

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025 Fiscal Year





## Working *With You* to Make an Impact ... **Locally.**

The Local Impact Alliance (LIA) was established in May 2019, following the affiliation of the Community Foundation of Plymouth with the Canton Community Foundation. The Alliance was created to strengthen and promote organized philanthropy across Western Wayne County by supporting the growth and impact of local community foundations, nonprofits, and charitable initiatives.

At its core, the Local Impact Alliance exists to educate, empower, and connect by helping residents understand the vital role of community foundations and nonprofit organizations in shaping a stronger, more resilient region.

Today, the Alliance includes three community foundation affiliates, the Canton Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Plymouth, and the Westland Community Foundation, along with several key programs and initiatives that reflect our mission.

Together, the Local Impact Alliance and its partners are building a legacy of giving, ensuring that every act of generosity today creates lasting impact for generations to come.

## Why Choose the Local Impact Alliance?

Community foundations are a bridge between donors and the community. They can provide critical support to YOUR community in a way that is important to you.

The Local Impact Alliance is deeply connected to the needs in Western Wayne County. LIA facilitates conversations and monetary support through funds supported by YOU – local donors.



Every gift to LIA supports meaningful, lasting change right here in your own neighborhood. Here are just a few reasons why giving locally through a community foundation like the Local Impact Alliance makes a difference:

**Local.** Each community foundation is a local organization with deep roots in the community.

**Broad expertise.** Our staff has broad expertise regarding community issues and needs.

**Invest in causes.** Our funds help people invest in the causes they care about most.

**Multiply the impact.** We multiply the impact of gift dollars by pooling them with other gifts and grants.

**Leadership.** As a community leader we convene agencies and coordinate resources to create positive change.

*“There are so many wonderful things to say about the Local Impact Alliance. The team is community-focused, professional, and easy to work with. We’ve had a donor-advised fund with them for over 10 years, which has made our giving easier and more impactful. It allows us to plan our contributions for tax advantages and evaluate our donations together, helping us give more effectively and with greater purpose.”*

**– Bill & Barb Lawton, Community Financial Credit Union, CEO (Retired)**



*“We felt, through the Local Impact Alliance, they gave us the ability and platform to go from being successful to significant in our community.”*

**– Bryan Regner, Owner  
Regner Wealth Management of Edward Jones**



## Letter From the Board Chair

Friends,

The Local Impact Alliance (LIA), together with all of our partner organizations, continues to grow stronger every year. The need for an organization like ours has never been greater. As the saying goes, that's a “double-edged sword”— because while it means our work is valued and vital, it also reflects that more members of our community are struggling to make ends meet. We are here to help them.

What makes this challenge even greater is that many of our sister charitable institutions across the Greater Canton, Plymouth, and Westland have recently experienced significant reductions in government funding — funds that have traditionally enabled them to make a strong impact in our region. As a result, many of these organizations are now referring individuals and families to us when they are unable to meet their needs themselves. You can read more about this development later in this annual report.

Because of these circumstances, it is more important than ever for us to stay focused on supporting the basic necessities of those in our community who are suffering. As you continue to the next page, you'll learn more about our efforts in this area, including our dedicated fund — The Last Hope — which exists solely to assist individuals and families in crisis.

I've shared before that our member foundations and granting organizations have truly become the “go-to” establishments for supporting those in need throughout our community. I hope you share the same pride that I do in that achievement. And if you have been considering increasing your charitable support, now is certainly a meaningful time to do so.

My family and I wish you a joyful conclusion to 2025 and a successful start to 2026.

If you would like to discuss your own fund or giving options, please reach out to Beth Meade and her team at 734-495-1200 — they would be happy to meet with you.

Warm regards,

**Steven Sneiderman**  
Board Chairman

# The Last Hope Fund

*The Last Hope Fund* was created in 2016 by a compassionate donor who believed no one in our community should face crisis alone. Entrusted to the Local Impact Alliance, this fund provides critical financial support when all other resources have been exhausted, bridging the gap between hardship and stability. Whether it's a car repair that stands between a neighbor and their job, a parent unable to afford a child's medication, or a family on the brink of losing their home, the Last Hope Fund ensures that help is within reach.

In the last fiscal year, 10 individuals received vital assistance totaling \$9,304, helping them regain stability and hope. In just the first two months of the current fiscal year, seven individuals have already been supported with housing needs and one with a utility payment, totaling nearly \$8,000. The need continues to grow, with more and more neighbors reaching out each week.

Your generosity keeps this lifeline open. By giving to the Last Hope Fund, you become the difference between crisis and recovery, **for your neighbors, right here at home.**

*"Polish families took millions of Ukraine refugees into their homes. In Africa, when AIDS killed many parents, neighbors took the kids into their homes. In our community, we found people in dire need, and PORCH was established to give them a friend, and The Last Hope Fund established to give help for a critical financial need. Community – we care for one another; no one should feel they are without hope.*

*When I discovered that there were some in our community in critical need of financial aid, but help was not readily found, I established The Last Hope Fund. I trust Beth Meade and the Community Foundation to quietly administer the funds, where needed."*

**– Tom Salapatek, Founder of Last Hope Fund & PORCH**



Scan the QR code to make a gift and help ensure no neighbor in our community faces crisis alone.



# The Community Foundation of Plymouth

The Community Foundation of Plymouth (CFP) works to enhance the quality of life in Plymouth. By partnering with donors who share a vision for lasting impact, CFP continues to grow its permanent endowment to support the Plymouth community for generations to come.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

The Foundation is proud to assist students of all ages and educational paths with a variety of scholarship opportunities, while also providing grants to organizations that enhance the quality of life for residents within the 48170 area.

## WEATHERINGS

*Weatherings*, a fund created by resident Katherine Gotshall, was created to help those who are “weathering life’s storms.” This fund offers financial assistance to people - young and old - who need a pause to rest, restore, rejuvenate, and return refreshed.



*“I initially chose to contribute to the Community Foundation of Plymouth because of their focus solely on supporting the local community. The Foundation provides many options available for giving so donors can choose how their contributions are distributed. They take the guesswork out of where donations will provide the greatest impact. I have been very pleased with my relationship with The Community Foundation of Plymouth for many years.”*

**– John Blackwell, Blackwell Ford**

## PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY FOSTER CLOSET

The Plymouth Community Foster Closet continues to make a meaningful impact for children in foster care. Since opening in 2022, the organization has provided free clothing, essentials, and comfort items to hundreds of children, helping nearly 600 this year alone. Through generous community donations and an active Amazon wishlist, they ensure every child has what they need to feel cared for and confident.



*This year, generous community members Robert Kinggo Jr. and Lillian Sanderson turned their wedding celebration into an act of kindness by inviting guests to donate to the Plymouth Community Foster Closet in lieu of gifts, **raising over \$10,000 to support children in foster care.***



# The Canton Community Foundation

Since 1989, the Canton Community Foundation (CCF) has been dedicated to strengthening philanthropy in Canton Township and the surrounding Western Wayne County communities. With deep knowledge of local needs and opportunities, CCF provides personalized service to help donors achieve their charitable and financial goals while making a lasting impact close to home.



## EASTERN MICHIGAN CAMARO CLUB

The Eastern Michigan Camaro Club Fund, a donor-advised fund of the Canton Community Foundation, is driven by a passion for cars and for community. What began as a group of car enthusiasts gathering for shows and events has grown into a powerful force for good. Each year, the club raises nearly \$20,000 to support organizations making a difference in the areas of children, health, and community well-being.

Through an open competitive grant process, the fund supports multiple local nonprofits. Recent recipients include Creating Habitats for Pollinators, Growth Works, Blessings in a Backpack, and Leo's Soup Kitchen. By establishing an endowed fund with CCF, the Eastern Michigan Camaro Club ensures its legacy of generosity will continue to make an impact for years to come.



*"The Demmer family believes in supporting the local communities that contribute to our success, and the Local Impact Alliance has been instrumental in accomplishing that task. As a founding board member of the Canton Community Foundation, Jack Demmer, and subsequently myself and my wife Linda, have served on the Board and various committees. We confidently entrusted the Foundation to establish endowed scholarships and our donor-advised fund. LIA is a unique organization that provides benefit to both recipients and donors, by excelling in connecting the needs of local communities with gifted financial resources, in a trustworthy and transparent manner."*

**– Jim Demmer, Jack Demmer Ford**

*"The Canton Public Library Board of Trustees transferred our self-managed endowment fund to the Canton Community Foundation to take advantage of their community connections and fiduciary expertise. Under the CCF's management, the library's endowment fund has grown from \$350,000 in 2014 to \$840,000 10 years later. We are able to focus on providing library services to our community while the CCF concentrates on ensuring the library's financial security for years to come. It has been a valuable partnership."*

**– Eva Davis, Canton Public Library Executive Director**





## The Westland Community Foundation

It all began in 1995 with a simple but powerful dream. The Captain of the Westland Salvation Army approached local leader Glenn Shaw, Jr. with a heartfelt goal: to raise enough funds to send children in need to summer camp. From that dream, *Christmas in July* was born. Thanks to the generosity of the Westland community, \$40,000 was raised, giving kids from the Norwayne area a chance to experience the joy of summer camp, an opportunity that would not have been possible without the community's support.

Building on that spirit of giving, the Westland Community Foundation (WCF) was established in 1996 to carry forward the Salvation Army's vision. Since then, WCF has been dedicated to strengthening Westland's civic, educational, and cultural life, shaping a brighter future for all.



Last year's *Christmas in July* was an evening to remember. This beloved annual tradition brought the warmth and joy of the holiday season to the middle of summer while raising funds and support for the local community. Guests gathered to enjoy a Christmas celebration, contributing toys and nonperishable food items to benefit the Westland Salvation Army.

The need for food is always present, and increases dramatically in the summer months when schools are closed. The Westland Community Foundation is passionate about helping neighbors meet these essential needs while also bringing joy to children through the gift of new toys. Thanks to the generosity of donors and supporters, this heartwarming celebration continues to make a lasting impact year after year.

*"The WCF has been such a great advocate for our work, especially with, the Christmas in July event. The Salvation Army has seen an increase among food pantry clients over the past several years. The Wayne/Westland Salvation Army serves hundreds of people each month in need of food assistance. In addition to all of this, the Westland Community Foundation has been a huge help for the Salvation Army holiday assistance program. This program provides gifts for children as well as low-income and struggling families. Last year the Salvation Army served 400 children through this program. It's because of people like those of the Westland Community Foundation that we are able to do what we do."*

**- Envoy Andrew Barylski - Pastor/Administrator,  
Wayne/Westland Salvation Army Corps/Community Center**



**GIVING HOPE**  
WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE  
IT'S A GIRL THING • IT'S A GIVING THING • IT'S A GOOD THING

# Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle

Founded in 2006, Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle brings together local women who share a passion for making a difference. What began as a small group of philanthropists dedicated to helping women, children, and families in need has grown into a thriving circle of generosity and impact. Giving Hope hosts four events annually, each supporting a chosen charity through its signature "Pass the Purse" fundraiser, where an actual purse is passed around to raise money.

Each year, Giving Hope awards grants to charitable organizations in Western Wayne County that support women and children. Grant applications open annually in March.

Since 2006, members and patrons have made it possible for Giving Hope to grant more than \$100,000 to local organizations.

*Together, women are a powerful force.*

Giving Hope is always welcoming new members who want to make a difference in our community. With an annual contribution of \$125, and the promise of friendship among a caring group of women, you can help create meaningful change.

*"Being a part of Giving Hope allows me to learn about these charities and make a real difference by donating money, goods and/or time. It's a great group of likeminded women! Come to one of our quarterly events!"*

**- Karen Hanchett, Chair**



## CHRISTMAS AT DIXBORO

In December, Giving Hope members and friends gathered at the Dixboro General Store for a festive evening of holiday cheer. Together, they raised funds and collected new slippers to support **Slippers for Mom**, a local charity that brings comfort to those in need during the holiday season by providing the warmth of a cozy pair of slippers.

## FALL ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Giving Hope members gathered at the Plymouth Historical Museum last fall for their Annual Business Meeting. Guests enjoyed an engaging guest speaker and the opportunity to donate to **I Support the Girls**, an organization that collects new undergarments and personal hygiene products for women and girls experiencing homelessness.

## SPRING EVENT

Last spring, more than 50 women gathered at Genetti's Hole in the Wall for an evening of fellowship and music. Guests enjoyed an inspiring performance by **Lost Voices**, a nonprofit of professional musicians who use songwriting to bring hope and healing to young people who have experienced emotional trauma. The event raised generous donations and awareness for Lost Voices and concluded on a high note as attendees joined together to write a verse for their own song.



## SUMMER SOCIAL

Giving Hope members donned their western best for a fun-filled evening at Los Tres Amigos in Canton. Guests heard from **Camp Casey** founder Molly Reeser, who shared the organization's inspiring mission to bring joy to children facing serious illnesses. Camp Casey provides cost-free horseback riding programs to children with life-threatening conditions, offering comfort, confidence, and smiles when they're needed most.



## HOW IT WORKS

### PLEDGE

Members at participating country clubs pledge a nominal amount per eagle scored at their club, a minimum of \$3 per eagle.

### GOLF

Members play golf and report their eagles to the pro shop. Members are then billed monthly for eagles reported.

### GIVE

At the end of the season, 100% of funds raised on the golf course are granted to children's charities of the club's choice.

**Last year, more than \$1.3 million was raised and granted to 190 local children's charities.**

Learn more at [eaglesforchildren.org](http://eaglesforchildren.org)

## Eagles for Children

Driven by a shared love of golf and a commitment to giving back, Eagles for Children partners with private golf clubs to raise funds for charities that support children facing adversity.



100%

Thanks to the Eagles for Children 100% Promise, every dollar raised on the course goes directly to children's charities, ensuring contributions make the greatest possible impact. Since its founding in 2012, Eagles for Children has granted more than \$9.2 million to nonprofits, helping create brighter futures for children across their communities.

*"We have an opportunity to help our community. I love doing it. It's on my resume because I think it's that important."*

**- Mark Smolinski, Club Member, Red Run Golf Club**



## OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

### FUNDS

**150** Funds Managed  
**\$6.37M** in Total Funds

### GRANTS

**585** Grants Awarded  
**\$2.14M** in Support for Local Nonprofits

### SCHOLARSHIPS

**160** Scholarships Distributed  
**\$275K** in Support for Students



## The Lunch & Learn Series

*Bring Your Lunch ... Feed Your Mind*

The Local Impact Alliance believes in the power of an informed, thriving community. Our Lunch & Learn series supports that mission by creating opportunities for individuals to come together, share ideas, and learn more about the community we all call home.

*"Our goal was to create a vehicle to showcase interesting people in our community doing interesting things. A way for those people (and their groups) to highlight their expertise in a relaxed, informal atmosphere – an atmosphere that encouraged audience participation and lots of questions. Over the last few years, we have covered a wide variety of topics: from gun control to recovering from long covid to grief counseling to how to DIY your own pollinator garden. No topic is off limits. We are only limited by the people and ideas that come from the community."*

**– David Hammond, Vice Chairman, Local Impact Alliance and Moderator of LIA's Lunch & Learn Series**



Hosted each month throughout the school year, these sessions have featured engaging topics and guest speakers who inspire connection and understanding. The following are highlights from last year's Lunch & Learns, including sessions on Composting, a Community Happy Hour, and our Annual Veterans' Summit.



### **15TH ANNUAL VETERANS' SUMMIT**

Each year, the Local Impact Alliance proudly hosts the Veterans' Summit, a vital event dedicated to serving those who have served our nation. This Lunch & Learn brings together veterans, their families, and local experts to share resources, updates, and support surrounding changing benefits and services.

This past year, attendees heard from Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone and legal expert Kristina Derro, who provided valuable information on benefits, while taking time to answer individual questions. The event continues to grow in attendance and impact, ensuring that veterans and their families are informed, supported, and connected to the benefits they've earned.



### COMPOSTING 101

With over a billion tons of food wasted each year in the U.S. and less than 5% of residential waste being composted, composting offers a simple yet powerful way to make a difference.

This Lunch & Learn highlighted Canton Township's innovative residential food composting program, launched in 2023. In just two years, the program has diverted hundreds of thousands of pounds of food waste from nearly 1,000 homes, an inspiring step toward sustainability. Participants also learned about Canton Township's ongoing study to better understand local food waste sources and develop a community-wide composting strategy for the future.



### NAVIGATING GRIEF

Grief is a universal experience that touches everyone, though each person's journey is unique, shaped by their own stories, relationships, and ways of finding comfort.

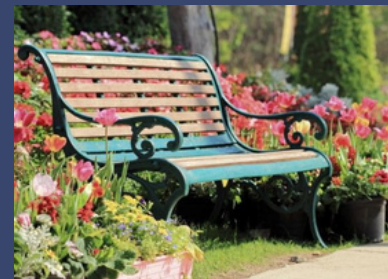
This Lunch & Learn featured Jennifer Frush, Executive Director of New Hope Center for Grief Support, who shared the many ways her organization provides connection, education, and healing for those experiencing loss. Joining her was Brandi Klootra, founder of Telephone of the Wind, who shared her inspiring vision for creating a reflective memorial space for those seeking comfort and remembrance.



### HAPPY HOUR AT CANTON BREW WORKS

This year, the Lunch & Learn series took a fun twist, moving from midday to evening with a community happy hour at Canton Brew Works.

In celebration of the brewery's 10th anniversary, attendees enjoyed a guided tasting led by owner Jeff Kulp and brewer Jake Thomas, who shared the stories behind their small-batch ales. More than just a brewery, Canton Brew Works has spent the past decade supporting local causes and creating a welcoming space for the community, making it the perfect place to raise a glass to connection and community spirit.



### BUILDING A BRIGHTER COMMUNITY WITH AMERICA IN BLOOM

The Local Impact Alliance welcomed Laura Kunkle, Executive Director of America in Bloom, for a spring Lunch & Learn focused on community beautification and engagement.

America in Bloom (AIB) is a national nonprofit dedicated to enhancing communities through environmental stewardship, volunteerism, and celebration of local heritage. Kunkle shared how AIB partners with towns like Canton to improve public spaces and strengthen community pride, as well as its plans to expand its impact across Southeast Michigan.

# Top Donors

We extend our sincere appreciation to the generous donors whose contributions made a lasting impact during the last fiscal year.

94.7 WCSX Beasley Media Group  
Paul Alcott  
Justin Amaimo  
Karen Archer  
Ashley Jolley Real Estate  
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Kendra Barberena  
Loren Baric  
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Brakora Family (Schwab Charitable)  
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Canton Community Foundation  
Canton Public Library  
Canton Soccer Club  
Canton Soccer Club Golf  
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Joe Seto  
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Smith (Fidelity Charitable)  
Gomer Smith  
Mark Smolinski  
Smolinski (The American Gift Fund)  
Sneideman (Benevity)  
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Wayne Lions Club  
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Wayne Westland Community Schools  
Wayne Westland Credit Union  
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Westland Car Care  
Westland Democratic Club  
Westland Police Lts. & Sgts. Assoc.  
Westland Police Officers Association  
Westland Rotary Charitable Foundation  
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WIN Entertainment  
Ryan Young



# Local Impact Alliance Board of Directors

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**David Hammond**  
Vice Chair



**Nancy Eggenberger**  
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**Delbert Redfield**  
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**John Laman**  
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**Sarah Maiga**  
Trustee



**Nidhi Puri**  
Trustee



**Bryan Regner**  
Trustee



**Beth Meade**  
LIA President/CEO



## LOCAL IMPACT ALLIANCE STAFF

- Beth Meade, *President/CEO*
- Darice Schubatis, *Chief Financial Officer*
- Mili Tandon, *Administrative Director*
- Natalie McLaughlin, *Community Impact Manager*

The Local Impact Alliance and The Canton Community Foundation are comprised of the same board members.



### Board Members

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- Jessica Levine**  
Trustee
- Brian Madison**  
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Trustee



**LOCAL IMPACT**  
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**LocalImpactAlliance.org**

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Canton, MI 48187**

