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Page 11, 12: Courtesy of MCREST

Page 13: Andrew Potter

Page 15: Courtesy of Universal

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VISION AND MISSION

VISION: To create permanent positive change in people's lives

MISSION: We enhance the quality of life in southeast Michigan

We promote and facilitate permanent change in the seven counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, Livingston and St. Clair, and we help donors invest in organizations they care about nationwide. We do this by:

- Making strategic investments in programs and organizations that benefit the region
- Equipping organizations and the public with knowledge and information that will lead to positive change
- Building endowment community capital to meet our region's needs today and tomorrow
- Providing expert assistance to donors and their advisors in their charitable planning

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Richard L. DeVore

Did you know that less than 2% of philanthropic giving goes toward women's and girls' organizations? That's according to research from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University. Are you as surprised as I am?

At the same time, the research shows women's wealth is growing, and women — whose charitable giving is more likely to be motivated by empathy — more frequently donate to women's and children's causes. Encouragingly, "when men perceive that other men and women are donating to these causes, they are more likely to donate," according to the research.

Why is this important to the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan? Well, I'm committed to developing the next generation of philanthropists who, in collaboration with our staff and community partners, can lead us into a brighter future for all residents in our region, including women and children.

I'm proud to say the Community Foundation has a rich history of working with women-led organizations, women donors, and women trustees, some of whom are highlighted in this report. In addition, the majority of the Community Foundation's staff and senior leadership are women. Among them is Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion & Community Engagement Surabhi Pandit, whose voice I'd like to lift here.



Surabhi Pandit

Thanks, Ric, I appreciate the opportunity to share a few reflections.

If we at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan want to engage with this next generation of female philanthropists, it's important to understand what motivates them. Research from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy offers some insight:

- The two fastest-growing segments of women's philanthropic giving are "environment and animals" and "civil rights and advocacy."
- Single women are more likely than others to give money to support racial justice causes and organizations.
- Women's and girls' organizations whose mission focused on reproductive health and family planning received the greatest amount of philanthropic support.

While we know there are systemic inequities that disproportionately impact women of color, those in the LGBTQ+ community and women who have lower incomes, we also want to celebrate the leadership and philanthropic power of women. In this spring report, we examine how women throughout southeast Michigan are leading change and advancing equity in the community and as philanthropists.

We hope to inspire you to support women's and girls' organizations, and to think about how you can encourage others to do the same.

With thanks,

Richard L. DeVore, President

Ruhl I DeVore

Surabhi Pandit, Director, DEI & Community Engagement

Durabli (Panelit)



Women network at the Pewabic-tiled pool inside the Women's City Club of Detroit building. After the club disbanded, it established a field of interest fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan that continues to support women's causes in our region. Photo credit: Courtesy of the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library

When the Women's City Club of Detroit was established in 1919, women didn't have the right to vote in the United States.

The club was part of a wave of women's organizations that promoted suffrage and higher education opportunities, and later evolved into networking hubs for women. The Women's City Club of Detroit offered classes, programs, dinners, swimming and a library, as well as a professionally produced monthly magazine. During the 1930s, the Women's City Club of Detroit was one of the largest women's clubs in the world.

As women's rights advanced during the 20th century and traditionally male clubs began to welcome women, membership declined. Eventually, the club stopped operations. But, it left a legacy that has outlived its existence by establishing the Women's City Club of Detroit Fund at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

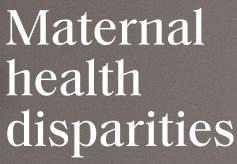
This permanently endowed field of interest fund was created with a \$132,000 donation in 1993. Its stated purpose is to "enhance the cultural, educational and/or civic endeavors of women with an interest in the welfare of southeastern Michigan." Field of interest funds allow donors to support specific areas of interest that improve the vitality of our region.

At the start of 2022, the Women's City Club of Detroit Fund was valued at \$266,000 and had granted approximately \$220,000 to 12 projects, demonstrating the power of permanent endowment. Grants have supported a range of causes including professional development for immigrant women, treatment services for female survivors of human trafficking and vocational and literacy programs for economically disadvantaged women.

The fund has leveraged an additional \$300,000 — meaning the Community Foundation has pooled money from this fund with money from similar field of interest funds to make larger grants than any of them could grant alone.

Thirty years after the Women's City Club of Detroit Fund was established, women have continued to make progress in many sectors. But, disparities remain. Women in 2021 earned 82 cents to every dollar earned by men (with an even wider gap for women of color), the United States has never had a female president and less than 2% of U.S. charitable giving goes to women's and girls' organizations.

Visit **cfsem.org/women** to make a positive impact and support women's causes in southeastern Michigan.



Community
Foundation invests
in Black women-led
nonprofits working
to close the gap

"IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES TO SEE OURSELVES REFLECTED IN CARE AND TO HAVE OUR LIFE EXPERIENCE UNDERSTOOD."

- BIRTH DETROIT CO-FOUNDER LESELIEY WELCH



The United States is experiencing a maternal health crisis.

Our maternal mortality rate is the highest of any developed nation — with most of these pregnancy-related deaths considered preventable. During the COVID-19 pandemic, maternal health outcomes worsened for all women in the U.S., and long-standing health disparities persisted.

For example, Black women are nearly three times as likely to die due to pregnancy-related causes as white women in the United States. Disparities in other adverse outcomes — such as preterm and low-birthweight births, as well as infant mortality — also exist for Black women, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data.

Other women of color also experience maternal health disparities in the United States. For example, the maternal mortality rate among American Indian and Alaska Native women is twice that of white women.

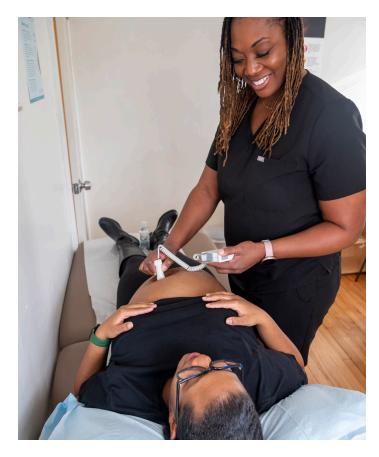
The situation is so urgent that, in 2021, the current presidential administration identified the maternal health crisis as a priority and called for landmark investments in care. In June 2022, the administration followed up with a Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis.

Racism causes disparities

These stark truths illustrate the impact racism has on maternal health — and the imperative to create more equitable experiences and outcomes. The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is committed to supporting nonprofits throughout our region that are working to close this gap.

These groups include Black women-led organizations such as Mothering Justice, the Black Mothers' Breastfeeding Association and Birth Detroit. The Community Foundation also manages an agency endowment fund for Planned Parenthood – Detroit Health Center, which provides culturally responsive, equitable and accessible reproductive health care.

An endowment fund is part of a pool of assets that are invested for long-term growth. The Community Foundation manages more than 230 of these agency endowments for nonprofits throughout southeast Michigan.

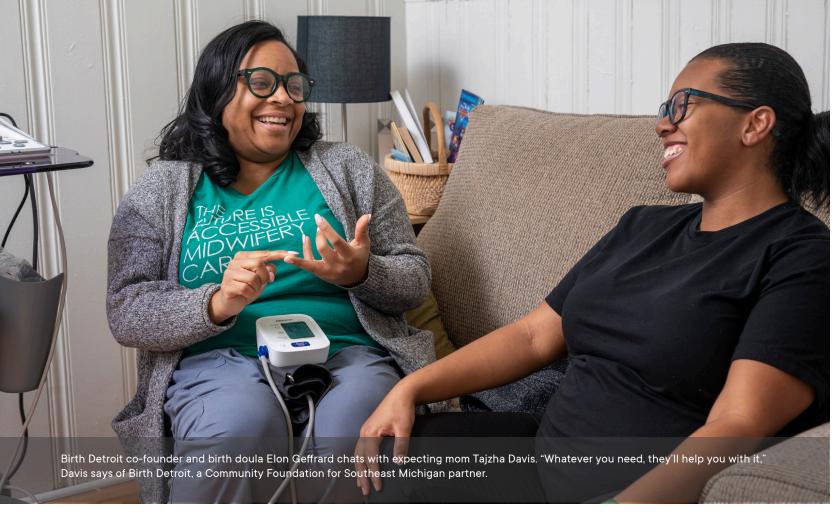


Birth Detroit midwife Elikem Amable-Brumfield examines expecting mom Tajzha Davis. The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan supports Birth Detroit's work to provide culturally appropriate care that can reduce maternal health disparities.

These organizations, each in their own way, work to address the inequities that cause maternal and infant health disparities. Structural racism — in the forms of provider discrimination and implicit bias resulting in poorer-quality care, increased health risks from the chronic stress of racism, and income inequality — are among the key drivers. Causes also include differences in health insurance coverage and access to health care, transportation, affordable housing and child care.

The research does not suggest there are underlying biological or genetic differences that would cause such disparities.

"Notably, disparities in maternal and infant health persist even when controlling for certain underlying social and economic factors, such as education and income, pointing to the roles racism and discrimination play in driving disparities," a Kaiser Family Foundation report says.



The causes of maternal health disparities are well-documented, but so are the solutions.

Research indicates that expanded access to coverage and care, paid family leave, investment in communities of color, a more diverse perinatal workforce, improved data collection, educating providers on racism and implicit bias, and providing culturally appropriate, midwife-based care in community birth settings can reduce maternal and infant health disparities and costs.

"It makes a difference in our communities to see ourselves reflected in care and to have our life experience understood," Birth Detroit co-founder Leseliey Welch says. "It really makes a difference in the experience of care to have autonomy and respect, to feel listened to, to feel heard."

'The atmosphere is different'

When expecting mom Tajzha Davis enters the sunny welcome area at the Birth Detroit Care clinic, the Black women-led midwife team surrounds her with love.

"How was your day?" her midwife asks warmly. "Would you like a bottle of water?"

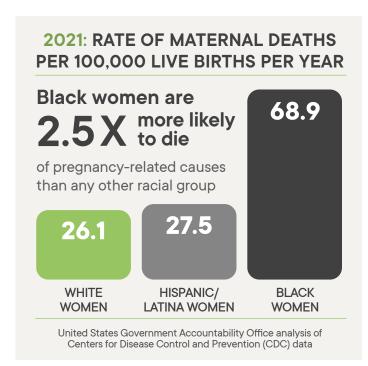
Before her exam, the pair settle onto a comfy couch to talk about how Davis, who is eight months pregnant, has been feeling. Nearby, a colorful play space is stocked with toys so Davis and other moms can bring their older children if needed.

As the women chat, another midwife takes a call from a client who's having car trouble and offers to arrange a ride so the client can make her appointment. Each visit lasts 30–60 minutes and can include education, nutritional counseling and conversations about the patient's goals for care.

"It's really nice being here because the atmosphere is different. It's an intimate setting, not just this 15-minute appointment, like you're in and you're out. We actually sit down – you can breathe – and talk for a second. Whatever you need, they'll help you with it," Davis says. "It feels good to know you have people like you, who can give you the care you need and understand where you're coming from, because not everybody may understand."

Detroit's first birth center

Welch spent most of her career before Birth Detroit working in public health. She noticed something curious: While maternal and infant health disparities were universally



acknowledged, the power of midwifery care to reduce or eliminate them was not.

"All the data and evidence suggest that the midwifery model of care makes a difference, that birth center care makes a difference in preterm births, low birthweight, breastfeeding and client satisfaction," Welch says. "Yet there were no birth centers in the city of Detroit. So, we set out to change that."

In 2018, Welch joined forces with midwives Char'ly Snow and Nicole Marie White, as well as birth doula Elon Geffrard, to cofound Birth Detroit. The team had two key goals: to establish the first Black-led birth center in the majority Black city of Detroit, and to reduce maternal and infant health disparities.

The team surveyed nearly 400 community members during 2018–2019 to gauge interest in a Birth Detroit Birth Center, and 98% of respondents supported the idea. A capital campaign is underway to raise funds for the freestanding birth center, where women can give birth surrounded by safety and love, with culturally relevant care in a home-like setting.

This approach views low-risk pregnancy and childbirth as a natural process rather than an emergency that requires medical intervention. It's considered suitable for upward of 80% of birthing people and is more common outside of the United States.

In the meantime, to meet the community demand for its services, Birth Detroit launched Birth Detroit Care. The community-based maternal health clinic operates out of the homey second-floor flat in northwest Detroit where expecting mom Tajzha Davis received her care. Birth Detroit Care offers prenatal and postpartum care provided by midwives, as well as childbirth education and postpartum support.

The Community Foundation's most recent grant to Birth Detroit supported a new clinical director position to lead programming expansion and midwifery team development ahead of the Birth Detroit Birth Center's opening.

"It made all the difference for us," Welch says. "We could not do what we do without the Community Foundation."

Value women and children

Birth Detroit's work extends beyond providing direct care to advocating for policies that will reduce maternal and infant health disparities. These include expanding birth center licensing, reimbursing midwifery care, extending Medicaid coverage for postpartum people for one year after a baby's birth, removing barriers to create equitable access to capital, and forming partnerships between freestanding birth centers and integrated health care systems.

Birth Detroit also has partnered with community organizations — including fellow Community Foundation grantee Mothering Justice — to form The State of Birth Justice collaborative. The group works to build urban-rural partnerships to increase access to midwifery care across the state of Michigan.

"Meeting the needs of the most marginalized, you create something better for everyone," Welch says. "Studies show that birth centers led by Black women not only are protective for Black birthing people, but produce a better birth experience for all people.

"The challenges we see, and the disparities in outcomes, are the results of a society that doesn't value women and children," Welch says. "If we value all birthing people and children equally, and we understand family autonomy and comprehensive reproductive health care as essential, we will do so much better for our families."



Legal-financial advisor Amy Hartmann

Discusses trends in women's giving



Legal-financial advisor Amy Hartmann is a committed champion of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. She and her law partner, Nancy Nihem, operate the Grosse Pointe Farms estate planning firm Hartmann & Nihem, PLLC, and include the Community Foundation in estate planning conversations with their clients. "The Community Foundation is a treasure trove for an estate planner with charitable-minded clients," says Hartmann, who's also a longtime member of the Community Foundation's Legal Financial Network.

Hartmann recently took the time to discuss her firm's relationship with the Community Foundation and share her insights on women leading change through philanthropy in southeastern Michigan.

Question: Women are a growing demographic in philanthropy and are managing more wealth than ever. What unique strategies do you use to serve this clientele?

Answer: The women we work with seem to want a sense of community with other women. They like to collaborate and share ideas. We've hosted (Community Foundation General Counsel) Laura Brownfield to present in a group setting, with

financial advisors and our clients, to discuss opportunities for women as they relate to charitable giving. Women want to preserve and protect what they've worked for. We're helping women who are selling their businesses, who have built up large retirement assets, and who have otherwise accumulated wealth and want to incorporate charitable planning with efficient tax planning. The Community Foundation is always prepared to help and provides invaluable assistance.

Question: How are women's motivations and funding interests different when it comes to charitable giving?

Answer: Women want to touch lives. They want to see the impact of their philanthropy. Many women are drawn to mentoring programs. They identify with causes dedicated to protecting the safety, health and well-being of children. They want to visit areas of need in the region and return to assess the improvements achieved by so many wonderful charities. They like to hear from young women assisted by nonprofits such as Alternatives for Girls, which has an endowment fund at the Community Foundation. I find it is not about recognition, but a genuine desire to understand how to maximize the impact of charity. Many women also want to pass the legacy of charitable giving on to the next generation.

That is why the idea of naming the children as successor advisors incorporated into the donor-advised and other charitable fund agreements with the Community Foundation is so important.

Question: Women still face a pay gap when compared to their male counterparts, although it's smaller for younger women. Do you observe gender and age influencing charitable giving?

Answer: I actually see a strong commitment to charitable giving by younger women. It's exciting. More and more women are starting their own businesses, and are incorporating charity into their business models. Environmental causes are popular. Impacting the greater good is characteristic of many young women with whom we plan. Many of our women business owner clients are donating profit percentages, adopting community projects and making global initiatives part of their enterprises. Parks and other recreational outlets for charitable intent also are important to younger women.

Question: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Answer: When you think about women leaders in philanthropy, look at the Community Foundation itself. Joan B. Warren is a founding member of the Community Foundation's Board of Trustees, an active advisor to the Raymond C. Smith Fund, and also the mom of one of my best childhood friends. She has reminded me more than once how the Community Foundation started. During the more than 30-year tenure of the organization's first president, Mariam Noland, which continued until just last year when she retired, the Community Foundation grew into one of the largest community foundations in the country, with more than \$1 billion in assets entrusted to it. She was instrumental in convening local and national funders vital to pulling the City of Detroit out of bankruptcy through the Grand Bargain. The innovative solutions by the Community Foundation, staff and partners provide endless opportunities for the future of charitable giving in southeastern Michigan. I'm proud to play a small part in the activities of the Community Foundation.



MAKE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT,

BUILD A LASTING LEGACY

Since 1984, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has worked to improve the quality of life in our region. We help individuals, families, businesses, and private foundations — along with their professional advisors — to carry out their philanthropic goals.

Whatever the asset or intent, we translate resources into charitable impact.

Start a fund

We offer a number of types of charitable funds, most of which can be established for as little as \$10,000 and may qualify for tax deductions.

cfsem.org/give



The number of women and children experiencing homelessness in Macomb County has been increasing for more than a decade and COVID-19 only accelerated the trend, according to one local shelter.

In response, the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, also known as MCREST, established a permanent location in Mount Clemens specifically for women and children. MCREST Executive Director April Fidler says the facility, which has 45 beds and 10 pack-and-plays, is always full and often has to turn people away.

The MCREST Women & Children's Shelter is designed to be a transformational place where women can find temporary housing, meals, job skills training, day care, transportation, health care services, laundry facilities, haircuts and assistance obtaining a home of their own.

With a history of supporting women and children, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan recently provided a grant to MCREST. The funding helped finance children's programming and pay for transportation so moms can get their kids to and from school or day care while they receive interview training or have appointments with potential employers.

Community Foundation supports women, children

The grant was made with support from three funds of the Community Foundation: the Eugene Howe Endowment Fund, the Southeast Michigan Forever Fund and the Sue Anne Brorby Fund, which was created to support women and children experiencing homelessness in southeast Michigan.

The Sue Anne Brorby Fund was established when the former Women's and Children's Sanctuary closed in 1993 and donated its remaining assets to the Community Foundation. That donation subsequently has been grown with additional gifts. The fund was named in honor of the sanctuary's late founder, Sister Sue Anne Brorby. To date, the fund has made seven grants totaling \$14,000. Its current balance is \$30,000.

The fund has leveraged an additional \$390,000 — meaning the Community Foundation has pooled money from this fund with money from similar field of interest funds to make larger grants than any of them could grant alone.

"WE'RE IN A VERY CHALLENGING TIME NOW. (I'D ENCOURAGE PEOPLE) NOT TO JUDGE WOMEN AND CHILDREN, BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES ARE — WHY THEY'RE HOMELESS, WHAT'S GOING ON."

- MCREST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APRIL FIDLER

Structural barriers drive increase in homelessness

Fidler says the increase in women and children experiencing homelessness in Macomb County is primarily due to a lack of access to affordable housing, child care and transportation.

As COVID-19 subsidies and eviction bans have ended, MCREST has witnessed a spike in women and children losing their homes, she says. Housing priced above fair market value, a limited public transportation system and child care that can cost more than a mortgage are barriers to women seeking to rebound after an eviction.

The increase in women and children experiencing homelessness in Macomb County also has coincided with a decline in the number of churches that are available to serve in MCREST's lineup of rotating shelters, Fidler says.

This is due to an aging volunteer population, the closure of many houses of worship and the fact that hosting women with children is more complicated than hosting single men. MCREST created the Women & Children's Shelter to meet this confluence of evolving community needs.

"We're in a very challenging time now," Fidler says. "(I'd encourage people) not to judge women and children, because you don't know what their circumstances are — why they're homeless, what's going on. I think everybody in society is going through a hard time. Just be kind to people and just listen, and (try) not to be judgmental. There are services like MCREST that are here to help, provide basic needs and help them become successful."



The MCREST Women & Children's Shelter is designed to be a transformational place where women can find temporary housing, meals, job skills training, day care, transportation, health care services, laundry facilities, haircuts and assistance obtaining a home of their own.

Of those living in

MACOMB COUNTY EMERGENCY SHELTERS

In 2022

119 were Women

were Families

Source: 2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) count, required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)



The New Economy Initiative, an initiative of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, provided grant funding to support the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) Business Development Program. Entrepreneur Farah Bazzi has worked with ACCESS and other business support organizations to grow her handmade card business.

When Farah Bazzi had twin girls in March 2020, the pandemic cast uncertainty everywhere.

As the world grappled with COVID, one piece of clarity emerged for Bazzi: Her salary teaching biology at a Dearborn high school wouldn't cover day care costs, so returning to the classroom was off the table, at least for the first few years of her twins' life.

"Unlike ... the vast majority of countries on Earth where women are guaranteed a paid maternity leave, including developing countries, the system in America failed educated, skilled, and hardworking women like myself, and continues to do so every single day," Bazzi blogged.

Pondering her future during the most stressful of times, Bazzi began crafting greeting cards for people in her life — something she'd enjoyed doing previously. What started as a therapeutic escape became Maraseel, a home business producing handcrafted cards, calendars, invitations, and stationery for all aspects of life for Arab and Muslim women.

"YOU'D GO TO PLACES LIKE TARGET AND KROGER, AND YOU'D SEE CHRISTMAS CARDS, OR YOU'D SEE VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS, BUT YOU'D NEVER SEE ANY RAMADAN CARDS."

- ENTREPRENEUR FARAH BAZZI

Along her entrepreneurial journey, Bazzi worked with several nonprofits including the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS), which helped plug her into like-minded business owners in the local community and beyond. Through networking events, Bazzi was able to gain exposure and make important connections for her sole-entrepreneur startup business.

In the fall of 2022, the New Economy Initiative, an initiative of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan,



provided grant funding to support ACCESS' Business
Development Program. Small business owners, or those
interested in becoming small business owners, are provided
with a place where they can obtain business training and
technical assistance, peer mentorship and support, lowbarrier microloans, and connectivity to resources.

The support was intended to help entrepreneurs convert their ideas into a profitable business, just like Bazzi did with Maraseel.

"You'd go to places like Target and Kroger, and you'd see Christmas cards, or you'd see Valentine's Day cards, but you'd never see any Ramadan cards," says Bazzi, 35, who was born in Lebanon before coming to the U.S. for college. "And I thought, Ramadan is a very exciting time of the year for us, and I want to tell somebody that I love, that I care about, 'Happy Ramadan and I'm thinking about you.'"

The handcrafted products use high-quality paper and materials, giving the cards weight and substance, and can come with a customized wax stamp that many customers personalize with their initials or a logo.

Working out of her home, a sunroom converted into a vibrant studio, Bazzi continues expanding her product lines. She reaches her customers online and through social media, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Pinterest, and has shipped her cards and invitations to multiple countries including Canada, Denmark, and Australia.

"Everybody took it as a hobby, a side job, a hustle. Well, you know, you can call it whatever you want. I call it my business," Bazzi says proudly.

Community Foundation news

- Program Vice President Katie Brisson received a Crain's 2022 Notable Women in Nonprofit award for her leadership and service in the community. She has helped the Community Foundation to launch multi-funder collaboratives such as the Michigan Opioid Partnership, the Community Policing Innovations Initiative, the Detroit Journalism Engagement Fund and the Pontiac Funders Collaborative. She has helped oversee the Community Foundation's growth in grantmaking and increased the representation of people of color in her department from 27 percent to 50 percent. Her team applies a diversity lens to all of its grants.
- Wafa Dinaro, executive director of the New Economy Initiative, an initiative of the Community Foundation, was honored among the Esteemed Women of Michigan 2022 by the Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic. The annual event recognizes women who make an impact on communities throughout the state and inspire other women to tackle challenges and make a positive difference. She cultivates public support for inclusive entrepreneurship and small business development-related initiatives.
- Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion &
 Community Engagement Surabhi Pandit was
 among just 75 people selected for a prestigious 2022
 Marshall Memorial Fellowship. MMF is the flagship
 leadership development program of the German
 Marshall Fund of the United States, a nonpartisan
 policy organization committed to the idea that the
 United States and Europe are stronger together. MMF
 is an immersive leadership experience that relies on
 six months of distance learning and 24 days of first hand experience and international travel to facilitate
 knowledge and network development.



Valerie (Val) Chapman-Henley cares for her husband, Kurt Henley, who was diagnosed with Lewy body dementia and Parkinson's disease in 2019. Chapman-Henley attends a monthly caregiver support group hosted by Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan grantee Universal Dementia Caregivers.

More than three in five of the 53 million adult caregivers in the United States are women.

That's according to a 2020 report by the American Association of Retired Persons and National Alliance for Caregiving that forecasts a looming shortage of caregivers as baby boomers age, low-paying jobs in the health care sector go unfilled, and states encourage home- and community-based services. Without public policy interventions, family members — mostly women – are likely to fill the care gap at their own expense.

Caregivers typically spend \$7,242 on the unpaid role each year, according to the AARP's 2021 Caregiving Out-of-Pocket Costs Study. The researchers note that, on average, family caregivers spend 26% of their income on caregiving activities.

The strain is even greater on Latinos and African-Americans, and on younger caregivers, who have had less time to work and build up resources, according to the AARP study. The study also notes that women, on average, spend more hours a week caregiving and have lower incomes.

Women also are more likely to feel stress, experience health declines and financial instability, and lack a choice when it comes to taking on the role than men, according to the 2020 AARP study.

The data also suggest many caregivers may be taking on this role without adequate and affordable services and supports in place.

Honoring Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.'s legacy

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is working to address this issue. It manages the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Fund for Caregivers, which supports projects in southeastern Michigan that assist caregivers in underserved communities, with a preference for supporting caregivers of older adults. The endowed fund has awarded 87 grants totaling more than \$1.8 million since it was established in 2014.

An endowed fund at the Community Foundation grows over time and provides funding in perpetuity for charitable causes, according to a donor's wishes. The caregivers fund at the Community Foundation was established in honor of the late Ralph C. Wilson, Jr., who was a Detroit native and the founder and longtime owner of the Buffalo Bills football team. Wilson's observations about the critical importance of caregivers toward the end of his life inspired the endowment.

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation also created a second endowment with the Community Foundation to establish a position that will provide leadership on caregiving issues in perpetuity.

"Caregivers are heroes and silent warriors, often helping their loved ones in isolation. Many of their duties are physically, mentally and emotionally exhausting," says Dr. Mary Clark, who serves as the senior advisor of Caregiving at the Community Foundation. "We're honored to collaborate with organizations throughout southeastern Michigan that support caregivers of older adults on behalf of the Community Foundation, and with the generous support of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. We have an opportunity to uplift and support the field of family caregiving, having an important and lasting impact on our region."

'A safe space with knowledge'

In 2022, the Legacy Fund for Caregivers at the Community Foundation granted \$284,838 to 14 organizations throughout southeastern Michigan. One of them was Universal Dementia Caregivers, a nonprofit that helps families cope with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The organization is an excellent example of grantmaking from the Caregivers Fund that directly impacts caregivers.

Dr. Paula Duren, a psychologist, founded Universal Dementia Caregivers after caring for her parents, who both passed away due to dementia-related causes. Her nonprofit provides caregivers with culturally sensitive coaching and family mediation, evidence-based education and training workshops, lunch and learns, self-care practices, and a monthly support group. The offerings are available online or in person, and participants are welcome to bring their ward if they can't find care coverage.

"We're human and you have to have a space to be angry, to cry, to be excited with people who understand," Duren says. "That's what I hope I provide — a safe space with knowledge."

Grantmaking with direct impact

Universal Dementia Caregivers client Valerie (Val) Chapman-Henley says she hasn't missed the nonprofit's monthly support group once since she started attending in February of 2021.

Chapman-Henley cares for her husband, Kurt Henley, who was diagnosed with degenerative, incurable Lewy body dementia and Parkinson's disease in 2019. Before his diagnosis, the adventurous, social couple loved to attend parties with friends and family, enjoyed concerts, participated in church life and traveled.

Now, they're on a different kind of journey together.

Chapman-Henley first noticed changes in her husband in 2017. He was more argumentative. His handwriting was different. He began to bounce checks. He stopped driving, which she found concerning since he was a retired bus driver. His 2019 diagnosis helped the couple understand and adapt to what was happening to him and, soon after, Chapman-Henley joined the Universal Dementia Caregivers support group.

Chapman-Henley says Duren and Universal Dementia Caregivers, with support from the Community Foundation, provide her invaluable insights into Henley's evolving condition and how to navigate his health care and other practical matters, resources for coping, and kinship with other caregivers.

After a fall and subsequent hospitalization in October, Henley requires 24/7 care. He sleeps more and takes longer to do things he used to do in a flash, his wife says. She helps him with showering and dressing, serves as his medical advocate, manages his finances and legal affairs, runs all of their errands, gives him massages and keeps him active, and ensures he doesn't wander away.

"It's a privilege taking care of him," Chapman-Henley says.

"He's my husband and I love him."

LGBTQ+ women are welcome,

HOPE Fund co-chair says

HOPE Fund co-chair Stacey Cassis wants women in the LGBTQ+ community to know they're welcome at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan — and to understand the organization and how it can benefit their charitable goals.

The Community Foundation is a public charity that has worked to create permanent, positive change in our seven-county region since 1984. Thanks to generous donors who have built its endowment, the Community Foundation has distributed more than \$1.4 billion to nonprofit organizations that are working to enhance the quality of life throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair and Livingston counties.

In 1995, the Community Foundation created the Helping Others through Partnerships and Education (HOPE) Fund. The endowed fund strengthens organizations and projects that support LGBTQ+ individuals and families through focused grantmaking. Some of the HOPE Fund's community partners include Affirmations, Ruth Ellis Center and the ACLU of Michigan.

The HOPE Fund also works to support growing the capacity of LGBTQ+ organizations, as well as other nonprofit organizations that want to better serve the LGBTQ+ community.

"It's really important to understand the courage involved for the Community Foundation to start the HOPE Fund to begin with," Cassis says. "It's been integral in the progress we've made in southeast Michigan, and it's held up as a beacon of hope nationally."

Cassis says the Community Foundation makes a great philanthropic partner for women in the LGBTQ+ community. While women often have less disposable income and time to devote to charity, due to gender-driven disparities around pay and caregiving, Cassis wants people to know the HOPE Fund is accessible.

"Their donation, regardless of size, counts," she says. "They can rest assured that in this uncertain world we live in, the money is



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- HOPE FUND CO-CHAIR STACEY CASSIS

being handed to a good steward who will oversee it, and make sure it has longevity and is properly disbursed. (Their donation) will help organizations that support the things they care about and take care of the people they worry about every day."

Alternately, women who don't feel comfortable giving on their current income can list the Community Foundation as a benefactor, creating a lasting legacy, Cassis says. They can even give anonymously, if they'd prefer.

Cassis says her goals as the HOPE Fund's co-chair (along with her counterpart, Sabin Blake) are to welcome more women and people from diverse backgrounds to the HOPE Fund Committee and to incite excitement for the HOPE Fund among the LGBTQ+ community's next generation in southeastern Michigan. Cassis says she'd also like to see more conversation around transgender people and how to support them.

"The world is changing. We thought we had it figured out, and now we're finding out we're under attack again," Cassis says. "It's super important for the next generation to take hold of this and be involved.

"There's room for more people at the table and, if they're uncertain they would be welcome, they're most welcome," Cassis says. "We need to get more people under the tent."

Visit **cfsem.org/hope** to learn more or make a donation.



The women-led Minerva Educational Development Foundation (MEDF) provides scholarships and grantmaking in the Detroit area. "Without the Community Foundation, the MEDF would not be celebrating 30 years of giving," says Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Board of Trustees member Jenice Mitchell Ford, who also serves on the MEDF board.

Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Board of Trustees member Jenice Mitchell Ford is an enthusiastic advocate for planned and endowed giving.

Mitchell Ford, who joined the Community Foundation in 2011 and has served on the Program & Distribution Committee, says she's been inspired by the opportunity to make a positive impact in the city of Detroit. As a community leader, she also serves on the board of trustees for the Minerva Educational Development Foundation (MEDF), which has multiple endowed funds with the Community Foundation.

A group of Black women from the Detroit Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. founded the MEDF in 1992 to create a tradition of planned and endowed giving among the African-American community in Detroit. The organization provides scholarships to Detroit area traditional and nontraditional students, as well as grantmaking, primarily to Detroit-based nonprofits with operating budgets of less than \$100,000.

One of the MEDF's first steps was to apply for the Van Dusen Endowment Challenge — a call to nonprofit agencies throughout southeastern Michigan to build endowments with the Community Foundation. In fact, Mitchell Ford's aunt, Charlene Mitchell, an MEDF co-founder, wrote the nonprofit's Van Dusen Endowment Challenge application in 1994. The MEDF was tasked with raising \$100,000 as part of the challenge, but went above and beyond to raise \$115,000 for its initial agency endowment fund at the Community Foundation.

An endowment fund is part of a pool of assets that are invested for long-term growth. A portion of the assets is made available for the organization's charitable purposes each year. An increasing amount of support will be available from the fund as the assets and investment returns grow in perpetuity. Today, the Community Foundation manages more than 230 of these agency endowments for nonprofits throughout southeastern Michigan.

Since establishing its original agency endowment fund with the Community Foundation, the MEDF has given away \$750,000 in scholarships and grants. It also has established seven additional funds. For example, late MEDF member Doris B. Corsey Arnold donated \$30,000 to establish a scholarship fund under the MEDF umbrella to help single mothers who are attending college or university pay for day care. To date, the MEDF has eight funds totaling nearly \$400,000 at the Community Foundation.

"We tell people, 'You can continue your work even after you're gone. Create an endowment,' " Mitchell Ford says. "I don't know which hat I wear when I say this, but nobody does it better than the Community Foundation as far as endowment — the management, the discipline that we have with managing our funds, and the care that we take in carrying out someone's desired mission. Without the Community Foundation, the MEDF would not be celebrating 30 years of giving."



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