly Nester Memorial Scholarship
Thomas Niekamp Scholarship Fund
Ralph Ostling Memorial Scholarship
Patriot Scholarship Fund
Roscommon Rotary Club General Fund
Roscommon Soccer Teams Scholarship
Andrew Schmidt Trades Scholarship
W.H. & Betty J. Scott Memorial Scholarship
Clyde F. Shaltz Memorial Scholarship
Ford & Marguerite Silsby Scholarship
Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home Scholarship
Michael R. Trembl Memorial Athletic Scholarship
Harry & Marjorie Walbridge Scholarship Fund
William C. Williams (Class of 1950) Memorial Scholarship



Learn More
about the funds



Donate Online





Scholarship Awards Dinner

On a warm evening filled with pride, promise, and profound gratitude, the Roscommon County Community Foundation (RCCF) hosted its first Scholarship Awards Dinner! This was a heartwarming celebration of student achievement and community philanthropy. Held in honor of 40 outstanding students from Roscommon, Houghton Lake, and Charlton Heston Academy, the evening marked a new milestone: More than \$200,000 in scholarships awarded, a monumental leap from the foundation's humble beginnings in 2001, when \$10,000 was first distributed.

The evening began with welcoming remarks from Suzanne, RCCF staff, and heartfelt messages from RCCF Board Trustee Pastor Bryan Thompson and President Diane Nielsen. Their reflections reminded attendees of the transformative power of a single scholarship not just as financial support, but as a spark of hope and possibility for students chasing their dreams.



Beyond the student honors, a highlight of the evening was the unveiling of a new tradition: the presentation of RCCF's inaugural Change Maker Award. This award was created to honor individuals whose lifetime of service and philanthropy has made a lasting impact on the Roscommon community and beyond. The first recipient? A woman whose name is synonymous with service: Carol Morley Beck. Carol's resume is staggering in its breadth—starting with her early roots as a Hillsdale College graduate. In her tireless work establishing financial systems and securing funding for nonprofit agencies, senior centers, literacy programs, and treatment centers across Michigan, Carol has touched nearly every corner of community care, always guided by a spirit of generosity and a focus on lasting impact.

Introduced by RCCF Trustees Tracy Bosworth and Sara Morley LaCroix (who is also Carol's sister) Carol was celebrated not only for her philanthropic legacy, but for embodying the very essence of community leadership. Her recent establishment of the Rob and Sue Morley Family Administrative Fund, in honor of her parents, is just the latest chapter in a life devoted to empowering others.

As the evening concluded, the Change Maker Award stood not only as a tribute to Carol, but also as a reminder of the ripple effect one dedicated individual can have. Through both scholarship support and recognition of community champions, RCCF continues to foster a culture of giving that fuels futures one student, one leader, and one generous act at a time.



"One scholarship might be all it takes to help break the cycle of poverty for one of our students."
- Pastor Bryan Thompson, RCCF Trustee

Scholarships Awarded

Andrew Schmidt Trades Scholarship

Elisa Terry

Ava Raye Gasper Scholarship

Mariah Thompson

Bobbe Morley Memorial Scholarship

Brian Kilbourn

Char Goddard Memorial Scholarship

Corbin Tyler

Clyde Shaltz Memorial Scholarship

Riley Carter

Donald W. & Beverly Nester Memorial Scholarship

Joshua Karoub

Evelyn Fraser Scholarship

Gabrielle Gray

Fidelity Chapter #50, Order of the Eastern Star Scholarship

Gabrielle Gray

Ford and Marguerite Silsby Scholarship

Jordan Hendershott

Forest & Rita Hacker Sportsmanship Scholarship

Hunter Bailey | Mariah Thompson

Gerrish-Higgins Roscommon Alumni Association Scholarship

Logan Hastings | Karly Patchin | Brady Stoyak | Corbin Tyler

Grace Bernardo, M.D. Memorial Health Careers Scholarship

Corbin Tyler | Alexis Marshall | Abigail Partenio

Harry & Marjorie Walbridge Scholarship

Alex Thiel | Jordan Hendershott | Riley Maczik | Jacob Gee | David Jensen

Houghton Lake Class of 1983 Memorial Scholarship

Katelyn Spindler

Houghton Lake Rotary Club Memorial Scholarship

Mariah Thompson | Ryan Cole

Houghton Lake Sports Booster Scholarship

Mariah Thompson

Jack Danielewski Scholarship

Ryan Cole

Jim "Smitty" Smith Athletic Fund

Jewels Lain

Karen & Frank Arleth Memorial Scholarship

Katie Ross

Kelly Dunmire Memorial Scholarship

Jaimi Wicks

Kimberly L. Mires Athletics & Music Scholarship Fund

Addison Cipponeri | Devyn Fiebelkorn | Delaney Fiebelkorn

Larry Sumerix Memorial Summer Music Scholarship Fund

Faith McNeill

Lawrence C. Dashner Scholarship

Raegan Blackwell | Rylee Lytle | William Oster | Madison Snider | Ashley Chmielewski | Joey Janisse | Gabriel Oster | Benjamin Hamina | Mason Green

Layton International Scholarship

Logan Hasting | Corbin Tyler | Jazmyne Rees

Michael R. Trembl Memorial Athletic Scholarship

Mason Green

Mike M. & Patricia M. Ignat Memorial Scholarship

Katelyn Spindler

Mr. J's Buckeye Nuts College Scholarship

Alex Goodall

Patriot Scholarship

Savannah Cichowski

Ralph Ostling Memorial Scholarship

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Rylee Lytle

W.H. & Betty J. Scott Memorial Scholarship

Elisa Terry

William C. Williams (class of 1950) Scholarship

Gabrielle Gray

Photo by Sally Gilley of Roscommon County

The Scholarship Awards Dinner was made possible by our
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The RCCF Ambassador Club is an exclusive opportunity for visionary businesses, organizations, and community leaders who believe in building a brighter future for Roscommon County. If you're committed to meaningful change and community investment, we invite you to join us.

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Through service, advocacy, and philanthropy, the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) continues to nurture the next generation of community leaders—ensuring that youth voices not only have a seat at the table, but are actively shaping the future of Roscommon County.

YAC Highlights

Orientation & Leadership Training

- Kicked off the year with team-building, goal-setting, and outdoor activities
- Built strong member connections and set a positive tone for the year

Grantmaking with Purpose

- Reviewed and funded youth-focused projects at Fall and Spring Grant meetings
- Gained leadership skills through real-world decision-making
- Focused on high-priority community needs

Community Service Projects

- Kids Helping Kids: Shopped for and wrapped holiday gifts for local foster youth
- Good Shepherd Dinner: Served meals and supported event operations
- A.R.K. Cleanup: Helped clean and maintain the Association to Rescue Kritters facility

Educational Engagement

- Virtual Job Shadowing: Explored careers with AHEC's Pathful Explore
- YACCon Conference: Attended statewide youth philanthropy event at CMU

Youth-Led Awareness

- Launched Mental Health Awareness campaigns in May
- Topics included suicide prevention, body image, bullying, and depression
- Content based on member surveys and youth feedback

Listening to Local Youth

- Collected real quotes from Roscommon County teens
- Prioritized issues like bullying, racism, and mental health in funding decisions

Grants Given by YAC

ACT NOW

\$1,000 - Kids Helping Kids Project

Artesia Youth Park

\$1,500 - South Gym All Purpose Floor Recovery
\$850 - Indoor Batting Cages

Charlton Heston Academy

\$1,800 - Skills USA

Houghton Lake Community Schools

\$900 - Mackinaw Island Field Trip
\$2,800 - Tigers Game 2025

MidMichigan Community Health Services

\$900 - Pathful Explore for Pathways Program

Roscommon / St. Helen Little League

\$1,750 - 2025 Equipment



YAC Advisors & Members

YAC Coordinator: Ellie Luck

YAC Advisors:

Tracy Bosworth, Dawn Patterson, and Monica Huntley.

YAC Members: Augustin Dilley, Aiden

Partenio, Ash Kemeza,

Chelsi Ensing, Eliza Evans,

Eli Walker, Aspen Burns, Simran Kaur,

Hunter Randall, Jack Erickson,

Jia Rees, Michaela Heit, Makayla McNealy, and Tanner Green.





The Roscommon County Community Foundation has proudly unveiled its inaugural *40 Under 40* honoree list recognizing a vibrant and inspiring group of young leaders who are actively shaping the future of our communities.

From a high school student to small business owners, nonprofit workers, educators, and medical professionals, this year's honorees embody a shared commitment to service, leadership, and local impact.

These 40 honorees reflect the heart of Roscommon County and offer hope for an even brighter future.

Desiree' Baerlocher	Tabetha Cross	Broc Lindsey	Erin O'Rourke
Crystal Baetz	Ben Elliott	Erica Luck	Ryan Sersaw
Sarah Baines	Jeffrey Robert Goodwin	Jessica MacHue	Andrew Smith
Elijah Baker	Dawn Goodwin	Michelle M Maloney	Melissa J. Sullivan
Emily Barber	Calvin Hissong	Heather Marie Marra	Charity Thompson
Ashley Boals	Lauren Hissong	Joseph Moore	Andrew Thompson
Sean Brabant	Tom Hoffmeyer	Alex Murphy	Breanna Carothers-Stepaniak
Crystal Brabant	Sara Humphreys	Aiden Partenio	Rachel VanWormer
Kalsa Parker Browning	Bryan Jeske	Becky Powell	Vanessa Ann Varner
Tiffany Chudzinski	Jory Klumpp	Christine Ann Dunaj Riley	Amie Whittington

Tributes

In memory of Alexa Luck

Cris & Kathleen Jones
Robert & Sara Luck
Roberta Waterman

In memory of Andy & Margaret Cherven

Mrs. Rhonda Hanna

In memory of Archie & Myrtle Moore

Gary & Sandra Akin

In memory of Antonio Grettenberger

Ashley Grettenberger

In memory of Archie & Betty Hall

Tom & Kathryn Hamp

In memory of Archie & Myrtle Moor

Gary and Sandra Akin

In memory of Ava Raye Gasper

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In memory of Barbara Rigling

Carolyn Pietchak

In memory of Bennie Tartoni

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hacker

In memory of Betty Jones

Tom & Kathryn Hamp

In memory of Betty Nowakowski

Claire Danieleski & Mike Dubanski

In memory of Beverly L. Rumsey

Randy & Lisa Baerlocher

In memory of Bonnie Biggar

Jack Biggar
Tammy Schwalm
Thomas Boaz

In memory of Burr Loomis

Duncan & Kathy Lawrence

In memory of Caroline Larson

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Photo by Sally Gilley of Houghton Lake