Dear friends of the Community Foundation,

What a year! We were humbled and inspired by the deep generosity of many in our community during the 2018 year as we received close to $20 million in contributions to Donor Service funds. These gifts ranged in size from $25 to $7 million, and combined with nearly $1 million in gifts to our Community’s Endowment, led to our overall contributions totaling close to $21 million. That is more than double our previous high of $9.7 million! These resources will impact many individuals and nonprofits in the Holland/Zeeland area, and we are honored that so many of you chose to partner with CFHZ to help you best achieve your charitable goals.

We hope you will join us for our Annual Luncheon on Wednesday, May 22 at 11:00 am at the Civic Center Place to celebrate the successful year and to highlight key activities and people that help make it all happen. You will hear from myself and Elizabeth Kidd, Vice President of Community Impact, with highlights of our recent grant impact. Patrick Cisler, Executive Director of the Lakeshore Nonprofit Alliance, will also join us to talk about our efforts to strengthen the local nonprofit sector.

Additionally, we will honor longtime Foundation friend, Ann Query, with the 2019 Marvin C. Lindeman Distinguished Service Award, to recognize and thank her for years of notable service to CFHZ and our community. You can register online until May 15 at cfhz.org/events. It promises to be a special day!

Our first round of competitive grant awards from our Community’s Endowment was just announced and totaled $214,000. You can learn more about these grants on page 4. We highlight one of our 2017 grantees, Latin American United for Progress and their Latino Engagement Study, on page 2. On page 3 you can learn more about one of our 2018 grantees, Out On The Lakeshore, and their Youth Programming.

We are excited to continue to “grow the Promise” in 2019, and are thankful to each individual, family, and company that has chosen to support our community’s scholarship, the Holland/Zeeland Promise. One company that has generously contributed to the Promise is Fifth Third Bank of Holland, which you can read more about on page 6.

As our work continues to grow, so does the responsibilities of our staff. Rashelle Wynegar, our Director of Finance, has been promoted to Vice President of Finance. Jessica Lynch, our Executive Assistant, has been promoted to Donor Service Associate. With Jessica’s new promotion, we are now looking for a new Administrative Assistant to join our team. You can find the full details and job description on our website.

We are truly grateful for our partnership with you as we work together to ensure that our community thrives today, tomorrow, and forever.

With gratitude,

Mike Goorhouse
President/CEO
“LAUP is very excited to have this new data from the Community Engagement Project. Our hope is to call key community members and agencies to the table as we look to provide more solutions to the top three issues facing the Latino community. We now have our marching orders.”

– Ed Amaya, Chair

In 2017, LAUP was awarded a $20,000 grant to engage Latino community leaders, leaders of partner organizations, and most importantly, area Latino residents to determine the most urgent needs to address to ensure that Latinos thrive in our community and to utilize the information gathered to shape LAUP’s future work. The Latino population in the Holland/Zeeland area is growing and the insights gained through this process will have a lasting impact on our collective understanding of the most pressing needs and promising opportunities for our local Latino community. LAUP collected more than 280 survey responses and held four focus groups.

In your opinion, list up to three obstacles keeping Latinos from being successful in our community (En su opinion, enumere tres impedimentos que a los Latinos les evita que tenga éxito en nuestra comunidad):

1. **Language (idioma):** “We need more availability and access to free or low-cost English as Second Language (ESL) classes.” (“Necesitamos más disponibilidad y acceso a clases de ESL gratuitas o de bajo costo.”)

2. **Immigration issues (inmigración):** “Family separations are extremely traumatic and make life very difficult.” (“La separación de familias es extremadamente traumática y hace la vida muy difícil.”)

3. **Racism/discrimination (el racismo/discriminación):** “There are many misconceptions about Latinos. We are proud of who we are.” (“Hay muchos conceptos erróneos acerca de los latinos. Estamos orgullosos de quienes somos.”)

Please rank these factors of success in order of importance to you (Por favor clasifique estos factores en orden de importancia para usted):

1. Having a fulfilling job (Tener un trabajo que disfrute)
2. Speaking English fluently (Hablar inglés con fluidez)
3. Financial Security (Ser financieramente estable)
4. Having strong family connections (Tener fuertes conexiones familiares.)
5. Home Ownership (Ser propietario de una casa)
6. Having enough time and money to enjoy time outside of work (Tener tiempo para disfrutar de las cosas fuera del trabajo)
7. Having money to send my children to college (Tener dinero para que mis niños puedan asistir a la universidad)
8. Access to health care/health insurance (Tener acceso a servicios de atención médica accesibles)
9. Seeing Latinos in positions of leadership in government, business, community (Que los Latinos ocupen puestos de autoridad en el gobierno local, estatal, nacional)
10. Having enough money to start a business (Tener suficiente dinero para empezar un negocio)

To learn more and to see the full Latino Community Engagement Study, visit cfhz.org/LAUPStudy2018
Out on the Lakeshore’s decision to launch youth programming began with a lot of listening. Out on the Lakeshore (OOTL) board members and volunteers spent many hours listening to students and parents talk about their experiences and needs for support. Again and again they heard stories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) students being bullied and harassed and of students and families seeking a safe place to gather and find resources, support and community. While many valuable resources are available online and through social media, students and parents needed help connecting in person. They wanted to meet and talk with others who are navigating similar journeys and to do so in a safe and supportive space. While in some ways these are very basic human needs, they are needs that were not currently being met for LGBTQ youth and their families in our community.

"The youth programming came as a response to what we were hearing from community members, parents, families, and most importantly, youth themselves,” said Amy Bade, OOTL Board Member. “We knew that if we could provide a safe space and opportunities for young people to connect with each other, that we would be offering this community something it didn’t have yet for LGBTQ kids.”

In addition to input from community members, the data around the challenges LGBTQ youth face made this programming an urgent priority for OOTL. LGBTQ students are at higher risk than their heterosexual peers for low self-esteem, bullying, depression, homelessness, and suicide. Research collected by the Trevor Project, a national hot-line for youth suicide prevention, shows that they are almost five times as likely to attempt suicide as their heterosexual peers.

In the face of these difficult realities, connecting with a caring network of support can make a critical difference for young people who are struggling with these issues and OOTL is committed to providing that caring network of support for local youth. With the help of a $75,000 grant over three years from CFHZ, OOTL has launched new programming for LGBTQ youth, their families, and allies. This includes weekly support group meetings, a mentoring program, an anti-bullying campaign, and daily drop-in hours.

OOTL is also partnering with other local organizations to deliver collaborative programs and serves as a resource to schools, student groups and other youth-serving organizations as they seek to better serve the needs of LGBTQ youth and their families.

Simply providing a safe space has had a profound impact. We constantly see the immediate look of relief from kids that walk in. You quickly realize the hurt they’ve experienced. Finding a safe space and a community is life changing for someone who hasn’t experienced that before.”

— Reverend Jen Adams, Chair

While many of the conversations are serious, there is also time for students to simply have fun together. Whether participating in a book discussion, going bowling, or meeting students from across different school districts, all of the youth programs serve as a reminder for students that they are not alone and that they have a place at OOTL and in the Holland/Zeeland community.

“Simply providing a safe space has had a profound impact,” shared Reverend Jen Adams, OOTL Board Chair. “We constantly see the immediate look of relief from kids that walk in. You quickly realize the hurt they’ve experienced. Finding a safe space and a community is life changing for someone who hasn’t experienced that before.”

To learn more about Out On the Lakeshore visit outonthelakeshore.org
The Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area is pleased to announce the awarding of 6 grants totaling $214,000 from the Community’s Endowment in the first competitive grant round of 2019.

Winning at Home – Holland Counseling Center
This $75,000 grant over three years will help renovate an existing building in downtown Holland on 16th Street and to help provide low cost counseling to individuals and families struggling with mental and relational health challenges who otherwise have barriers, such as transportation and finances, to receiving care.

Why this matters: Data from the Ottawa County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Youth Assessment Survey (YAS) reflects the reality that many adults, children and families in our community are struggling with trauma, adverse childhood experiences, mental health, and building healthy relationships amid the challenges and stresses of day to day life. The counseling services and educational programs provided at the new 16th Street location will offer community members access to the support and tools they need to navigate these challenges and find positive paths for the future.

Midtown Counseling Services – On-site School Counseling Program
This $75,000 grant over three years will provide trauma-focused counseling directly to Holland Middle School students on school grounds during school hours.

Why this matters: Childhood trauma and adverse childhood experiences involving abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction have a profound impact on students who experience them. In the short term, they are often a serious barrier to a child being able to fully participate in school and to build healthy relationships with peers and adults. In the long term, adults who have had these experiences are more likely to suffer from poor physical and mental health and more likely to struggle with issues ranging from addiction to homelessness to suicide. Providing counseling to students who have had adverse childhood experiences is a critical opportunity to offer the support and tools that can help them overcome the odds and find hope for a better future. Providing counseling on site at school removes the barriers of cost and transportation that often prevent students from accessing these kinds of services.

Beacon of Hope – Emotional Health Group for Adults on Probation
This $20,000 grant over three years will be used to provide emotional health and support to adults on probation to give them the hope they need to see themselves as contributing to their communities in a positive manner.

Why this matters: Many individuals on probation have experienced trauma and have underlying mental health issues which, left unaddressed, often contribute to re-incarceration. This program will provide returning citizens with the opportunity to better understand their mental health challenges, receive appropriate care from Beacon of Hope counselors and develop new coping mechanisms and strategies as they work to rebuild their lives.

Critter Barn – Barn to Farm Campaign
A $20,000 grant will support the construction of Critter Barn’s new educational farm center where residents and visitors of all ages and abilities will be able to participate in hands-on, interactive learning experiences and witness everyday farm life.

Why this matters: The new farm will provide a larger, safer, more accessible facility for children and adults to engage directly with animals and plants and to better understand the important role agriculture and farming have in growing the food we eat.

Kids’ Food Basket – Ottawa/Allegan Program Expansion
This $20,000 grant will support the move to a larger facility housing KFB’s warehouse, office, and volunteer space in one location allowing KFB to serve more daily nourishing meals to children in Holland and neighboring Allegan County rural school districts.

Why this matters: Childhood hunger has negative impacts on physical growth and brain development and is a barrier to children engaging fully in learning in the classroom. With three Holland and West Ottawa schools on the wait list for the Sack Supper program and an increase in need at several currently participating schools, the new facility will ensure Kids’ Food Basket has the capacity to keep up with the growing demand for services in our community and provide the nutrition children need to reach their full potential.

Greater Ottawa County United Way / Lakeshore Housing Alliance – Voices of Youth Count
A $4,000 grant will help conduct a thorough count of youth experiencing homelessness with the goal of creating a comprehensive strategy to address the needs of youth in housing crisis.

Why this matters: While there are several existing local data sources on youth homelessness, the Voices of Youth Count will work to generate a more comprehensive picture of how youth in our county are experiencing homelessness to inform future strategies to best address this need.
Lakewood Construction
PHILANTHROPIC CONSULTING WITH CFHZ

Lakewood Construction has been building, growing and giving in West Michigan for more than 45 years. The past few years have been a time of leadership transition for the company with a new generation of leadership picking up the hammer.

Nick Nykerk, President and Kyle Engbers, Vice President want to honor and preserve the company legacy while building a new one all of their own.

In 2018, Lakewood Construction partnered with the Community Foundation to engage in consulting sessions to help them define the impact their company giving is having on the community and organize their giving through a new corporate Donor Advised Fund—the Lakewood Cares Fund.

Through this fund, Nick and Kyle will continue the company’s support of the West Michigan community, engage employees further in the company’s giving decisions and build a nest-egg for future giving.

“We are building upon a long-standing tradition at Lakewood Construction of being involved in and giving back to our community,” said Nick.

“We started our Lakewood Cares Fund at the Community Foundation to organize our annual giving and create a legacy fund to ensure that our tradition of giving will continue for the next generation of leadership and beyond.”

For Nick, the business is a family legacy passed on to him from his father Scott Nykerk who served as President before him and still serves as Chairman. Kyle joined the business in 2015 as a project manager and assumed the role of Vice President in January of 2018 at the same time Nick assumed the role of President.

The two bring energy and enthusiasm to grow the business, deliver an exceptional experience to their clients and make a lasting impact on the business and in the community. Their mark on the company is being recognized, as Lakewood Construction was recently named one of the Best and Brightest Companies to Work for in the Nation.

Nick and Kyle both reference relationships as a core value of their company. They are letting this commitment to relationships guide their giving decisions as well.

“Our company is driven by relationships and we focus our giving on programs and initiatives that are close to the hearts of our employees and clients,” said Kyle.

“We started our Lakewood Cares Fund at the Community Foundation to organize our annual giving and create a legacy fund to ensure that our tradition of giving will continue for the next generation of leadership and beyond.”

— NICK NYKERK, PRESIDENT

To learn more about our Philanthropic Consulting services, contact Colleen Hill, VP of Development and Donor Services, at chill@cfhz.org
The Holland/Zeeland Promise Scholarship supports local students with high financial need in completing college or technical school by providing a scholarship that bridges the gap between grants and other scholarship support and the cost of attendance. In addition, the Promise program supports students with regular monthly check-ins and peer mentoring groups.

Promise candidates are nominated and recommended by their high school or Careerline Tech Center guidance counselors or staff at Hope College’s Upward Bound, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Holland or Latin Americans United for Progress. Selection is based on a range of factors including high financial need, the motivation to achieve the goal of a college or technical degree and proven academic success. In addition, most Promise recipients are the first in their families to go to college.

Local donors make a four-year pledge, their “promise,” which enables us to know that we can support a student all the way through school. Since inception, the Promise has been able to support 47 students. Today’s average annual award size per student is $12,500.

In 1996, the Fifth Third Minority Scholarship, an endowed scholarship that supports local minority students, was established at the Holland Community Foundation by the Ottawa Savings Bank — now Fifth Third Bank.

After 23 wonderful years of partnership, Fifth Third Bank is enhancing the impact of their Scholarship by renaming their Fund to exclusively support our community’s scholarship, the Holland/Zeeland Promise Scholarship.

“Fifth Third Bank is committed to strengthening families and building stronger communities. The Holland/Zeeland Promise resonates with this commitment and we are excited to see the long term positive impact,” said Scott Lubbers, Lakeshore Community President.

Their commitment to grow this endowed scholarship fund will produce additional support for the Promise Scholarship each year and to the students the scholarship supports.

“The gift of education is everlasting and Fifth Third Bank supports this core value resulting in opportunities for students to add meaning and purpose to their lives,” said Cindi Welton, Vice President.

To learn more about the Holland/Zeeland Promise Scholarship, contact Stacy Timmerman, Director of Scholarships, at stimmerman@cfhz.org.
YOUR RETIREMENT FUNDS CAN GO FURTHER.

IRA transfers, known as Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), to the Community Foundation (CFHZ) are tax-free for those age 70 1/2 or older. This offers the opportunity to give back without experiencing adverse tax consequences.

This opportunity is of particular value to those who have required minimum distributions (RMDs) on their IRAs, those who do not itemize charitable deductions, and those who live in a state like Michigan that has a state income tax, because the funds go directly from the IRA account to the Community Foundation and are not included in your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). This strategy can lower your taxable income and may decrease the tax you pay on Social Security Income.

Up to $100,000 can be transferred, free of income tax, each year from an individual retirement account (IRA) into a charitable fund at CFHZ. If married, your spouse can also transfer up to $100,000 from an IRA. By making the gift now, you can avoid future estate and income taxes.

Interested in learning more about IRA QCDs? Contact Colleen Hill, VP of Development and Donor Service at chill@cfhz.org or 616.994.8853