



an affiliate of the
Community Foundation
of Greater Des Moines

2025 Report to the Community





Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am honored to introduce myself as the new Director of our Foundation. Stepping into this role has been an exciting and rewarding journey, and I am thrilled to share some of the significant changes and progress we've made together in a short time.

One of my first initiatives was to refresh our organization's brand identity. We are proud to unveil our new logo, which represents our renewed commitment to innovation, and our communities. This new visual identity reflects not just who we are, but also the bright future we envision for our foundation and the communities we serve. As the heart of the county.

Along with our new logo, we have launched a dedicated foundation email address to streamline communication and make it easier for you to reach us – **hancockcounty@desmoinesfoundation.org**. We invite you to connect, share your thoughts, and stay informed about our latest activities and opportunities.

Most importantly, our mission to create meaningful community impact remains at the heart of everything we do. In recent months, we have expanded our grant programs, supporting local initiatives that address urgent needs, like our disaster relief fund we implemented, foster collaboration, and empower individuals and families. The projects we fund are already making a difference, and we are committed to deepening our support for community-led solutions.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support and encouragement. Together, we are building a foundation for positive change. Please look out for upcoming announcements about grant opportunities, events, and ways to get involved.

Thank you for welcoming me to this new role. I look forward to working with all of you to continue making an impact that matters.

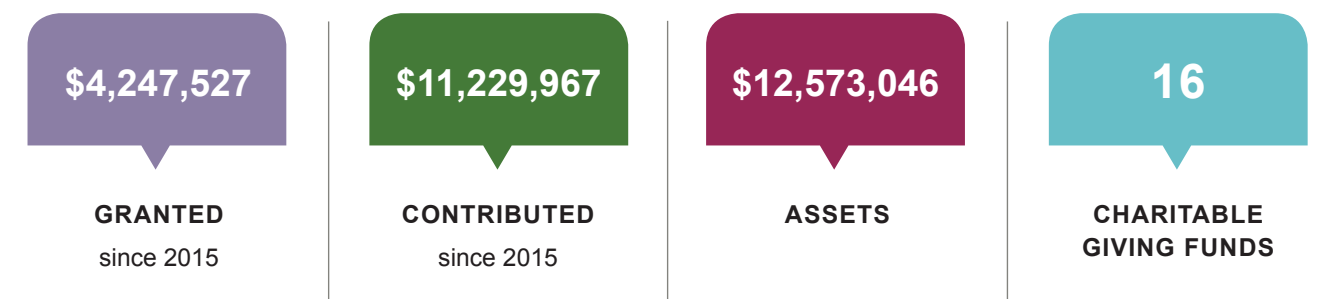
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ellen Tusha'.

Ellen Tusha, *Director*
Community Foundation of Hancock County
hancockcounty@desmoinesfoundation.org

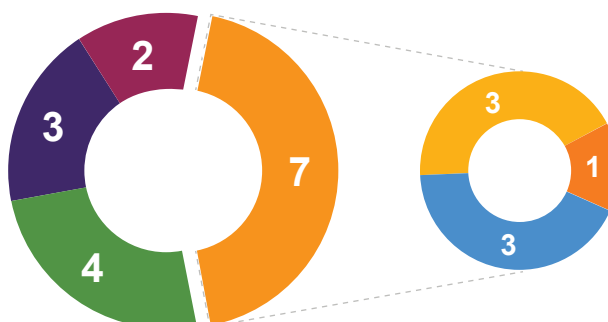
LAST 10 YEARS (2015–2025)

TOTAL CHARITIES SUPPORTED: 70



CHARITABLE GIVING FUNDS

- Donor Advised – 4
- Agency – 3
- Designated – 2
- **OTHER: 7**
 - Legacy – 3
 - Unrestricted – 3
 - Additional Funds – 1



WHY USE US?

Community Foundations are experts in your local community, ready to share knowledge on pressing needs and promising opportunities now and in the future. Community Foundations are a trusted resource, helping create unique giving strategies that reflect the interests of donors, provide long-term sustainability for nonprofits and simplify giving to maximize impact.

Saving Your Community

YOU CAN BE PART OF IT, TOO!

Local agencies received a new grant aimed at supporting small communities. The town's leaders gathered together to decide how to best use the funds, focusing on projects that would make the most impact. After thoughtful discussions with residents, they invested in improving the community. With each project, the agency funds brought neighbors together, fostered a spirit of collaboration, and empowered everyone to lend a helping hand.



In the mid 1980's Kanawha's long time local doctor announced his pending retirement. The Kanawha community raised a **Dr. Search Fund** to help a young aspiring physician pay his way through medical school in return for a commitment to serve our community upon completion of his training. He broke the agreement to serve Kanawha, was sued, lost, and became the source of a fund that provided invaluable assistance for the next 20 years to the local medical clinic for equipment and remodeling and of the training and equipping the Kanawha EMT's and CPR trained fire department. When the EMT's had to up-date a defibrillator in about 2015 the **Dr. Search Fund** provided a large donation and dispersed the last of those monies.

The Kanawha EMT Advisory Board decided to continue the tradition started by the **Dr. Search Fund** by placing monies that were not needed for annual expenses in an account with the Community Foundation of Hancock County. The mission of the Kanawha EMT Advisory Board is to recruit, train, retain, and equip emergency medical personnel for the community. It is our hope that the Foundation investment will support that mission far into the future.



Britt Fire Association said the advantages of establishing a fund managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (CFGDM) for the Association includes secure financial planning through donations, expert assistance with paperwork and tax forms, and management and reporting by CFGDM staff. Additionally, the CFGDM offers educational opportunities and potential future support for purchasing firefighting equipment, all of which contributes to the Association's long-term financial stability and resource access.

Having a dedicated fund provides long-term financial security and ensures that the Association can plan ahead for larger projects and unexpected needs. The partnership with the CFGDM creates opportunities for networking, accessing expert advice, and staying informed about best practices in nonprofit fund management.

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The Zrostlik family's ongoing generosity sets a shining example of what it means to be invested in the future of Hancock County.



RECOGNIZING

Generosity & Community Spirit

A Heartfelt Appreciation for the Zrostlik Family

The Community Foundation of Hancock County is proud to express its deepest gratitude to the Zrostlik family for their remarkable generosity and commitment to our community. Through their thoughtful contributions, the Zrostlik family has made a lasting impact, helping to enhance the quality of life for countless residents.

Giving Back to Hancock County

The Zrostlik family embodies the spirit of philanthropy and community involvement. Their support has empowered local initiatives, provided resources for important programs, and inspired others to join in the mission of building a stronger Hancock County. Whether through financial donations, volunteer work, or advocacy, the Zrostlik family's dedication continues to help neighbors in need and foster positive change.

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A Legacy of Impact

At the Community Foundation, we believe that every act of giving strengthens the bonds that hold our community together. The Zrostlik family's ongoing generosity sets a shining example of what it means to be invested in the future of Hancock County. We are honored to recognize their contributions and celebrate the difference they have made for everyone who calls Hancock County home.

Our Sincere Thanks

On behalf of the board, staff, and all those touched by your kindness, thank you to the Zrostlik family for choosing to give back. Your support is truly appreciated, and your legacy will continue to inspire the Hancock County community for generations to come.

CELEBRATING Community Successes

Grants from the Community Foundation of Hancock County have impacted the lives and communities of Hancock County. We are grateful to be able to assist in projects that improve the quality of life for our residents.

ISU EXTENSION

Empowering Youth Through Robotics

How the Community Foundation support is fueling Innovation and learning. Organized by the local Extension office and generously supported by community Foundation funding, this initiative provides area youth with hands-on experience in robotics, coding, engineering, and teamwork.



5 LOAVES, 2 FISH

School Supplies Provided County-wide

The charitable organization **5Loaves 2Fish** is proud to announce that it has received crucial support from the Community Foundation to provide school supplies for students across the entire county. Thanks to this partnership, students in every school throughout the county will have access to the essential supplies they need for a successful academic year.



AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FAIR

Improvement to Livestock Barns

The District Fair is long standing tradition in the region, bringing together farmers, breeders, youth organizations, and the public to celebrate and showcase local agriculture. Livestock barns host a variety of animals, cattle, swine, sheep, goats and poultry to name a few, these barns provide space for competitions, exhibitions, and educational opportunities, making their upkeep vital to the success of the event.



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When it comes to making an impact on a small, Iowa community, especially with fundraising, it's imperative to have local partners.

— REID WEILAND
Chairman
Board of Directors

GC4 Daycare Center Opens

To Address Growing Childcare Needs in Hancock County

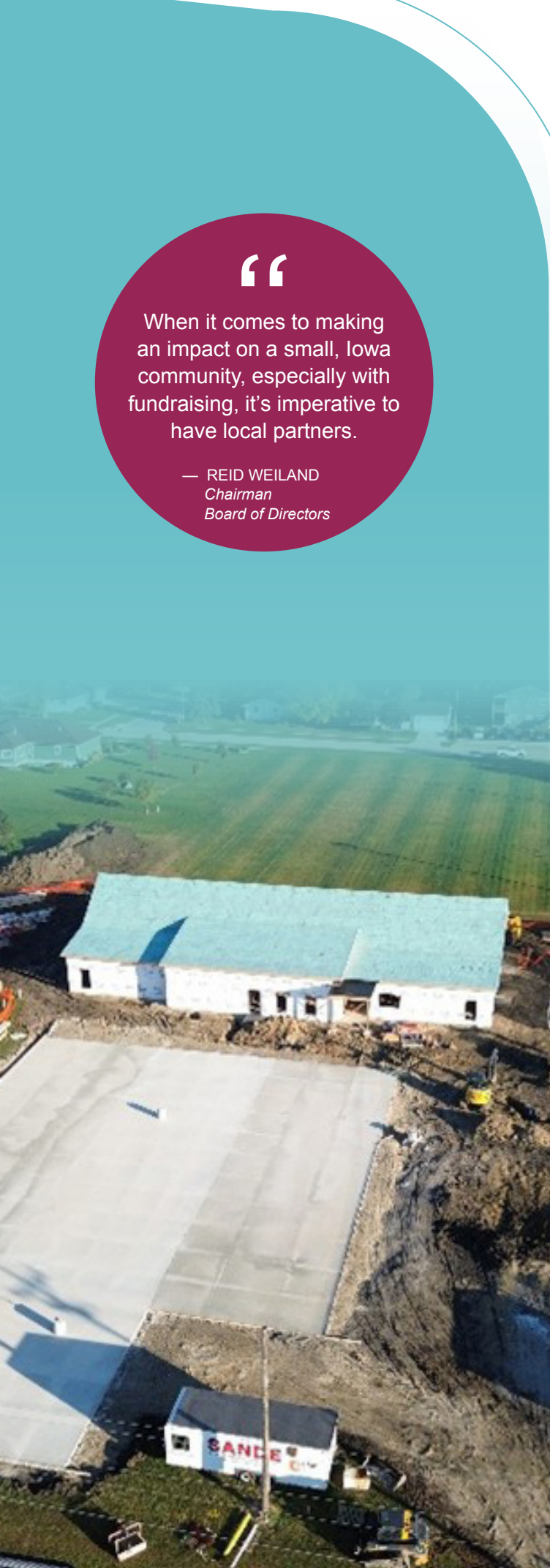
Hancock County is facing a mounting childcare crisis, with the gap between available seats and the needs of working families widening each year. Recognizing the urgency of this challenge, the Hancock County Foundation played a key role in bringing the GC4 Daycare Center to life through its first ever Impactful Grant investment. The Foundation committed \$25,000 per year for two consecutive years (2025 and 2026) to support construction of the new facility — an investment designed to strengthen families, support working parents and ensure the community can continue to grow.

Since 2017, the number of Hancock County families in need of childcare has climbed by 15%. This surge is attributed to increased workforce participation among parents and changes in household structures, driving the demand for more accessible and affordable daycare solution. Despite the growing need, the number of available childcare seats in Hancock County has fallen by as much as 19% over the same period. This reduction is due to a combination of factors, including the closure of existing daycare facilities.

By investing in early childhood education and care, the Foundation is helping lay the groundwork for a stronger, more resilient community.

The GC4 Daycare Center, strategically located between the middle school and just north of the high school, offers a convenient and accessible option for families managing work and school schedules. The center provides a modern, safe and nurturing environment for children and is staffed by qualified professionals dedicated to early childhood development.

“When it comes to making an impact on a small, Iowa community, especially with fundraising, it's imperative to have local partners.” said Reid Weiland, Chairman, Board of Directors. “The Community Foundation of Hancock County voiced their support at a crucial point in our expansion. Their support at this juncture led to the construction of a state-of-the-art childcare center that will serve Hancock County for generations. Thank you to the Community Foundation of Hancock County!”





Front row sitting (left to right): Courtney Weiskamp, Jill Kramer, Sioux Lawton, Marcia Simpson, Bonnie Wilhite
Standing (left to right): Ellen Tusha, Dave Abele, Pete Gau, JoAnn Burgardt, Ray Bassett, Patti Hanson

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Jill Kramer, *President*
Courtney Weiskamp, *Treasurer*
Doug Weiland, *Secretary*
Sioux Lawton
Marcia Simpson
Bonnie Wilhite

Dave Abele
Pete Gau
Joann Burgardt
Ray Bassett
Patti Hanson

STAFF

Ellen Tusha, *Director*



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The Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines is proud to partner with affiliate county and community foundations across the state to support the development of local charitable giving.