WE ENVISION A THRIVING COMMUNITY FOR ALL.

OUR MISSION IS TO UNITE COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO INVEST IN SOLUTIONS THAT REDUCE POVERTY IN WEST MICHIGAN.

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WHERE THE MONEY GOES: OUR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

Every dollar donated to our Community Investment Fund stays here in Kent County to fight poverty.

FAMILY STABILITY

GOAL: Individuals and families can meet their basic needs
- Emergency & Permanent Housing
- Food Security
- Violence Prevention
- Mental Health Services

YOUTH EDUCATION

GOAL: Middle school students improve achievement in STEM subjects
- Math and Science Intervention
- After-School & Summer STEM Programs
- Teacher Training

FINANCIAL SECURITY

GOAL: Provide different pathways for people to improve their economic future
- Job Skills
- Transportation
- Training & Credentialing

WE ALL BENEFIT FROM A STRONGER COMMUNITY.

BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER.

Give to the issues you care about by investing all or a portion of your donation into the Community Investment Fund.

TOGETHER, WE CAN:

IDENTIFY our community's most pressing issues.
HELP people meet their immediate needs.
FIND sustainable solutions.
BUILD a better community.
LIVE United.

SECOND BEST DINING & BEVERAGE DESTINATION
YET HUNGER THREATENS 1 in 8 PEOPLE

BEST CITY TO RAISE A FAMILY
YET NEARLY 3,000 STUDENTS EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS LAST YEAR

FASTEST GROWING METRO ECONOMY
YET THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS 3x HIGHER FOR BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICANS

World Food and Travel Association
Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap study

Forbes
Kent ISD

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Headlight Data
American Community Survey

YOUR COMMUNITY IS SAFER BECAUSE MORE PEOPLE MAKE A GOOD LIVING.

Your neighborhood is healthier because more people have access to healthy food.

Your child’s school is better because more students are ready to learn.
2017-18 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

Since 1917, Heart of West Michigan United Way has raised and invested $500 million into Kent County. This year, we are investing in:

FAMILY STABILITY: HOUSING: emergency shelter, homelessness prevention assistance, legal assistance, permanent housing supports, affordable housing solutions, asset development

Agency Partners: Arbor Circle, Community Rebuilders, Dwelling Place, Family Promise of Grand Rapids, Genesis Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Grand Rapids Urban League, Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, Inner City Christian Federation, Legal Aid of Western Michigan, Mel Trotter Ministries, Migrant Legal Aid, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, The Salvation Army Social Services of Kent County, Well House, YWCA West Central Michigan

FAMILY STABILITY: FOOD SECURITY: congregate meals, meals for homebound seniors, “Pantry Markets” that utilize local food sources, low-cost community food clubs, education on gardening and food preservation

Agency Partners: Catholic Charities West Michigan, Home Repair Services—Community Food Club of GR, Meals on Wheels Western Michigan, Our Kitchen Table, Senior Neighbors

Health, Access, and Equity in our Local Food Systems (HAELFS) collaborative: Access of West Michigan, North Kent Connect, SECOM Resource Center, The Pantry, The Other Way Ministries, United Church Outreach Ministries (UCOM)

FAMILY STABILITY: FAMILY CRISIS: medical and/or legal services for victims of abuse, adoptive family support, violence prevention, intervention/diversion, outreach, education, counseling and advocacy

Agency Partners: Arbor Circle, Children's Assessment Center, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Kent County, D.A. Blodgett – St. John’s, Legal Aid Of Western Michigan, Migrant Legal Aid, School To Career Progressions, YWCA West Central Michigan

FAMILY STABILITY: MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: intervention for youth with untreated mental illness, low-cost and direct services, expanding access to mental health services

Agency Partners: Arbor Circle, Cherry Health

FINANCIAL SECURITY: transportation to employment, tax preparation, financial literacy, resume building and interviewing skills, training, credentialing, GED testing, and job-skills development

Agency Partners: Bethany Christian Services, Cherry Health, Hope Network, Kent County Tax Credit Coalition (KCTCC), Steepletown Neighborhood Services, West Michigan Asian American Association (WMAAAA), West Michigan Center for Arts & Technology (WMCAT)

Employment Services Collaborative: Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids, Disability Advocates of Kent County, Hope Network, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, Jubilee Jobs, Literacy Center of West Michigan, United Church Outreach Ministries (UCOM), Women’s Resource Center

EDUCATION: after school and summer STEM programming, academic intervention, and teacher-training/professional development in STEM subjects

Agency Partners: Camp Blodgett, Expanded Learning Opportunities Network (City of Grand Rapids), Hope Network, Kent Intermediate School District (KISD), The Refugee Education Center

Promise Partners Mentoring Collaborative: Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, Grand Valley State University’s Office of Multicultural Affairs, Ferris State University’s Center for Latino Studies, Cook Library Center, Cook Arts Center

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hwmuw.org