building for today, tomorrow and 

FOREVER

Community Foundation 
of Greater Dubuque

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
A STRONG FOUNDATION

A message from Bob Hoefer, Board Chair, and Nancy Van Milligen, President and CEO

From preparing our future workforce to supporting the well-being of our families, the challenges facing Dubuque can be complex.

That’s why the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque exists. We are an organization that brings people together to solve complex social problems and make our region a better place for everyone.

With our dedicated staff and deep knowledge of community needs, we’ve demonstrated time and again that our coordinated, collaborative approach to solving challenges delivers results.

Never has this been more apparent than throughout the COVID-19 crisis. By listening closely to our partners, we have been able to understand where resources could provide the most relief and quickly deploy them to help people meet basic needs like food, safety and health.

This crisis also has reminded us that we don’t know what challenges will arise in the future. Fortunately, we have the Greater Dubuque Forever Fund, which you will read about in this report. It’s a way to harness our community’s generosity and direct it toward areas of greatest need.

It’s a way to serve the Dubuque region — forever. Even though we don’t know what the future holds, we are committed to building a strong region where everyone can thrive.
Board of Directors

Bob Hoefer
Chair
Teri Zuccaro
Vice Chair & Treasurer
Keith Kramer
Secretary
Chris Corken
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At-Large

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Chris Theisen
Dr. Liang Chee Wee
Mark Wilging
Nancy Van Milligen
President & CEO
Facilitating and attracting support for initiatives that set youth on a path to success is one of the ways we have worked with generous partners to improve lives.

Through partnerships and philanthropy, we lead coordinated responses to community challenges and create better outcomes for everyone.
**How We Work**

**We Engage**
We include the community’s many diverse voices in our work.

**We Learn**
Through listening and researching, we understand our region’s needs.

**We Collaborate**
By convening people around our community’s challenges, we drive lasting solutions.

**We Invest**
Our prudent financial strategy ensures people’s generosity makes an impact forever.

**We Empower**
We increase the capacity of our partners to improve lives.

**We Inspire**
We champion a vision for a thriving region and work with all who want to help achieve it.
Outside Funders, Common Goals

Because community foundations are uniquely positioned to understand the needs of their regions, funders across the country look to them as partners in ensuring their grant dollars help address issues that have the biggest impact.

At the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, we have expanded our partnerships with national funders to secure additional resources that strengthen our region. In 2019, we leveraged $1.2 million in grants to address challenges like child care, disaster resiliency and building inclusive and equitable workplaces.

National partnerships grow our peer network, opening access not just to funding but also to knowledge. Our success tackling community issues has earned us a seat at the table among foundations working to improve lives in all parts of the country.

Combined with a strong base of local donors and partners, national support enhances our efforts, deepens our impact and props us up as an example from which other organizations can build their own strategies for transformational change.
Support from Foundations and Organizations

Anonymous Donor
CFLeads
City of Dubuque
Dubuque County
Dubuque Racing Association
Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities
Iowa Council of Foundations
McDonough Charitable Foundation
Morgridge Family Foundation
The Nathan Cummings Foundation
Orton Family Foundation
State of Iowa
Walmart Foundation

$1.2 million
Grant dollars leveraged in 2019

13
National funders

16
Conferences and national gatherings attended
Many Dubuque residents face challenges that are difficult to overcome. Our Women’s Giving Circle brings together women from diverse backgrounds to improve lives by researching needs and making grants to organizations serving women and children.

Thanks to a 2019 grant from the Women’s Giving Circle, Almost Home’s Open Closet at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Dubuque can better provide women and children in need with gently used clothing.
Women’s Giving Circle
Impact Spotlight

150+
Active participants

Researching and Identifying Needs

4,002
Nights of safety provided by Victim Services Shelter

42%
Of students qualify for free and/or reduced priced lunch

191
Children are homeless in Dubuque

Making an Impact

$100,000
Granted to nonprofits to date

$378,000
In the Women’s Giving Circle endowment

41
Grants awarded to date

Women Coming Together

As a mother of five and full-time physical therapist, life can be pretty busy. Knowing my time is precious, I was looking for a way to make a difference in the community while also being social away from home and work.

A few years ago, I learned about the Women’s Giving Circle, which seemed like the perfect opportunity. After joining, I immediately got involved reviewing grant requests from local organizations that help families. Reading the requests and discussing them with my peers opened my eyes to the needs in my own community.

While the group meets a few times a year, it’s so much more than donating money and having social gatherings. I can actually see the impact I’m having and feel like I’m making a difference.

Groups like the Women’s Giving Circle inspire positivity in the community and encompass the spirit of taking care of one another. As a group, we build connections among people from many different backgrounds and make Dubuque a better place for everyone to live.

Mimi Vaassen
Women’s Giving Circle
Grant Committee Chair
2019 By The Numbers
At a Glance

Total Assets

Performance Comparison

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<th></th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>3 Years Annualized</th>
<th>5 Years Annualized</th>
<th>10 Years Annualized</th>
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<tr>
<td>Community Foundation</td>
<td>19.46%</td>
<td>19.46%</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
<td>5.37%</td>
<td>6.48%</td>
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<td>19.37%</td>
<td>7.97%</td>
<td>5.71%</td>
<td>7.69%</td>
<td>5.71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1,011 Million Total assets

11 Million Total gifts and pledges

268 Nonprofit endowment partners

76% Percentage of funds that are endowed

1.7% Operating budget as percentage of total assets
Our Grantmaking Impact
By the Numbers

$48.3 Million
Amount of grants awarded to date

2,300
Grants awarded in 2019

$5.5 Million
Amount of grants awarded in 2019

Supported Grantmaking Programs
Affiliate Foundations
Supporting Quality of Life
Grants for Tech
Nonprofit Technology
Community Impact Grants
Nonprofit Capacity
Mediacom
Arts and Culture
Theisen's More for Your Community
Basic Needs
Women's Giving Circle
Women and Children's Needs
YAPPERS
Youth Issues

A Grantee's Story

Because immunizations are critical to children’s health and safety, the UnityPoint Health Visiting Nurse Association provides vaccinations to all qualifying children in Dubuque County, regardless of socioeconomic status.

Thanks to a $5,333 Community Impact Grant from the Community Foundation, we were able to provide more required vaccines to adolescents who were unable to start school without them and increase appointments the week prior to school starting.

Because of this funding, we provided vaccinations to an additional 200 school-age children who would otherwise have been unable to start school on the first day.

Funding availability creates challenges for local organizations like us. Grant programs like the Community Foundation's are critical for nonprofits to have the ability to evolve and respond to an ever-changing society.

2,089 Total children vaccinated in 2019 by the Visiting Nurse Association

Stacey Killian
Director
UnityPoint Health Visiting Nurse Association
For many students, college is just a dream. That’s why we bring together leaders from many areas to find ways of increasing access to post-secondary education and training.

DCAN supports first-generation college students like Gilberto Garcia, right, with initiatives like funding assistance, outreach and special events.
Dubuque College Access Network (DCAN)

Impact Spotlight

DCAN’s Goal

80% Dubuque high school graduates enrolled in post-secondary education or training by 2025

50%+ Dubuque public school students who completed federal student aid applications (class of 2019)

71% Dubuque high school graduates enrolled in post-secondary education or training today

75% Iowa students taking the ACT who received at least one “college-ready” score in 2019 (down from 80% in 2015)

91%+ Dubuque area high school graduation rate

95% School district goal: Students taking a post-secondary qualifying test by 2023

100% School district goal: Students having a college or career-ready experience while in high school

First-Generation Opportunities

For me, this work is personal. As a first-generation college graduate, I understand the cultural and financial challenges young people face in advancing their education. In my 20 years as a Dubuque elementary principal, I also saw many bright students miss out on post-high school opportunities.

With DCAN, the Community Foundation is changing the narrative around college access. With our community partners, we are helping students, educators, employers and parents understand that a four-year college experience is just one option.

Through new programs and policies, we connect youth with opportunities like community colleges and job training programs, preparing them for good jobs that support strong families and bolster our region’s economy.

Being part of a community means collaborating to solve challenges that impact future generations. Today’s students are tomorrow’s leaders, and it’s our job to prepare them for what lies ahead.

Donna Loewen
DCAN Coordinator
Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque
Our Leadership Work Reaches Across the Region

Our eight affiliate foundations represent the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque’s regional approach. A strong region is important because we rely on one another for resources like jobs, food and cultural amenities, meaning individual communities’ successes and challenges ripple throughout our seven-county area.

We bring together leaders from across the region to strengthen relationships, share ideas and address common challenges. Our affiliate foundations will always tackle unique, local issues, and they also are finding new ways to build a strong region through collaboration.

Affiliate Foundations

Allamakee County Community Foundation
Clayton County Foundation for the Future
Community Foundation of Jackson County
Dyersville Area Community Foundation
Foundation for the Future of Delaware County
Jones County Community Foundation
LincolnWay Community Foundation
River Bluff Community Foundation
Our Regional Impact

Regional Roundtable
This biannual convening is a way for leaders from across the region to build relationships, gain knowledge and learn about resources that can improve the quality of life for rural residents. Gatherings focus on shared concerns like building strong workforces and local economies, attracting and retaining young families, and being welcoming to newcomers.

Energy Districts
We are uniting communities in grassroots efforts to provide clean, locally sourced energy, spark localized energy opportunities, and retain wealth. Facilitating expansion of energy districts supports clean energy planning and coaching, advocacy and programs like LED bulb exchanges and home assessments.

Strengthening Families
We unite parents, educators, nonprofits and civic leaders through Every Child Reads to ensure all children succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career and active citizenship. Vision To Learn provides children in need with free eye exams and glasses. Since launching in Dubuque, it has expanded across Iowa, providing 6,700 exams and 5,400 pairs of glasses.

Brain Health
Research tells us that people need better access to brain health services to thrive. By facilitating working groups around the issue and making grants, we are finding ways to improve access. New police and judicial protocols, school programs and endowment funds that support access to services are just a few solutions that are helping adults and children tend to their brain health.
Like you, we care about Dubuque’s future. We can help you create a charitable giving plan that supports your passions and addresses the community’s greatest challenges for generations to come.

We work with nonprofit partners like St. Mark Youth Enrichment to strengthen families and prepare children for successful futures, one of our strategic priorities.
LEAVING A LEGACY
Impact Spotlight

What will your legacy be? We work with you to ensure that your charitable giving makes a difference long into the future. Plus, we work with experts at Thompson & Associates to provide our donors complimentary, confidential estate planning services — one more resource to maximize your impact.

Legacy Giving

81
Legacy Society members

$4.6 Million
Legacy gifts received to date

$32.4 Million
Anticipated legacy gifts

Estate Planning

261
Sessions since 2017

112
Participants since 2017

97%
First-time participants attending follow-up sessions

A Gift to the Future by Lynn Denlinger

Throughout her life, my mother, Norma Denlinger, was committed to helping her fellow Dubuque residents overcome obstacles to success. Although she passed away in 2019, her generosity will continue to make an impact forever.

In 2003, she established the Virgil J. and Norma M. Denlinger Family Foundation with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque in memory of my late father. Over the years, the fund grew to grant $15,000 a year to causes she cared about, particularly breaking down barriers to opportunity for youth.

Before she passed away, she arranged for the fund to remain active and continue supporting critical challenges. Each year, 5% of the fund’s principal balance will be designated for initiatives that serve people in need, such as education and job training opportunities.

Her fund is her legacy. She wanted it to address the most pressing needs of the community she loved, whatever they might be in the future. She had deep trust in the Community Foundation’s board and staff to understand where charitable dollars would do the most good — she knew her fund was in good hands.
In my work, I meet with people at different stages of their lives as they plan their legacies. They want to ensure that when they are gone, the assets they leave can support their loved ones.

Many also want to leave their community a better place. They are aware of the issues Dubuque residents face, but they often have limited knowledge of charitable organizations their estate can support besides their church or other groups they are involved with.

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque is a great option for giving, I tell them, because it addresses a broad range of needs in a holistic and strategic way.

Making a gift directly to a specific charity, while generous, is a one-time transaction. A gift to an endowed fund at the Community Foundation, though, has long-term benefits. That gift is pooled with many others that will grow forever and pay out each year to help nonprofits address local needs.

A large estate isn't necessary to make a big impact. Clients of modest means have many options for giving, such as a charitable rollover contribution from their individual retirement account. Because this type of gift is not considered income, it has enormous tax advantages. Plus, it makes a significant impact.

It all starts with a call to the Community Foundation. The staff is knowledgeable and passionate, and they can help anyone leave a legacy of generosity.
How do you harness people’s passion for their community and transform it into lasting impact?

That is a question we strive to answer every day. We have a front-row view of Dubuque at its best, witnessing how people come together to care for their neighbors and build a strong community. This spirit inspires our work — and it is why we established the Greater Dubuque Forever Fund.

The Forever Fund enables us to address critical issues we can’t yet anticipate. By keeping our finger on the pulse of the community, we can understand its needs as they arise, work with regional partners to develop solutions, and allocate dollars to make an impact.

When many generous people give to the Forever Fund, their resources are pooled together to maximize their impact. And as an endowment, the fund grows in perpetuity, paying out a percentage of interest annually that provides resources for emerging needs today, tomorrow and forever.

While we can’t predict the future, the Forever Fund helps us prepare for whatever comes our way.

Make your gift at dbqfoundation.org/forever.
Together, we are building a BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE