



2019 - 2020

Annual Report

Community Foundation
of North Central Massachusetts

*“Giving frees us from the
familiar territory of our own
needs by opening our mind
to the unexplained worlds
occupied by the needs
of others.”*

- BARBARA BUSH



Table of Contents

YEAR IN REVIEW	03
LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP	04
2019 GRANT SUCCESS STORIES	06
CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS	07
NEW FUNDS	09
VON LOESECKE FAMILY FUND	10
FACING COVID-19	11
NASHOBA VALLEY HEALTH CARE FUND	13
ADVANCING OUR COMMUNITIES	15
REMEMBERING JAMES O. GARRISON	17
FINANCIAL REPORT	19
BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF	20
PATRICIA THOMAS-JEANIG FUND	21
OUR SHARED MISSION	22

\$6.7 m

TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED
\$57,183,757 in Total Assets

\$5.2 m

TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS
\$874,000 COVID-19 programs

\$113,000 Arts & Culture
agencies and programs

\$68,660 Critical Needs
of the community

\$153,940 Environmental
& Animal Wellness

\$532,100 Social Services

\$2.06 m

NEW FUNDS
14 New Funds established
244 Total number of funds



2019

2020

Letter From Leadership

*Dear Friends of the Community Foundation
of North Central Massachusetts,*

Our goals, as we began the program year 2019-2020, seemed evident: broaden our knowledge of the challenges and opportunities within the region, deepen our impact and strengthen our reputation across North Central Massachusetts. With our first full time Chief Executive, we were poised to professionalize our operations in a way we had been unable to in the past.

We concentrated first on our most vital function - grant-making, developing a new approach that we hoped would be more proficient while at the same time, would inspire engagement. Then the calamity of COVID hit, testing us and our process in ways none of us could have anticipated. Within five months, we had distributed over \$1 million to nearly 60 nonprofit organizations. Along the way we built a solid reputation as an important part of the North Central Massachusetts safety net.

The demands of the pandemic caused us to engage with the numerous organizations that deliver essential services across the region. It became apparent that we needed to rapidly identify ways to further streamline our grant-making process and dramatically increase the efficiency of both our financial management and distribution systems. With the active support of our Board of Directors and the dedication of our staff and partners,

the Community Foundation was able to adjust to the new COVID realities as well as play a meaningful role in limiting the economic, physical and emotional harm visited on our neighbors by the pandemic.

As a vital partner in fighting the pandemic, the Community Foundation gained valuable knowledge about the nature of need in our region. We learned where the holes were in the system of support, and where there were opportunities to improve. We also gained an appreciation for our role as convener, organizer and honest broker in addressing region-wide problems.

This Annual Report offers a brief look back at 2019-2021. As we adjust to the changes wrought by the pandemic and the continuing demands of prolonged emergency grant-making, we look forward to building the relationships that will allow the Community Foundation to deepen its ability to enhance the quality of life in North Central Massachusetts.



Steve Adams

President, CEO



Jan Cochran

Board Chair



TULLY LAKE, ROYALSTON MA, NORM EGGERT PHOTOGRAPHY

The Impact of Giving

2019 Grant Success Stories

Before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the world, the Community Foundation's nonprofit partners were helping enhance the quality of life in North Central Massachusetts. Our 2019 grants to nonprofits contributed to a wide variety of community-enhancing initiatives. Just a few examples are offered here.

Our community development partners strengthened the business eco-systems in the Montachusett and North Quabbin areas. Specifically, NewVue Communities CDC achieved project-friendly zoning for the Fitchburg Arts Community, an important step in moving that innovative downtown development project forward. Additionally, the Center for Women Enterprise (CWE) provided valuable seminars and guidance to 20 entrepreneurs in Orange and Athol and built relationships with important local institutions including Athol Credit Union, Orange Innovation Center and the Launch Center.

Our grant support helped regional natural resource nonprofits strengthen their engagement with North Central residents. For example, Mass Audubon's Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary educators brought hands-on, nature-based play and learning to Gardner Head Start, with projects ranging from exploring the schoolyard to learning about birds and wildlife. Pre-COVID-19 plans also called for guided family hikes at Lake Wampanoag Wildlife Sanctuary. Meanwhile, the Nashua River Watershed

Association Stewardship Council was formally established with broad community participation, and important river resource study and coordination work among the 11 member communities was accomplished. Our grant helped carry the Council through a vulnerable transition that will allow the Council to be more self-sustaining, enabling it to protect this valuable restored natural resource.

Our impact also extended to social services and educational access initiatives. Community Legal Aid was able to open a full-time office in North Central Massachusetts, which enabled them to provide valuable training seminars to service providers across the region on topics such as elder rights, immigration status, family services and domestic violence. In addition, Community Legal Aid was better able to provide legal services to North Central clients most in need, including a mother fighting to regain custody of her child from an abusive father. Meanwhile, educational access scholarship grants to Mount Wachusett Community College allowed 32 students to attend community college, including 23 first generation college students.

Most nonprofits were dramatically hindered when the pandemic struck. Our first response to the emergency was to waive grant restrictions on any outstanding 2019 grants, allowing nonprofits to direct any remaining dollars to their bottom lines.

charitable

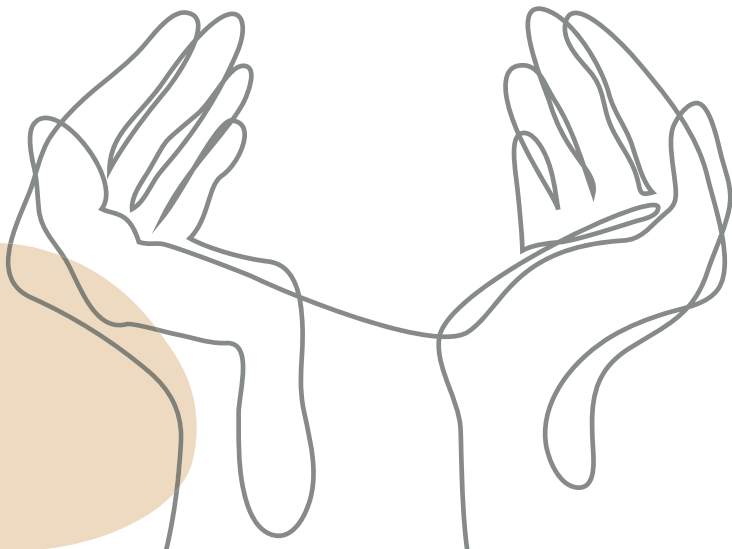
Distributions

TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS

\$5.2m

Fiscal Year:

July 2019 – June 2020



DOLLAR VALUE
OF DISTRIBUTIONS
BY FUND TYPE

\$156k
AGENCY FUNDS

Provides a permanent
source of support
for non-profits

\$375k
FISCAL SPONSOR FUNDS

Assistance for
unincorporated organizations
with tax-exempt status

81

52

NUMBER
OF DISTRIBUTIONS
BY FUND TYPE

The infographic features a dark grey, wavy shape on the left side, resembling a mountain or a stylized 'S'. This shape is divided into four horizontal sections, each representing a different type of fund. The top section is the largest and contains the text '\$2.5m' and 'DONOR ADVISED FUNDS'. The second section contains '\$773k' and 'FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS'. The third section contains '\$397k' and 'SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS'. The bottom section contains '\$981k' and 'DESIGNATED FUNDS'. To the right of these sections, there are four descriptions of the fund types, each corresponding to a number: 'Charitable funds to help the future of aspiring students' (108), 'Assistance for specific causes that are a special interest to the donor' (51), 'Charitable giving directed to specific nonprofits by the donor' (38), and 'Established Funds to help achieve the charitable goals of donors' (267). The numbers are placed in a light grey area at the bottom of the infographic. The background is white with several grey circles of varying sizes scattered across the top and bottom sections.

\$2.5m

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

\$773k

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

\$981k

DESIGNATED FUNDS

\$397k

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Charitable funds
to help the future of
aspiring students

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

Charitable giving
directed to specific
nonprofits by the donor

Established Funds
to help achieve the
charitable goals of donors

108

51

38

267

New Funds

Mass COVID 19 Response Fund:

The Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund supports those across the state most impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis, focusing on essential frontline workers and vulnerable populations including the homeless, immigrant populations, people with disabilities and those facing food insecurity.

In Memory of Patricia

A. Thomas-Jeanig Fund:

The purpose of this fund is to provide scholarships for Massachusetts students pursuing a Master's degree in Library Science.

First Congregational Church of Princeton Fund:

The purpose of this fund is to support the sustainability of the First Congregational Church of Princeton Fund.

North Middlesex Field Hockey Scholarship Fund:

The purpose of this fund is to provide scholarships for girl's field hockey for graduating seniors of North Middlesex.

Kimberly Ansin Family Fund:

The purpose of this fund is to donate to charities chosen by the donor.

Rally Sound Fund:

The purpose of this fund is to raise money for charities and sustain the organization.

The Land Forever Fund of Mount Grace Fund:

The purpose of this fund is to hold both restricted and unrestricted capital campaign contributions.

Gardner Housing Emergency Mission Fund:

The purpose of this fund is for temporary housing for families with children in the Gardner school system.

Burton and Sonja Jacobson Scholarship Fund:

The purpose of this fund is to provide funds for scholarships to a member of the First Congregational Church of Princeton pursuing a post-secondary degree with preference given to the applicant studying health sciences or STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) study.

Friends of the Hubbardston Senior Center Endowment Fund:

The purpose of this fund is for the Friends of Hubbardston Senior Center.

Friends of the Hubbardston Senior Center Operational Fund:

The purpose of this fund is for the Friends of the Hubbardston Senior Center.

Von Loesecke Family Charitable Fund:

The purpose of this fund is to donate to charities chosen by the family

12 NEW FUNDS ESTABLISHED



Fund Spotlight

Von Loesecke Family Charitable Fund

When Peter and Alice von Loesecke sought to lend a hand to local organizations that help people in need, they knew right where to turn: the Community Foundation.

The von Loesecke family had previously established a fund with the Community Foundation that provided scholarships for international students.

“We found the Foundation to be professional and great to work with. It is well connected to local organizations and, as such, it was our number one choice when we shifted our charitable giving focus to a more local geographic area,” says von Loesecke.

In January 2020, the family established the von Loesecke Family Charitable Fund with the Community Foundation. The fund supports organizations that help people improve themselves, offer unique educational opportunities, or offer educational enrichment. “We have always believed in community service and involvement,” says Loesecke. “We hope that through our giving, people in the area who are trying to change their circumstances or redirect their lives will be able to succeed.”



Facing Covid-19

The Community Foundation entered 2020 full of energy and expectation. We were excited to try out our new approach to grant-making, to plan the renovation of the building at 649 John Fitch Highway, and invigorate our development efforts. Then the Covid hit.

With a global pandemic changing life as we know it, we set out to develop funds to try to respond to the challenge. The Critical Needs Committee had responded to crises before, but this was new. The Board allocated an initial \$45,000 from our Critical Needs Fund to a Covid Response Fund, and we worked to grow it. Staff went about the task of creating a simple and accessible on-line grant application process, and we reached out to the nonprofit community working to figure out how to buffer the effects of the pandemic on the people of North Central Massachusetts.

Through the generosity of North Central fund holders and of others across the region and the state, the COVID response dollars grew. Our Critical Needs Committee began meeting

weekly to review applications and award grants to food pantries, homeless services, senior centers, hospitals and social service agencies. With much of the physical world shut down, we adopted on-line approaches to executing grant agreements and distributing grant checks. From April to the end of the summer we more than \$1 million in 87 grants to 60 nonprofits. And the pandemic was not half over.

Our Partners in Fighting the COVID Crisis

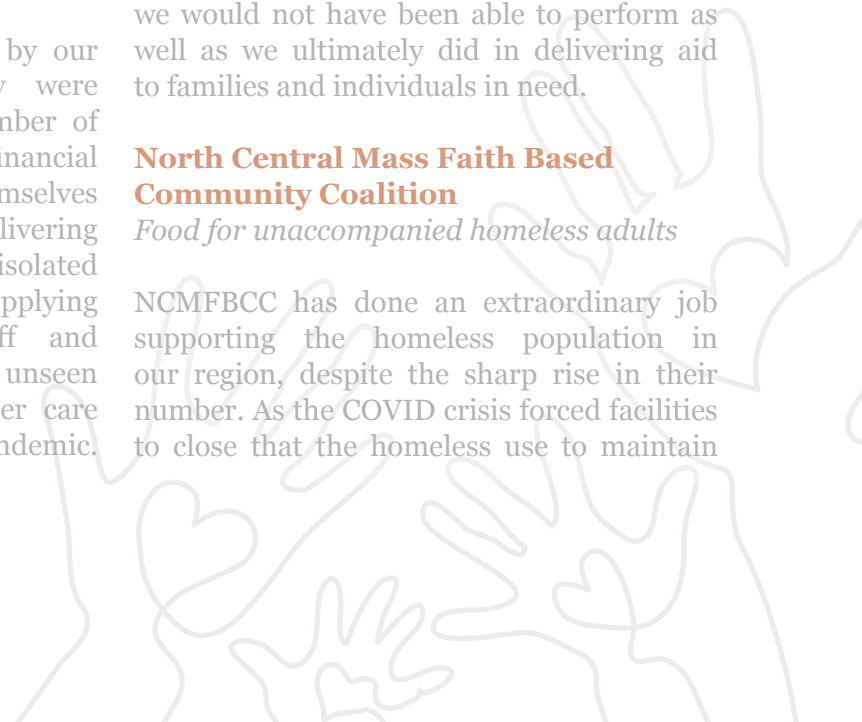
The hardest work was being done by our nonprofit grantee partners. They were delivering food to the growing number of homeless; providing food and financial support to families who found themselves without work and without income; delivering food and other essentials to seniors isolated from their friends and family; supplying protective gear to medical staff and outreach workers; and treating the unseen psychological scars inflicted on elder care workers on the front lines of the pandemic. A few examples are offered here.

United Way of North Central Mass *Coordinating financial supports*

UWNCM was critical to our ability to get financial assistance to families hardest hit by the pandemic. The Community Foundation traditionally is less involved in social service programming. The leadership and coordinating competency of the United Way early in the pandemic gave the Community Foundation the breathing space to get up to speed with social service providers, senior centers and food pantries. Without their help, we would not have been able to perform as well as we ultimately did in delivering aid to families and individuals in need.

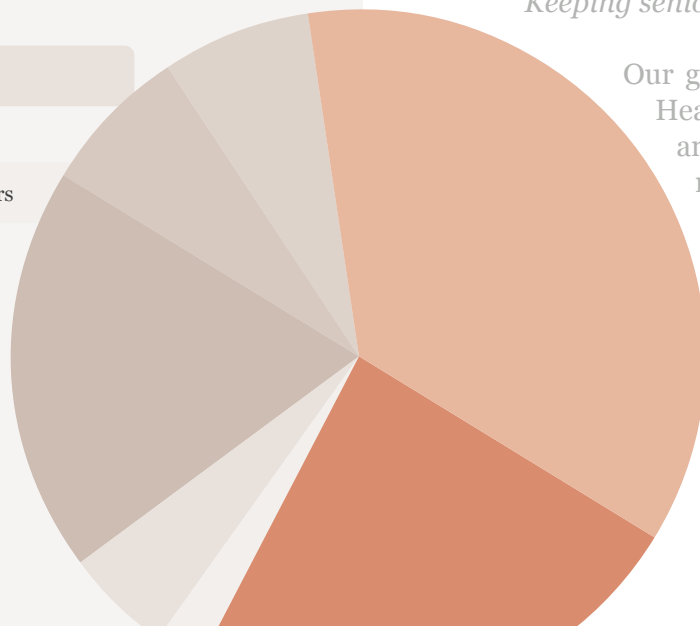
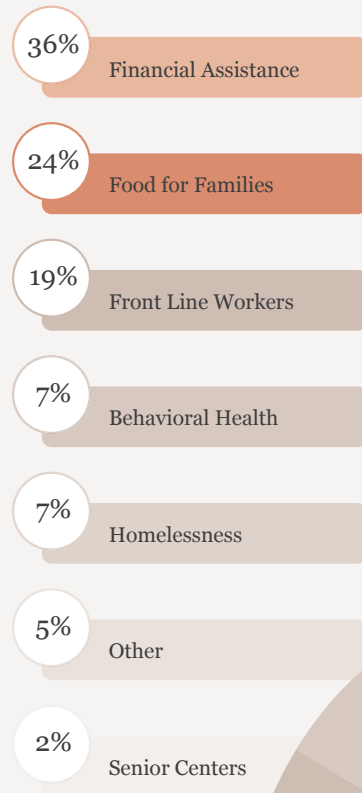
North Central Mass Faith Based Community Coalition *Food for unaccompanied homeless adults*

NCMFBCC has done an extraordinary job supporting the homeless population in our region, despite the sharp rise in their number. As the COVID crisis forced facilities to close that the homeless use to maintain



Covid-19 Response Fund Allocations

March-June 2020



a modicum of dignity (showers, bathrooms), NCMFBCC worked with local organizations to help ensure options were available. Their outreach workers' efforts were instrumental in connecting needed people to food and essentials.

Growing Places, Inc. *Healthy Food*

Growing Places was able to quickly expand their operations into several new communities to meet the rising demand for food. They collaborated with a variety of food pantries and food distribution programs to help ensure that the rapid increase in demand for food was accompanied by fresh produce. They have played an important coordinating role during the pandemic.

Alliance Health at Baldwinville *Keeping seniors safe*

Our grant allowed Alliance Health to purchase PPE and other supplies necessary to the

safe operation of their nursing home. Their professionalism and thoroughness allowed them to provide an exceptionally safe environment for their residents and staff, experience almost no cases of COVID-19. While other nursing homes in the area were hit hard by COVID-19, Alliance Health reported two cases.

Horace Mann Educational Assoc., Inc. *Residential and support services for people with disabilities.*

HMEA acted decisively to protect their clients and workers. They anticipated problems and converted space into an isolation center. HMEA staff volunteered to work at the center to care for people quarantined there. As of Sept. 8, 443 COVID-19 tests have been administered within HMEA for both staff and the individuals with disabilities they serve. There have been 69 confirmed cases within the HMEA community, resulting in 10 admissions to the emergency isolation center, 12 hospital admissions, and no deaths, even though people with developmental disabilities living in group homes are four times more likely than the general population to contract the virus.

Advancing Our Communities

Targeted Grant Making

CFNCM has made changes in our competitive grant making schedule and process in the beginning of 2020. The revisions more clearly articulate our areas of focus, spread out our grant making across the year, bring more participants into the grant making process, and allow for more thoughtful consideration of grant proposals.

New Online Application Process

We have implemented a new online grant application program that has improved the process for both applicants and grant reviewers.

Stay Tuned for Open RFP

Keep an eye on www.cfncm.org throughout the year to connect your program needs to our focus areas.

Four Categories of Impact

Beginning in 2020, CFNCM organized our competitive grant making around four issue areas that better reflect our work of the past several years:

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION & ANIMAL WELFARE

Deadline in January, awarded in April

CAREER READINESS & EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

Deadline in March, awarded in July

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Deadline in July, awarded in October

CRITICAL COMMUNITY NEEDS

Deadline in October, awarded in January

Grants are awarded four times a year, according to their area of focus. Applications are accepted all year, however each focus area has an annual deadline.

CAREER READINESS & EDUCATIONAL ACCESS

TOTAL GRANTS
AWARDED

◆ **\$112k**

Mount Wachusett Community College

Awarded \$28,000 for the Student Stabilization Scholarship Fund

Fitchburg State University

Awarded \$28,000 for Scholarships for the Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Program (CDEP) and completing the North Central Massachusetts Early College Academy Program (NCMECA) to enroll and graduate from the University

Dr. Franklin Perkins School

Awarded \$12,000 for the Adult Transition Program for 12th grade students (to MWCC)

St. Bernard's Catholic High School

Awarded \$5,000

Making Opportunity Count (MOC)

Awarded \$15,000 for the Youth Innovation Center

Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg

Awarded \$24,000 for the Youth Workforce Readiness Program

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION & ANIMAL WELFARE

TOTAL GRANTS
AWARDED

◆ **\$73k**

Fitchburg Greenway Committee

Awarded \$2,500 for the design, construction and installation of durable signs, which will be used on the trail from the Rollstone Boulder at the Upper Common to the summit of Rollstone Hill (the “Rock Walk”) and also the Loop Trail back to the Bruce Street trailhead. There will be 2 categories of signs.

Growing Places

Awarded \$10,000 to increase public access to agricultural assets through regenerative agricultural practices in Winchendon, MA an environmental justice community.

The Massachusetts Animal Fund

Awarded \$8,050 to provide free spay/neuter surgeries for 50 cats and dogs owned by low income residents of North Central Massachusetts through a large scale spay/neuter clinic. Sterling Shelter Clinic, the highest volume veterinary provider in the Massachusetts Animal Fund network, will complete the surgeries.

Mass Audubon’s Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary

Awarded \$5,000 to work collaboratively 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 will use the natural world to support the Head Start goals of healthy social and emotional development in young children.

Mount Grace

Awarded \$10,000 to help make our conservation areas in north central Massachusetts the focus of collaborations with local schools to provide STEM programming for K-4 students and add new partners to deliver STEM education in the under-resourced Athol-Royalston Regional Public School system.

North County Land Trust (NCLT)

Awarded \$2,500 to support a land conservation specific workshop and networking series.

The Sterling Open Space and Implementation Committee

Awarded \$10,000 for the construction of Peg’s Pond Trail.

The Trustees

Awarded \$20,000 toward project costs for the permanent protection and stewardship of 294-acres at Crocker Farm, including Jewell Hill in Ashburnham. The Trustees’ acquisition and stewardship of this property will achieve permanent protection for this fourth-generation family farm and ensure this property is stewarded for public visitation and enjoyment as well as for watershed protection and natural resource values.

Unmistaken Stars

Awarded \$5,000 to enhance our ability to care for displaced, abandoned, mistreated or physically challenged domestic and farm animals This funding will supplement our budget for construction of new animal care facilities, land/pasture preparation, and our education and adoption initiative.

Building a Healthier Community

Grant Recipients of the 2020 Nashoba Valley Health Care Fund

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.



15-40 Connection

Awarded \$11,000 for the Nashoba Valley '3 Steps Detect' program.



Advocates

Awarded \$16,000 to support the mental health needs of local seniors.



Ashby Fire & EMS (Town of Ashby)

Awarded \$11,200 for the Community AED Program.



Ayer Fire Department

Awarded \$16,000 for Lucas CPR Devices.

 or  Represents \$1000



Boys & Girls Club of Lunenburg
Awarded \$7,500 for the “Triple Play: Healthy Minds, Bodies, and Souls” Program.



Community Legal Aid, Inc.
Awarded \$5,000 for the Nashoba Valley Elder Legal Aid Outreach Project.



Cultivate Care Farms
Awarded \$20,000 for the Sensory Sensitive Therapeutic Garden.



Gaining Ground, Inc.
Awarded \$5,500 to help grow fresh produce for hunger relief with community volunteers.



Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell
Awarded \$10,000 to help seniors age safely at home.



Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc.
Awarded \$20,000 for the program “Together We Can Make a Difference”.



MAB Community Services, Inc.
Awarded \$6,500 for the Nashoba Valley Vision Rehabilitation Program for seniors with sight loss.



North Star Family Services, Inc.
Awarded \$15,000 for the North Star - Family and Children Wellness initiative.



Our Father’s House
Awarded \$16,000 to support the Ensuring Health and Wellness in Homeless Children Program.



Seven Hills ASPIRE!
Awarded \$11,000 for the Sustainable Farming initiative – Expanding reach to ASPIRE! in Devens, Massachusetts



Virginia Thurston Healing Garden Cancer Support Center
Awarded \$10,000 for support services for the Nashoba Valley Residents.

\$14 k

Increase since prior year

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

\$180k

Nashoba Valley Health Care Fund

Remembering *James O. Garrison*

“ I first met Jim when he was the President/CEO of H&R 1871. He had a special relationship with his many dedicated employees and because the company was located in the city of Gardner, Massachusetts, he had a great fondness for all things in and about that community on a personal level by giving his time and financial support to the many organizations serving Gardner. Jim was an extremely gifted business leader as a turnaround specialist, taking low performing companies and making them very profitable. Because of this ability, he joined Kirtland Capital Partners based in Ohio. It was also the very reason that was uniquely helpful to our newly created Foundation and to me personally, as its first President. The knowledge and friendship that he shared with me I will always treasure.

Jim's entire family is imbued with the same spirit of community service. I met Jim's wife, Peggy, through their

membership in United Way's Tocqueville Society and later his son David as a Board member of United Way and its Finance Committee. Later I met his daughter, Leslie who also sits as a member of the Foundation's Trustees. While I never met Jim's daughter Lauren, I felt as though I knew her from Jim's many proud conversations about her entrepreneurial role in the creation of the Miracle Field and Miracle Baseball League in Acton. Both the facility and teams are designed to support the needs of children with disabilities.

Jim's passing leaves a heartfelt void for his family, friends, community and all of us who knew him. He is truly missed.



Phil Grzewinski
Former President/CEO
of the Community Foundation
from 2001-2019



Last year, our North Central region lost a dear friend and a leader in business and philanthropy, Jim Garrison. Jim was a founding member on the Board of Trustees of the Community Foundation since its early creation in 2001. He fully understood the importance of the Foundation's mission and purpose to create positive change in the community through permanent contributions and stewardship of contributors' financial resources. Jim served on the Board for all but three years until his passing. He contributed greatly with his business knowledge and was a valued member of the Investment and Finance Committee.

“Gardner, and the entire north central Mass area, was very fortunate when Jim Garrison chose to come to Gardner in the early 1990’s and resurrect the company that would become H&R 1871. Serving people is what Jim was about, never more so than when he and his wife Peggy adopted Gardner as their home town and we all realized how fortunate we were to have Jim in our greater community.

Jim was a very bright man who made everyone feel that he valued their input on every matter, because he really did. He always began and ended every meeting with a smile. No matter how difficult a situation may have just been discussed, Jim always left those in the meeting with a positive feeling about how it would be resolved.

My favorite moments with Jim were those when we would discuss our families. I know that the secret to all of Jim’s success is the way he viewed himself as a husband, father and grandfather. He was a truly happy person who looked at each day as another opportunity for something good to happen. That kind of attitude really makes a community better—Jim Garrison certainly made Gardner a better place to live.



Jay Drake
Community Foundation
Trustee, Vice-Chair

“It has truly been a pleasure and an honor to volunteer with Jim at the Board of the Community Foundation over many years. Jim joined the Board very early in the life of the CF and his talents and leadership as a Board Member and as Board Chair were instrumental in the growth and success of the Foundation.

Jim exemplified the ideal of civic engagement—he cared deeply about the North Central Mass region and was generous in giving his time, talents and resources to improve life in our area. Jim’s work with many area non-profits was always selfless and focused only on making things better.

The words that come to mind when remembering Jim are: integrity, intelligence, humble leadership, good judgment, community spirit and generosity. I know that I speak for everyone at the Foundation when I say that it has been an honor to serve with Jim and we will greatly miss his friendship and guidance.

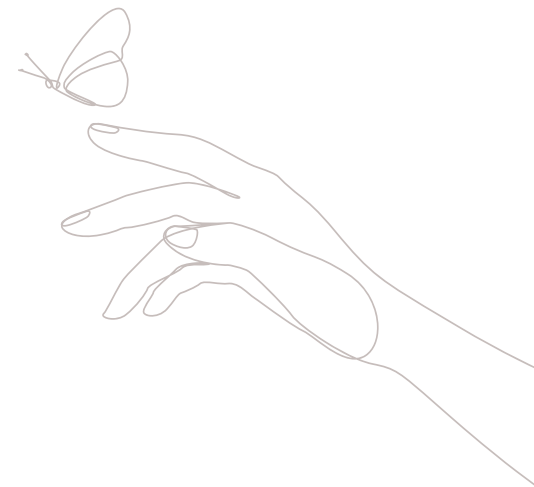


Steven L. Stone
Community Foundation
Trustee, Treasurer

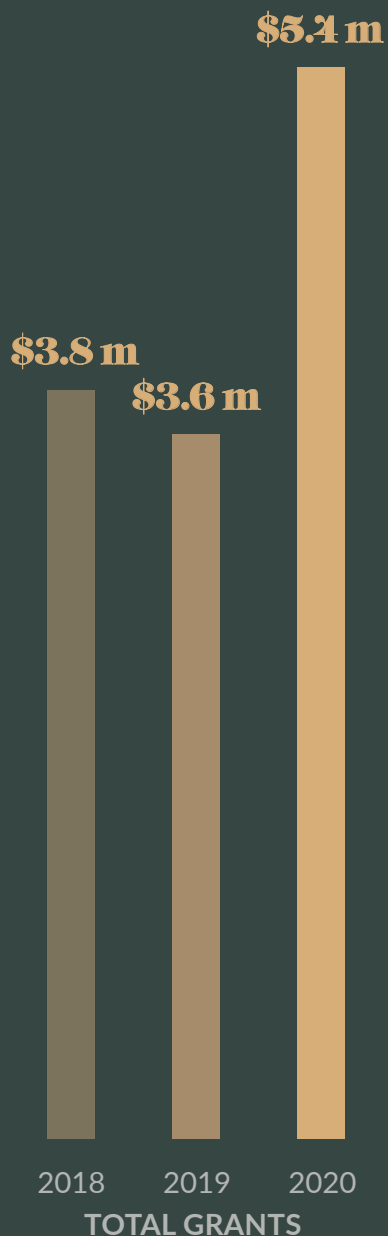
“Whenever I think of Jim Garrison, I remember how kind and welcoming he was to me, when I first came on the Board. In the years that followed, I learned to appreciate how perceptive he was, how aware he was of our community and its needs. This thoughtfulness, combined with his generosity and innate kindness, made him an invaluable member of our board. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to work with him and am especially grateful to have had a chance to know this remarkable man.”



Jan Cochran
Community Foundation
Trustee and Board Chair



financial

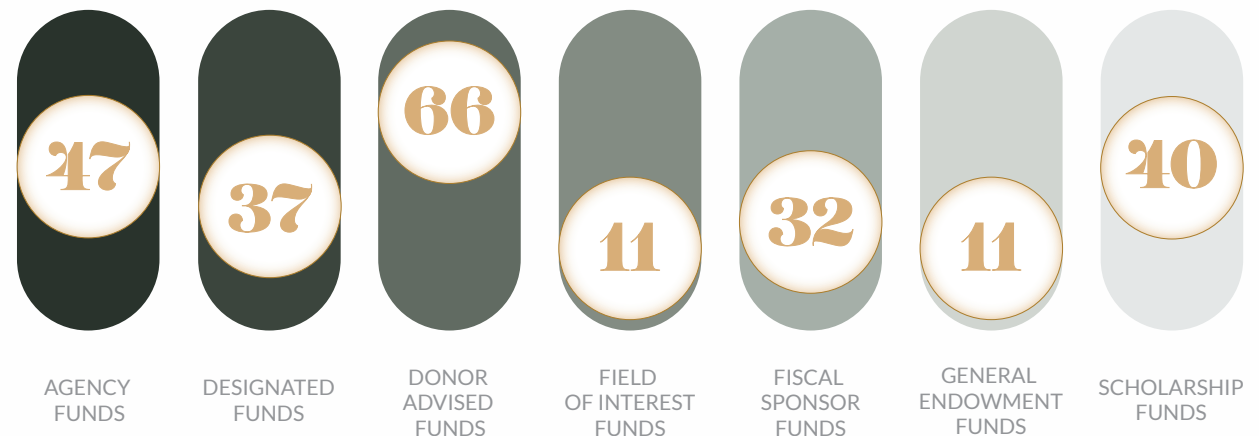


Report



	2018	2019	2020
TOTAL ASSETS	\$52,745,887	\$56,823,362	\$57,183,757
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$426,200	\$578,592	\$630,000
REVENUES	\$7,658,924	\$8,184,737	\$5,864,369
GRANTS & DONOR DISTRIBUTIONS	\$3,782,818	\$3,589,718	\$5,375,928

FUNDS AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BY TYPE



Board of Directors

OFFICERS



Jan Cochran
Board Chair



Jay D. Drake
Vice Chairman & Clerk



Steven L. Stone
Treasurer



Stephen J. Adams
President

TRUSTEES

Kimberly Ansin
Ronald M. Ansin
Thomas F. Bagley, III
Achla Bahl Madan
John Barrett
Richard A. Cella
Lucy Crocker-Abisalih

James Garrison
Leslie Garrison
Tina Griffin
David E. Huhtala
Ted Lapres
David McKeehan
Allen Rome

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

Staff of the Community Foundation

Stephen J. Adams
President

Linda Mack
Vice President for Philanthropy

Tammy Staal
Administrative Assistant

Bari Weiss
Finance Director

In Memory of

Patricia Thomas-Jeanig Fund

In 2020, Allie C. Thiel of Townsend was named the first ever recipient of the Patricia Thomas-Jeanig Fund at CFNCM. The fund, established in honor of Patricia Thomas-Jeanig, provides scholarships for students who are pursuing their Master's Degrees in Library Science.

Patricia Thomas-Jeanig was a school librarian at Spaulding School in Townsend and member of the Townsend Library Trustees. She spent most of her adult life in education and volunteering at her local library. Patricia's husband Walter Jeanig established the fund in her memory, as it was her wish to help librarians who seek to further their education. The fund distributes \$10,000 a year over 5 years to one individual who has been accepted to a Master of Library Science program.

Inaugural scholarship recipient Allie Theil gained an appreciation for libraries early on. She had the chance to work in her own community as the first teen librarian at the Townsend Public Library. In this role she realized that she loves working with teenagers and was able to engage her creativity and interpersonal and information skills daily. Of particular note, she created the Youth Arts Collaborative, grant-funded after-school sessions in which she instructed a group of young people as they made and critiqued multimedia artwork.

Allie found the opportunity to implement programs that combine her strengths with the needs of her community to be immensely rewarding and decided to pursue a Master of Information Studies at McGill University in Montreal. Now in the second and final year of the program, Allie has focused on taking a



Allie C. Thiel of Townsend was named the first ever recipient of the Patricia Thomas-Jeanig Fund

broad spectrum of courses that will help her be an effective public servant. For example, she recently completed a course in web design.

“I know firsthand how needed tech-savvy librarians are in small institutions. In studying web design, I’m learning new skills that I can contribute on the job,” says Allie.

During her first year, Allie remained in good academic standing while also balancing three part-time jobs and helping design promotional materials for the Townsend Public Library remotely. She temporarily had to put work and internship opportunities on hold during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but she just recently accepted a full-time position as the Youth Services Librarian at the Millicent Library in Fairhaven, Massachusetts.

As she starts her new job and finishes her degree program remotely, Allie is thankful to have financial support through the Patricia Thomas-Jeanig Fund.

“This scholarship is of great assistance in helping me to fund my final year. I am so grateful to the Community Foundation and the Patricia Thomas-Jeanig Fund,” says Allie. “Pat Jeanig was my school librarian. I remember that library as a warm and inviting place, where I first cultivated my life-long love of reading. Being able to serve in her field, doing the work that she loved with the aid of this scholarship, is an honor.”

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



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS • 649 JOHN FITCH HIGHWAY, FITCHBURG, MA 01420



978.345.8383



CFNCM.ORG



CFNCM