

*Irving S. Silmore*  
FOUNDATION

2023  
ANNUAL  
GRANTMAKING  
REPORT





# HISTORY & MISSION

The mission of the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation is to support and enrich the cultural, social and economic life of Greater Kalamazoo.

Irving S. Gilmore demonstrated a sincere commitment to Kalamazoo through his caring, kindness and support. In simple, elegant ways, Mr. Gilmore inspired the community to pursue a strong sense of social and cultural awareness for the benefit of all people.

A uniquely multifaceted individual, Irving Gilmore was a merchant, an arts patron, a concert-quality pianist, a business leader and a military veteran. He was also a gentle man with a dry sense of humor who showed heartfelt compassion for others around him. Throughout his life, Mr. Gilmore helped by sharing his good fortune with others less fortunate.

Irving Gilmore shunned the spotlight, preferring instead to contribute in a quiet, dignified manner. He showed his concern through frequent and often anonymous gifts that addressed a wide range of needs. In addition to sharing

numerous financial gifts with the community, he worked to help others gain the skills needed to help themselves.

Mr. Gilmore found his greatest joy in the arts, for which he showed unwavering support. He not only helped gifted individuals express their unique talents, but encouraged others to support the creative expressions of the human spirit as both artists and audience. He knew that cultural and performing arts needed support to grow. He also knew that the arts offered powerful instrumental benefits. Indeed, Mr. Gilmore understood that the arts catalyze imaginative practices in and across community sectors.

Looking ahead, Mr. Gilmore wanted to provide for his community in perpetuity, ensuring that his special personal philanthropy would live on. In 1972, Mr. Gilmore established the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and arranged for it to receive the bulk of his estate upon his death. Mr. Gilmore passed away in 1986 at the age of 85, leaving Kalamazoo a wonderful legacy.

Just as he encouraged others to unlock their own potential, today the Foundation funds key organizations that help unlock the community's potential. Through the Foundation that bears his name, Mr. Gilmore's commitment to the people of the Kalamazoo community lives on.

**“Mr. Gilmore inspired the community to pursue a strong sense of social and cultural awareness for the benefit of all people.”**

# GRANT POLICIES

In accordance with the example and directives of its founder, the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation encourages grant applications from Kalamazoo area nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations whose work benefits or will benefit the community. The Foundation does not make grants to individuals. The Foundation Trustees will make all decisions regarding the funding of proposals without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, height, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, weight, marital status, genetic information, disability, military status or national origin of the organization’s staff or volunteers. It is expected that all beneficiaries of funding from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation will adhere to existing state and federally mandated affirmative action policies.

## HOW TO APPLY

Please visit our website at [www.isgilmore.org](http://www.isgilmore.org) for detailed funding guidelines and proposal submission deadlines.

The Priorities of the Foundation are:

Arts, Culture and Humanities

Human Services

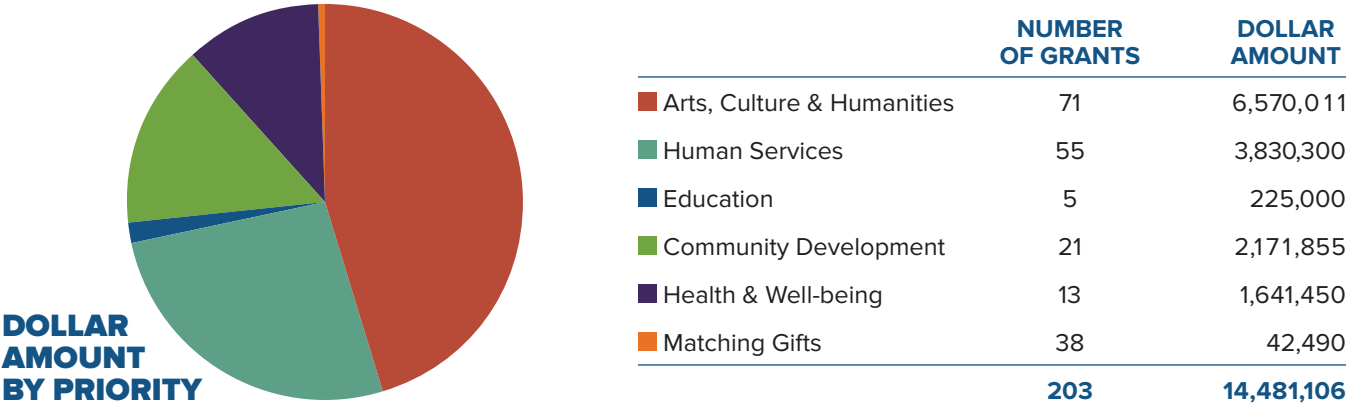
Education

Community Development

Health & Well-being

## 2023 GRANTS SUMMARY

In 2023, the Foundation’s Trustees approved 165 grants. The Foundation also matched 38 charitable gifts made by the Trustees and Staff. The following chart illustrates the total grants awarded by each program area, as well as gifts matched:





# ACCESSIBILITY — A COMMON THREAD



BY RICHARD M. HUGHEY, JR., EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT / CEO

**A**s we reflect on the past year, a common thread stands out: accessibility. Whether making art available to all, building links between people and resources, or ensuring those most in need can access support, our grantees tell a story of connection and community.

In our arts community, for example, All Ears Theatre makes radio productions available to all regardless of financial position and offers opportunities for people to participate “even if they have little time for rehearsal, have a hard time memorizing lines or just don’t look the part.”

The Helen L. Fox Music Center provides music education to urban and under-resourced youth as a pathway to success and excellence in all areas of life. Plus, New Year’s Fest has brought us together for nearly 40 years, with its unique format offering a way for people from all walks of life to engage and celebrate the performing arts.

Turning to human services, Kairos Dwelling provides no-cost care in a compassionate and loving environment for terminally ill people and their loved ones. Milestone Senior Services supports aging in place with services such as home-delivered meals, home accessibility modifications and managed home health care. And, Disability Network Southwest Michigan works to create a fully accessible community where disability is valued as human diversity, and everyone belongs.”

Accessibility is also about linking people and resources, which develops community. The Kalamazoo Nature Center does this by connecting people with the living, natural world. ONEplace @ KPL serves over 250 local nonprofit agencies throughout Kalamazoo County. The Kalamazoo Experiential Learning Center connects college students to our community to assist nonprofits and others in providing placemaking events.

On the educational front, Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan’s Adult Education and Training Program helps learners make positive strides towards their academic, professional and personal goals, going beyond mere educational training with wraparound services such as childcare and transportation to remove barriers to learning. At the same time, the Kalamazoo Literacy Council – celebrating 50 years of service in 2024 – is the leading voice for adult literacy in our region, with free services that empower individuals to be more confident parents, employees and community members.

Looking at health and wellbeing, our community can access help navigating substance use and recovery-related hardships through the COPE network, while Integrated Services of Kalamazoo operates our first Behavior Urgent Care and Access Center that is open to all ages and income, with or without insurance coverage, and to anyone struggling with an urgent behavioral health problem.

The grantee highlights that follow provide more in-depth descriptions of these organizations’ work, and we hope that you will peruse them all. Further, we encourage you to support these fine local organizations, whenever and wherever appropriate circumstances arise.

Together, they make our community healthier, more vibrant and more accessible. We are honored to support them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Hughey, Jr." in a cursive script.

# ARTS, CULTURE & HUMANITIES

The Foundation promotes the enjoyment, understanding, appreciation and/or instrumental use of visual arts, performing arts, media arts, communications, humanities, and history.

## PUBLIC MEDIA NETWORK / ALL EARS THEATRE

All Ears Theatre debuted in January 2002 as a collaboration of local artists organized by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo. We specialize in creating audio-style theatre performances using local sound effects artists, musicians, actors and recording artists, just like in the Golden Age of radio.

All Ears Theatre offers free, live performances and is one of the few theatre groups where people can participate even if they have little time for rehearsal, have a hard time memorizing lines or just don't "look the part."



We believe in making performance art accessible regardless of financial position. Performances are recorded and re-broadcast, primarily on SoundCloud. We have also begun adding ASL

interpretation to live performances to share our stories with all present. Public Media Network has also been video recording live performances to be shared with those who cannot attend in person.

All Ears Theatre is led by Laura Henderson-Whiteford and our fiscal sponsor is Public Media Network.

For more information, visit [www.allearstheatre.org](http://www.allearstheatre.org)

## NEW YEAR'S FEST

It's hard to believe that New Year's Fest has been happening in Kalamazoo since 1985! Not a year has been missed, even during COVID. We have survived ice storms, Y2K and sub-zero temperatures living out our purpose to entertain through the celebration of the performing arts.

Uniquely, this performing arts festival has become a tradition where toddlers that grew up on New Year's Fest are now bringing their kids to celebrate the experience that performing arts unveil. With short repeating performances throughout the night, New Year's Fest's formula of "a taste of the arts" allows families to negotiate an evening that supports something for everyone.

As the fireworks light up the sky and the ball drops at midnight, the community can feel the allure of Times Square right in the heart of Downtown Kalamazoo. People of all walks of life come together to start a new year.

Behind the scenes, New Year's Fest tells a story of supporting our





artists, enabling performances from both emerging and experienced artists. This is what makes the event “artist-unique” as well as empowering.

New Year’s Fest is working to be relevant in an ever-changing performing arts landscape. To present a more inclusive festival, our Board of Directors has pledged to hire 20 percent

BIPOC performers with a commitment to supporting emerging artist groups.

For more information, visit [www.newyearsfest.com](http://www.newyearsfest.com)

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## HELEN L. FOX GOSPEL MUSIC CENTER

The mission of the Helen L. Fox Gospel Music Center is to provide music education to urban and under-resourced youth as a pathway to success and excellence in all areas of life. Our namesake, Helen Fox, taught music lessons in the community for many years, accepting only what students could afford to pay.

Jasmine “Dryw” Starkey-Williams is one of our many success stories, having joined our program as a 13-year-old 7th grader at Hillside Middle School. Due to the generosity of donors, HLF GMC was able to offer Jasmine a full scholarship to cover the cost of her lessons and instrument rental. Over time, she developed as a cellist and as a person. She gained confidence in her ability and performed at recitals and community events with the ensemble and as a soloist.

Now, Jasmine is a graduate of Kalamazoo Central High School. She is currently enrolled in Kalamazoo Valley Community College and plans to further her education. In an essay she wrote while in high school, this is some

of what she said about the Music Center program.

*“ . . . I have been playing cello for six years. My family has been struggling financially for a long time, so music lessons . . . were something we often simply could not afford. The Helen L. Fox Gospel Music Program changed my life in many ways. I have been studying under Jordan Hamilton for almost three years. He is a brilliant musician and an amazing*

*instructor. His words of wisdom have at times kept me going. My ensemble teacher is Alexis Terrain. She is also an extraordinary musician and incredibly patient. I enjoy many genres of music but some of the classical composers that I am very fond of include Mozart, Beethoven, Bizet and Tchaikovsky....”*

For more information, visit [www.hlfmc.org](http://www.hlfmc.org)



# 2023 ARTS, CULTURE & HUMANITIES GRANTS

**African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
The Baylor Project Performance

**Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo**  
Canadiana Fest (Fiscal Sponsorship)  
Face Off Theatre Company  
(Fiscal Sponsorship)  
General Operations  
Kalamazoo Artistic  
Development Initiative  
Programming  
Strategic Planning  
Theatre Kalamazoo  
(Fiscal Sponsorship)

**Bach Festival Society of Kalamazoo**  
General Operations

**Ballet Arts Ensemble**  
General Operations

**Black Arts & Cultural Center**  
General Operations

**Center Stage Theatre**  
General Operations

**Crescendo Academy of Music**  
General Operations  
Marvelous Music!

**Farmers Alley Theatre**  
General Operations

**Fontana Chamber Arts**  
General Operations

**Glass Art Kalamazoo**  
General Operations

**Grand Valley University Foundation**  
WGVU Great Performances  
WGVU Kalamazoo Lively Arts

**Great Lakes Acoustic  
Music Association**  
General Operations

**Helen L. Fox Gospel Music Center**  
General Operations

**Hispanic American Council  
(El Concilio)**  
Mexico en el Alma Performance

**Irving S. Gilmore International  
Keyboard Festival**  
General Operations

**Julius and Esther Stulberg  
Competition**  
Facilities Improvements  
General Operations

**Kalamazoo Book Arts Center**  
General Operations

**Kalamazoo Children's Chorus**  
General Operations

**Kalamazoo Civic Theatre**  
General Operations

**Kalamazoo Community Chorale**  
General Operations

**Kalamazoo Concert Band  
Association**  
Holiday Concert  
Management Assistance

**Kalamazoo Cultural Center**  
Facilities Improvements

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts**  
General Operations

**Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Society**  
General Operations

**Kalamazoo Male Chorus**  
General Operations  
Programming

**Kalamazoo Nonprofit  
Advocacy Coalition**  
General Operations

**Kalamazoo Poetry Festival**  
General Operations

**Kalamazoo Public Library**  
Booker T. Jones Performance

**Kalamazoo Public Schools**  
Chenery Auditorium Facilities  
Improvements

**Kalamazoo Regional Educational  
Service Agency**  
Education for the Arts  
General Operations  
Education for the Arts  
Student Artistic Equipment Program  
Education for the Arts  
Student Arts Scholarships

**Kalamazoo Scottish  
Festival Association**  
Festival General Operations

**Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra**  
General Operations  
Kalamazoo Kids in Tune and  
Orchestra Rouh

**Mall City Harmonizers**  
General Operations

**Michigan Festival of Sacred Music**  
General Operations  
Strategic Planning

**Milwood United Methodist Church**  
Fine Arts Series

**New Year's Fest of Kalamazoo**  
Festival General Operations

**Parchment, City of**  
Kindleberger Summer Arts Program

**Portage, City of**  
The Sounds of Portage

**Public Media Network**  
All Ears Theatre (Fiscal Sponsorship)  
General Operations

**Queer Theatre Kalamazoo**  
General Operations

**Renaissance Enterprises Company**  
Kalamazoo County Programming

**Richland Area Community Center**  
Programming

**Rootead Enrichment Center**  
Youth Enrichment Programming

**Speak It Forward**  
General Operations

**Suzuki Music Academy  
of Kalamazoo**  
General Operations  
Orchestra Jammbo'laya

**Vicksburg Cultural Arts Center**  
General Operations

**Vine Neighborhood Association**  
Sounds of the Zoo  
(Fiscal Sponsorship)

**Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers**  
Equipment  
General Operations

**Western Michigan University  
Foundation**  
Bullock Performance Series  
Equipment  
WMUK Expanded Arts Kalamazoo  
WMUK Underwriting

# HUMAN SERVICES

The Foundation supports youth development, life skills, food and nutrition, public safety, parks and recreation, and other social/human services that benefit individuals, families and neighborhoods. However, the Foundation does not generally support athletics and only nominally supports housing and shelter.

## DISABILITY NETWORK SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Founded in 1981, Disability Network Southwest Michigan actively works to create a fully accessible community where disability is valued as human diversity, and everyone belongs. The strength of our organization lies in the fact that most of our team members and governing board are people with disabilities, bringing a unique blend of lived experiences and professional expertise to our work.

We **COLLABORATE** with community partners to ensure our reach extends





to underserved and unserved communities, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and diversity.

We **ELEVATE** diversity, equity and inclusion through the disability lens, through comprehensive education and creating accessible spaces focused on changing perceptions while enhancing inclusion and participation in our community.

We **NAVIGATE** complex systems and connect individuals to resources as the foundation of our work, providing individuals with the

necessary tools and resources to advocate for themselves and lead self-determined lives.

We **CONNECT** and support individuals within the Disability Community through educational programs and support groups to share experiences, build networks of support and work collectively towards a more inclusive society.

We **ACTIVATE** grassroots, systemic change at the individual, local, state and national levels, advocating for policies and practices that promote equality and justice for individuals with disabilities.

We **CULTIVATE** resources to nurture team excellence, ensure long-term sustainability and practice responsible stewardship of funds.

Disability Network believes that embracing diversity and advancing inclusion not only benefits individuals with disabilities but also strengthens the entire community, creating a more vibrant, equitable and inclusive society for everyone.

For more information, visit [www.dnswm.org](http://www.dnswm.org)

## KAIROS DWELLING

Kairos Dwelling is a home with a very unique and special purpose. We provide no-cost care in a compassionate and loving environment for terminally ill people and their loved ones.

Established in 2000, we coordinate and provide hospice care for patients and families regardless of life status, station or circumstances, and give priority to those with the greatest needs. We do this relying on dedicated, trained staff and volunteers who provide primary patient care.

We are located on Gull Road in Kalamazoo in a remodeled four-bedroom farmhouse. With community support, we recently completed a capital improvement



project designed to increase our effectiveness and efficiency. We identified the need for private space on the ground floor for

families and caregivers, and an accessible office for the Executive Director. Our facilities had provided neither.

We sought a private gathering space for families contemplating and preparing for the death of a family member. At any given time, up to four families might be in this process, yet we didn't have enough space to provide confidentiality and privacy. Our new "family room" is a multi-purpose space that provides for this need and more.

Our new Director's office on the ground floor improves communication and interaction with patients and families. It also serves to improve patient care and coordination with hospice nurses, medical staff and Kairos staff.

Kairos Dwelling is an integral part of our community. With these recently enhanced facilities, we look forward to continuing to provide our unique service to the greater Kalamazoo area.

For more information, visit [www.kairosdwelling.com](http://www.kairosdwelling.com)

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## MILESTONE SENIOR SERVICES

Milestone Senior Services recognizes and promotes the value of aging in place. For more than sixty years, we have provided services that support older adults and adults with disabilities in their choice to remain living at home where they are connected to their family, friends, neighbors and cultural community.

Last year, Milestone served more than 5,500 people with services such as home-delivered meals, home repair and accessibility modifications, managed home health care, and behavioral health assistance. These services directly impact whether people can remain living at home or are forced to relocate to a nursing facility.

Milestone's capital campaign is addressing much-needed upgrades to our facility and equipment to increase the capacity and cost-effectiveness of our operations and improve overall efficiency. Specifically, we are upgrading kitchen equipment, providing a covered loading dock for the Meals on Wheels program, constructing a home repair workshop, creating a more welcoming entrance and replacing the HVAC system.

People 65 and older are the fastest growing population segment, with an expected increase of 47 percent in the next 30 years. The improvements Milestone is making today will ensure we are positioned to meet our community's growing need for our vital services.

For more information, visit [www.milestoneseniorservices.org](http://www.milestoneseniorservices.org)



# 2023 HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS

## **AACORN Farm**

General Operations

## **ASK Family Services**

General Operations

## **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Michigan**

General Operations

## **Bike Friendly Kalamazoo**

General Operations

## **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo**

Capital Campaign

General Operations

## **Can-Do Kalamazoo**

General Operations

## **Center for Transformation**

General Operations

## **Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo**

General Operations

## **Community Homeworks**

Equipment

General Operations

## **Comprehensive Senior Care Corporation (PACE)**

Equipment

## **Disability Network Southwest Michigan**

Independent Living Program

Strategic Capacity Building

## **Ecumenical Senior Center**

General Operations

## **Edison Neighborhood Association**

Programming

## **First Congregational Church**

Child Care Center

(Fiscal Sponsorship)

Children's Nature Playscape

## **First Day Shoe Fund**

General Operations

## **Friends With Disabilities**

Programming

## **Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan**

GAP Program

## **Hispanic American Council (El Concilio)**

Capital Campaign

## **Housing Resources, Inc.**

General Operations

## **Junior Achievement of Southwest Michigan**

General Operations

## **Kairos Dwelling**

General Operations

## **Kalamazoo Black Male Alliance**

Programming

## **Kalamazoo Center For Youth & Community (Eastside Youth Strong)**

Programming

## **Kalamazoo, City of**

Downtown Placemaking Projects

## **Kalamazoo County Defender**

Communications Strategy

## **Kalamazoo Literacy Council**

Interfaith Homes Programming

## **Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes**

Grocery Pantry Program

## **Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services**

Home Ownership Center

## **Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity**

General Operations

## **Kalamazoo Youth Development Network**

General Operations

## **Milestone Senior Services**

Capital Campaign

## **Ministry with Community**

General Operations

## **Open Doors Kalamazoo**

General Operations

## **Open Roads Bike Program**

General Operations

## **Pine Lake Fund**

General Operations

## **Portage Community Outreach Center**

Emergency Assistance Program

Youth Program

## **Residential Opportunities, Inc.**

Affordable Housing Program

Facilities Improvements

Representative Payee Services

## **Seeding Change**

PeaceJam

## **Shepherd's Center of Greater Kalamazoo**

Equipment

## **Society for History and Racial Equity**

General Operations

## **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

Partners in Transition Program

## **Synergy Health Center**

UrbanZone (Fiscal Sponsorship)

## **United Way**

## **of South Central Michigan**

Eviction Diversion

Kalamazoo County VITA Program

## **Urban Alliance**

General Operations

## **Western Michigan University Foundation**

Broncos Lead Internship Program

## **Young Women's**

## **Christian Association**

Facilities Improvements

Early Learning Childcare Services



# EDUCATION

The Foundation supports educational programs and activities that enhance the capacity for life-long learning. However, the Foundation does not generally support core operations and programming of K-12 educational institutions.

## GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN

Over the past year, 172 learners at Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan's Adult Education and Training Program have made positive strides towards their academic, professional and personal goals. In 2023, 20 adult learners earned their GED certificate. Of them, 14 were parents who are serving as role models and first teachers of their children.

Our program provides more than academic, training and testing support. It gives wraparound services that remove barriers to learning such as childcare, education, employment, financial, health and transportation for every learner that needs it.

This includes free childcare for children ages 0-4 at the Little Scholars Child Development Center, offered onsite to allow parents and children to learn simultaneously.

Some of our proudest moments are when our program's adult learners take the stage at graduation to receive their diploma in front of their families after their hard work passing

GED tests in math, language arts, social studies and science. Many of these graduates have gone on to successful careers in manufacturing, early childhood education and health care, or



have continued their education in community college, a four-year university or the trades.

The Adult Education and Training Program at Goodwill is supported by many partners who are committed to the success

of the adult learners we serve, including Kalamazoo Adult Education, Kalamazoo Literacy Council, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Western Michigan University. We are grateful for the

continued support of the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation for helping the adult learners and families we serve succeed.

For more information, visit [www.goodwillswmi.org](http://www.goodwillswmi.org)

## KALAMAZOO LITERACY COUNCIL

The Kalamazoo Literacy Council is celebrating a remarkable milestone in 2024 — 50 years of dedicated service to Kalamazoo County. For half a century, the KLC has been the leading voice for adult literacy in the region, offering free services for adults seeking to improve their literacy, language and life skills to unlock their full potential. Through its innovative programs and passionate volunteers, the Kalamazoo Literacy Council has transformed countless lives and empowered individuals to be more confident parents, employees and community members.

One of the KLC's flagship programs is its Adult Tutoring Program, which provides one-on-one tutoring that enhances reading, writing, spelling and comprehension skills. Through Parent Literacy, Health Literacy, and

Workforce Literacy classes, learners gain the critical skills they need to excel. The KLC also offers English as a Second Language classes for non-native speakers looking to strengthen their language skills and integrate more independently into the community.

The KLC maintains many partnerships with local agencies to support the diverse needs of adults through initiatives at the neighborhood level. Community Literacy Centers, career pathways and resident engagement activities are woven into its strategic framework.



As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Kalamazoo Literacy Council, let us honor its legacy, the lives that have been uplifted, and the talents of those who serve its vision of achieving a fully literate community.

For more information, visit [www.kalamazooliteracy.org](http://www.kalamazooliteracy.org)

## 2023 EDUCATION GRANTS

**Goodwill Industries**  
Kalamazoo County Adult Education/Training

**Kalamazoo Literacy Council**  
General Operations

**Read and Write Kalamazoo**  
Facilities Improvements  
General Operations

**Specialized Language Development Center (SLD Read)**  
Kalamazoo County Programming

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Foundation promotes quality of life through appropriate investments that strengthen, unify and build community spirit, and enhance capacity for innovation and growth.

## KALAMAZOO PUBLIC LIBRARY / ONEPLACE

For fifteen years, ONEplace has played a vital role in strengthening the capacity of nonprofit organizations throughout Kalamazoo County. With over 250 local nonprofits participating in programs and services annually, ONEplace serves as a critical resource for supporting skill-building and expanding leadership capabilities that prepare these organizations to maximize their impact.

In the last year, ONEplace supported over 3,400 individuals working or volunteering in the nonprofit sector. Our Core offerings include the ONEplace Emerging Leader Academy, Transformative Leadership



Cohort, Workshops, technical assistance and nonprofit resources. Services are offered at no cost to participants thanks to our generous funding partners.

The transformative impact of ONEplace's work is backed by data. A comprehensive two-year evaluation was conducted by Western Michigan University's



Evaluation Center and found that ONEplace's programs are highly effective and create meaningful impacts for participants.

By investing in nonprofit leadership, equity, governance,

operational excellence and overall organizational strength, ONEplace fortifies the Kalamazoo nonprofit ecosystem. Our capacity-building efforts ensure local organizations can deliver maximum value to the communities

they serve through effective programs, sustainable operations and cause-driven impact.

For more information, visit [www.kpl.gov/ONEplace](http://www.kpl.gov/ONEplace)

## KALAMAZOO NATURE CENTER

When people think of the Kalamazoo Nature Center (KNC), it's usually our 14 miles of trails and 1,100 acres of forest and prairie that come to mind. Yet it's our Visitor Center, designed in 1962 by Alden B. Dow, that brings the outside in. Its domed roof, round shape and angular lines embody the natural harmony of mid-century modern design.

After 64 years, the Visitor Center was showing its age until the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and others made much-needed renovations possible.

The first step was to replace the iconic dome and roof. The double-pane glass on the new dome provides major savings in energy costs compared to the old single-pane glass. Adding four inches of foam insulation under the new roof also contributes to energy savings. All these upgrades help advance KNC's mission of becoming carbon neutral by 2035.

Inside the Visitor Center, we have milled and polished the concrete floor, installed engineered hardwood and added acoustic



materials to reduce echo. These changes improve the visitor experience for our 100,000-plus annual guests and are essential as we shift to museum-quality traveling exhibits.

The Visitor Center renovation has restored an architectural

masterpiece and added new possibilities for hands-on educational encounters with nature. By bringing the outside in, we make it more accessible for all.

For more information, visit [www.naturecenter.org](http://www.naturecenter.org)

# KALAMAZOO EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CENTER

Kalamazoo Experiential Learning Center (KELC) connects college students to our community. Our ability to produce events is based on four key principles: educate, collaborate, innovate and reward. When there is a challenge, we thrive. It's boots on the streets and laughter without fear of the future. This is experiential learning.

In 2023, our team created a three-event series specifically designed to reimagine the Arcadia Creek Festival Place (ACFP). The five-hour popup series, called Festival

Fridays, resembled a festival with live bands, merchandise vendors, food trucks and beverages. The education that it provided helped other festivals imagine their festival at ACFP. It's challenging to host a festival, but by being at the events, they witnessed proper setup and design, tricks-of-the-trades and how to connect event plans to implementation. They could feel the vision of their festival.

However, it didn't stop there. Our college students showed how to innovate decorations, games and

activities, and support vendor engagement that created a well-connected pop-up festival. The reward was that through this opportunity to intentionally give a "hand" to other event coordinators, we could create believability. Events are empowered through believing that you can create and execute your vision.

At KELC, we are inspired to re-imagine. Event opportunities are brought to Western Michigan University classrooms for event management students to explore the challenge, research trends and KPI's, and then imagine the possibilities of the event concept. It's more than just "Town & Gown." Event imagination requires knowledge, collaboration, innovation and rewards that drive individuals to take on the challenge.

For more information, visit [www.experientiallearningcenter.org](http://www.experientiallearningcenter.org)



## 2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

**Building Blocks of Kalamazoo**  
General Operations

**Council of Michigan Foundations**  
General Operations

**First Congregational Church**  
Community Outreach

**Gryphon Place**  
Facilities Improvements  
Volunteer Kalamazoo

**Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy  
and Action in the Community**  
Programming

**Kalamazoo Astronomical Society**  
Eclipse Series

**Kalamazoo, City of**  
Downtown Ambassador Program  
Holiday Events

**Kalamazoo Experiential  
Learning Center**  
General Operations

**Kalamazoo in Bloom**  
General Operations

**Kalamazoo Nature Center**  
Facilities Improvements

**Kalamazoo Public Library**  
ONEplace Programming

**Local Initiatives Support  
Corporation**  
Equipment  
General Operations

**Michigan State University**  
Kellogg Bird Sanctuary  
Facilities Improvements

**Southwest Michigan First  
Corporation**  
General Operations

**United Way of South Central  
Michigan**  
Annual Campaign  
Leadership Campaign Challenge

**Young Kings and Queens**  
Programming



# HEALTH & WELL-BEING

The Foundation promotes health and wellness programs and activities that enhance the physical, mental and emotional needs of individuals.

## COPE NETWORK

In 2014, two years after losing her daughter to a heroin overdose, Nancy King began a support group aimed at providing guidance for families struggling to understand and help loved ones experiencing substance use and addiction. These meetings quickly grew to include people who were struggling with substance use themselves, people who were in recovery, caretakers and friends. Due to the success of these meetings, COPE Network was founded in 2016.

Since then, COPE has continued providing support for individuals and families navigating substance use and recovery-related hardships. Using a harm-reduction framework opposed to an abstinence-based framework, COPE acknowledges substance use as a choice people



make for themselves for a variety of reasons, without passing judgment or perpetuating stigma.

With this framework, COPE does not require people to achieve abstinence or begin recovery in



order to access valuable resources and support. Whether it's going to rehab, using substances more safely or repairing strained relationships with loved ones, COPE helps participants work toward positive behavior changes and improved health outcomes wherever possible.

Through core programming, COPE has provided overdose prevention training and free naloxone kits to thousands of residents in Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan. COPE also provides a safe, non-judgmental space for the substance-using and recovery communities of

Kalamazoo to access free classes related to art, music and movement; alternative recovery meetings; peer support; recovery coaching; free harm reduction supplies; referrals to mental health care, medical care and housing resources; and more.

For more information, visit [www.copenetwork.org](http://www.copenetwork.org)

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## INTEGRATED SERVICES OF KALAMAZOO

Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (ISK) is the public community mental health services program authority for Kalamazoo County and a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic.

In July 2023, ISK opened its new Behavioral Health Urgent Care and Access Center located at 440 W. Kalamazoo Avenue in the City of Kalamazoo. This 24-hour

center is Kalamazoo County's first behavioral health urgent care and access center, one of very few across the state of Michigan. We have already served over 2,300 people.

The center is open to all ages and incomes, with or without insurance coverage, and to anyone struggling with an urgent behavioral health problem. Anyone in crisis may

walk in or call 269-373-6000 for same-day, easy access to mental health professionals.

The 7,900-square-foot center houses nine treatment rooms, offices, waiting rooms, a conference room, reception area, lobby and security office. A police and ambulance entrance allows the center to serve as an alternative to a hospital emergency department for people experiencing behavioral health crises.

As our CEO Jeff Patton explains, our location is intentional. It is near areas with a high concentration of individuals receiving behavioral health services, including those experiencing homelessness. It is also easily walkable from nearby shelters and the city's downtown area.

For more information, visit [www.iskzoo.org](http://www.iskzoo.org)



# 2023 HEALTH & WELL-BEING GRANTS

**Bronson Health Foundation**  
Children's Hospital Facilities  
Improvements

**Cheff Therapeutic  
Riding Center**  
Equipment  
General Operations

**Community Healing Centers**  
Coming Together  
Conference

**Community Outreach  
and Prevention Network**  
General Operations

**Girl Scouts Heart  
of Michigan**  
Programming

**Kalamazoo Community Mental  
Health & Substance Abuse Services  
(Integrated Services of Kalamazoo)**  
Facilities Improvements

**Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home  
Foundation**  
Music Therapy Program

**Planned Parenthood  
of Michigan**  
Education and  
Outreach Program

**Prevention Works**  
Hub ONE General  
Operations  
Programming

**West Michigan  
Cancer Center**  
Patient Care Services and  
Survivorship Program

**Young Women's  
Christian Association**  
Women and Infant Supportive  
Health Program

## Nonprofit leaders enjoy the Kalamazoo Nature Center while mixing and mingling at the Foundation's 2023 Grantee Gathering



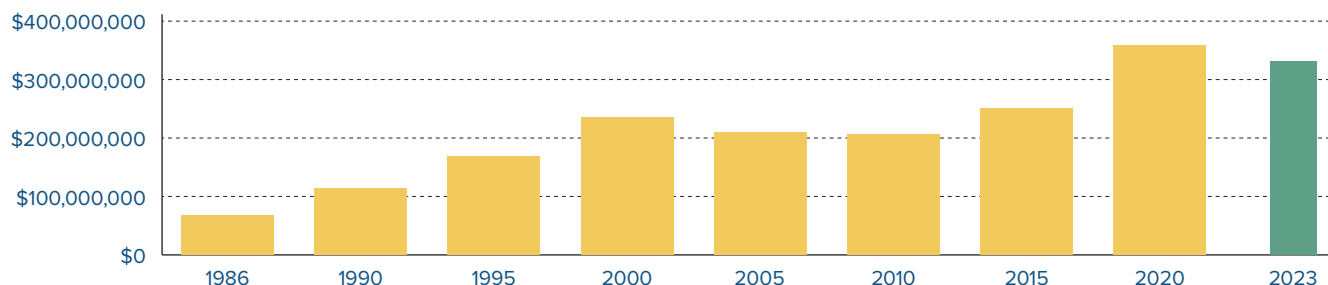
Photographs courtesy of Fran Dwight.

# FINANCES

## FINANCIAL HISTORY

In 1972, Irving S. Gilmore created the Foundation that bears his name and funded it with \$5,000 to continue his commitment to the arts and critical needs of the community. Upon Mr. Gilmore's death on January 17, 1986, his Will provided for the distribution of the residue of his estate, which represented the majority of his assets, to the Foundation. The date-of-death value of his estate's residue – the net bequest to the Foundation – was \$67 million. On December 31, 2023, Foundation investments were valued at \$331 million. For more details on the Foundation's financials please see our companion Annual Investment Report.

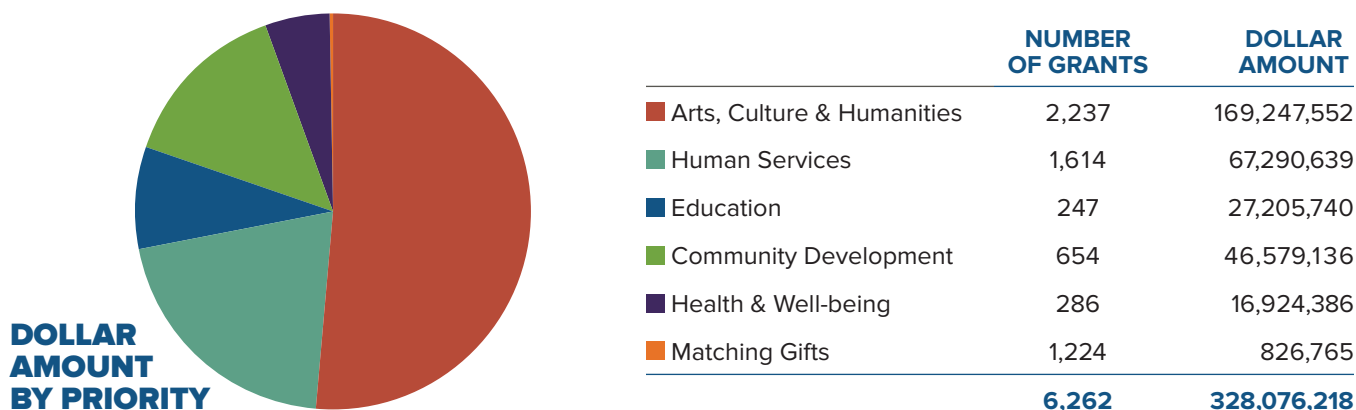
## INVESTED ASSETS



As of 12/31/2023 \$331 million.

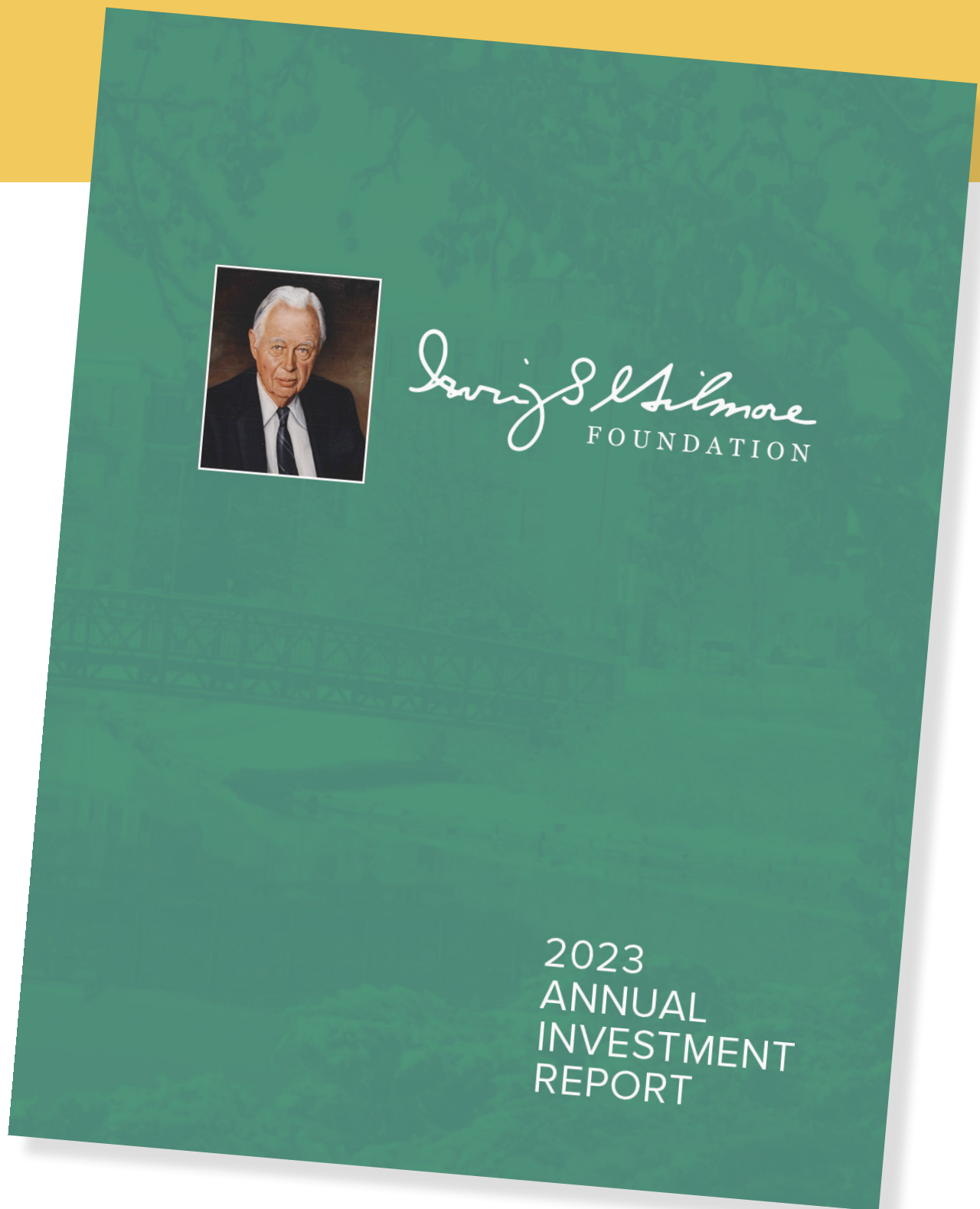
## GRANTS SINCE INCEPTION

Since 1986, the Foundation has awarded 6,262 grants to over 548 organizations. The following chart illustrates the totals by each program area the Foundation supports:



For full financials, please visit [www.isgilmore.org/financials](http://www.isgilmore.org/financials)





**For more details on the Foundation's finances and investments please see our companion Annual Investment Report.**

# TRUSTEES & STAFF 2024

## HISTORY OF TRUSTEE SERVICE

### Harold Jacobson

September 1972 – October 1976

### Arthur Homer

September 1972 – October 1982

### Richard M. Hughey, Sr.

September 1972 – September 2009

October 2009 - July 2012 (Emeritus)

### Harold H. Holland

October 1976 – July 1999

### Floyd L. Parks

October 1982 – Present

### W. Jack Keiser

January 1986 – October 1990

### Russell L. Gabier

November 1989 – November 2013

December 2013 – February 2018

(Emeritus)

### Frederick W. Freund

September 1999 – June 2007

### Charles D. Wattles

January 2006 – Present

### Howard D. Kalleward

October 2007 – October 2012

November 2012 – December 2023

(Emeritus)

### Robert T. McDonough

October 2007 – July 2009

### Judith H. Moore

April 2010 – Present

### Ronald N. Kilgore

October 2012 – April 2024

May 2024 – Present (Emeritus)

### Robert M. Beam

September 2013 – Present

### Mason G. Coleman

November 2017 – Present

### Robert T. Ezelle

December 2023 – Present

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Christina M. Adams\*

Robert M. Beam

Mason G. Coleman

Barbara L. James\*

Floyd L. Parks

Charles D. Wattles (Chair)

### INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Marilee K. Bartl\*

Robert M. Beam

Mason G. Coleman

Carol E. Duck

Frederick D. Fischer\*

Richard M. Hughey, Jr.

Ronald N. Kilgore

David C. O'Donovan\*

Floyd L. Parks

Carol R. Snapp

Charles D. Wattles (Chair)

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Robert M. Beam

Mason G. Coleman

Carol E. Duck

Robert T. Ezelle

Richard M. Hughey, Jr.

Ronald N. Kilgore

Judith H. Moore

Floyd L. Parks (Chair)

Carol R. Snapp

Charles D. Wattles

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Robert M. Beam

Kristy S. Brady

Mason G. Coleman

Carol E. Duck

Robert T. Ezelle

David D. Gardiner\*

Bruce R. Grubb\*

Richard M. Hughey, Jr.

Ronald N. Kilgore

Judith H. Moore (Chair)

Carol R. Snapp

\*External Committee Members

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Floyd L. Parks**  
Chairman



**Mason G. Coleman**  
President



**Judith H. Moore**  
First Vice President



**Charles D. Wattles**  
Treasurer



**Robert M. Beam**  
Secretary



**Robert T. Ezelle**



**Ronald N. Kilgore**  
Trustee Emeritus

# STAFF MEMBERS



**Richard M. Hughey, Jr.**  
Executive Vice President/CEO



**Carol E. Duck, CPA**  
Vice President – Administration



**Carol R. Snapp**  
Vice President – Program



**Anita M. Porter**  
Executive Assistant



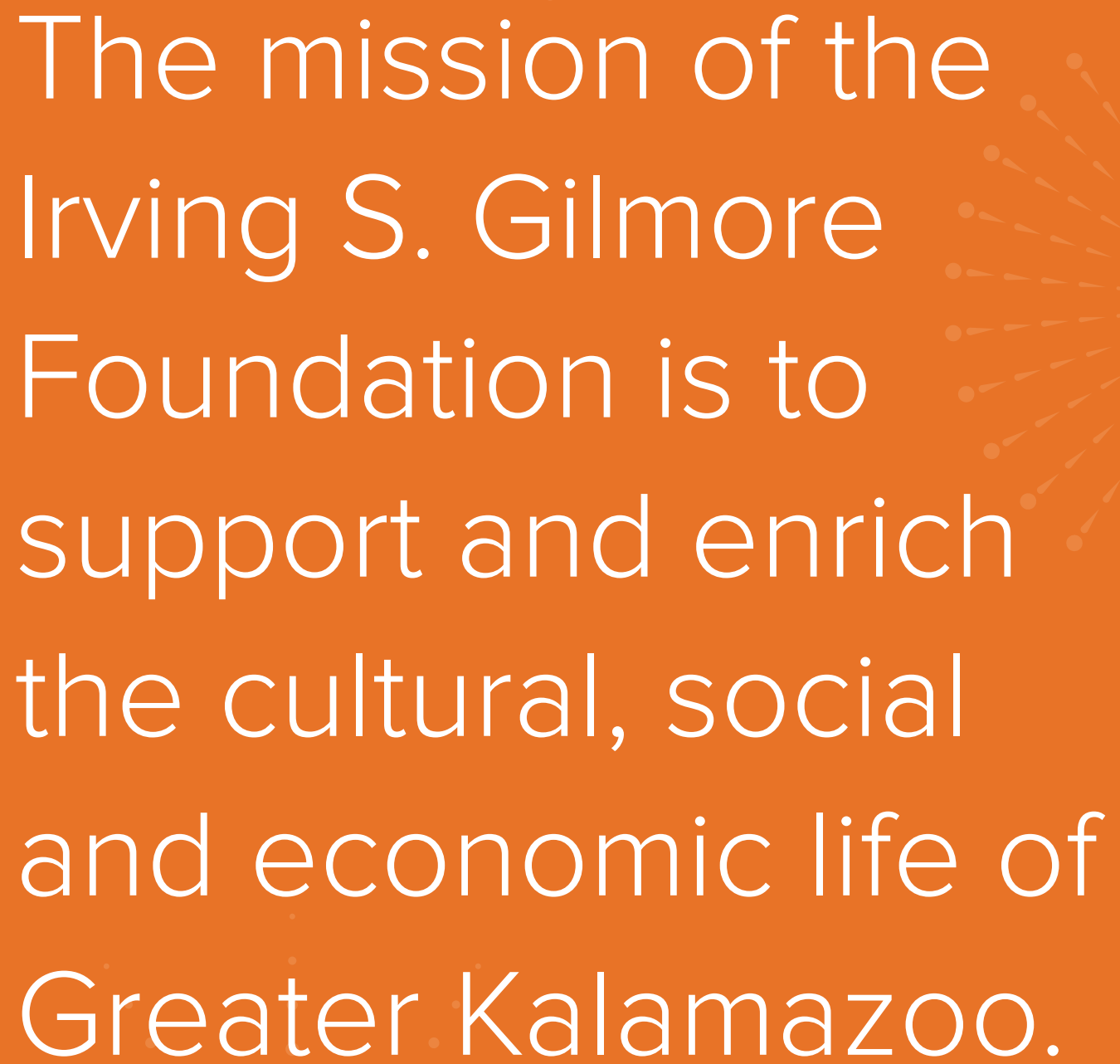
**Kristy Brady**  
Program Associate

Photographs courtesy of featured organizations unless otherwise noted.  
Front and back cover photos: Fran Dwight

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The mission of the  
Irving S. Gilmore  
Foundation is to  
support and enrich  
the cultural, social  
and economic life of  
Greater Kalamazoo.



