



**Keweenaw**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# IN MEMORIAM



## Reverend Langseth

We would like to honor the late Reverend Langseth.

Reverend Langseth was a founding member of the Keweenaw Community Foundation, and is in large part the reason the Foundation is here today. He was instrumental in the creation of the Keweenaw National Historic Park and the development of the endowment fund supporting the Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's held at the Foundation. The community has been blessed to have 'Pastor Bob' as a strong advocate and supporter. May his legacy live on for generations to come.

## Joel Tuoriniemi

We want to take a moment to remember Joel Tuoriniemi.

Joel played a significant role in establishing the CLK Youth Hockey Fund more than ten years ago and was a devoted advocate for our community. We were fortunate to have benefited from his skills and enthusiasm for hockey and the betterment of the community he cherished.





# Keweenaw

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Keweenaw Community Foundation is proud to serve as a permanent charitable resource in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. Established in 1994, the Foundation serves as a catalyst for change, a partner for other local organizations, and a resource for solutions to emerging community needs.

## VISION & MISSION

To meet our vision of a thriving community, we connect the needs of the community with resources to collaboratively improve quality of life in the Keweenaw.

## VALUES

Collaboration  
Inclusivity  
Integrity  
Service  
Stewardship

# TO OUR COMMUNITY

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am happy to celebrate and share with you another remarkable year of community empowerment, transformation, and progress.

At the Keweenaw Community Foundation, we believe in the power of community unity and the power within every individual to effect positive change. This report is a testament to the dedication of our Copper Country community members who have fueled our mission to create a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

Throughout the past year, the Foundation has passed significant milestones, from supporting educational initiatives that empower the next generation of leaders to funding vital programs that enhance the well-being of our community members.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your ongoing support, dedication, and enthusiasm. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of our fellow residents. Thank you for your dedication, your passion, and your belief in the positive change we can achieve together.

I am honored to stand alongside you in this noble endeavor.

With warmest regards,  
John Lehman, Board President



## BOARD MEMBERS

John Lehman - President

Andy Costic - Vice President/Treasurer

Sharon Fisher - Secretary

Iola Brubaker

Kelly Kamm

Matthew Krause

Rich Probst, Jr.

Kim Salmi

Cassy Tefft de Muñoz

George Twardzik

Jodi Santeford

## STAFF MEMBERS

Robin Meneguzzo - Executive Director

Sara Fletcher - Program & Office Manager

Hannah Kariniemi - Community Engagement Coordinator

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community Members,

It has been a busy year at the Foundation, and we are happy to share some of that work with you in this year's Annual Report. We are excited to have added a new member to our team, Hannah Kariniemi, who will be our Community Engagement Coordinator. Hannah, a Calumet native, is enthusiastic and a strong community advocate. We look forward to deepening our connection to the community with our growing team!

Additionally, we have had the opportunity to expand our collaborative work with many new community partnerships, finding ways to solve some of our most considerable challenges, such as housing and childcare. Sitting together around a table, discussing our issues, and problem-solving collectively is one of the highlights of my work.

The diverse needs, projects, and passions I see our area engaging in further deepen my appreciation of this community. Being a part of such work is a beautiful thing and a true privilege. I am inspired by the commitment of the time and expertise that so many donate and the generosity of spirit seen in the giving by so many.

The Foundation is committed to placing the community at the center of its work. We will continue to strive to collaboratively match needs with resources in service to a place where everyone can thrive. Please join us as we celebrate the work of 2023 and look forward to 2024, celebrating the Foundation's 30th Anniversary!

With deep gratitude!

Robin Meneguzzo, Executive Director



*Hannah Kariniemi, Sara Fletcher, Robin Meneguzzo*

## TRANSITIONING BACK TO INDEPENDENCE

We are excited to announce some advancements that will provide better service to our community.

In 2022, we did a survey and learned that access to timely financial information regarding funds was a high priority for many of our donors and community organizations. To meet that need, the Foundation will be transitioning to a new software platform that will allow real time access to this information. In order to utilize this platform, we will be leaving our affiliation with the Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula (CFUP) and operating independently as the Keweenaw Community Foundation, as we were initially established. We are grateful to CFUP for their assistance over the last few years and are excited about this new technology and level of service we will be able to provide starting in early 2024.

# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

# \$312,720

AVAILABLE TO GRANT IN 2023



# 110

ACTIVE FUNDS

# 28

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

# 93

ENDOWED ACTIVE FUNDS

# 60+

LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

# \$10.7 million

TOTAL ASSETS MANAGED

*\*Above figures based on 2023 calendar year*

# AREAS OF SERVICE

**Donor Services**

**Community Impact**

**Community Collaboration**

Assisting donors to realize their philanthropic goals for charitable giving and community impact.

Working to build a community endowment to support changing community needs and opportunities.

Working with our community partners to collaborate on shared goals for a thriving community.



*Grateful recipients of Let's Rebuild Community home updates, summer 2023*

*Public meeting for the Keweenaw Heartlands Project, January 2023*

# DONOR SERVICES

Whether you wish to donate, volunteer, or start a fund, our team will assist you in determining the correct giving vehicle and provide knowledge and expertise on how it will support your community. We strive to help put your gifts to work, helping the community we all love. It is through donor giving that we were able to grant over \$300,000 in 2023 alone. We support almost every form of charitable space in the community!

Endowments are created by thoughtful donors and local non-profit agencies to ensure the causes they care about are funded for the long-term future. A portion of the fund is made available annually while the remaining assets are retained to provide for growth over time. The Foundation handles investment management and administrative responsibilities, allowing the organization to focus on its mission. For the full list of our funds, see page 11 of this publication.

## ORGANIZATION TYPES SUPPORTED ANNUALLY

Donors have established funds supporting a variety of service areas in our local community. Figures represent the number of non-profits in each service area directly supported through grants by KCF annually.





# NEWLY ESTABLISHED FUNDS

## ENDOWED FUNDS

### CHARLES E. RYAN JR. FUND

Established in memory of Charles E. Ryan Jr., a lifelong resident of the Keweenaw. This fund provides financial assistance to Our Lady of the Pines Church, located in historic Copper Harbor, Michigan. Part of the Keweenaw Catholic Community, Our Lady of the Pines holds Mass during the summer months, for locals and visitors alike.

[www.keweenawgives.org/charles-e-ryan-jr-memorial](http://www.keweenawgives.org/charles-e-ryan-jr-memorial)



### KEN "BERGY" LIIMATTA HOCKEY SCHOLARSHIP

Aims to provide children in the Calumet-Laurium-Keweenaw (CLK) region with the opportunity to learn how to skate and participate in the hockey club, regardless of their financial situation.

[www.keweenawgives.org/ken-bergy-liimatta-hockey-scholarship](http://www.keweenawgives.org/ken-bergy-liimatta-hockey-scholarship)



## SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDS

### AHMEEK ICE RINK FUND

The Ahmeek (Emil Aho Memorial) Ice Rink was created in 1984, is run by volunteers, and has served as a special recreation place for generations. A group has formed to fundraise in order to rebuild the run-down boards to continue providing a safe environment for all users of this outdoor rink and park facility.

[www.keweenawgives.org/ahmeek-ice-rink](http://www.keweenawgives.org/ahmeek-ice-rink)



### BIG ANNIE STATUE FUND

Anna "Big Annie" Klobuchar Clemenc spoke out when women had no voice and no vote, leading striking miners daily through the nine-month 1913 strike. A local advisory committee has formed to fundraise for a bronze statue in Calumet, Michigan, to honor and commemorate "Big Annie" for her activism during the 1913 copper strike and labor movement.

[www.keweenawgives.org/big-annie](http://www.keweenawgives.org/big-annie)



Image Credit: National Park Service, Keweenaw NHP, C&H, Capello, Strike Album, #164, Annie Clemenc Heroine of the CC Strike, 1913

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

KCF continues to build the Community Impact Fund to support our area's ever-changing community needs. This fund allows for KCF to flex and adapt to changing needs and opportunities that the community identifies. Since Fall 2022, over \$39,000 has been granted from the Community Impact Fund.



Learn more and donate: [www.keweenawgives.org/community-impact-fund](http://www.keweenawgives.org/community-impact-fund)

## Michigan Technological University

### Nature Megaphone

An environmentally-focused public art installation, the Nature Megaphone sculpture will be in a local forest, amplifying the sounds of nature, providing new ways to interact with the outdoors.

### Tech Tutors - Transportation Costs

A volunteer group of MTU students offering free tutoring services, the grant assists with transportation costs for in-person tutoring at local schools.



Nature Megaphone, Lisa Gordillo check presentation

## Copper Country Angel Mission

### Client Assistance

Angel Mission operates a free store, food pantry, and offers seasonal programs for kids' backpacks and Christmas gifts. This grant supports their services of assisting with rent, utilities, and fuel for medical travel.

## Ahmeek Village Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

### Public Safety Training Classroom Furnishings

The Ahmeek Village Hall is a gathering space that acts as a key location for polling, meetings, trainings, and events. This grant provided funding to replace the decades-old furnishings for safe gatherings to occur.

## Portage Lake District Library

### Public Meeting Spaces

Noticing a need for public meeting spaces, KCF provided a grant to the Portage Lake District Library renovation project, sponsoring a meeting room at the library dedicated to our community of lifelong learners.

## Accessible Keweenaw Initiative

### Visit Keweenaw, Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region (WUPPDR) & Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL)

Community-led effort to enhance access for all mobility levels to the Keweenaw's outdoors, cultural amenities and historical areas. The grant provided twenty local organizations free accessibility evaluations, to pave the way for future improvements.



Accessible Keweenaw Initiative, accessibility site evaluations

# COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

We work with local partners to address needs and opportunities. From individual community members to organizations, we act as an interdisciplinary organization to help convene, combine and amplify efforts relating to the needs and interests of our local population.

## Example areas we currently support:

- Western UP Regional Housing Plan
  - Pathways to Housing Committee Member
- Copper County Childcare Initiative
  - Partnering with local organizations to find solutions for childcare
- Western UP Car seat collaboration
  - Convening and facilitating carseat access conversations
- Autism Awareness/Education
  - Supported educational events and mobile health clinic - Fall 2023
- Recreational Accessibility Initiatives
  - Working with partners to identify additional resources for upgrades
- Keweenaw County Emergency Response Center
  - Supporting planning for a future center in Keweenaw County
- Fresh and healthy food options in a local food pantry
  - Health & Nutrition Service Unit Committee
- Keweenaw Heartlands Project
  - Providing support for public engagement and awareness of project
- Let's Rebuild Community
  - Providing financial and media support for exterior home updates



# YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL



The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) at the Keweenaw Community Foundation addresses youth needs in Houghton and Keweenaw counties. Any youth aged 12-21 are welcome to apply to join, including university students!

Learn more and apply: [www.keweenawgives.org/yac](http://www.keweenawgives.org/yac)

Donate to the Kellogg Youth Fund: [www.keweenawgives.org/kellogg-youth-fund](http://www.keweenawgives.org/kellogg-youth-fund)

## PHILANTHROPY

It's more than simply giving money! YAC teaches students the importance of giving time and talent towards community needs.

## SERVICE

Members take an active role in serving the community through sponsoring charitable events and volunteering. The YAC also conducts service activities as a group, addressing community needs directly.

*Have an opportunity for the YAC members?*

Connect with the YAC advisors on our website.

## LEADERSHIP

Members learn how to make decisions and how to conduct meetings as a group, ensuring every voice is heard and included.

## GRANTMAKING

YAC awards grants to non-profit organizations and schools for youth-related programs in Houghton and Keweenaw counties. Members review applications, discuss, and vote as a group to make funding recommendations to the KCF board twice a year.

## 2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Keweenaw Wild Bird R.E.C.
- Kaleidoscope Education
- Copper Country Suzuki Association
- Unitē Mental Health & Wellness
- Ahmeek Village Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department
- Community Alliance for Progressive Education
- Copper Country Intermediate School District
- Keweenaw Family Resource Center
- Glad Tidings Assembly of God

## SPRING 2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Ahmeek Village Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department
- Allouez Township - Emil Aho Ice Rink
- Calumet Theatre - Movie Magic
- Rabbit Island Foundation
- Community Alliance for Progressive Education
- 15th Biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium
- Village of Laurium - Daniell Park
- Houghton HS Business Professionals of America



YAC members clearing snow and ice for community members during their winter 2023 community service day.



Christmas for the Children, Ahmeek Village Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department

# LIST OF FUNDS

## DESIGNATED & AGENCY ENDOWMENTS

A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum  
Agnes & Elmo Negro Fund - Calumet Skating Club  
Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter  
Boy Scouts of America, Bay-Lakes Council  
Calumet Theater  
Carnegie Museum  
Charles E. Ryan Jr. Memorial Fund  
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 Club  
Dial Help  
Don't Do It Yourself  
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 County Historical Society  
Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance  
Keweenaw Family Resource Center  
Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's  
Keweenaw Land Trust  
Keweenaw Natural Areas  
Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
Kiwanis  
Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative  
Life Outreach Center  
Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly  
Michigan Nature Association  
Mont Ripley National Ski Patrol  
Omega House  
Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Portage Lake United Church  
Portage Lake District Library  
Portage Lake Little League  
Richard & Ann Tieder Memorial Charitable Fund  
Richard & June Ross Genealogy Fund  
Robert W. Maatta Charitable Fund  
Ruth L. Sablich Charitable Fund

Simple Kindness for Youth  
St. Vincent DePaul Friends-in-Need Fund  
Swedetown Trails Club  
U.P. Kids!  
U.P. Wildlife Habitat Fund  
Wetland Mitigation Stewardship Fund

## SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

Alec Fisher Scholarship  
Anthony and Patricia Stark (Music) Scholarship  
Bernard F. Gaffney Memorial Scholarship  
Faith Lutheran Educational Scholarship  
Gary Heikenen Memorial Scholarship  
Heikenen Nursing Scholarship  
Houghton Rotary Scholarship  
Jack Eberhard Memorial Scholarship  
Ken "Bergy" Liimatta Hockey Scholarship  
Richard and Clara Fedewa Scholarship  
Ronald and Lou Ellyn Helman Scholarship  
Sean M. Williams Memorial Scholarship  
Stuart Family Scholarship

## DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Funding Youth Initiatives  
Herman Gundlach Fund  
Zutter Family Fund

## FIELD OF INTEREST ENDOWMENTS

David Wiitanen & Slim McLean Memorial Youth Hockey  
Environmental  
Houghton County Historical Preservation  
Joe Freed Empowerment Fund  
Keweenaw Cross Country Skiing  
Kellogg Youth Fund  
Copper Shores Community Health Foundation -  
Community Wellness & Outdoor Recreation  
Portage Lake Youth

## SPECIAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Ahmeek Ice Rink Fund  
"Big Annie" Statue Fund  
Camp 911 Unendowed Fund  
Copper Country Alive Inside Fund  
Keweenaw Community Critical Incident Stress Management

# HOW TO SUPPORT

## WAYS TO SUPPORT

1. Volunteer your time and expertise to an advisory committee at KCF
2. Help spread the word about KCF's mission and services
3. Give to an existing fund
4. Establish a fund to reach your philanthropic goals while aligning with community needs
5. Gift planning through bequests, trusts, and wills to leave a lasting legacy



[www.keweenawgives.org/give-now](http://www.keweenawgives.org/give-now)

Questions about our work? Interested in learning more ways to engage in the community?  
Give us a call or stop by our office - the door is always open!



## Keweenaw Gold 2023

*Thank you everyone who attended and supported our annual fundraising dinner!*

Over 100 community members attended the October 19, 2023 fundraising event to show their support through an evening of food, friends, and community at the Bonfire in Houghton, MI.

Keweenaw Gold is an opportunity to raise awareness and highlight community work being conducted to maintain and improve quality of life in the Keweenaw, while also supporting the Foundations operations within the community. Join us in 2024 as we celebrate our 30th year of serving our area and its needs!



Photos from Keweenaw Gold 2023

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE THAT LASTS

With over 100 funds, there are many organizations and initiatives in Keweenaw and Houghton Counties that you can contribute to that will make a lasting difference within **our community.**

Please visit our website to donate, or return the enclosed envelope with your contribution and fund designation:

[www.keweenawgives.org/give-now](http://www.keweenawgives.org/give-now)



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