

Alleghan County Community Foundation



One generation plants the seed; another gets the shade.

Chinese Proverb

2008

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

2008 was a difficult year; for the world, the United States, Michigan and Allegan County. Many of us were thankful to weather the storms – many of us did not weather the storms. The need was, and in places still is, dire. Our beliefs and comfort zones were challenged. We watched a global crisis become a local crisis and we comforted our friends and families who lost homes, businesses and jobs. People were questioning if there was anyone out there who could help. Yes. The non-profit sector.

The organizations that exist to help us through the transitions of life rose to the occasion. They saw, and are still seeing, an increase in services of up to 50%. That means that they are serving 50% more people than they saw in 2008 and they are doing it with a budget that is drastically underfunded. One unfortunate characteristic of the non-profit sector is how invisible they are. We often don't know a solution is out there until we search for help.

The goal of this annual report is to show the impact that the community foundation is making in Allegan County. In order to achieve that, we must bring the non-profit sector, including the Foundation, out of the shadows. The success of the Allegan County Community Foundation lies in the generosity of our donors and the success of the organizations we invest in.

This annual report has no bells, no whistles. It is stark for a reason. We don't want anything to overshadow the impact the Foundation has on the Allegan County community. As I write this in August of 2009, I realize that the grants we made in 2008 reflect a period of greater comfort. We were able to fund the arts, cultural endeavors, upgrades and improvements. Now, we are funding basic human needs. Homelessness and hunger must be our priority.

If you are a donor to the Foundation, know that you have made a difference. That term is overused these days...know that you have made a difference here, in Allegan County, in the lives of our children struggling with literacy, abuse or hunger; with families dealing with loss of job or home; with the support of the non-profit sector who strives to help us through life's transitions.

If you are not yet a donor, please become one.

Theresa M. Bray
CEO/Executive Director

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