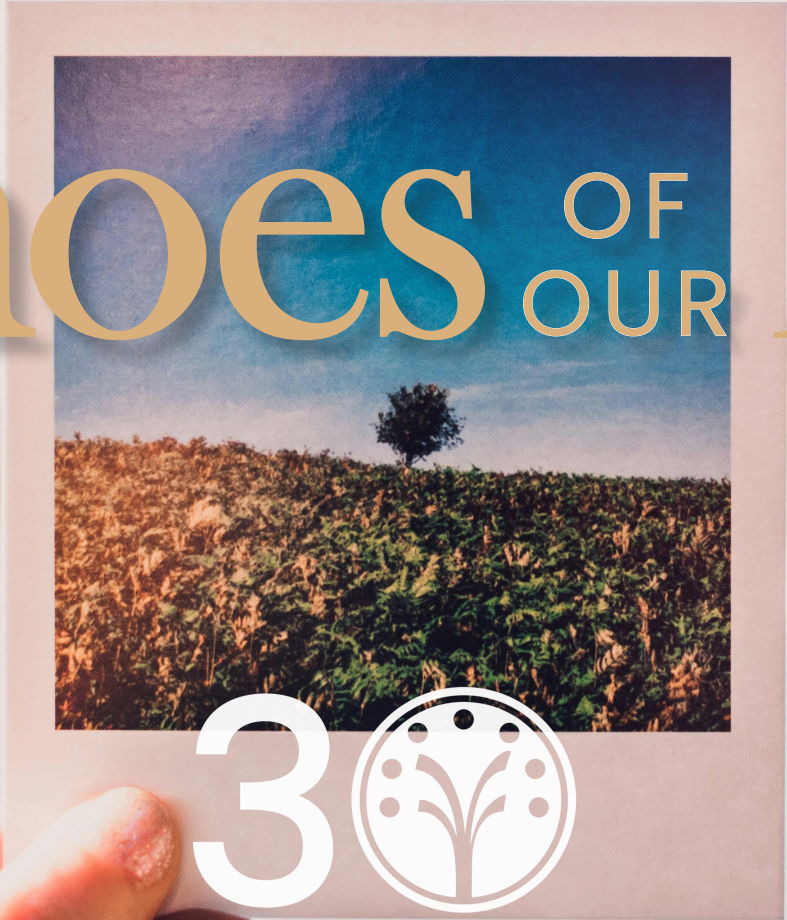


BARRY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Echoes OF OUR *Past*



3 

YEARS OF
IMPROVING
LIVES

DEAR COMMUNITY

Founded in 1995, the community foundation field looks much different today. Over the years we've shifted our focus to driving strategic impacts. Collaborations with donors, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies is a great way to create projects and investments that lead to seismic impacts to our county. After 30 years, the conversation has shifted from what your assets are to what impact you are making, and how you measure that. Today, while searching for a way to convene and provide practical, transformational community work, we stumbled upon the Small Town Dreams Initiative concept (see February story).

Our grantmaking, donor development, community networking, and intellectual work all center around Access to Basic Needs, Arts & Culture, Education, Economy, Environment, Neighborhoods, and Health & Wellness. As in life, generosity creates an amazing echo, which comes back over and over to improve lives and create a more vibrant community.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Gettys, President and CEO
Kimberly J. Norris, MD, Board Chair



Bonnie Gettys
Kimberly J. Norris



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YOU



With \$350,000 in the bank, community visionaries on the Thornapple Foundation board of directors looked for a way to expand their county-wide impact by joining the Michigan Council on Foundations and increasing funds via a challenge match provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Establishing the Barry Community Foundation, they needed to improve efficiency and effectiveness, which required hiring a strong, visionary leader as their first employee.

Welcome, Bonnie Gettys! “She took the reins and never looked back,” explains Maggie Coleman, one of the founding board members. “We were confident with her experience leading the Barry County United Way and knew she would hit the ground running.”

With the trust and faith of many community leaders and donors, Bonnie did not disappoint them. Her 30th year ushers in \$58 million in assets, over 360 funds, and the new Small Town Dreams Initiative, which provides another spark to area villages, townships, and communities by funding new, innovative, and important dreams.

IT STARTED WITH A Vision



Bottom (from left): Maggie Coleman, Dick Groos, Bonnie Gettys
Top (from left): Doug DeCamp, Judge Dick Shuster, Fred Jacobs



2025 January

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			New Year's Day 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	Leadership Barry County Opening Retreat →	17	18
19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

"The idea of a community foundation in Barry County started back in the 1960s with the formation of the Thornapple Foundation. It became increasingly clear to the Board of Directors that we were missing something very important. The breakthrough came in 1995 when representatives of the Council of Michigan Foundations, financed by a very generous grant from the Kellogg Foundation, showed us what could be done if we did it right, and offered to help. We jumped at the chance and were immediately deluged with seemingly endless amounts of practical assistance in the business of what to do and how to do it. Putting the prototype into practice - creating and developing the Barry Community Foundation - has been a successful venture, due mostly to an extremely effective executive director, a knowledgeable and hard-working board, and the support of a generous and caring community."

- Dick Groos, Charter President of the Barry Community Foundation Board of Directors



Dick and Ethel Groos

SMALL TOWN Dreams

The Barry Community Foundation stands indebted to Dick and Ethel Groos for their unwavering vision, the genesis of a legacy that thrives and resonates through time. For this reason, we celebrate the Richard T. and Ethel D. Groos Small Town Dreams Initiative. Knowing the impact of matching grants on engaging dreamers and donors, this fund perfectly honors Dick and Ethel. The new fund offers a unique cash match for establishing an endowment and immediate local grant distributions. It's a transformative program that opens possibilities for every individual and community involved. It is a tailor-made opportunity to address a community's needs and strengths.



February 2025

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
						Green Gables Haven Auction
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
					Valentine's Day	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Presidents' Day					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Scholarship Applications Close						
23	24	25	26	27	28	



ARTS & CULTURE

Education

HEALTH CARE

ENVIRONMENT

Basic Needs

Economy

NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES

A HEALTHIER Community

*What makes a community healthy?
How can BCF support the vision of
a strong community life and how
does philanthropy play a role in
creating it?*

In 2011 the board of directors adopted a Healthy Community framework to help build a higher quality of life for all Barry County residents by focusing on seven core areas, or elements. With this sense of community, philanthropy

becomes more than minimizing problems. Using the Healthy Community framework, we can help all residents improve their lives and the lives of others. By strategically supporting each of these areas to support and strive for a healthy community, we can analyze the needs in our community and guide resources to close gaps and ensure balance and quality of life.



2025 March

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Daylight Saving Time Begins						YAC and Barry Health Access Grant Applications Due
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	Write Away Contest Entries Due	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



NURTURING **Entrepreneurs**

In 2009, the Barry Community Foundation embarked on a transformative journey with the acquisition of a historic church on Broadway St. in downtown Hastings. With significant support from Larry and Earlene Baum and Doug and Margaret DeCamp, the church was re-purposed into a vibrant community asset: The Barry County Enrichment Center (BCEC). Central to this transformation was the creation of a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen, a cornerstone for local entrepreneurs.

Completed in 2014, the BCEC's commercial kitchen has become more than just a space; it is a catalyst for innovation and a launchpad for small businesses. This facility, which includes a Culinary Arts Teaching Kitchen and Catering Space, was designed to foster entrepreneurship and support startups by providing

access to professional-grade equipment and resources.

One such success story is Krug Berry Farm, run by Tina Krug. Established in 2016, Krug Berry Farm has become a local favorite, known for its homemade jams, jellies, pies, breads, and pastries. As her product line expanded to include apple cider vinegar, caramel apples, and hand pies, BCEC's commercial kitchen played a crucial role in this growth, allowing Tina to expand to new product ideas.

"The kitchen is a blessing to us," Tina says. "We are so grateful that we have a commercial-grade kitchen in our county."





2025 April

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
						Barry Roubaix
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Income Tax Deadline				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Easter Sunday				TAC Jazz Festival		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Wilson H. Craig Jr. Grant Applications Due			
27	28	29	30			



THE HEARTBEAT OF Community


In the heart of Nashville, Michigan, a transformative journey is unfolding. “Nashville is embarking on a path that will reshape our future in ways that truly reflect who we are and what we aspire to be” said resident and director Duska Brumm about the Community Heart & Soul program.

Community Heart & Soul is not just a program; it is a movement grounded in the belief that the heartbeat of a town lies in its people. At its core, it is a resident-driven process designed to engage every member of the community. This initiative goes beyond conventional planning methods, diving deep into what makes Nashville unique and what we collectively envision for our future.

What sets Community Heart & Soul apart is its

unwavering commitment to inclusiveness. Through community events, neighborhood block parties, schools, local businesses, and virtual gatherings, Heart & Soul ensures that every voice has an opportunity to be heard. This approach not only amplifies unique perspectives but also fosters a deeper sense of belonging and ownership among all residents.

Duska indicated that “the responsibility now rests with us—the residents of Nashville. It is up to each of us to determine what we cherish about our town and to envision the future we desire. Through our collective efforts and the Community Heart & Soul process, we can build a future that is deeply rooted in our shared values and dreams. Our town’s legacy is in our hands, and the possibilities are as limitless as our collective imagination.”





May 2025

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				GNO - Hastings 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mother's Day 11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	Leadership Barry County Graduation 22	23	24
25	Memorial Day 26	27	28	29	30	31

INSPIRING Legacy

In a world of fleeting trends, the enduring impact of individuals like George and Doris Leonard reminds us of the true meaning of legacy. The Leonards, deeply committed to the Delton community, left an indelible mark through their generous contributions, shaping Delton's future and inspiring others to make a difference.

Each year the George and Doris Leonard Scholarship Fund provides over \$60,000 in new and renewable scholarships to Delton Kellogg students, opening doors for students who may otherwise struggle to afford higher education. This fund will continue to grow, granting additional scholarships, and extending the couple's legacy far beyond their lifetime. Each year, more than \$58,000 in classroom grants equips educators with the resources needed to create dynamic and engaging learning. The Leonards have helped ensure students in Delton receive the tools and opportunities necessary to thrive in an increasingly complex world.

The Leonard's story is a powerful example of how individual generosity has a ripple effect, touching the lives of many, and creating a legacy that will endure for generations. Their actions serve as an invitation to each of us to consider how we can make a lasting impact on our communities.





2025 June

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						Bill Porter Charity Golf Outing
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Father's Day				Juneteenth		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

STRENGTHENING OUR Landscape

For over 15 years, the Barry Community Foundation has supported geographic affiliate funds. Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation (TAEF) joined BCF in 2009 and Delton Kellogg Education Foundation (DKEF) in 2014. The BCF manages the assets and provides a liaison to guide and facilitate, while advisory boards from each respective community determine the direction of its foundation. They create strategies, fundraise, recommend grants for classrooms and community needs, as well as present hundreds of scholarships, many in the loving memories of area students, teachers or community supporters.

As a county-wide philanthropic organization focused on improving lives, one of the most effective services BCF provides is the collaboration and partnership with these two foundations, laser focused on their communities and schools. Established in 1992, TAEF provides community grants for the Middleville area, and scholarships for Thornapple Kellogg High School graduates. With a generous endowment from the George and Doris Leonard Fund, DKEF provides Delton Kellogg Schools with a jump start on grants and scholarships for their students. (See June story about Bud and Doris Leonard's legacy)



THORNAPPLE AREA
ENRICHMENT
FOUNDATION



July 2025

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		BCF Turns 30 1	2	3	Independence Day 4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	BCF Soul Celebration 17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

INVESTING IN Main Street

In 2010, community leaders came together to invest in a hotel in Hastings. It was identified as a service gap requiring a considerable capital investment and several investors. A small community was risky for a Holiday Inn, but with the vision and financial support, the Invest Barry fund was born. In partnership with other economic partners and governmental agencies, a construction loan was structured through the fund, which would be paid back with interest over 20 years.

T I M E L I N E

1. Five families approached the foundation, requesting our assistance in creating a fund that would support low-interest loans for niche market opportunities.
2. Great Lakes Capital Fund, a CDFI (community development financial institution) in Lansing, Michigan, presented recommendations for a loan to build Hastings Holiday Inn Express.
3. Partners—The Developer, Hastings City Bank, SBAM small business loan fund, an investor, and BCF - provided loans/capital, and the Economic Development Alliance and the Joint Planning Alliance created a joint services agreement for city water and sewer infrastructure.
4. The 20-year loan was paid back in less than eight years, and the Holiday Inn Express continues to be a successful piece of our community's economy.
5. Since then, additional investments have included micro loans during COVID-19, bridge loans for housing-related ventures, and business expansion loans.



2025 August

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Delton Founder's Festival	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					Healthy Youth Healthy Seniors Grant Applications Due	Brewfest
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					Hastings Summerfest	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NURTURING TOMORROW

Youth in Focus

In 1996, the Youth Advisory Council began with a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, allowing Middle and High School students to get involved in philanthropy. "We took our responsibility seriously. We were given thousands of dollars each year to invest into programs that benefit kids in our community," says Cloe Oliver, one of the original members of YAC and now one of its advisors. "It gave a group of local teens a chance to be a voice for our peers, and the ability to make a difference."

To date, YAC has granted over \$600,000 to programs designed to benefit youth programs in Barry County and has spent countless hours doing service projects and volunteer work.

In 2015, the KickStart to Career program was launched to benefit every Kindergartner in Barry County. It gives them a chance to think about their future from an early age and provides a savings account seeded with \$50 and an opportunity to earn and save throughout their school years. "Most elementary school students don't think about what they'll be doing five or ten years in the future," says Sam Waller, administrator of the program. "But KickStart gives every child in our county the chance to make that connection, that what they do now can help them in the future."

The Barry Community Foundation remains dedicated to our community's youngest members. The generous support of our donors and supporters allows us the privilege of working with students all over Barry County, and we are so proud to be able to support our youth.





2025 September

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Labor Day					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	United Way Day of Caring and Kick-Off	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



WELCOME Home

The Shuffle House, Tyden Lofts, and Nashville Flats help meet the goal of providing safe and affordable housing for all in our community just this year. A stable housing inventory is critical to Barry County's economic well-being, by ensuring workforce housing. When housing expenses are more than 30% of a family's income, it impacts their ability to afford basic needs.

"It's the domino effect for a healthier community when you create affordable housing," explains Bonnie Gettys, CEO and President of BCF. "The employers love it because it helps their workforce. Schools love it because new teachers can find housing in their district, and even seniors love it because many of these developments are in walkable areas; close to services, restaurants, or even entertainment." When retirees decide to downsize, it opens housing for young families to purchase a new home in our community.

A shining example of the focus on housing is the Village Flats in downtown Nashville. By bridging resources and fostering collaboration, an old, empty school now will provide 20 beautiful, affordable apartments.



2025 October

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			TAEF Grant Applications Due 1	GNO - Hastings 2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	BCF, YAC, Bar Association, and Belong in Barry County Grant Applications Due 15	16	17	Arts and Eats Tour YAC Roof Sit 18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	Barry County Manufacturing Week 27	28	29	30	Halloween Wilson H. Craig Jr. Grant Applications Due 31	

PARTNERSHIPS THAT PROVIDE Relief

During the COVID-19 pandemic, BCF partnered with the Barry County United Way and utilized the Extreme Community Needs Fund to help distribute food and personal protection equipment, as well as provide resources for other immediate needs of residents and veterans.

Individual residents weren't the only ones facing challenges, and when outdoor dining became a possible solution to help local restaurants stay open, the Barry County Chamber of Commerce, BCF, and the City of Hastings looked for ways to help these businesses through loans from the Invest Barry Fund. As a result, a grant and gift card program (Feed Barry County) was created to attract customers and combined funding from private donors and the COVID Relief Fund, creating a pool of over \$160,000 to purchase igloo structures and heaters to make outdoor dining a reality!





2025 November

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Barry County Manufacturing Week TAC Auction for the Arts 1
Daylight Saving Time Ends 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	Veterans Day 11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	Thanksgiving Day 27	28	Small Business Saturday 29
30						

You

YOU are the most important feature of the Barry Community Foundation. Because of YOU, our community has resources to provide economic growth, basic needs for residents, housing, and workforce training opportunities, making your community a little more vibrant. The good YOU do for your community improves lives in many ways. Each year hundreds of grants and scholarships support community members and students. Each year we take the time to honor those who had a vision, and a generous heart, and took time to “plant a tree for others to enjoy the shade.” We remember YOU. We will always be grateful that YOU provided a better place for all of us to live, work, and play!





2025 December

January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	2026 Scholarship Applications Open 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	Nashville Christmas Parade 13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	Christmas Eve 24	Christmas Day 25	26	27
28	29	30	New Year's Eve 31	New Year's Day 1	2	3

Financials

Program Highlights

KICKSTART TO CAREER

Each year Barry County kindergartners receive a deposit-only, long-term savings account at Highpoint Community Bank seeded with \$50.

5,180

number of accounts as of 6.30.24

\$474,866

total deposits as of 6.30.24

LEADERSHIP BARRY COUNTY

Leadership Barry County offers established and emerging leaders a unique opportunity to be part of a group that comes together to develop their professional and personal leadership skills.

569

alumni since inception in 1989

21

graduates in 2024

Supporting Organization

BARRY COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT CENTER

Established in 2011, this building is owned and operated by the Barry Community Foundation. It currently brings together 11 partner organizations for centralized access to assistance and support services.

96% SAVINGS

Annual rental rates for non-profit renters are 96% less than market rates.

Scholarships

Each year area students can apply for local scholarships offered through the Barry Community Foundation and our geographic affiliates, the Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation and the Delton Kellogg Education Foundation.

BARRY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

40

scholarships administered

\$90,000

amount awarded in 2024

THORNAPPLE AREA ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION

47

scholarships administered

\$59,000

amount awarded in 2024

DELTON KELLOGG EDUCATION FOUNDATION

62

scholarships administered

\$132,000

amount awarded in 2024



Granting

Each year the Barry Community Foundation and its affiliate foundations generously grant money into our community. These dollars continue to support the ongoing needs of the people and organizations that call Barry County home.

145

number of funds that granted dollars into the community ending 6.30.24

\$1,740,420

total dollars granted into the community ending 6.30.24

Asset Breakdown net assets as of 6.30.24

\$2,781,746

Thornapple Area Enrichment Foundation

\$5,107,619

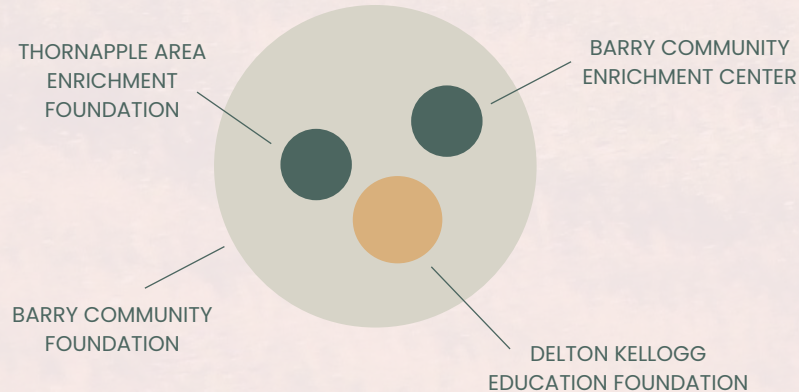
Delton Kellogg Education Foundation

\$2,565,911

Barry Community Enrichment Center (separate entity)

\$58,215,631

Barry Community Foundation (total includes BCF and its supporting organizations)



Gifts

\$4.3 MILLION

dollar amount of total gifts

1,981

number of total gifts

INDIVIDUAL GIVING

Percentage of individual donors by years of giving.

39%

First time givers

9%

Giving for 11-15 years

20%

Giving for 1-5 years

8%

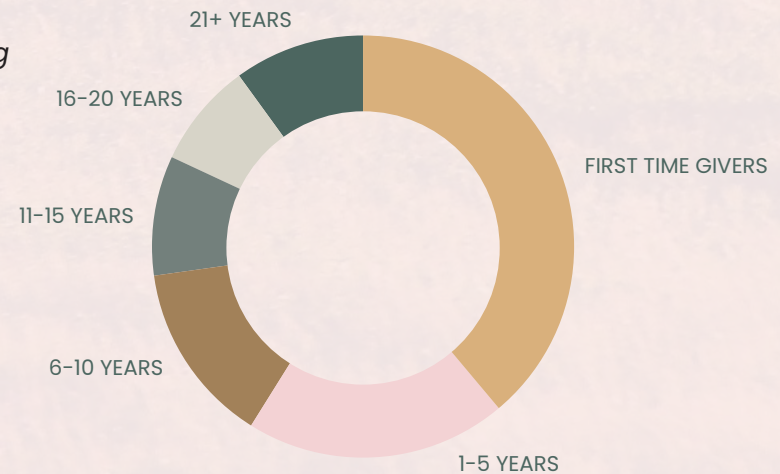
Giving for 16-20 years

14%

Giving for 6-10 years

10%

Giving for 21+ years



The Barry Community Foundation's and Barry Community Enrichment Center's financial statements are audited by Plante & Moran, PLLC.

A full set of the audited financial statements are available by contacting info@barrycf.org.

Board of Directors



Dr. Kim Norris,
Board Chair 2024



Chris Stafford,
Board Vice Chair



Diane Gaertner,
Interim Board
Chair 2024,
Secretary



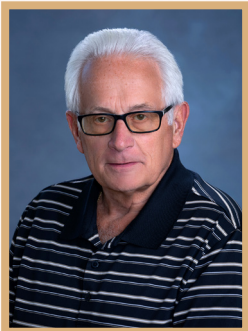
Deborah Jackson,
Treasurer



Dave Solmes



Dr. Katherine
Bertolini



Fred Jacobs



Korin Ayers



Marley TenCate



Michael McKeown



Shana Bush



Evan Liu, YAC
President

Not Pictured:

Jennifer Haywood,
Board Chair 2025

Our Staff



Bonnie Gettys,
President and CEO



Annie Halle, COO



Mindy Cutlip,
Marketing &
Communications
Director



Tammy James,
Office Manager



Tammy Hayes,
Executive
Assistant



Dave Smith,
Maintenance
and Custodial
Assistant



Sam Waller,
Program
Associate

Not Pictured:

Duska Brumm,
Program Officer

Tim Girrback,
Maintenance
and Custodial
Assistant



Lasting Impact

Giving through the Barry Community Foundation is a mark of generosity and a commitment to your community, echoing for generations to come. Your gifts, whether they are of time, talent, or treasure, play a significant role in building the foundation of meaningful work in Barry County.



BARRY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

231 S. Broadway St.
Hastings, MI 49058

(269) 945-0526
www.barrycf.org

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M.S. Design Studio

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