

# The ICCF Report



*Making Ionia County a Better Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play*

## ICCF ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR \$31,400

The Ionia County Community Foundation is now accepting applications for its 23rd annual grant-making round. According to Grant Committee Chairman Brian Talbot, “\$31,400 in funds are available for distribution to nonprofit organizations throughout the county.”

“We are encouraging county organizations with 501(c) (3) Internal Revenue Code tax exempt status to submit an application by going on line at [www.grfoundation.org/Ionia](http://www.grfoundation.org/Ionia)”, noted Talbot. “In order to be eligible for the

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*“Once again we are excited to place so many dollars where they can best serve the needs of our neighborhoods.”*

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grants to be announced no later than March 31, 2019, applications must be submitted on-line by December 31, 2018.”

“We are excited to be able to place so many dollars where they can best serve the needs of our neighborhoods,” continued Talbot. “It is the essence of what the Ionia County Community Foundation is all about.”

Advisory Committee Chairman Jim McCarty commented that this latest grant-making cycle will bring our total allocations from our unrestricted funds to over \$800,000 since the ICCF endowment program was established in the fall of 1995 – 23 years ago.”

And...when the other 29 component funds under the ICCF umbrella are included, the aggregate amount of distributions into the county is over \$3 million.

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*From the very beginning, faithful and generous supporters of ICCF.*

## JIM AND DIANA HUCKLE

Jim and Diana, who with their young daughters called Ionia their home from 1976 to 1984, are generally quiet about the community volunteerism and philanthropic work they do. But given the chance to talk about their “For Good For Ever” support of the Ionia County Community Foundation, Jim and Diana’s excitement was easy to hear.

“Ron and Margaret Story came to our home in Traverse City to invite Diana and me to contribute to the ICCF in its first year,” Jim recalled. “It was easy for us to say yes, not only because of our admiration for the Storys, but also because of our strong feelings for this new, visionary community foundation established to help meet the needs of Ionia County in perpetuity.”

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*“A community foundation provides the best return for your investment. Its purpose is to provide resources for the greater good of the communities it serves.”*

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If Jim said it once, he emphasized it a dozen times. “A community foundation provides the best long-term return for your investment. Its purpose is to provide resources for the greater good of the communities it serves. That’s a concept Diana and I continue to support.”

Jim and Diana Huckle moved to beautiful Traverse City more than 30 years ago. Together they continued their entrepreneurship in the newspaper and printing business for decades before selling the family business, Huckle Media LLC, to their daughters, Renée and Martha.

Now together they fill their days with family, active volunteerism, and philanthropic giving.

So, with great involvement in the Grand Traverse Area, why have the Huckles remained strong annual donors to the Ionia County Community Foundation?

“We developed a deep connection to Ionia at a very important time in our lives,” Jim said. “At age 30 with two young daughters, Diana and I left the family newspaper in Cadillac and went on an adventure together when we bought and operated the Ionia Sentinel-Standard for 8 years. I’m grateful the newspaper venture worked out nicely, but our experience in Ionia was bigger than that and we felt blessed to be part of it.”

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- Belding
- Lake Odessa
- Palo
- Clarksville
- Lyons
- Pewamo
- Hubbardston
- Muir
- Portland
- Ionia
- Orleans
- Saranac

## ICCF Mission Statement

The Ionia County Community Foundation (ICCF) exists as a leader, catalyst and resource to enhance the well-being and quality of life of Ionia County citizens by joining together to identify and address the needs through aggressive fundraising and promotion of philanthropy now and for future generations.

### Vision

The Ionia County Community Foundation, an affiliated fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, will be seen as a respected leader of positive transformation in Ionia County through philanthropy.

ICCF Fund Advisory Committee

**James E. McCarty**

*Ionia County Community Foundation*

**Sara Badgero**

*Portland Federal Credit Union*

**Janet Balice**

*Ionia County Literacy Council*

**Bruce Chadwick**

*Ionia County Community Foundation*

**Thomas D. Dickinson CPA/CFP**

*Biggs, Hausserman, Thompson & Dickinson, C.P.A.s*

**Kimberley Doane**

*Ionia County Community Foundation*

**Boomer Hoppough**

*Independent Bank*

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*Circuit Court Judge*

**Jason Mellema**

*Ingham Intermediate School District*

**Dr. Greg Patera**

*Grand Rapids Ophthalmology*

**Hailie Patterson**

*Michigan One Community Credit Union*

**Brian Talbot**

*Mercantile Bank*

**Tim Walling**

*Ionia County Community Foundation*

**Ryan Wilson**

*Michigan One Community Credit Union*

#### **Emeriti:**

Daniel Balice  
Jerry Collison  
James Fast  
Judge David Hoort  
George Hubbard  
Robert Kjolhede  
Ron Story  
Roger Wills

**Belding • Clarksville  
Hubbardston  
Ionia • Lake Odessa  
Lyons • Muir  
Orleans • Palo  
Pewamo • Portland  
Saranac**

# Transition to Kindergarten Presents 850 Backpacks



There was plenty of excitement at Kindergarten Round-Ups this year as 850 children representing school districts throughout the county received brand new backpacks.

Assisted by a \$2,500 grant from the Ionia County Community

*“It was amazing to see so many people come together to plan this big project to help ensure that children are ready to succeed in school.”*

Foundation, the “Transition to Kindergarten” program was designed to help parents prepare their children for entering school in the fall.

According to Sally Kapteyn, Coordinator of the Ionia County Great Start Collaborative, “parents, children, teachers and administrators absolutely loved the backpacks. It was a joy to watch how thrilled the kids were when presented with the packs that include a parent guide, activities and supplies to help parents prepare their children for their very first day of school.”

“It was amazing”, continued Kapteyn, “to see so many people come together to plan this big project to help ensure that children are ready to succeed in school. It is expected that the backpacks will likely position children to be more likely to learn and to have improved academic achievement.”

A School Readiness Advisory Committee was created with planning meetings held in Portland, Belding, Saranac, Ionia and Lakewood school

*“It was a huge success and we are certainly grateful to the Ionia County Community Foundation for their generous grant in helping to make it all possible.”*



districts. “The big project came together and was made possible because of a number of sponsors and community supporters,” added Kapteyn. “The feedback from parents surveyed has been very positive and noted that the backpacks helped buffer the anxiety that their children may have had about starting kindergarten. The project was a huge success and we are certainly grateful to the Ionia County Community Foundation for their generous grant in helping to make it all possible.”

## Why give to ICCF? A Case for Support

A combination of donors, grantees and board members gathered in late July for a round-table discussion to share insights and opinions regarding their perceptions of the effectiveness of the Ionia County Community Foundation and the services that it provides.

Facilitated by a fund raising consulting firm, the meeting resulted in the development of a Case for Support document that will serve as a basis for ICCF fund raising efforts going forward. The overriding focus of the initiative is to highlight and identify reasons for supporting the community foundation and the resulting life- changing outcomes and benefits for the citizens of Ionia County.

#### **Here are a few excerpts and takeaways from the Case for Support:**

A community foundation is a lot like a garden plant, like a lily that keeps on growing and spreading as long as the main lily plant remains intact. People who give to a community foundation are creating a “plant” – a pool of money that gets invested into an endowment. As only the interest earned from the endowment is granted to support projects and important

# For good. For ever.<sup>SM</sup>

## Happens Here. Give Today!

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## *From the very beginning, faithful and generous supporters of ICCF.*

They remember the community dynamics that led to the resurgence in Ionia in the late '70s and early '80s, and they were happy to be partners in its progress. People in Ionia were pulling together, and good things were happening. Jim chaired the Downtown Revitalization Committee and co-chaired the first DDA with Ron Story. He served as president of the Ionia Area United Way and was on the Board of Directors of Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Free Fair Association, and the Hospital Foundation. Diana served on the County Mental Health Board and was active in the Hospital Auxiliary, Girl Scouting, school millage campaigns and the Sesquicentennial celebration. Lifelong friendships were shaped.

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***“Even in ICCF’s first year, we had strong feelings for this new visionary community foundation established to meet the needs of Ionia County in perpetuity.”***

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Life called Jim and Diana on another adventure in 1984. They sold the Ionia Sentinel-Standard, moved to Traverse City, and looked for their next business opportunities. Through a series of acquisitions centered in Minnesota, the Huckles created a geographical cluster of community publications, including daily and weekly newspapers and commercial printing operations.

In recognition of lifetime contributions to his profession, Jim was awarded the Ralph D. Casey/Minnesota Award by the Inland Press Association in 2011.

But Jim’s history with the prestigious Inland Press Association started during his time as owner and publisher of the Sentinel-Standard. He was recognized for editorials written to advocate for community support of school millage votes. For two consecutive years, with Jim at the helm, the Sentinel-Standard received Inland Press Association’s Community Service Award for

its reporting on important issues.

After selling the family business to Renée and Martha, Jim and Diana “retired”, a word Diana thinks does not fit their everyday involvement. They continue to enjoy travel, skiing, biking and hiking. Diana is hands-on with church mission projects including serving community meals to the area homeless. Jim is a director of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. Together they make annual trips to Haiti where they support the work of non-profit Soaring Unlimited and Michigan State University medical mission teams.

Their decision to focus their time, attention, and resources in retirement to outreach work, through their church and through their family foundation was made purposefully and together.

Based on the great satisfaction he and Diana experience when they serve others, Jim advocates that more people need to experience meaningful volunteerism. “Don’t worry about what can’t be done; focus on what can be done. It doesn’t matter how big or how small the project is; it’s not the amount given, it’s the act of giving support.” “Get involved in philanthropy,” Jim advises.

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***“Don’t worry about what can’t be done; dwell on what can be done. It doesn’t matter how big or how small the project is; it’s not the amount given it’s the act of giving support.”***

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“It’s energizing, it’s fun. Inspire others. Be creative. Think about the possibilities.”

After all, that’s exactly how the Ionia County Community Foundation was established 23 years ago. A number of community leaders, headed by Ron Story and Mike Magee, dreamed of the possibility of a local community foundation and worked with endless energy to create the ICCF as a channel to build community resources “For Good For Ever” in Ionia County.

## REMINDER: Save the Date!

  
  
**Ionia County**  
community foundation  
For good. For ever.

# 22nd Annual ICCF Golf Outing

**Date:** June 14, 2019  
**Location:** *Willow Wood Golf Club*  
12227 Sanborn Rd, Portland MI 48881



8:00 AM **Registration, Bloody Mary & Mimosa Bar!**  
9:00 AM **Shotgun Start**

**Enjoy a day of golf while supporting your community!**

- 4-Person Scramble
- Meal, Contests, and Prizes, including a chance to win a car!
- **Register by June 7**
- Fabulous Gift Sets to win!
- Cost \$100 per golfer

Of the \$100 registration fee, \$50 is deductible on your Federal Taxes.

Questions? Email Sara Badgero at [sarab@pfcu4me.com](mailto:sarab@pfcu4me.com)

## Register online at [www.givegr.org/iccfcgolf2019](http://www.givegr.org/iccfcgolf2019)



## For the Love of the Game For the Love of Community

The Ionia County Community Foundation was blessed with a beautiful day for golf at their annual outing held on Friday, June 15th. This year the sun was shining even a little brighter especially on the 18th hole. Miss Emily Barker was there to greet golfers and offer them an opportunity for her to hit their ball in hopes of driving the green. To the golfers pleasant surprise she placed the ball perfectly every time leaving them with an opportunity for birdie and on a couple of occasions an eagle. Emily commented on how impressed she was by the number of golfers that were there that day supporting the mission of the ICCF and was happy she could be part of it.

Emily began golfing at the young age of three and hasn't stopped since. She attended Lakewood High School and graduated Salutatorian in 2016. During Emily's high school career she earned First Team All-State Honors in golf three years in a row. Emily also played Basketball and Softball and was team captain in all three sports her junior and senior year. She was named Lakewood High School Athlete of the Year in 2016 an accomplishment she is very proud of.

Although golf has been an important part of Emily's life she also has a passion for helping others and involvement in community leadership. During high school she was a four year member of the Youth Advisory Council an affiliate fund of the ICCF. Emily stated that

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*Former 4-year member of ICCF's Youth Advisory Council, Lakewood's Emily Barker believes in the importance of giving back to the people and community that have given her so much.*

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being a YAC member gave her an opportunity to collaborate with young people throughout Ionia County and provide grants to well deserving recipients. She also served as student council representative, Science Club and National Honor Society member while attending Lakewood High School.



This fall Emily begins her junior year at Saginaw Valley State University where she will continue her study of Pre-Pharmacy. She will also enter her third golf season as captain of the women's golf team. Emily is a two year Academic All American and is currently the Vice President of the Students Athletic Advisory Committee at SVSU. She feels blessed to have the opportunity to play the game she loves while continuing to help others. Emily believes in the importance of giving back to the people and community that has given her so much. She is looking forward to seeing everyone at the ICCF golf outing next year.

## Why give to ICCF? A Case for Support

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needs around the county, the original endowment – the plant – remains intact and grows and is available for more grant-making year after year.

Ionia County is full of warm-hearted, generous people. They want to give back... and for their dollars to stay in the county... and for them to make a

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*“And all are possible because ordinary people give to a shared fund that makes their community a better place to live.”*

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difference in the lives of their fellow citizens. The Ionia County Community Foundation makes that possible by providing grant monies to non-profit organizations throughout the County.

When individuals donate to ICCF, the endowment becomes larger, and more interest income is earned, which increases the grant-making pot. Since its inception 23 years ago in 1995, the Ionia County Community Foundation has poured over \$3 million back into our neighborhoods to assist local programs throughout our county.

The Ionia County Community Foundation mission is to make Ionia County a Better Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play. People who give to it know that their dollars will continue to generate good for our communities year after year. When each person contributes what they can, transformative things happen. Some result in county-wide impact; others meet specific local needs. All of them change lives for the better

And all are possible because ordinary people give to a shared fund that makes their community a better place to live.

**Your donation to ICCF may be given online at: <https://www.givegr.org/donate-iccf>**

## ICCF ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR \$31,400

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Each year, the money available for grants is 5% of the endowment's average market value of assets for the previous 16 quarters. This allows the asset base to grow while helping meet the cultural, educational, recreational and economic needs of Ionia County. Grants are not available for general operating expenses, annual fund raising drives or debt retirement. They are available for projects that:

- represent an innovative, start-up effort or are capital in nature (e.g., bricks and mortar, equipment)
- promote cooperation among agencies without duplicating services
- need additional funding to implement and maintain projects
- strengthen or improve agency self-sufficiency or efficiency
- yield substantial community benefits for the resources invested
- serve a broad segment of the community
- encourage additional and permanent funding or matching gifts from other donors

Applications will be reviewed by the ICCF Grants Committee and approved by the Fund Advisory Committee. They will be evaluated on program needs, effectiveness, clarity of focus and goals, degree of risk and other criteria. Once again applications are available on the ICCF website at [www.grfoundation.org/Ionia](http://www.grfoundation.org/Ionia) and must be submitted by December 31, 2018. Questions should be directed to Brian Talbot at (616) 527-8721.



**The Ron & Margaret Story Legacy Society** was established in 2010 to pay tribute to the couple for their charitable bequest and financial contributions to ICCF, as well as for their time, talent, and efforts given to it over the years.

Please join Ron and Margaret in remembering the Ionia County Community Foundation in your estate plan.

The Ron & Margaret Story Society is designed to honor those of you who are creating your own legacies through planned gifts. As a member of it, you will be recognized in a special way in our newsletter and other materials.

If you have already included the Ionia County Community Foundation in your will or estate plan (or if and when you do) please contact our development staff (616-642-6435) so we can add you to our special society.

***Following are our Current Legacy Society Members:***

- Daniel and Janet Balice**
- Bruce and Margaret Chadwick**
- Thomas D. and Tamara S. Dickinson**
- William and Jewel Eckstrom**
- Boomer and Laurie Hoppough**
- Gary and Janeen Lemke**
- Jim and Teresa McCarty**
- Deanne Prince**
- Ron and Margaret Story**
- Lowell and Judy Swartz**
- Brian and Mindy Talbot**
- Elaine VanLaanen**

***Honorary Memorial Members***  
*(Story Legacy Society members who have passed away)*

- Paul and Alberta Allen**
- Chapin, Melvin and Rathburn Laux**
- Ed and Maxine Compagner**
- Mary Esther Daddazio**
- George Eddy**
- Frost, Bird and Burger**
- Don and Emma Goodell**
- Chuck Henney**
- Bea McCarty**
- Kenneth and Shirley Morris**
- Walter Sprague**
- Ben and Lucy Simons**
- Ward VanLaanen**

*We apologize for any omissions on this list. To add a name please contact Jim McCarty at (616) 642-6435.*

# BIG. SMALL. AND IN BETWEEN.

During the past 23 years, the Ionia County Community Foundation has granted over \$800,000 worth of unrestricted funds to make Ionia County a Better Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play.

The grants have come in all sorts of sizes and shapes and amounts... but thru it all, the Number One outcome and thread is that they have all served to make life better for the people of our county.

So it is no surprise that a very modest \$380 grant made to the Saranac School District five years ago back in 2013 has made and continues to make a significant "For Good. For Ever" life-changing impact in the lives of elementary students in the community of Saranac.

The project funded in this particular instance was "Reading Pens" designed for children in kindergarten classrooms to enable them to achieve progress toward literacy while reading to themselves, with someone, listening to reading, working with words or working on their writing skills.



The reading pens technology enables a teacher to affix stickers to letters, words, sentences or pages of a book. The teacher then touches the tip of the reading pen to the

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***Modest grant continues to make a significant life-changing impact in the lives of elementary students in Saranac.***

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sticker to activate it and to record his/her voice to the topic. Students can then touch the tip to the sticker and listen and learn independently.

According to Stephanie Smith, Elementary Teacher and Title 1 Coordinator, the use of these pens has expanded beyond just literacy as teachers are able to use them across the curriculum to provide students with opportunities to learn both independently and collaboratively.

"The reading pens", pointed out Smith, "enables all students to be successful in reading. Often special needs students who have learning or reading disabilities such as dyslexia feel self conscious or embarrassed to use tools that differentiate them. The reading pens are tools that are used to actually help students of all ages and reading levels be successful."

"The reading pens," continued Smith, "are just one example of many tools that the Ionia County Community Foundation has provided through grants to the Saranac School District to help our students reach their potential. We are extremely



grateful for the opportunity to apply for funds to enhance the educational opportunities available to our students. Nothing makes it more worthwhile than putting tools into children's hands and to watch their faces light up with excitement when they realize they are successful. The ICCF provides these special moments and opportunities. It is an honor to have the foundation partner up with us in education. We are very thankful!"

Grants that are big, small and in between – all serving to make life better for the people of Ionia County!

**Your donation to ICCF may be given online at: <https://www.givegr.org/donate-iccf>**

# 2018 GOLF OUTING

## 21-Year Total Surpasses \$200,000!

A course full of golfers, 108 of them, took to the Willow Wood Fairways in Portland Friday June 15 to help celebrate the 21st annual Ionia County Community Foundation outing.

The beautiful day of weather kicked off in the morning with an aerial photograph of the impressive scene captured by “Flyovers by Ferris.” It was indeed another successful friend and fund raising event for ICCF boosting proceeds from the activity during the years to well over \$200,000!

“We are so grateful to all of those who supported us in so many ways,” commented Golf Chair Boomer Hoppough. “It was a great day filled with good memories for all of those who participated and made it possible.”

According to Hoppough, the original unrestricted fund has grown to over \$1,000,000 and along the way it has resulted in over \$800,000 in community benefiting grants to non-profits throughout the county.

“What’s more,” continued Hoppough, we now have 29 component funds under our ICCF umbrella aggregately totaling \$8.5 million in market value. When all of these funds are considered, grants and scholarships have been awarded to non-profits to the tune of over \$3 million right here in Ionia County.”

Board Chair Jim McCarty, added that our mission is “Making Ionia County a Better Place to Live, Learn, Work and Play”... and that is exactly what so many generous people made happen on the day of our 21st Golf Outing. Thank you all for your support of this worthy cause!”



*The winning 4-some in the Ionia County Community Foundation Golf Outing with a score of 55 were the Independent Bank team of from the left: Dave Reglin, Boomer Hoppough, Josh Carpenter and Brad Kessel.*





# SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all who contributed to the 21st Annual Golf Outing for sharing a vision to make Ionia County an even better place to live, to work, and to enjoy today and for future generations. Such participation supports "A Legacy of Caring" that will last forever.

## Major Sponsors

Biggs, Dickinson & Roberts Wealth Management Services  
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 Biggy Coffee - Ionia  
 Kim & Mark Doane  
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 Jim & Karen Fast  
 Cathy Hoppough Real Estate at Coldwell Banker Weir, Manuel, Hoppough  
 Independent Bank  
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**Special Thanks**

Loren & Marilyn Adgate  
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 Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce  
 Ionia Hotel Business, Inc. (American Inn)  
 Ionia County ISD Administrators  
 Ionia Jaycees  
 Jimmy Johns Ionia - Fuller Restaurant Management  
 Kennari Consulting  
 Judge Suzanne Kreeger (8th Circuit Court)  
 Lake Funeral Homes, Inc.  
 The Magee Family (Mike and Becky)  
 Garry Miller Family  
 Montcalm Community College  
 Morrison Lake Golf Club  
 Muscott & Muscott Dental Health Center, PLC  
 Musgrove Grain, LLC  
 Mary O'Connor in loving memory of Rex P. O'Connor, Sr.  
 Ostrander Windows, Siding & Roofing  
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 Dr. Greg & Pastor Nancy Patera  
 Peterson, Paletta, Balice  
 Portland Federal Credit Union  
 Rick Rogusky - State Farm Ionia  
 Saranac Dental Care, Dr. Aaron Kroemer  
 Servpro of Ionia and Montcalm Counties  
 Sower Family Farms  
 Specialty Industries, Inc.  
 Sterner Veterinary Clinic, PC  
 Sun Title  
 Lawrence Tiejema, PC  
 Verdun Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services  
 Walker, Fluke & Sheldon, PLC



Several student representatives of the Ionia County Youth Advisory Council volunteered to come out to Willow Wood Golf Club to help with the 21st Annual ICCF outing. From the left are: Kaylee Muirhead, Maura Lufkin, Ethan Getchall and Darragh Goeckel.



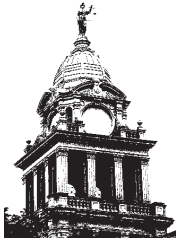
Ionia County

community foundation

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An affiliated fund of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation

[www.grfoundation.org/Ionia.php](http://www.grfoundation.org/Ionia.php)



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## Funds Held by the Ionia County Community Foundation

Fund Balance as of September 30, 2018

ICCF Fund .....	\$1,083,385
ICCF Fund – Youth Fund .....	\$186,647
ICCF Administrative Fund .....	\$14,702
Belding Educational Fund.....	\$116,299
Belding Schools Fund – Frost Renaissance Foundation .....	\$281,652
Belding Schools Fund – Bird Scholarship Fund .....	\$100,136
Belding Schools Fund – Burger Fund.....	\$55,903
Compagner Memorial Fund.....	\$1,068,162
Eddy Scholarship Fund .....	\$677,830
Kenneth and Shirley Morris Memorial Scholarship Fund .....	\$719,762
George Romney Fund – Enrich of Ionia County Volunteer Center...\$78,800	
Healthy Youth and Healthy Seniors.....	\$59,203
Chuck Henney Memorial Scholarship Fund.....	\$55,065
Ionia County Parks Preservation & Maintenance Fund .....	\$156,696
Lakewood Educational Foundation Fund .....	\$398,297
Saranac Community Schools Scholarship Fund.....	\$297,443
Simons Memorial Education Fund.....	\$554,625
WW Sprague Family Fund .....	\$298,059
Ionia Public Schools Scholarship Fund.....	\$1,120,067
Ionia Free Fair Fund .....	\$150,177
Paul and Alberta Allen Scholarship Fund.....	\$114,138
Don and Emma Goodell Scholarship Fund .....	\$130,821
Ward and Elaine VanLaanen Teaching Scholarship Fund.....	\$61,710
William R. and Jewel H. Eckstrom Future Teachers Scholarship Fund...\$52,017	
William R. and Jewel H. Eckstrom Helping Hand Fund .....	\$107,160
Swartz Family Fund .....	\$57,314
Alvah N Belding Library Fund.....	\$75,524
The Belrockton Fund.....	\$54,154
Portland Community Fund .....	\$25,081
Saranac Community Schools Promise Scholarship Fund.....	\$263,772
Dolly Parton Imagination Library Fund .....	\$90,769

Total \$ 8,505,366



ICCF Golf Outing 2018

