

Many Hands Make Light Work

Have you ever wanted more involvement in creating change in the greater Rochester area? Have you thought that if several people came together with one intent, change could happen? These are the focus areas of the Community Ventures Fund. We have all heard the phrase, “Many hands make light work”. The same thinking can be applied to philanthropy. This is the driving principle behind the Rochester Area Foundation’s Community Ventures Fund.

In the same way as venture capital supports innovation in the business world, the Community Ventures Fund provides “venture philanthropy” focused on our community. The Community Ventures Fund gives donors the opportunity to pool their charitable resources for greater impact. Donors to the fund become “Shareholders” and collectively decide how the fund can be used for maximum community investment.

Through collaborative giving, the shareholders of the Community Ventures Fund are not only shaping philanthropy in the Rochester area, but they are also influencing the way we meet the future economic development needs of our community. If you would like to engage in a conversation with intelligent and thoughtful people who are committed to building a vital community, you should consider becoming a shareholder in the Community Ventures Fund.

A New Way for Business and Individuals to Invest in Community

The Community Ventures Fund was established by action of the Board of Trustees of the Rochester Area Foundation at its meeting on December 12, 2005. Investors purchase shares in the Community Ventures Fund, which looks something like a mutual fund, complete with a prospectus, share certificates and annual meetings. All proceeds from the purchase of shares in the Fund will be designated as unrestricted assets of the Fund. The endowed Fund will pool shareholders gifts and provide “dividends” for the Rochester area in perpetuity. With input from the shareholders, income will be distributed by Rochester Area Foundation to advance community projects. All shareholders are entitled to have their name affixed to grants made in the community from the Fund.

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Current Shareholders October 2012

Gus & Ann Chafoulas
Al & Ann DeBoer
Canadian Honker Restaurant & Catering
Custom Alarm/Leigh Johnson
Olmsted Medical Center
Post-Bulletin Co.
McGladrey LLP
Jim & Judy Sloan
Al & Sharon Tuntland
Joyce Wenz
Charles & Barbara Withers

Funded Projects

Rochester Area Chamber’s WorkForce 2020
project was funded in 2007 for \$20,000

Rochester Public School’s Five Year Plan was
funded in 2008 for \$25,000

Rochester City’s Downtown Masterplan
was funded in 2009 with \$30,000

Rochester Community Finance was funded
in 2010 with \$25,000

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Top 5 Reasons to Join the Community Ventures Shareholders at the Rochester Area Foundation

- 1. Maximize the Benefit** tackle large important complex community issues with greater impact due to the collective nature of the fund.
- 2. Advocate for Change** at private, public and government levels to get the community talking and acting proactively to solve critical issues.
- 3. Focus** on strategic priorities to increase community vitality in greater Rochester.
- 4. Make a Gift that Lasts** and has enduring strategic impact. This is an endowed fund which ensures the perpetuity of your gift.
- 5. Be Part of Something Larger** than most individual gifts would allow.

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