



**Keweenaw**

AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

For **good.** For **ever.**®

ANNUAL REPORT 2022





### **Ron Helman**

We would like to take a moment to honor the late Ron Helman.

Known to the community for their philanthropic nature, Ron and Lou Elyn (pictured here with 2022 scholarship awardee Reegan Stromer) created a scholarship fund over twenty years ago at the Keweenaw Area Community Foundation.

This scholarship continues to support students pursuing career and technical education, such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical, secretarial, nursing, automotive services, and other skilled professions.

We are a community foundation  
whose purpose is to strengthen  
all aspects of the Keweenaw and  
assist our donors in achieving  
their philanthropic goals.

For **good**. For **ever**.





## TO OUR COMMUNITY

How I've characterized the Copper Country to those who have never lived here has evolved a bit over the quarter century of time I've spent living in this fine area, but one personality trait remains steady. And while we have many words for it (grit, tenacity, sisu) they are all reflective of the ideal that we alone are responsible for our future, the future of ourselves, our family, and our community. We take care of our own.

Through listening to our stakeholders, the Keweenaw Area Community Foundation continues to envision our future where the Foundation helps community members ensure the greatest impact of their gifts and builds a permanent pool of funds for the broad charitable needs of the Copper Country. It includes a future that manages these funds efficiently, and uses them effectively in responding to the area's changing needs and opportunities. And it helps create a future that serves as a catalyst to improve the quality of life in the Copper Country.

The Keweenaw Area Community Foundation knows our community, shares the same interests as our community, is concerned and cares for its members, and offers mechanisms for those community members to affect their community in positive ways.

It is a privilege to work in partnership with our family of donors and impact makers to strengthen our collective connection to the community and work together to solve the challenges of today and tomorrow. If the future is made up of the same stuff as the present we shall do well. Thank you for your support of the Foundation as we continue to serve the community.

John Lehman, President

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

John Lehman, President

Andy Costic, Vice President

Chuck Ouellette, Treasurer

Sharon Fisher, Secretary

Iola Brubaker

Scott Dianda

Kelly Kamm

Matthew Krause

Angela Piche

Kim Salmi

Cassy Tefft de Muñoz

George Twardzik

### **STAFF MEMBERS**

Robin Meneguzzo, Executive Director and Sara Fletcher, Office Manager



## **WHO WE ARE**

Established in 1994, the Keweenaw Area Community Foundation serves as a catalyst for change, a partner for other local organizations, and a resource for solutions to emerging community needs.

## **WHAT WE DO**

We provide sustainable financial support to organizations for projects aimed at solving problems and enhancing life in our community.

## **GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE**

When you give through the Keweenaw Area Community Foundation, your gift enriches our community now and for many generations to come. Together we can set up a fund that helps you invest in the causes you care about most.

# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE UPPER PENINSULA



## WHERE CFUP BEGAN

In 2002, the Council of Michigan Foundations took a leading role in attempting to get the Upper Peninsula community foundations to work together. The U.P. community foundations were invited to take part in the discussions to shape the Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula. On January 1, 2003, CFUP's collaboration began with eight Upper Peninsula community foundations.

## WHAT CFUP DOES

The geographic affiliate structure is a very common structure for rural community foundations across the country. This structure allows the sharing of resources across many foundations. CFUP provides their geographic affiliates with accounting services, legal support, and National Standards filing requirements. This in turn, allows the local community foundation to spend more time and energy engaging with and in their local community.

It is important to understand that the geographic affiliate's assets and funds continue to support their local communities, so you can be confident that the Keweenaw Area Community Foundation funds will continue to support Keweenaw and Houghton County communities as they always have and always will.

## CONTACT

Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula  
2420 1st Ave. South, Escanaba, MI 49829  
Email: [office@cfup.org](mailto:office@cfup.org)  
Phone: (906) 786-6654

## AFFILIATES ACROSS UPPER MICHIGAN

- Alger Regional Community Foundation
- Community Foundation for Delta County
- Gogebic/Ontonagon Community Foundation
- Keweenaw Area Community Foundation
- Les Cheneaux Community Foundation
- Paradise Area Community Foundation
- Rudyard Area Community Foundation
- Schoolcraft County Community Foundation
- St. Ignace Area Community Foundation

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I come to the close of my first year as the Executive Director at the Keweenaw Area Community Foundation, I am reflecting on what a year of learning and growth it has been, not just for myself but for the Foundation. I am a firm proponent of lifelong learning and cherish that this position and work provide ample opportunity for me to do just that. We have seen many areas of growth over the last year, as is reflected in our grants, donations, and establishment of new endowments.



The Foundation has been a source of support for this community for almost 30 years, and I look forward to the next 30 years continuing to strengthen and collectively support this place we call home. Having been raised in the community, I knew it was a special place, but this new role has opened my eyes to the generosity and true goodness of the people that make up this community. I feel very blessed to be here and look forward to a bright future!

Robin Meneguzzo, FNP-C, Executive Director

### **STAY CONNECTED**

Follow us online for the latest news from the  
Keweenaw Area Community Foundation

**Website:** [www.keweenawgives.org](http://www.keweenawgives.org)

**Facebook:** /KeweenawCommunityFoundation

**Instagram:** @keweenawcommunityfoundation

**Twitter:** @KeweenawCF

# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

The Keweenaw Area Community Foundation is proud to serve as a permanent charitable resource in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. Through prudent stewardship of our assets, we strive to maximize available grant dollars while ensuring that the charitable funds entrusted to us will continue to support our region for many years to come.

**\$300,000**

Awarded in grants and scholarships

**32**

Scholarships awarded

**60**

Local non-profit organizations supported

**110** funds, of which **91** are endowed

**\$900,000**

In donations

**\$10.3 million**

Total assets managed



# DESIGNATED AND AGENCY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

One of the main functions of our community foundation is to provide sustainable funding for local non-profit organizations through Designated and Agency Endowment Funds. The endowments created by thoughtful donors and local non-profit agencies ensure the causes they care about are funded in the long-term future. Your generous support allows Keweenaw Area Community Foundation to grow these endowment funds, and continue to support dozens of local non-profit organizations that do great work in our community. For the full list of funds see page 12 of this publication.

## LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED:

### ARTS, CULTURE, HUMANITIES

- A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum
- Calumet Theater
- Carnegie Museum
- Copper Country Community Arts Council
- Copper Country Suzuki Association
- Houghton County Historical Society
- Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association
- Keweenaw County Historical Society
- Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's
- Portage Lake District Library

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Copper Harbor Improvement Association
- Houghton High School Alumni Association
- Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance

### ENVIRONMENT/ANIMALS

- Copper Country Humane Society
- Gratiot Lake Conservancy
- Keweenaw Community Forest Company
- Keweenaw Land Trust
- Keweenaw Natural Areas
- Lake Superior Stewardship Association
- Michigan Nature Association
- Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter
- Copper Country Autism Awareness
- Copper Country Habitat for Humanity
- Dial Help
- Don't Do It Yourself
- Keweenaw Family Resource Center

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, cont.

- Life Outreach Center
- Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly
- Omega House
- Society of St. Vincent dePaul

### RECREATION

- Calumet Skating Club
- CLK Youth Hockey
- Copper Country Ski Tigers
- Copper Harbor Trails Club
- Mont Ripley National Ski Patrol
- Portage Lake Little League
- Swedetown Trails Club

### RELIGIOUS

- Copper Country Catholic Churches
- Faith Lutheran Church
- Glad Tidings Assembly of God
- Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Portage Lake Church

### YOUTH

- Boy Scouts of America, Bay-Lakes Council
- Kiwanis International
- Simple Kindness for Youth
- U.P. Kids!





Volunteers preparing the 31 Backpacks food pantry.

## DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Donor Advised Funds are another type of endowment fund offered at our foundation. With a DAF, the founding donor has an active say in the programs and projects supported. One of our donor advised funds, The Herman Gundlach Fund, supports a variety of charitable causes, including regular contributions to these local food banks and non-profits:

- 31 Backpacks
- Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly
- Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter
- Western UP Food Bank
- Copper Country Senior Meals
- Salvation Army Food Pantry
- St. Vincent dePaul Food Bank
- Trinity Episcopal Food Bank
- CLK Council of Churches Food

*"Thank you as always for your continued support of our efforts to alleviate the causes and effects of poverty throughout our six-county service area. Rest assured, your offerings are (and always will be), directed to helping those with the greatest need."*

*"THANK YOU AGAIN AND BLESS YOUR FOUNDATION FOR ALL YOU DO TO MAKE 'GOOD THINGS' HAPPEN."*

– Jerry Jackovac, Western Upper Peninsula Food Bank

# SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUNDS

We are pleased to announce the awarding of a record thirty-two scholarships, nearly \$30,000, to local students! Scholarship Funds set up at Keweenaw Area Community Foundation have been created by donors who dream of the successful future of our community and its members.

This past spring, donor J.B. Heikenen set up two new scholarship funds. Created in honor of her husband, the Gary Heikenen Memorial Scholarship is open to residents of Keweenaw County of any age attending an accredited institution of higher learning. It is available not only to graduating high school seniors, but adult learners can apply for this scholarship as well! The second new scholarship, the Heikenen Nursing Scholarship provides funding opportunities for local nurses to complete continued training not currently available in the U.P.

We want to express our gratitude to the volunteers who served on the scholarship selection committees and as always, a deep heartfelt "Thank you" to the donors who generously founded and who contribute to these scholarship funds. When you support scholarship programs, you support the future of the community. In their applications, many of this year's awardees expressed their plans of returning to the Keweenaw after their education, to practice in careers of nursing, psychology, medicine, engineering, and teaching!



*TOP PHOTO:  
Abby Tienhaara, Faith  
Lutheran Church Scholar-  
ship awardee for 2022.*

*BOTTOM PHOTO:  
Donor Deborah Fedewa,  
with Tiiia Wickstrom, Elise  
Polkinghorne, and Kami  
Klein, recipients of the  
2022 Richard and Clara  
Fedewa Scholarship.*



# FIELD-OF-INTEREST FUNDS

Donors who have a cause they wish to support, such as cross-country skiing, or the environment, but not a specific non-profit organization in mind, can set up a Field-of-Interest Fund at Keweenaw Area Community Foundation. Each year grants are made available from these funds where local non-profits, schools, municipalities, and religious organizations can submit applications to have their charitable programs and projects evaluated for funding. This year, we have approximately \$80,000 to distribute. Funding decisions for Fall 2022 are currently underway at the time of the publication of this document. We thank the volunteer advisory committees for their efforts, it isn't easy to decide between so many worthy causes!

## FUND NEWS

In early 2022 a newly created field-of-interest fund in memory of Sheriff Slim McLean, dedicated to youth hockey, merged with the existing Copper Country Youth Hockey Fund, to create the David Wiitanen & Slim McLean Memorial Youth Hockey Fund. Combining two funds with the same purpose allows for greater resources for the community! This field-of-interest fund will provide support for youth ice hockey programs, including, but not limited to, maintenance of skating facilities, referee training, equipment procurement, exchange programs, and registration fee assistance for those without the financial resources to participate.

## NEW COMMON GRANT APPLICATION

In order to improve the grant application process for our community, we debuted a new common grant application that allows the applicant to be considered for grants from multiple funds at the same time. We hope this results in more programs being fully funded. Stay tuned for our new common scholarship application this spring!

## KEWEENAW BREWFEST

Thank you to the sponsors, vendors, volunteers, and attendees for ten great years of Brewfest! We are pleased to announce that we will be transferring ownership of the event to the Houghton Rotary Club. We are confident that the Rotary will put on a spectacular Keweenaw Brewfest 2023!

*A crowd enjoying Keweenaw Brewfest in 2016.*



# YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) of the Keweenaw Area Community Foundation addresses youth needs in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. Students aged 12-21 are welcome to join. Visit [www.keweenawgives.org/yac](http://www.keweenawgives.org/yac) for more information and to apply.

## PHILANTHROPY

It's more than just giving money! YAC teaches students the importance of giving time and talent.

## SERVICE

Members take an active role in serving the community through sponsoring charitable events and volunteering.

## LEADERSHIP

Students learn how to conduct meetings and make decisions as a group, ensuring every voice is heard.

## GRANTMAKING

YAC awards grants to non-profit organizations and schools for youth-related programs in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. YAC members review applications and vote as a group to make funding recommendations to the KCF Board. Over \$25,000 will be awarded for 2022!

*YAC members learning the grant making process.*



# OUR FUNDS

## DESIGNATED ENDOWMENT FUNDS

- A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum
- Agnes & Elmo Negro Fund — Calumet Skating Club
- Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter
- Boy Scouts of America, Bay Lakes Council
- Calumet Theatre Company
- Carnegie Museum
- CLK Youth Hockey Fund
- Copper Country Autism Awareness
- Copper Country Catholic Churches
- Copper Country Community Arts Council
- Copper Country Habitat for Humanity
- Copper Country Humane Society
- Copper Country Ski Tigers
- Copper Country Suzuki Association
- Copper Harbor Improvement Association
- Copper Harbor Trails Club
- Dial Help
- Don't Do It Yourself (D.D.I.Y.)
- Faith Lutheran Educational Resource
- Glad Tidings
- Gratiot Lake Conservancy
- Houghton High School Alumni Association
- Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association
- John M. & Clara B. Wagner Memorial Fund
- Kenneth Ryan Clark Memorial Fund
- Keweenaw Area Community Foundation
- Keweenaw County Historical Society
- Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance
- Keweenaw Family Resource Center
- Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's
- Keweenaw Land Trust
- Keweenaw Natural Areas
- Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Kiwanis Endowment Fund
- Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative
- Life Outreach Center
- Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly
- Michigan Nature Association
- Mont Ripley National Ski Patrol
- Omega House
- Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Portage Lake District Library
- Portage Lake Little League
- Portage Lake United Church
- Richard and Ann Tieder Memorial Fund
- Richard and June Ross Genealogy Fund
- Robert W. Maatta Charitable Fund
- Ruth L. Sablich Charitable Fund
- Simple Kindness for Youth (SKY)
- St. Vincent dePaul Friends-in-Need Fund
- Swedetown Trails Club
- U.P. Kids!
- U.P. Wildlife Habitat Fund
- Wetland Mitigation Stewardship Fund

## SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUNDS

- Alec Fisher Scholarship
- Bernard F. Gaffney Memorial Scholarship
- Faith Lutheran Church Scholarship
- Gary Heikenen Memorial Scholarship
- Heikenen Nursing Scholarship
- Houghton Rotary Scholarship
- Anthony and Patricia Stark (Music) Scholarship
- Jack Eberhard Memorial Scholarship
- Richard & Clara Fedewa Scholarship
- Ronald and Lou Ellyn Helman Scholarship
- Sean M. Williams Memorial Scholarship
- Stuart Family Scholarship

## FIELD-OF-INTEREST FUNDS

- David Wiitanen & Slim McLean Memorial Youth Hockey Fund
- Environmental
- Houghton County Historical Preservation
- Joe Freed Empowerment Fund
- Kellogg Youth Fund (YAC)
- Keweenaw Cross Country Skiing
- PHF Community Wellness & Outdoor Recreation Fund
- Portage Lake Youth

## DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

- Funding Youth Initiatives
- Herman Gundlach Fund
- Zutter Family Fund

## SPECIAL COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDS

- Alive Inside
- Camp 911
- City of Hancock – City Parks
- Keweenaw Community Critical Stress Management
- Old Copper Complex

## COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND

The most flexible vehicle for providing annual funding for a variety of community projects or programs dedicated to collaborative approaches designed to maintain or improve the quality of life in the greater Keweenaw area. Your gift can address ever-changing community needs. We evaluate all aspects of community well-being – arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, health and human services, neighborhood revitalization, and more. The flexibility of your unrestricted gift enables the Foundation to respond to the community's most pressing needs, today and tomorrow.

## **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

With over 100 funds there are many organizations and initiatives in Keweenaw and Houghton Counties that you can contribute to.

Supporting their programs and projects makes a difference in our community. Please fill out the enclosed form to designate the fund of your choice and return the enclosed envelope

with your contribution, or go online to

**[www.keweenawgives.org/give-now](http://www.keweenawgives.org/give-now)**

THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR GENEROUS  
DONATION

## **OTHER WAYS TO GIVE**

There are a number of ways you can get involved with your local community foundation. Some options include opening an endowment or scholarship fund, exploring planned giving, volunteering at one of our events, serving on a committee, or simply stopping by our office.



# Keweenaw

AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

For **good.** For **ever.**<sup>®</sup>

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Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

The Keweenaw Area Community Foundation (KCF) is an affiliate of the Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula (CFUP). Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. National Standards accreditation represents operational effectiveness to foster excellence in community philanthropy.