THANK YOU!

As we celebrate this 15th anniversary year, we are thankful for both the success and the momentum of our community. Thank you to our donors and partners. We count on you to continue this mission, together, toward a greater good.
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead
I am amazed and so proud. Looking back, I know one thing. The reach and impact of the Community Foundation that we celebrate today has been built on the shared deep belief that **we are better together**.

Here in Dubuque, I think Envision 2010 stands out now as a singular watershed event. With gatherings large and small, in neighborhoods and conference rooms, Dubuque defined ten bold ideas and claimed each one. The Community Foundation provided the platform for this momentum to be harnessed and a base for financial resources to be deployed in building and sustaining places like the Crescent Community Health Center.

In rural towns like Delhi, Bellevue and Elkader, tomorrow is brighter too thanks to the imaginations and generous spirit of donors and leaders. Building on research that tracks how wealth was and is leaving our towns and villages, affiliate foundation leaders have endowed $30 million to sustain their future. This represents a third of our $91 million in assets.

But the victory we celebrate on our 15th anniversary is more about people than money. It is the convening, the catalyzing, and the cooperative relationships that have made our region stronger. Strong enough to tackle issues like high school graduation, job training for the under-employed, glasses for vulnerable kids struggling to read, civility and inclusion, and coming to the rescue when tornadoes and floods touch main streets.

I have loved what I call “a dream job.” I have been honored to serve a committed board, and lead a staff with uncommon talent, many who left comfortable spaces to roll up their sleeves and build a more beautiful, engaged and thriving community.

Our impact has been accelerated by regional, state and national partnerships. We have looked both inward and outward for the very best models and then shaped what would work for us.

Thank you for sharing this moment. Whatever your contribution has been to this 15-year history of strengthening daycare, farmers markets, historic places, scenic trails, and troubled neighborhoods, join me today in a reflection of gratitude. The rich return on your generous investment of time, talent, and treasure is now in our rearview mirror, and our journey continues around new and challenging corners.

In personal appreciation and shared love of community,

Nancy Van Milligen
President and CEO
CREATING A FOREVER ORGANIZATION FOR DUBUQUE

A post office box, an idea and community members with a vision. This is how the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque started just 15 years ago. The founding board set out with a goal to multiply the impact of generous individuals through a strong, resilient organization. That vision has turned into something so much more than anyone could have imagined.

John O’Connor, a founding board member of the Community Foundation, will tell you that the four founding organizations have never made a better investment. American Bank & Trust, Dubuque Bank & Trust, Diamond Jo Casino and Medical Associates all made visionary investments that made the idea of a community foundation a reality. In addition to these organizations, several community members had a desire to contribute.

“A community member called me after they saw a story about the Foundation in the early planning stages and wanted to know how he could get involved,” recalled John. “A few days later there was a check for $20,000 in our P.O. box. That blew me away and was the moment I knew this was going to work. It was inspiring to know other people saw the vision for what this organization could do for our community.”

When the Community Foundation officially opened its doors in February of 2003 with Nancy Van Milligen as its leader, it was nothing more than an office and a desk. Through the efforts of strong leadership and countless generous community members, the Foundation has become so much more than just a vehicle for philanthropy. It is a community leader that serves as a convener and catalyst to bring about systems change.
The growth has been unbelievable. In 2002, I never envisioned the partnerships the Foundation has today would exist,” said John. “It’s gone way beyond the initial vision and that’s the beauty of it.”

Now, just 15 years later, John marvels at what the Foundation has become. Since 2002, the Foundation has brought together countless partners to create solutions to local challenges, and donors have created over 834 funds totaling $91 million dollars—all dedicated to improving life in Northeast Iowa.

The progress the Community Foundation has made over the past 15 years was possible thanks to our community and the passionate individuals who served and continue to serve on the Board of Directors. Pictured here is the 2008 board of directors, which includes founding board members.
For Chiquitta Carroll, a self-employed professional hair stylist in Dubuque, finding affordable and convenient health care was a challenge. Public transportation limited her choice of providers and as a mother of four, she had additional concerns. “It’s hard to find doctors who are good with kids,” says Chiquitta.

All that changed in 2007 when the Crescent Community Health Center opened near her home in the Washington Neighborhood. Dedicated to providing high-quality and affordable health care, Crescent serves uninsured patients with a sliding fee scale and provides discounts based on household income and size.

According to Chiquitta, the center’s outstanding quality of care is what makes it really special. “The doctors and dentists are great people and very knowledgeable,” she says. “They are flexible and get you in for emergencies. It’s an amazing establishment.”

The ENVISION 2010 community visioning process identified the need for a community health center in 2005. In partnership with the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation facilitated ENVISION 2010 with a goal to encourage community members to gather and brainstorm ideas for the next 10 great projects that would move Dubuque forward. Community members submitted more than 2,300 ideas in total.

The idea for Crescent was born from this community visioning process, however, it would not have become a reality without the generosity of the Schmid family, which quickly stepped in to fund the cause. Their $1.3 million gift created an endowment that will provide annual operating funds for the center for years to come.
Schmid family members Janet Rhomberg and Mary Schmid say they feel grateful that they are able to share their blessings. “There is such a great need for affordable health care in our community,” says Janet. “This is a wonderful facility that is providing a much needed service.”

“I’ve never had to think twice about calling a doctor for my children,” adds Mary. “When you realize there are people who don’t have that option, it makes you want to do what you can to help.”

Since opening, Crescent has made a big impact on the health of residents in downtown Dubuque. In 2017 alone, Crescent served 6,437 patients, a record high, through more than 18,000 clinic visits.

’05 • Envision2010 launches

’06 • Women’s Giving Circle begins
PARTNERING TO STRENGTHEN NONPROFIT OPERATIONS

As volunteers with local organizations ranging from the Dubuque Rescue Mission to Dubuque County Right to Life, Dave and Liz Cushman noticed many nonprofits faced a common obstacle: technology challenges including outdated hardware and lack of expertise that prevent them from operating and communicating efficiently and effectively.

With this need in mind, the Cushmans worked with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque to create Grants for Tech, an innovative grant program that funds technology improvements for Dubuque nonprofits.

The Community Foundation partnered with the University of Dubuque computer science program to assess nonprofit applicants’ needs and create three- to five-year technology plans. This “community-based learning” is a win-win, giving nonprofits a roadmap for future tech improvements and students hands-on experience.

During their first semester, the students provide a prioritized list of purchases, upgrades or training as well as cost estimates. Nonprofits can then choose to apply for grants ranging from $2,000 to $10,000 to assist with the cost of the projects, and are required to contribute matching funds based on their annual operating budgets.

Once grants are awarded, the students provide project management during their second semester to implement the recommended improvements.

“The Grants for Tech program was a game-changer for us,” says Rick Mihm, executive director of the Dubuque Rescue Mission. “Our computers were outdated and slow, and we could not share information via email. Now, we are able to share documents and information that previously was done by picking up the phone or walking down the hall. It has literally brought us into the 21st century.”

’07
- McCarthy Center for Nonprofit Learning
- Every Child/Every Promise
- $15 million in assets
- Crescent Community Health Center opens

’08
- Project HOPE created
- Honor Flight
- Dubuque 2.0
- Fund for flood recovery raises $200,000
You are invited to help make this effective grant program sustainable by contributing to the Grants for Tech Endowment Fund. The Cushman’s goal is to raise $1 million in order to provide $50,000 in annual support to build the technical capacity of local nonprofits.

'09  •  Theisen’s Grants
     •  Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools

'10  •  Opportunity Dubuque
     •  Lake Delhi Community Fund
2003
- Doors opened Feb. 2003
  Founding partners were Diamond Jo Casino, American Trust and Savings Bank, Dubuque Bank and Trust and Medical Associates

2004
- Envision 2010 launched

2005
- Women's Giving Circle formed
- McCarthy Center for Nonprofits opened

2006
- Crescent Community Health Center founded
- Opportunity Dubuque partnership created; 527 students found success.
- Community Fund to Rebuild Lake Delhi jumpstarts response to historic flood
- Theisen's More For Your Community Grants program opened. Approximately $2 million in grants awarded to 23 communities

2007
- Project Hope launched

2008
- Endow Iowa tax credit created. Outreach to rural affiliate foundations.

2009

2010
Legacy Society established
50 individuals plan estate gifts for the community’s brightest future

Vision To Learn partnership; 1,200 students served today

USDA Philanthropic Tools program invigorates five rural communities

ESL and Diploma Classes brought to Cascade

CFGD led Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Great Give Day and Inclusive Dubuque launched

Re-Engage Dubuque convened; 400 students impacted today

I’m a Dubuquer Campaign

Inclusive Dubuque
LEAVING A LEGACY FOR GOOD

When the Santjers wanted to simplify charitable planning for their estate, the Community Foundation was there to help.

Merle and Mary Santjer are proud parents.

In their son Matthew’s childhood room, medals still hang proudly on display, far too many to count, right next to trophies and old team photos. Matthew was diagnosed with autism at age two, but according to Mary, it was his passion for sports that led him to find and lead a happy, healthy life.

“I truly think the sports programs opened the world to him,” she says with a big smile. “Today, he owns his own home and car. He’s happy and healthy and we’re thankful.”

Naturally, when the Santjers were updating their estate plan, Matthew was on their mind.

“There was a moment when my son taught the kids on his team, ‘I’m human,’” says Merle. “I may have a disability, but inside the word disability is another word. That’s ability. So, when we worked with the Community Foundation to update our estate plan, we wanted to make sure that organizations that supported Matthew and brought him to that point could continue on after we passed away and that those funds would be used in a proper manner.”

As a financial advisor at The Friedman Group, Merle saw the benefits of working with the Community Foundation as a way to simplify their estate plan. Wanting to show their children and grandchildren the importance of a lifetime of giving, Merle and Mary decided to make a bequest to the Foundation to support causes that impacted their entire family, and their son Matthew.
Today, the Santjers are also hard at work fundraising for the Miracle League Baseball Field of Dubuque. A passion of Matthew’s former coach Tom Witry, Miracle League is a local effort to create an all-inclusive baseball field and playground. Merle, Mary and the Miracle League Board worked with the Foundation to establish a project fund to support their fundraising efforts. The Foundation handles the gift accounting and acknowledgements—giving them more time to support all the causes they love.

“Know that your gift, whether it’s time or talent or treasure makes a positive impact on other people,” says Mary. “It moves you to give as much as you can.”

To learn more about the Legacy Society, visit www.dbqfoundation.org
NEIGHBORS HELPING NEWCOMERS

Driven from their native countries by poverty and violence, Latino families are increasingly moving to small towns like Cascade, Iowa, where their growing presence is boosting business and saving schools from declining enrollment. But they also face many challenges, including language and education barriers. After learning of the need for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) classes, the Community Foundation convened partners to understand the challenges of the Latino community in Cascade. As a result, a partnership was formed with CFGD, Cascade Elementary, Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) and the residents of Cascade to offer evening HSED and ESOL classes at Cascade Elementary four nights a week. Community members rallied around the 32 adult students and their children by providing free meals and onsite childcare.

But the Foundation did more than just act as a catalyst for change. In addition to bringing experts to the table, CFGD was able to use its own financial expertise to help drive fundraising efforts to keep the classes local.

“There is a sizable Spanish-speaking community in Cascade,” says Amy Manternach, CFGD VP of finance and philanthropy. “The Foundation believes in strong families and vibrant communities, and these families want to see their children succeed and want to be able to give back to their community. In creating this partnership to make these classes possible, the Foundation is bridging language and cultural barriers and helping these families and future generations contribute to the economy for years to come.”

That neighborly support is something residents like Maria, who immigrated to the U.S. when she was 14, really appreciate. Now 31, she started these classes to help her become a better reader and complete her HSED. A few months in, that work finally paid off when she could help her daughter with her math homework for the first time.

“I always thought no one really cared about us,” she says. “I cannot believe they [our neighbors in Cascade] want to help us. I am thankful.”
“If parents have better education, it’s a full circle,” says Gisella Aitken-Shadle, district adult education and literacy development director at NICC who assisted with the project. “None of this would be possible without the support of CFGD and the community of Cascade in supporting this important community need.”

‘17 • I’m a Dubuquer campaign
• Facing Project: Marshallese Stories

‘18 • English as a Second Language classes launch in Cascade
• Washington Neighborhood community engagement
• $91 million in assets
• Convene community partners around child care and mental health issues
## Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque Affiliates

Around kitchen tables and in city council chambers throughout our rural region, charitable people and visionary leaders are planning for tomorrow in partnership with their community foundation advisors. The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque serves seven rural counties in its affiliate family, and together, they support more than 390 funds totaling more than $29 million.

Like the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, these affiliate foundations were started with the idea that philanthropy could change the future of rural places. Thanks to the passion and effort of board members and donors, the success in each community has been greater than ever imagined.

### Allamakee County Community Foundation (ACCF)
- Affiliated in 2005
- ACCF holds $2.62 million in charitable assets
- Since 2006, the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative has worked with CFGD convening partners to impact health and wellness in Northeast Iowa. As a result, more than 500 early child care providers incorporated healthy local foods into their programs and farmers reported an increase in local food sales to $2.58 million in 2017, up from $25,000 in 2006—a huge impact on small communities like Waukon.

### Clayton County Foundation for the Future (CCFF)
- Affiliated in 2004
- CCFF holds $5.4 million in charitable assets
- When an EF1 tornado destroyed parts of downtown McGregor in July 2017, the Community Foundation offered immediate assistance—helping raise more than $80,000 to help mitigate the disaster.

### Foundation for the Future of Delaware County (FFDC)
- Affiliated in 2005
- FFDC holds $3.7 million in charitable assets
- In just a decade, the Maquoketa Valley Dollars for Scholars MVDFS Endowment now holds nearly $1 million in permanent funds to support area students forever. MVDFS is a state model for scholarship support and has made more than 600 awards totaling over $700,000 since 2001.

### Jones County Community foundation (JCCF)
- Affiliated in 2013
- JCCF holds $1.9 million in charitable assets
- In 2015, CFGD partnered with the Orton Family Foundation to bring the Community Heart & Soul™ community engagement model to Monticello. By bringing all voices to the table, Heart & Soul allows residents to shape the future of their community around what matters most.
Community Foundation of Jackson County (CFJC)
- Affiliated in 2013
- CFJC holds $9 million in charitable assets
- In 2014, the Community Foundation received a three-year anonymous donor grant to expand the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading to Jackson County. In 2017, 72 percent of students who attended Summer Adventure, a county-wide summer learning program, maintained or improved their reading proficiency over the summer months.

River Bluff Community Foundation (RBCF)
- Affiliated in 2016
- RBCF holds $624,000 in charitable assets
- In 2018, RBCF announced $25,500 in endowment payouts to support nonprofits in Clinton. These funds included the Bernard and Anna Lehman Scholarship fund which helps Clinton High School students pursue their dreams.

Dyersville Area Community Foundation (DACF)
- Affiliated in 2005
- DACF holds $1.8 million in charitable funds
- Dyersville was recognized as a Pacesetter by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading for its work to improve school readiness. Results showed the percentage of incoming low-income kindergarteners ready for school increased from 58.8 percent in 2014 to 62 percent in 2016.

Clinton County

Lincoln Way Community Foundation (LWCF)
- Affiliated in 2016
- LWCF holds $3.7 million in charitable assets
- Community icon and author of They Call Me Mr. DeWitt, Bill Homrighausen, has said that a planned estate gift through the Community Foundation is the “best investment in the world.” To date, more than 50 donors have trusted CFGD and its affiliates to preserve their legacies.
2017 By The Numbers

- **2,294 Grants Awarded**
- **$5,428,265.02 Gifts**
- **$14,667,571.92 Pooled Investment Performance for year ended December 31, 2017**
- **3,977 Number of Gifts**
- **77 New Funds**
- **15.11% Three-year compound annual return**
- **6.33% Five-year compound annual return**
- **10.25% Donors served since inception**
- **9,853 Endowed nonprofit partners**
- **232 Operating expenses as a percentage of total assets**
- **1.64%**

**Total Assets**

- **Grants Awarded Since Inception**: $35,311,658.61
- **Gifts Since Inception**: $111,991,811.18
DUBUQUE FOREVER

This powerful celebration of our first 15 years is a thrill to share with all of you. I too am proud and amazed. This is the time for me, on behalf of our Board of Directors, to say that we appreciate every donor, every nonprofit leader and affiliate advisor, and the capable community foundation staff. This is also the time for me to say this anniversary celebration is but a pause in our journey, as we look forward to the work that awaits in our communities.

As we commence our 16th year, I want to affirm that our ongoing mission, To inspire philanthropy and build stronger communities, will be guided by this core value: equity and opportunity for all.

The Community Foundation has been successful in building a strong base of advocates and financial resources to support our communities’ existing and traditional assets. But the challenge of poverty remains, as does equity. Equity is the work of removing barriers and providing opportunity for all to succeed, starting first with groups and individuals at the far margins of our community. These leadership challenges are the next step in our work to build stronger communities through philanthropy.

To succeed, new gifts of advocacy and financial resources are required. As a core partner in the region's future, we invite you to invest today and through your estate in the Dubuque Forever Endowment Fund or the grantmaking endowment of your own affiliate foundation. Please join me in doing so today realizing your gift will touch the most urgent needs of our community today and all that follow tomorrow.

These endowed funds will pay out annually and forever for the community foundation to catalyze the best and brightest solutions to create stronger communities with equity and opportunity for all. This sounds bold and far-reaching. But our history affirms what is possible when we believe, we are better together.

In thrilling expectation of our shared successes to come,

Chad Chandlee
Chair, Board of Directors