# 5 Years Community Foundation for NORTHEAST MICHIGAN

# Navigator

Greetings from all of us at the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan! As fall kicks into high gear, we are looking forward to many things. We are beginning to implement parts of our fresh strategic plan that was finalized in September; we are looking forward to our tenth Giving Tuesday Northeast Michigan Campaign; and we are celebrating $149,000 in new grants awarded in the past six months. We hope you enjoy this update covering the past half-year of your Community Foundation's work.

## First-Ever YAC Day Raises Over $39,000 for Youth Advisory Councils

The Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan (CFNEM) and its Affiliate Foundations hosted its first-ever YAC Day on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, raising $39,031 for its Youth Advisory Councils (YACs). This special event aimed to boost awareness and funding for the Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) program, which engages youth in philanthropy.

The 24-hour giving event continued to spur donations in the week following YAC Day, helping the Community Foundation raise more than $14,000 from donors supporting their local YACs across northeast Michigan. Additionally, CFNEM matched funds of $4,000 to each of the six Youth Advisory Councils in its service area. Half of each donation is being permanently endowed to support future grantmaking. The other half will help fund the next round of YAC grants, set to be awarded in early 2025.




*Members of the Northeast Michigan Youth Advisory Council (NEMYAC) won Mac the Golden Yak for raising the most funds on YAC Day.*



*Hillman High School graduates receive CFNEM and other scholarships at the 2024 senior awards night in June 2024.*

## A Record-Breaking Year for Scholarships Gives $590,000 for Local Students

Two-hundred fifteen students from the CFNEM and its Affiliate Foundation service areas were awarded scholarships in 2024 totaling $591,684. Of that amount, 110 awards totaling $318,584 were awarded to students in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle Counties.

"The landscape and path to furthering a student's education has changed drastically over the years," says CFNEM Program Director Jennifer Dingman. "This year alone presented changes in financial aid reporting, an increased interest in skilled trades, and more students taking advantage of programs like dual enrollment and the '13th year'. These awards will be of real value to these students."



*This 30-foot sculpture featuring an arm and hand holding a ball and wisp is meant to invoke the spirit of giving and community.*

## CFNEM Honors 50 Years of Giving, Granting and Growing

On July 3, 2024, the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan (CFNEM) officially turned 50 years old, celebrating five decades of giving, granting, and growing for communities across the region, and looking to the future as the CFNEM team plans for the next 50 years and beyond.

"Businesses and organizations have anniversaries all the time, so why does this one matter? Because it is a celebration of something that belongs to our entire community, that was built by our community," says CFNEM Executive Director Patrick Heraghty. "With a timeline of forever, 50 years is an early milestone for an organization that supports everyone – our parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and beyond. And in those 50 years, so much has been accomplished. That is worth celebrating!"

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, Heraghty says the Community Foundation is planning several gifts to northeast Michigan as a "thank you" and additional investment in the region. In June 2024, CFNEM established a new, permanently endowed Lake Huron Fund with $25,000 that will support the health of Lake Huron and its watershed through grants in northeast Michigan; in May 2024, CFNEM provided a $24,000 gift to the Youth Advisory Councils across the region to support youth grantmaking, $12,000 of which was funded through the Foundation's Dolores and Leonard Roznowski Fund; a $10,000 gift to Thunder Bay Arts is supporting the creation and installation of a new sculpture along Alpena's Bi-Path (*pictured left*); and $50,000 through three grants approved in September that will support housing across the region.

## CFNEM Celebrates Onaway and Grayling Spark Grants

In July, the City of Onaway was awarded $749,100 and the City of Grayling was awarded $713,000. Both grants are state grant funding from a collaborative initiative between the Council Michigan Foundations and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR). The goal of the Spark Grant Program is to boost public health, introduce new experiences, and improve access to recreation in historically under-resourced communities. CFNEM served as the Regional Collaborative Lead for these grants in northeast Michigan.

In Onaway, the awarded project will facilitate the creation of a pavilion providing shelter for trail users, family restrooms with universal access design, picnic tables, bike loops, and trash receptacles. During the summer months, the pavilion will host the Onaway Farmers Market. In Grayling, the projects are collectively known as the Rayburn Community Connector Project. They will include the construction of new outdoor pickleball courts at the Crawford County Commission on Aging (COA), the development of a single-track trail for mountain biking and a pavilion at the Grayling School Forest, and the design of new trail connections that will link the City of Grayling, COA, Rayburn Tract, and Grayling School Forest to the existing Grayling Bicycle Turnpike trailhead and the Iron Belle Trail.



*Huron Pines volunteers work to build sections of a single-track trail on the Grayling School Forest - an element that with the Spark funding will be continued and expanded with an ADA accessible pathway and outdoor shelter.*

Community foundations were a catalytic component of this program, working alongside local leaders to develop and execute strategies that advance equitable outcomes by way of elevating community voices, providing or connecting opportunity communities with technical assistance opportunities, making considerations of local capacities, and providing a statewide network of partners to problem-solve collectively.

***Find all of these articles in their full form at www.cfnem.org under "Resources" and "News".***

# Donor Story - Herman and Dorothy Miller



Deep roots in the heart of northern Michigan's forests and fond memories of summers spent "up north" were the foundational building blocks for the legacy of Herman L. Miller and his wife Dorothy. Their generosity is now lifting up the local history and community that held their hearts.

As a child, Mr. Miller grew up among the woods and lumbering culture in Lewiston (Montmorency County) and in the Pigeon River Forest of neighboring Otsego County. Miller's grandfather, Herman Lunden Miller, owned a home in Lewiston where he worked as a lumberman and was one of northern Michigan's earlier forestry advocates and conservationists during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Though his grandfather died when Mr. Miller was just four years old, the home in Lewiston remained in the family and was a favorite place to spend the summer months, keeping him connected to his northern Michigan roots throughout his life.

After being drafted into the Army Air Corps and serving from 1943-1946, Mr. Miller retired from military service as First Lieutenant. He then received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan, where he met Dorothy. Mr. Miller launched his career as a physicist, which included work in the Apollo Space Program and nuclear power engineering. Dorothy enjoyed a career as an elementary school teacher who enjoyed tutoring children and had an artistic side.

After their retirement, the Millers spent their summers in Lewiston – time that strengthened Dorothy's love of the region as well. With free time and an inspiring setting, Mr. Miller began to write, authoring books about his time in the military, a book about twentieth century lumbering, and a biography of his grandfather.

After sifting through papers and journals of his grandfather's writings, Mr. Miller shared with others how his grandfather was an instrumental figure in the regrowth of forest on lands that had been previously cleared, and in dedicating large swaths of land as permanent preserves of the forest. Mr. Miller's research helped the Otsego County Historical Society to create an exhibit about Herman Lunden Miller at the Pigeon River Country Historical Interpretive Center (*pictured below, Mr. Miller attends the ribbon cutting for the exhibit*), and created records and archives within the Lewiston Area Historical Society and Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan.

When Mr. Miller passed away in June 2021 (Dorothy preceded him in 2018), he left a portion of their estate to the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan to create the Herman and Dorothy Miller Endowment Fund to support their beloved communities in perpetuity. Through their $2.3 million bequest, the Millers are supporting the Lewiston Area Historical Society, Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan, the Otsego County Historical Society, and Lewiston Congregational United Church of Christ. Additionally, the Millers left an unrestricted gift – a gift immeasurably important and beneficial to our communities – to be used in support of charitable projects for any purpose in Montmorency and Otsego Counties, with distributions led by CFNEM and the Otsego Community Foundation.






## New Funds

**Alpena Blue Line Club** - established to support the organizational activities of the Alpena Blue Line Club, as directed by their board of directors.

**Sunrise Treatment and Recovery Centre Capital Campaign Fund**- established to support the construction of a new treatment facility by Sunrise Centre that will replace the current, dated facility and serve individuals across the region with substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church Project Fund** - established to support special, unbudgeted projects of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rogers City.

**Herman L. Miller Endowment Fund** - created through a bequest from Herman L. Miller to support charitable programs and organizations in Montmorency and Otsego counties; for maintenance of collections at the Lewiston Area Historical Society, the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan, and the Otsego County Historical Society; and programs at the Lewiston Congregational United Church of Christ.

**Forty Mile Point Lighthouse Fund** - established to support the restoration and preservation of the Lighthouse and its complementary buildings, including the Calcite Pilot House and Glawe School.

## Featured Grants

### Alcona Historical Society Train Depot Fencing Project

A committee dedicated to saving and restoring the Harrisville Train Depot continues to move forward. One of the recent accomplishments was the completion of a historically accurate fencing project. The fence is part of a multi-phase restoration effort being completed by volunteers working with local vendors on the overall Depot restoration. The Harrisville Train Depot is one of the few remaining depots in the northern Lower Peninsula, and the fence was needed as a barrier between the Depot and the railroad tracks. The Alcona Historical Society received a $2,000 Community Impact Grant for this project.





### Friends of Oqcueoc Outdoor Center Mural Workshop

With the help of a $1,200 Community Impact Grant to Friends of Ocqueoc Outdoor Center in Presque Isle County, budding artists were able to participate in a mural workshop under the guidance of a Dorothea Sandra, an established artist from Rogers City. During the workshop a series of vibrant murals were created, all of which will become permanent artwork displayed in the Center's community art and craft studio.



## Montmorency County Public Libraries Fine Arts Program

With the help of a $3,000 Northeast Michigan Women's Giving Circle Grant to Montmorency County Public Libraries, students who attend the three elementary schools in Montmorency County were able to participate in a six-week art program at school, learn to use a variety of art supplies, and then take those supplies home to continue their artistic endeavors. Project organizers say students returned to the library over the summer to show off the artwork they created at home using their sketch books and supplies. Pictured here is some of the works created by the kids.

## Rogers City Area Schools' "Salmon in the Classroom"

Fourth and fifth graders at Rogers City Area Schools are learning about appreciating and protecting our local natural resources, including fish populations. Through the "Salmon in the Classroom" project, students utilize reading, writing, math and science skills while experiencing outdoor learning. A $4,000 Community Impact Grant helped the school to purchase a 150-gallon aquarium for the ongoing project. Why so big? Salmon need a large tank for the best results, and since salmon are a cold-water fish, their survival requires chilly waters and a big tank.





*Dr. Susan Bennett (with dog), assistant Katie Stephens (front), and Shelter Manager Tiffany McDonald work with a pet during a microchip clinic.*

## Second Chance Animal Shelter's "Fix a Feline" Project

Alpena and its surrounding communities have a cat population issue, and thankfully several organizations are working to address it. With the help of a $1,500 Community Impact Grant, Second Chance Animal Shelter in Alpena was able to purchase a new surgery table as part of its "Fix a Feline" project. As part of the overall program, the Shelter is providing an additional resource in our communities for low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for cats, as well as for microchipping of pets. Project organizer Leanne Bloom says the room has been utilized a number of times and that the Shelter is actively recruiting additional vets to come to our community for clinics.

"With the surgery suite, all the vets need to do is show up and bring a few supplies which makes it much easier and more attractive of a proposition," says Bloom.

# Community Impact and Women's Giving Circle Grants Awarded in September

Community Impact Grants



33 Grants

$104,797

## Community Impact Grants

- Alpena Childcare & Development Center - $1,000 for a Toddler Play Kitchen.
- Alpena County - $3,000 for the Starfish Aquatics Institute.
- Alpena Gymnastics, Inc. - $1,000 for the Little Tykes project.
- Alpena Senior Citizens Center - $5,000 for the Meals on Wheels project.
- Association of Lifelong Learners - $1,800 for hybrid meeting technology.
- Barton City Volunteer Fire Department - $2,000 for an Emergency Shelter.
- Boys and Girls Club of Alpena - $5,000 for the Triple Play (Mind, Body and Soul) program.
- Common Ground - $5,000 for the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Outreach to NE MI project.
- Green Township Fire Department - $2,218 for Green Township Fire Department light towers.
- Habitat for Humanity Northeast Michigan - $3,418 for the Building Affordable Housing for Alpena project.
- Harrisville Arts Council - $4,000 for the Harrisville Arts Council Mural project.
- Harrisville United Methodist Church - $5,000 for the Feeding Alcona County Families project.
- Heroes - $3,000 for event and start-up costs.
- Hillman Area Senior Citizens - $5,000 to purchase a generator.
- Hubbard Lake Baptist/Bible Church - $3,500 for the Feeding the Hungry project.
- Junior Achievement of North Central Michigan - $3,000 to revitalize the Junior Achievement program.
- Lions Club of Michigan Service Foundation - $5,000 for the Mobile Pantry service expansion.
- NEMCSA - $5,000 for the Ensuring Exploration in the Winter Months project.
- Park Family Foundation - $2,000 for the Thunder Bay / Aplex Martial Arts equipment purchase.
- Pegasus Springs Therapeutic Riding Center - $2,500 for the Fortifying Families / Year-Round Support & Scholarships project.
- PoWeR! Book Bags - $2,000 for the EmPoWeRing Little Learners in Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle project.
- Presque Isle Conservation District - $3,320 to improve wetland trails at Herman Vogler Conservation Area.
- Presque Isle County Historical Museum - $4,000 for the Bradley House Roof Renovation.
- Presque Isle Township Fire Department - $3,123 for the 911 Reflective Sign project.
- Presque Isle Township Museum Society, Inc. - $1,000 for the Crapo Lifeboat Restoration project.
- Rayola Inc. - $5,000 for the Northern Michigan Foster Children Project.
- St. John Lutheran School - $5,000 for the Pam Stenzel - Sex, Love, and Relationships program.
- the Poetics Lab - $1,300 for the Poetics Lab After School Poetry Club.
- The Stone House Studio - $2,000 for the Writing Your Story project.
- The Sunset Project - $3,000 for the Local Creative Highlights project.
- Thunder Bay Curling Club - $1,200 for the Learn to Curl program.
- Thunder Bay Theatre - $3,418 to update lighting equipment.
- Touchstone Services Incorporated (Light of Hope) - $3,000 for the Media Center project.

Women's Giving Circle Grants



17 Grants

$44,778

## Northeast Michigan Women's Giving Circle Grants

- Alcona Youth Baseball and Softball - $1,000 for the Facility Updates project.
- Alpena & Presque Isle Child Abuse and Neglect Team - $2,850 for the Fall Family Pantry and Laundry Support project.
- Alpena County - $1,250 for the Alpena Plaza Pool Lifeguard Training Education project.
- Alpena First United Methodist - $1,500 for the Hearts to Home project.
- Alpena Gymnastics, Inc. - $500 for Youth Development project.
- Alpena Senior Citizens Center - $5,000 for the Meals on Wheels project.
- Friends of the Alpena Courts - $5,000 for the Bayview Reconstruction project.

- Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary - $2,588 for the Sanctuary Labyrinth.
- Grace Lutheran Church - $3,000 for the Church's Little Food Pantry.
- Hubbard Lake Baptist/Bible Church - $5,000 for the Feeding the Hungry project.
- PoWeR! Book Bags - $4,000 for the Little Learners of Alpena, Montmorency, and Presque Isle project.
- Rayola Inc. - $4,000 for comfort care packages for foster children.
- Sunrise Centre Inc. - $1,000 for the Recovery Recreation project.
- the Poetics Lab - $1,500 for the HOMES Haiku Competition.
- The Sunset Project - $1,500 for the Local Creative Highlights project.
- Thunder Bay Folk Society, Inc. - $3,500 for the Thunder Bay Folk Festival project.
- United Way of Northeast Michigan - $1,600 for the Project Connects - Montmorency County project.

## Our Board of Trustees

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Cliff Miller
Barbara Mills
Andrea Rose

## Our Staff

**Patrick Heraghty**
Executive Director
pheraghty@cfnem.org

**Christine Hitch**
Development & Marketing Director
chitch@cfnem.org

**Jennifer Dingman**
Program Director
jdingman@cfnem.org

**Rachel Elkie**
Program Officer
relkie@cfnem.org

**DeeAnn Karos**
Finance Director
dkaros@cfnem.org

**Denise McKenna**
Executive Assistant
dmckenna@cfnem.org

## Knowledge Corner

### Donor Advised Funds



Donor advised funds (DAFs) are a popular tool to organize your giving by allowing you to choose what organizations and projects are supported through your fund. Often, these funds are held at national financial institutions. Many donor advised fund holders did not realize that they could have set up their donor advised fund at the Community Foundation, keeping those funds local, and working with experts who are right here.

***It's time to set the record straight!***

For starters, we offer donor advised fund holders most of the same tax and administrative benefits as a national financial institution, including:

- a simple process for requesting grants to favorite charities
- streamlined tax reporting, often represented by just one letter to provide to an accountant at tax time, even when the donor-advised fund is used to support dozens of individual charities throughout the year
- all back-office administration, tax receipts, recordkeeping, and other requirements
- favorable tax-deductibility of contributions to the fund

Unlike standard national financial institutions' donor-advised funds, our team provides you with local experts who have a finger on the pulse of community needs, the strengths of specific nonprofits, and how to structure grant making for the highest possible community benefit. After all, this is our community, too!

If you are interested in establishing a donor-advised fund, we'd love to help you get started.

# Giving Tuesday Northeast Michigan
## - December 3, 2024 -




**Mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 3, 2024, for the Community Foundation's tenth Giving Tuesday Northeast Michigan campaign. Sixty nonprofits from across our region will participate in this giving event to raise money for special projects and to help further their mission. Giving Tuesday harnesses the power of collective giving so individuals can do more, for many, with a donation. Following the popular shopping days of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday offers an opportunity to give back. Last year, our campaign raised more than $340,000 for our participating nonprofits, providing much needed funds. So please, mark your calendar for December 3rd and celebrate the giving spirit!**

## Upcoming Grant Opportunities

We know you are community-minded and that our donors are likely to be involved in community organizations that could use funding. Grant deadlines for nonprofit projects occur throughout the year for our service area. Upcoming grant deadlines include:

**January 15**

- CFNEM Community Impact Grants
- Northeast Michigan Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Grants

**December 15**

- North Central Michigan Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council Grants (Crawford, Ogemaw and Oscoda Counties)
- Straits Area Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council Grants (Cheboygan County and Mackinaw City)

**Guidelines and applications are available at cfnem.org.**

Community Foundation for NORTHEAST MICHIGAN
PO Box 495
Alpena, MI 49707

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