



Keweenaw

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

For good. For ever.®

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



We are a community foundation whose purpose is to strengthen all aspects of the Keweenaw and assist our donors in achieving their philanthropic goals.

For **good**. For **ever**.

DEAR COMMUNITY,

Advertisements for investment firms usually feature a statement in fine print that essentially says, "Past returns are not predictive of future performance." Never has that been truer. The financial markets have been unpredictable, to say the least, since COVID-19 hit our shores. As of March 31, 2020, the end of the fiscal year on which this report is based, some of the funds held by the Foundation had declined in value significantly. While they have since rebounded, it seems as if the markets will remain volatile in the near term.

Given the current environment, it is no surprise that many of us are uneasy, struggling to adjust to a forced curtailment of activities for an indefinite period of time. It is particularly frustrating that we cannot pinpoint a date by which our lives may return to "normal". So, what can we do during times like these, when the ground feels as if it might shift beneath our feet at any moment? We can focus on the future and on what we can control, guided by our shared values, with trust that better days are ahead. That is what the Keweenaw Community Foundation helps to promote: making investments to support and advance the quality of life for residents of Houghton and Keweenaw Counties in perpetuity.

In this annual report, you will read about some of the efforts supported through the Keweenaw Community Foundation over the last fiscal year. The activities and outcomes shared here represent some of the many reasons my fellow Trustees and I are proud to serve this organization. It is rewarding to see what has been accomplished, especially by our highly engaged members of the Student Leadership Advisory Council of the Keweenaw.

Rest assured, even as we review the past, our gaze is fixed forward. We are buoyed knowing that the Foundation's mission is immutable and will carry on long after we are gone. Your community foundation is here for good and forever.

Thank you for being a part of our community and for your continued interest in the work of the Keweenaw Community Foundation.

– John Lehman, Board Chair

BOARD MEMBERS

John Lehman, *Board Chair*

Brian Rendel, *Board Vice Chair*

Chuck Ouellette, *Treasurer*

Amanda Shelast, *Board Secretary*

Andy Costic

Scott Dianda

Angela Piche

Chris Riesgraf

John Sanregret

George Twardzik

WHO WE ARE

Established in 1994, the Keweenaw Community Foundation serves as a catalyst for lasting change, a partner for local organizations, and a resource for emerging community needs.

WHAT WE DO

We provide sustainable financial support to organizations for projects aimed at addressing local needs and strengthening our community.

WHERE WE HELP

Our focus is in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. Altogether, the Foundation's funds represent organizations, programs, and donors, creating a network of support. Each enriches all aspects of the place we call home, now and for generations to come.





STUDENT LEADERSHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE KEWEENAW

The **Student Leadership Advisory Council of the Keweenaw (SLACK)** is an integral part of the Keweenaw Community Foundation. Its mission: bridging gaps between Keweenaw communities by engaging youth in philanthropy and developing student leadership. Visit www.keweenawgives.org/slack to learn more about SLACK, its student membership, and grant opportunities for youth programs.

For the 2019-2020 granting period, SLACK grant funds supported a number of diverse programs working with—and led by—youth in our community. A total of \$33,650 was awarded to 12 local organizations. These grants supported projects that benefited youth in grades 6-12 in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties.

After a comprehensive review by the students who make up the SLACK Granting Committee, grants were awarded to the following organizations or programs: Simple Kindness for Youth, Calumet High School, The BHK Meraki Youth Art Festival, Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly, Rabbit Island Foundation and Portage Lake District Library's Rabbit Island School, Calumet High School, MTU Center for Pre-College Outreach, Calumet Theater, Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, Village of South Range, MTU Center for Science and Environmental Outreach, and Houghton High School.

"A huge shout-out to the Youth Advisory Council for making the first-ever youth art fest in the Keweenaw a reality! We look forward to the Meraki Youth Art Fest becoming an annual tradition in our community, and we're so grateful for the opportunity to expand access to the arts for our local youth."

— Marcy A. Erickson, Founder, BHK Meraki Youth Arts Festival

"We are thrilled to make this unique learning opportunity available to area students. The Rabbit Island School program is an excellent representation of the library's mission to provide experiential learning opportunities for engagement and recreation."

— Dillon Geshel, Director, Portage Lake District Library, presenting partner with the Rabbit Island Foundation for the Rabbit Island School program



SLACK 2020 Overview of Survey Results



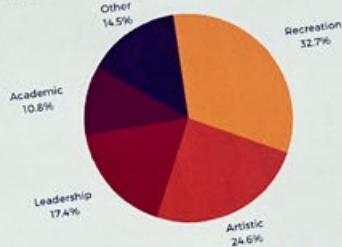
Student Leadership Advisory Council of the Keweenaw
 Bridging gaps between Keweenaw communities by engaging in youth philanthropy and developing student leadership

1,780 7TH - 12TH GRADE COPPER COUNTRY STUDENTS TOOK THE SURVEY



BIGGEST AREAS OF CONCERN FOR STUDENTS IN YOUR SCHOOL

Copper Country students are most concerned (definitely to somewhat) about Stress & Anxiety (1,379), Vaping (1,295), Depression (1,143) and Nicotine Use (970).



ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Students wished there were more recreational and artistic activities available to them.

OTHER NOTES

- 55% of students are interested in learning more about budget and finance before to prepare for life after high school.
- 53% of students would like more job and career exploration opportunities.

54%

Of the Copper Country 7th - 12th Grade Students took the survey

81%

Of students felt prepared for life after High School.

94.5%

Students surveyed felt they had a positive relationship with at least one adult at their school



YOUTH NEEDS SURVEY

To provide guidance to area organizations that provide service to them, and to ensure area young people that they have a voice in the community, it is critical to periodically solicit opinions and concerns from local youth. When the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) joined the Copper Country Intermediate School District Student Leadership Council (SLC) in September of 2019 to form the Student Leadership Advisory Council of the Keweenaw (SLACK), the students prioritized this need, working together to generate a comprehensive update to the survey of youth needs last conducted in 2014.

The diligent work of the students and school administrators on the 2020 survey helped achieve an unprecedented response rate of 54 percent. The results show that the areas of greatest concern for this community's young people are stress and anxiety, vaping, depression, and nicotine use. In addition to programs addressing these issues, respondents expressed a desire for greater access to recreational and artistic activities. The survey data (available by visiting the link below) has been published to help inform local educational institutions, businesses, families, and nonprofit organizations as they strive to address students' needs and support their successful growth. Members of SLACK will also rely on the survey data to help craft requests for grant proposals and evaluate funding opportunities.



Shortly after the two student leadership groups combined, the Student Leadership Advisory Council of the Keweenaw formed a design team to update their logo. Consulting with the Keweenaw Community Foundation staff, the team used the Foundation's existing logo as starting point and added an illustration of the Houghton-Hancock Bridge, also known as the Portage Lake Lift Bridge, to symbolize its mission and the union of the two councils.

Overview of the 2020 Youth Needs Survey:
www.keweenawgives.org/s/SLACK_2020_Survey_Results.pdf

SLACK students volunteered as holiday bell ringers across seven area locations in December 2019.

TRAILS FOR ALL SEASONS

The Keweenaw has hundreds of miles of trails for recreation, and several Keweenaw Community Foundation fund partners help make possible the maintenance and expansion of those trails through our grants.

The **Portage Health Foundation Outdoor Recreation and Wellness Fund** grant has helped several local organizations in the last year. Those included Chassell Township for a trail mapping project; Eagle Harbor Township for its new Sixth Street Trail which connects users to the Mt. Baldy parking area; Swedetown Trails Club for trail improvements; and the Copper Harbor Trails Society for a new trail suitable for beginners that will connect the offerings at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge to the wider trail system in Copper Harbor. This year also saw a dedication at the Maasto Hiihto and Churning Rapids trail system. After delays due to the Father's Day Floods, the Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club (KNSC) celebrated the rebuilding of the New River Trail, completing a project that had been supported by a grant from the previous cycle.

The **Keweenaw Cross Country Skiing Fund** provides grants to organizations that work year-round to bring improvements to this classic Keweenaw pastime. As soon as the snow falls, this popular non-motorized activity has a strong presence on the trail systems throughout the region. Several organizations work tirelessly to keep conditions top-notch and present programs to help grow the skills of the next generation of skiers. In the past year the grant has supported the Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club for its 2020 Barneloped event for youth; Swedetown Trails Club to improve Powderhouse and Len's Loops; and the Copper Country Ski Tigers to expand its offering of youth rental equipment.

The organizations that received grants continue to partner with recreation groups, local landowners, and municipalities while enlisting support from incredible volunteers to make all of these projects possible. We recognize their hard work and collaborative spirit, and are excited to support their work through the Foundation's available grants. We look forward to continuing to share the stories of further trail improvement and growth of associated outdoor programs. In the meantime, get out there and enjoy the trails!

Swedetown Trails Club was awarded a Portage Health Foundation Community Wellness and Outdoor Recreation Fund grant for their Valley Trail and Greenstone Loop Skiing Improvements project.

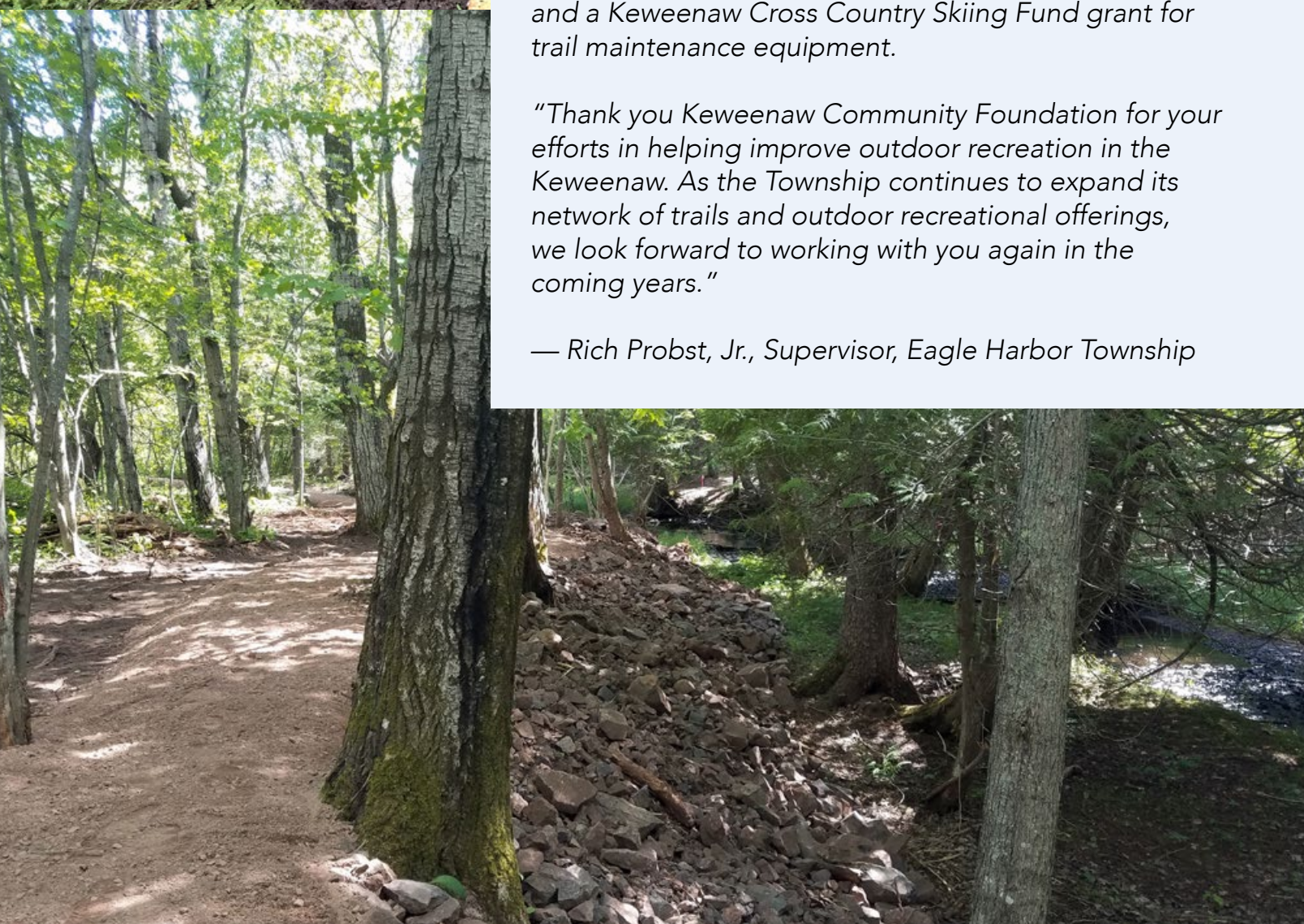




Eagle Harbor Township received a Portage Health Foundation Community Wellness and Outdoor Recreation Fund grant for their Sixth Street Trail project, and a Keweenaw Cross Country Skiing Fund grant for trail maintenance equipment.

“Thank you Keweenaw Community Foundation for your efforts in helping improve outdoor recreation in the Keweenaw. As the Township continues to expand its network of trails and outdoor recreational offerings, we look forward to working with you again in the coming years.”

— Rich Probst, Jr., Supervisor, Eagle Harbor Township





EAGLE HARBOR TRAIL
NON-MOTORIZED



- Maintained by Volunteers
- Donations Welcome
- Please Snowshoe Along Side of Groomed Tracks
- No Horses Allowed
- Maps Available at the Townhall

Eagle Harbor Township
20 Cedar Street, Eagle Harbor, MI 49729
907.337.4647 • www.eagleharbor.org

DONATE
SKI TRAIL
GROOMING

SKI TRAIL
PAR
HEA
PAR
ON

2020 CENSUS

For rural communities, an accurate census count is crucial for education, social services, infrastructure, and so much more. Fortunately, we were able to work with the Copper Country Great Start Collaborative to help get the word out with the support of the Be Counted UP Census 2020 grant. While the Keweenaw Community Foundation served in an administrative role, the majority of the work on the ground was led by our incredible fund partners and Great Start. They partnered with local schools, organizations, and businesses, making sure the census count in our corner of Michigan was a success.

Early in the process we recruited and trained Census Ambassadors, planned events, and created strategies in person. But as we entered Spring and the challenges of COVID-19 became obvious, we pivoted and developed solutions to each setback. Our meetings became virtual, and outreach shifted online and in print. We delivered critical census information in novel and supportive ways—from bookmarks to coincide with convenient library pickups, to food boxes that were distributed to local families. We created table displays, tote bags, and giveaways when and where it was possible. Various outdoor events including farmers markets, where the public could shop at a safe distance, saw an influx of bright blue Census 2020 tote bags, filled with information and resources. Together we wish to recognize the efforts of our partners and all those who filled out the 2020 census. Thank you for helping us Be Counted!





PAVING THE WAY

The Keweenaw Community Foundation's Community Brick Project Fundraiser continues to be a wonderful way for area businesses, individuals, and family donors to leave a lasting mark in the community. Donations of personalized brick pavers have been placed within the 280-foot central walkway at the Ray Kestner Waterfront Park in Houghton. For many donors who have contributed so far, the commemorative bricks have created a unique way to honor accomplishments and milestones in the lives of friends and family. Next time you visit the Waterfront Park, take some time to discover the names of many past and present friends and philanthropists of the Keweenaw.

Proceeds collected from the purchase of the commemorative bricks have been used to fund the project and support the Keweenaw Community Foundation's general endowed fund. The first \$15,000 supported the Houghton Rotary Scholarship Fund in recognition of Houghton Rotary helping fund the initial cost of the project.

The Community Brick Project Fundraiser was established in 2014 with the help of the Foundation's Board of Trustees who served at that time. Since then the level of support and number of names featured in the path have continued to grow.



OUR FUNDS

DESIGNATED ENDOWMENTS

A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum
Agnes & Elmo Negro Memorial Fund–
Calumet Skating Academy
Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter
Bay-Lakes Council, Boy Scouts of America
Calumet Theater
Carnegie Museum
CLK Youth Hockey Endowment
Copper Country Autism Awareness
Copper Country Catholic Churches
Copper Country Community Arts Council
Copper Country Habitat for Humanity
Copper Country Humane Society
Copper Country Ski Tigers
Copper Country Suzuki Association
Copper Harbor Improvement Association
Copper Harbor Trails Society
Dial Help
Don't Do It Yourself (D.D.I.Y.)
Faith Lutheran Educational Resource
Glad Tidings
Gratiot Lake Conservancy
Houghton High School Alumni Association
Isle Royale and Keweenaw Parks Association
John M. & Clara B. Wagner Memorial Fund
Kenneth Ryan Clark Memorial Fund
Keweenaw Community Foundation
Keweenaw County Historical Society
Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance
Keweenaw Family Resource Center
Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's
Keweenaw Land Trust
Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Kiwanis – Nailbenders
Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative
Life Outreach Center
Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly
Martha & Floyd Memorial Heart & Hands
Society
Michigan Nature Association
Mont Ripley National Ski Patrol
North Woods Conservancy
Omega House
Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Portage Lake District Library
Portage Lake Little League
Portage Lake United Church
Richard and Ann Tieder Memorial Fund
Richard and June Ross Genealogy Fund

Robert W. Maatta Charitable Fund
Ruth L. Sablich Charitable Fund
Simple Kindness for Youth (SKY)
St. Vincent DePaul Friends-in-Need Fund
Swedetown Trails Club
U.P. Kids
UP Wildlife Habitat Fund
Wetland Mitigation Stewardship

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

Alec Fisher Scholarship
Anthony and Patricia Stark Endowment
Scholarship
Bernard F. Gaffney Memorial Scholarship
Faith Lutheran Church Educational
Scholarship
Houghton Rotary Scholarship
Jack Eberhard Memorial Scholarship
Richard and Clara Fedewa Scholarship
Ron and Lou Ellyn Helman Scholarship
Sean M. Williams Memorial Scholarship
Stuart Family Endowment Scholarship

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Funding Youth Initiatives
Herman Gundlach Fund
Zutter Family Fund

FIELD OF INTEREST ENDOWMENTS

Copper Country Youth Hockey
Environmental
Houghton County Historical Preservation
Joe Freed Empowerment Fund
KCF Youth Endowment (SLACK)
Keweenaw Cross Country Skiing
PHF Community Wellness and Outdoor
Recreation
Portage Lake Youth

SPECIAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Brick Project - Paving the Way
Camp 911
City of Hancock - Parks and Recreation
KCF Community Impact
Copper Country Alive Inside
Houghton Energy Efficiency Team
Keweenaw Community Critical Incident
Stress Management Fund
Old Copper Complex

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

All data is for the 2020 Fiscal Year (April 1, 2019–March 31, 2020)*

\$311,750 GRANTED

42 Organizations

13 Scholarships

12 Youth Endowment Fund Grants

Human Services \$149,090	Recreation \$57,947	Youth Development \$41,254	Arts, Culture, Humanities \$35,626
		Education \$14,044	Environment \$13,789

96 Active funds

Over \$8.1 Million in total assets managed

*Finances have not yet been audited.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us online for the latest from the Keweenaw Community Foundation.

Website: www.keweenawgives.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/keweenawcommunityfoundation

Instagram: [@keweenawcommunityfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/keweenawcommunityfoundation)

Twitter: [@KeweenawCF](https://twitter.com/KeweenawCF)





Keweenaw Community Foundation

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