

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

---- Aesop

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Year Review

\$1.2m

COVID-19

SUPPORT

DISTRIBUTIONS

\$71k

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION & ANIMAL WELFARE \$95k

CAREER
READINESS &
EDUCATIONAL
ACCESS

\$55k

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

\$166k

CRITICAL COMMUNITY NEEDS \$82k

COMMUNITY

14
NEW FUNDS

\$6.7 mill

TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED

A total number of 1146 gifts were received that amounted to \$6.7 million.

242
TOTAL FUNDS

Letter from Leadership

Dear Friends of the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts.

The 2020-21 program year is a blur. Like the rest of the world, we here in North Central Massachusetts continued to struggle to adjust to the pandemic reality. We were determined not to be sidelined and are proud of our ability to continue our regular grant programs, facilitate distributions by our generous fundholders and deliver COVID assistance to our nonprofit partners serving families in need.

The Foundation was honored to continue to be the conduit for significant aid to people and families whose lives were upended by the economic impacts of COVID 19. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts provided nearly \$1 million to the Community Foundation as part of a statewide appropriation of \$24 million. More than 8,000 area households received support through our non-profit partners related to housing, utilities, food, and an array of other essential needs.

At the same time, our competitive grant committees considered scores of applications and awarded 40 grants totaling \$400,000 to worthy nonprofit initiatives across our region. These projects range from improving nature trails in Leominster and Fitchburg, celebrating the region's history with grants to the Abolitionist Park and the Wendell Meeting House, supporting entrepreneurship through the Wachusett Business Incubator, afterschool programming

at the Boys and Girls Clubs and career advancement support by Dress for Success.

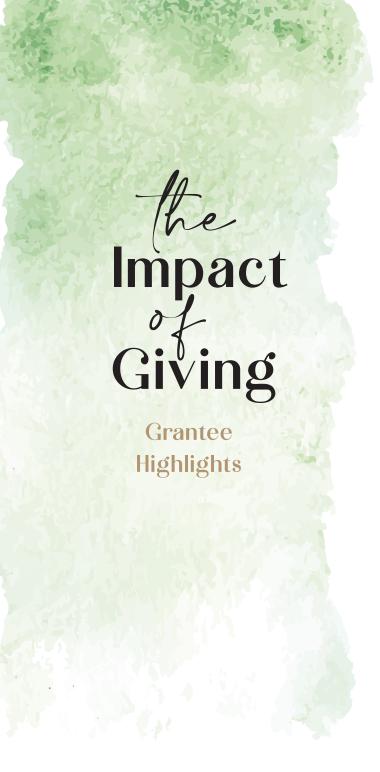
This year also saw the staff return to a renovated and expanded new space. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the building at 649 John Fitch Highway was remodeled to include new office space for Community Foundation staff and a new conference room shared with our United Way partners. With a clearly defined and distinct location, the Community Foundation is poised to welcome the world back once the pandemic has receded.

The growing reach and impact of the Community Foundation are a reflection of the generosity and foresight of our fundholders and volunteer board members, the ingenuity of local nonprofits, and the dedication of our staff. As the pandemic loosens its grip, we are excited by the possibilities.

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STEVE ADAMS
President, CEO

JAN COCHRAN Board Chair



Seeds of Solidarity



Seeds of Solidarity Education Center is a non-profit organization based in Orange, MA that innovates programs to awaken the power among people of all ages—from toddlers to teens to people who are incarcerated—to Grow Food Everywhere to transform hunger to health and create resilient lives and communities. Since 1999, Seeds of Solidarity has been a regional leader in programs that promote food justice, farm to school, wellness among vulnerable populations, and community revitalization.

Women Healing Women Healing Earth is a new program for women in the North Quabbin region. This wellness, food security, and educational program supports women who have faced isolation (including as survivors of incarceration), poverty, chronic health issues, or racial injustice. The program is centered around a series of workshops and activities that teach skills in gardening, nutrition, body/mind wellness, self-care, and community building.

The COVID-19 pandemic has vastly reinforced the importance of communion with nature, increased personal and local food self-sufficiency, and strategies for self-care and wellness to strengthen body, mind and soul. It is a pivotal time for individuals and our communities, in order to emerge from this challenging time stronger. The skills for resilience, wellness, and community building in this program help heal personal lives while supporting the development of community changemakers.

Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary



Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary collaborated with Gardner Head Start to integrate nature-based teaching and learning into the school's social-emotional curriculum. Through the education and engagement of the teachers, children, and families, this year-long program used the natural world to support the Head Start goals of healthy social and emotional development in young children.

This program had a significant impact on the young learners, as well as their teachers and families. Because the program was done virtually through the early pandemic, parents and siblings often attended the virtual classroom sessions with the students (some even participated in the activities). Head Start teachers participated in science practices in the beautiful outdoors while experiencing first-hand the refreshing and calming effects of nature near the end of a challenging school year. Additionally, teachers became familiar with a local, natural resource accessible to them and their student families for future use and enjoyment. And it was clear that the children were growing, and meeting Head Start social-emotional goals.

Wachusett Meadow shared "One Head Start teacher was so inspired after the second Professional Development (PD)training that she began including video from her backyard wildlife camera in her virtual lessons. Previously, she said she lacked confidence to share the videos because she didn't feel she knew enough about nature to teach the children. After the PD, she expressed new confidence about sharing her enthusiasm for, and love of, nature with the children. She guided her students in searching for coyote eyeshine in the nighttime videos or counting squirrels walking on her stone wall. She encouraged her students to follow her lead and go outside to enjoy the benefits of nature. In the spring, this same teacher began taking her laptop outside for her virtual lessons. One day, she and her students witnessed a snapping turtle laving eggs in her vegetable garden! Everyone marveled at this amazing experience, and the children had the opportunity to increase their sense of wonder, empathy, and respect for the lives of other creatures."

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS. TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS FUNDS \$2.6

millions

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milli SPONS 41SCAL FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS - FIELD O SI million Sirterest Funds. KIRLD OF INTEREST FUNDS. KIRLD OF INTEREST FUNDS. SNOILUBIATZIO

Charitable distributions

\$225k \$2140

FUNDS

SONUT 8024

OS. DESIGNATED

JJIK DES/CO. SONO 3 O31 TAGE

\$140k

279

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Established Funds that help achieve the charitable goals of donors

AGENCY FUNDS

Provides a permanent source of support for non-profits

124

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Charitable funds that help the future of aspiring students



25

FISCAL SPONSOR FUNDS

Assist unincorporated organizations with tax-exempt status

44

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Charitable giving to specific nonprofits directed by the donor

168

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Assistance for specific causes that are of a special interest to the donor



GARRISON FUND
FOR COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT
The purpose of this fund is to assist in Community Advancement

RACIAL EQUITY FUND

OF NORTH CENTRAL MA
This is a Field of Interest Fund for Racial
Equity in North Central Mass

AYER ROTARY FOUNDATION FUND
The purpose of this fund is to support
the Ayer Rotary Club's charitable interests

The purpose of this fund is to support our neighbors near and far

COMMONWEALTH OF MASS - COVID FUND
The purpose of this fund is to address
COVID relief in North Central Mass

EDDIE BLAIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND
The purpose of this fund is to provide scholarships to Gardner High School Seniors

The purpose of this fund is to provide support for the education of children in Haiti

MARY ATHEY JENNINGS FUND A fund that supports the charitable interests of the donor

ORCHESTRA OF INDIAN HILL

MASSACHUSETTS CRITICAL

MUSIC DIRECTOR FUND
To support the role of the Conductor's
Chair in the Indian Hill Symphony Orchestra

HOUSING SERVICES
This fund was created to help homeless shelters in North Central Mass

DR. FRANK HEALEY CHEMISTRY/STEM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

For Graduating Fitchburg Seniors pursuing Chemistry/STEM as a college major

GARDNER YELLOW BIRCH FUND

The purpose of this fund is to celebrate the working class and immigrant heritage of the Gardner area and support organization for an inclusive economy

THE HUGH AND MARION STODDART ENVIRONMENTAL FUND The purpose of this fund is to conserve land in The Nashua River Watershed

LUK, INC. ENDOWMENT FUND FOR GREATEST NEED Investment fund to support the long-term sustainability of the organization

Sour een
New Funds
Established

Fundspollioght

Dr. Frank Healey Chemistry /STEM Scholarship Fund

The Children of Dr. Frank H. Healey established the Dr. Frank Healey Chemistry/STEM Scholarship Fund in his memory for Fitchburg students pursuing Chemistry/STEM college major.

Despite growing up in the Great Depression he became an excellent student of the sciences. He attended Holy Cross and Clark University, earning a Ph.D. by the young age of 23. After serving his country as a radar specialist in the US Navy in the Pacific at the close of WWII, he became a Professor of Chemistry at Lehigh University in 1948. That year he married the love of his life, the beautiful Loretta Finnigan, beginning a marriage that lasted almost 72 years!

Hired as a Research Scientist by Lever Brothers Company, he moved to Ridgewood in 1956. He quickly rose to become Director of Research in 1960 and Vice President of Research and Development in 1964. He retired in 1989 as President and Director of Lever Research and Development. He was instrumental in securing a multimillion dollar settlement for Lever Brothers in a patent infringement lawsuit against a major company in Canada.

He was an avid golfer and bowler most of his life. After retiring he and Loretta traveled the world, even landing in Antarctica. All of his life he was known as a "straight arrow" and earned the admiration and respect of all who knew him.

This scholarship fund has created a lasting legacy of their father that will live on forever.





ENVIRONMENTAL
PRESERVATION
& ANIMAL WELFARE

\$71K

TOTAL GRANTS
AWARDED

NASHUA RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC.

Awarded \$5,500 for the Aquatic Investigations Series for Families in Local Parks

MASS AUDUBON

Awarded \$10,000 for Nature and Social-Emotional Learning with Athol, Gardner, and Winchendon Head Starts

GAAMHA INC.

Awarded \$750 for The Carl E. Dahl House Livestock Rescue and Animal Welfare Program

THE FARM SCHOOL

Awarded \$7,500 for the Goat Barn Building

MOUNT GRACE LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.

Awarded \$3,000 for the Winchendon Trails Initiative

MERRIMACK RIVER FELINE RESCUE SOCIETY

Awarded \$5,500 for a "Catmobile"

NORTH COUNTY LAND TRUST, INC.

Awarded \$10,000 for the Ebenezer Keyes Conservation Area: Restoring habitats, community and access to nature

CITY OF FITCHBURG

Awarded \$9,000 for the Maintenance and Access Project at Coggshall Park and the Northern Watershed Trail

IUST UNDERSTAND MY POTENTIAL (IUMP)

Awarded \$6,000 for Outdoor and Environmental Education for the pre-adolescent program

CITY OF LEOMINSTER

Awarded \$14,422 for the Leominster Trail-Stewards Hill Street Parcel Trail Project

& EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

\$95k

MASSBAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Awarded \$5,000 for The Johnny Appleseed Scholarship

MOUNT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Awarded \$30,000 for the Student Stabilization Scholarship Fund

DRESS FOR SUCCESS WORCESTER, INC.

Awarded \$15,000 to support the program Workforce Development - The Suit and Beyond

BEST BUDDIES

Awarded \$15,000 for Pre-Employment Training Services (ETS)

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF MONTACHUSETT AREA

Awarded \$5,000 for 2021-2022 ESOL and Basic Literacy Tutor Training

DREAMING TREE FOUNDATION DBA FRESH FILMS

Awarded \$20,000 to support the Film & Media Career Pathway for Undeserved Youth in North Central Mass

JUST UNDERSTAND MY POTENTIAL (JUMP)

Awarded \$600 for the Behaviors Supporting Teen Employment Readiness program

MAKING OPPORTUNITY COUNT, INC.

Awarded \$4,112 for the Youth Innovation Center: Mentor in Residence Program

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

\$55k

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

BEACON OF HOPE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Awarded \$5,000 to create a plan to promote diversity among members and provide services to unserved populations in North Central Mass

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, NORTH CENTRAL MASS

Awarded \$10,500 to add a part-time Marketing Associate

STEVENS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Awarded \$5,000 to cover the cost of hiring a strategic planning consultant

NORTH STAR FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

Awarded \$12,000 to support training sessions on assessing multi-site management decisions

VIRGINIA THURSTON HEALING GARDEN, INC

Awarded \$10,000 to utilize the services of a consultant

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF MONTACHUSETT AREA

Awarded \$12,845 to hire New Era for Nonprofits to implement an Adaptive Planning Process



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Awarded \$25,000 to support the Veterans Advancement Program - Armistice House

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Awarded \$25,000 to support the Veteran's Advancement Program - Hero House

NORTH STAR FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

Awarded \$20,000 to support the Path to Self Sufficiency Emergency Family Shelter

UNITED WAY OF TRI-COUNTY

Awarded \$7,000 for the Call2Talk Awareness Campaign and Language Translation Pilot

NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Awarded \$12,000 to support students returning from hospitalization due to suicidal behaviors

THE NAN PROJECT

Awarded \$15,000 to support the Mental Health/Suicide Prevention Program at the Bromfield School

OUR FATHER'S HOUSE, INC.

Awarded \$5,000 to provide an operating mobile shower for the street homeless

FIRST CHURCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST LEOMINSTER

Awarded \$12,000 to support heating costs associated with keeping the facility open for the Community Meal program

MAKING OPPORTUNITY COUNT, INC.

Awarded \$20,000 to support the MOC Mental Health Clinic and the FIRST Steps Together Parent Recovery Program

GAAMHA INC.

Awarded \$25,000 to support the Co-Occuring Enhanced Residential Recovery Farm

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

\$82k

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

BEST BUDDIES

Awarded \$5,000 to support students with disabilities and the Peer Buddy Program in 11 North Central Mass schools

SEEDS OF SOLIDARITY

Awarded \$15,000 for wellness, food, and educational programs for women faced with hardships in the North Quabbin Region

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF FITCHBURG AND LEOMINSTER

Awarded \$10,000 to support programs of dance, movement, and expressive arts therapy

MORE THAN CONQUERORS FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Awarded \$10,000 to support financial literacy education

NEWVUE COMMUNITIES

Awarded \$22,000 to support the Regional Impact Initiative

ADVOCATES, INC.

Awarded \$20,000 for free behavioral health services to vulnerable seniors in North Central Mass

Facing Covid-19

July 2020 to June 2021 was the heart of the COVID crisis in the world and in North Central Massachusetts. The economic impact of business closures was reflected in high unemployment and long lines for food and essentials at food pantries, schools, and senior centers.

Community foundations were recognized by private philanthropy and state government as an effective vehicle for delivering financial assistance. With our nonprofit partners, we distributed record amounts of financial aid in support of thousands of households across the region since the pandemic began.

The Community Foundation delivered more than \$1 million in assistance to over 60 local nonprofit organizations providing a broad range of support for needy families and individuals. This included a wide array of meal production and distribution services, provision of essentials, outreach to people experiencing homelessness, support for a warming center, homeless services coordination, and financial aid to help cover



utility bills, rent, and other key expenses of families hard hit by the economic effects of the pandemic.

We were also able to provide support to first responders. Grants to local hospitals allowed them to purchase personal protective equipment. We also provided funds to allow first responders to receive mental health counseling that fell outside their workplace insurance.

The fiscal year ended with word that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would look to community foundations to move federal COVID aid to people in need.



Building a Healthier

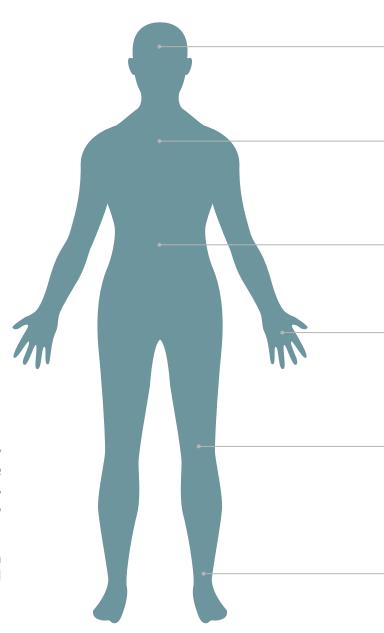
onunity

\$181 TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

\$14k INCREASE SINCE PRIOR YEAR

Offered jointly through the Greater Lowell Community Foundation and the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, the Nashoba Valley Healthcare Fund's purpose is to advance the community health of residents in thirteen (13) communities: Ashby, Ayer, Bolton, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Littleton, Lunenburg, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend, and Westford.

The Nashoba Valley Health Care Fund specifically targets areas in the following; Prevention of health problems, Access to healthcare, Elder health, Youth and adolescent health, Mental health, and Health care service provisions.





Grant Recipients of the 2021 Nashoba Valley Health Care Fund



ELDER HEALTH

HEALTHCARE

ACCESS

YOUTH &

ABLE TO SERVE-NEW ENGLAND, INC

Awarded \$1,500 for Hope for Women with Children

ADVOCATES

Awarded \$20,000 to support the mental health needs of local seniors

ASHBY FIRE AND EMS (TOWN OF ASHBY)

Awarded \$ 6,313 for improvements to provider training and skill maintenance in rural EMS system

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF LUNENBURG

Awarded \$10,000 for the BGCL After-school (Covid) Program

CLEAR PATH FOR VETERANS NEW ENGLAND

Awarded \$20,000 for Brain Retrain Neural Mapping, an Integrated health and wellness program for Veterans

DOCTOR FRANKLIN PERKINS SCHOOL

Awarded \$15,000 for Perkins Behavioral Health Services in the Nashoba Valley

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS, INC

Awarded \$20,000 for the Critical Home Repair Program supporting economically distressed families from Nashoba Valley

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF GREATER LOWELL

Awarded \$10,000 for a critical home repair program for seniors

LITTLETON COMMUNITY FARM

Awarded \$9,598 for Growing for Expanded Hunger Relief

LIVING WATER FELLOWSHIP

Awarded \$5,000 for the Stone Soup Kitchen Ministries

NORTH STAR FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

Awarded \$20,000 for the North Star - Family and Children Wellness Initiative

OUR FATHER'S HOUSE

Awarded \$16,000 for ensuring health wellness in the homeless children

TOWNSEND ECUMENICAL OUTREACH

Awarded \$7,800 for healthy food for vulnerable populations

UNITED METHODIST ACTION REACH OUT IN MISSION BY YOUTH (U.M. ARMY)

Awarded \$5,000 for U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach Out in Mission by Youth)

VIRGINIA THURSTON HEALING GARDEN, INC.

Awarded \$10,000 for equitable access to Psychosocial Therapeutic Services for Cancer Patients, Families & Caregivers

VNA CARE NETWORK, INC.

Awarded \$5,000 to support Removing Barriers to Health: Nursing and Social Work Case Management





North Central Massachusetts Housing First Working Group

The COVID pandemic brought the issue of homelessness in North Central Massachusetts into sharp relief for us at the Community Foundation. While temporary emergency services were bolstered, the problem of the lack of shelter for homeless individuals became even more severe. We learned that there is no low-threshold shelter for unhoused individuals anywhere in North Central Massachusetts.

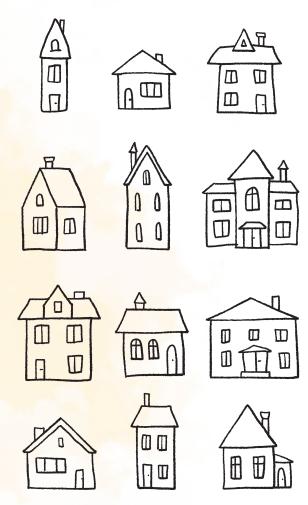
In response, the Community Foundation has partnered with Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance (CMHA) to convene a working group of experts, municipal, state, and federal representatives, and service providers to identify and secure the community infrastructure necessary to support and sustain a long-term system of temporary housing options across North Central Massachusetts.

This appears to be an ideal moment for a collaborative effort to address this issue. There is a region-wide awareness of the gaps in shelter solutions for unhoused people and an understanding of how homelessness,

mental health, joblessness and addiction are connected. At the same time, more State and Federal COVID funds are available to support homeless services. Finally, State officials are more aware of the lack of support in our region.

The lack of a central focal point for action has been a major barrier to targeting more state, federal and philanthropic resources on this problem, until now. The Community Foundation's role in supporting homeless services during the pandemic has uniquely positioned us to serve as a convener of the various stakeholders interested in addressing homelessness in North Central Massachusetts. This regional effort has given State officials more confidence in supporting a regional approach.

Since convening the Housing First Working Group, follow-up meetings of stakeholders are underway in Clinton, Fitchburg/ Leominster, Gardner and Athol/Orange to quantify the need and identify options for providing suitable shelter for unhoused individuals.



Board of Directors

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Gary Shepherd Albert Stone Ben Urquhart Miggie Vélez **Emeritus Trustee -**Richard W. Nobile

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Linda Mack Vice President of Philanthropy

Bari Weiss Finance Director

Tammy Staal Administrative Assistant

Maylynn Velazquez Administrative Assistant

Embracing diversity

North Central Massachusetts Racial Equity Fund

Recent events have highlighted the persistent and systematic ways that both implicit bias and institutional racism have contributed to depriving Black, Hispanic, and other people of color from reaching their full potential in education, health, and economic development. This deprives North Central Massachusetts of strong, active, and inclusive relationships between a diversity of residents.

In response to this complex and pervasive problem Sue and Bob Lotz made an initial financial gift to create the Racial Equity Fund for North Central Massachusetts. This donation will serve as a catalyst to attract like-minded individuals and organizations to this cause and consider making financial gifts that will expand and deepen the impact of the Racial Equity Fund. "When Sue and Bob

first approached the community foundation with this idea, I was thrilled to assist them in establishing the Racial Equity Fund. It is a need in our community and has the potential to have a huge positive impact on our community". said Linda Mack, Vice President of Philanthropy.

The Racial Equity Fund is an endowed fund that will promote more just, equitable and compassionate communities in North Central Massachusetts by providing grants to non-profit organizations working to advance racial equity and social justice. The Racial Equity Fund is focused on advancing racial justice and equity by identifying and working with non-profits that have professional experience and effective programs to serve and empower Black, Hispanic, and other communities of color.

An Advisory Committee has been established that includes community members of color who represent the diversity of North Central Massachusetts and board members of the Community Foundation. Below is the list of members on the advisory committee.

- Lucy Crocker Abisalih
- Steve Adams
- Ed Denmark
- Sheila King-Goodman
- Ted Lapres
- Sue Lotz
- Linda Mack
- Donata Martin
- Charisse Murphy
- Miggie Velez
- Leona Whetzel

The staff and committee will work to coordinate and amplify philanthropic interest in our community for the growth of this fund. Every gift, whether large or small, will make a real difference. If you would like to donate to the fund you can do so by visiting https://cfncm.org/donate?fn=racial-equity-and-justice-fund. If you have any questions, you may contact Linda Mack, Vice President of Philanthropy, Imack@cfncm.org.

"It is a need in our community that has the potential to have a huge positive impact"

- Linda Mack

Vice President of Philanthropy



Sheila King-Goodwin, Meghan Maceiko, Leona Wetzel, Sue Lotz, Steve Adams, Charisse Murphy, Ted Lapres (not present-Ed Denmark, Lucy Crocker Abisalih, Donata Martin, Mlggie Velez.)

Financial report

FISCAL YEAR 2020 - 2021

2019

2020

2021

TOTAL NUMBER OF DISTRIBUTIONS

657

TOTAL NUMBER OF FUNDS

242

INCREASE IN
DISTRIBUTIONS FROM
PRIOR YEAR

12%

TOTAL ASSETS

OPERATING EXPENSES

REVENUES

GRANTS & DONOR DISTRIBUTIONS

TOTAL
DISTRIBUTIONS
BY YEAR

\$56,823,362

\$578,592

\$8,184,737

\$3,589,718

\$57,183,757

\$630,000

\$5,864,369

\$5,375,928

2021

\$72,029,339

\$661,152

\$24,778,015

\$6,054,430





NUMBER OF FUNDS BY TYPE



AGENCY FUNDS

37

DESIGNATED FUNDS

66

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

9

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

29

FISCAL SPONSOR FUNDS

8

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS



SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS



Our Shared Mission

Providing people and organizations with flexible giving options to achieve their lifelong charitable goals

Through deep knowledge of our region, community leadership, strategic collaboration and effective grantmaking, we provide education, guidance and resources to strengthen our community. We are a trusted steward of the charitable assets, vision and intent of our donors to do good works now, and forever.

Serving the charitable interest of donors and nonprofits in 33 communities of Ashburnham, Ashby, Athol, Ayer, Barre, Bolton, Clinton, Devens, Erving, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Littleton, Lunenburg, New Salem, Orange, Pepperell, Petersham, Phillipston, Princeton, Royalston, Shirley, Sterling, Templeton, Townsend, Warwick, Wendell, Westminster, and Winchendon.

Helping Donors Do Good Work.. Forever

