What is the Fund for Marquette?

The Fund for Marquette is a fund held within the Community Foundation that is solely for Marquette area projects. Every dollar donated to the Fund stays as principal in the Fund, and the interest is invested in our community in the form of grants.

Community members form our grant committees. They are experts in their fields, in-touch with what’s happening in our community and involved with issues facing the people of Marquette. In 2015 alone, more than $40,000 was granted to the Marquette Community from the Marquette area community funds.

Because the principle remains untouched, your donation -- big or small -- will go on to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Marquette forever -- perhaps being a part of projects we haven’t even dreamed of yet!

Consider being a part of the future of Marquette with a gift today to the Fund for Marquette. To give online visit: www.marquettecountycommunityfoundation.org

A few of the 2015 Grants from the Fund for Marquette:

- $1,500 to the City of Marquette for the 3rd Street Creative Place Project
- $1,000 to the Noquemanon Trails Network for Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day
- $1,000 to Marquette Beautification Committee to improve accessibility to Father Marquette Park
- $1,075 to Room at the Inn for their pantry and laundry services
- $5,000 to Bothwell Middle School to replace 30 year old wrestling mats
- $5,000 to The Salvation Army for kitchen equipment upgrade and to support the Cat Packs program for North Star students.

As a twin and the last of 12 children, Colonel Bernadette L. Reider, retired United States Army Nurse Corps, understood the value of sharing and making sure there was enough for everyone. She spent her life in the service of others, first during her time in the military where she served her country as a nurse during three wars: World War II, Korea, then in Viet Nam. Her care and compassion for others during horrific battles led her to be honored with many medals and to be included in The Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) located in Arlington National Cemetery. It’s the first national memorial honoring women who have served in the armed forces.

Her service to others doesn’t end there. After retiring from the military, Colonel Reider came home to care for her elderly mother, and after her mother’s passing, she continued to care for and look after her siblings, the oldest of which was 15 years her senior.

While it’s easy to list her accomplishments and accolades, (of which there are many) Reider’s legacy was more than what you could put on a piece of paper. Her compassion for others shined through her everyday life, whether it was her weekly volunteering at Marquette General Hospital or how she made sure there were pasties for funerals and other functions at St. Christopher’s Catholic Church.

That was the legacy of her life, but in her death she was equally generous. Through her life insurance policy, she left three endowment funds to The Community Foundation of Marquette County that will continue into perpetuity. Her choice of benefactors represent those she was most dedicated to helping.

UPAWS received $390,00 and St Christopher Church received $190,000 for their funds. Her final endowment of $560,00 provides a scholarship to a graduating high school senior who plans to pursue a nursing degree. Her hope was that this scholarship would go to someone who planned on serving as a military nurse.

She will be missed, but her legacy will endure.
Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Young Philanthropists

Our Youth Advisory Council (YAC), led by parent advisor Carrie Pearson, fills an important role at the Community Foundation. They are 6th - 12th graders that are responsible for making recommendations to the Community Foundation Board on all grants that will impact youth in Marquette. As such, they need to be informed on programs that are happening in our community.

During their Sunday meetings, they hear from local nonprofit organization leaders about the services they provide to the youth of the community and their needs, they go on site visits to see their grant dollars in action and volunteer, and brainstorm ideas for their own fundraisers.

YACers help JJ Packs pack meals to send home with qualified elementary students for the weekend.

Someone you know interested in joining the YAC? Download an application at www.mqtyac.com.

Spades endow $800K Scholarship for Gwinn Area Schools

In December of 2014, the Community Foundation of Marquette County was the recipient of $837,415.35 from the Phillip A Spade and Ruth M Spade Trust. An endowed scholarship fund was established for graduates of Gwinn Area Community Schools. It will be awarded to graduating seniors and renewable for up to four years of their post-secondary college careers.

“The intent is that it’s a significant, significant scholarship - a life-changing scholarship,” said Gail Anthony, CEO of the Community Foundation of Marquette County.

Often, people that are part of our community as we grow, shape us and inform our lives. Ruth and Philip Spade did that for so many through their compassionate service and steadfast work in Gwinn. Their legacy is a gift that will remind us of the impact we make on our communities. We are all grateful for their generosity.

Warming Hut opens at Blueberry Ridge Ski Area

In January, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place for the new Warming Hut at Blueberry Ridge Cross Country Ski Area in Sands Township. In 2014, an $83,700 U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund grant was awarded to Sands Township. The grant required a 50% local match. Volunteers from the Superiorland Ski Club solicited donations from numerous businesses and individuals.

The Community Foundation of Marquette County made a $4,000 grant to the ski club to help in its endeavors. “This warming hut is intended to encourage folks to enjoy winter and make use of the beautiful trails at Blueberry Ridge.” said Debby Muskovitch, co-chair of the Blueberry Ridge Warming Hut Committee, along with Pam Fjeldheim.

Foundation supports healthy living education with $84,500 grant

The CF received an $84,500 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. The grant was used to support the PE-Nut UP (Phys Ed and Nutrition in the UP) program run by MARESA. The Superior Health Foundation provided $2,500 for teacher training. A nutrition educator will go to kindergarten and 2nd grade classrooms in seven Marquette County Elementary schools. “These educators are able to go into those classrooms and bring new foods and behaviors. These students then bring them home to their families and that’s just good for everyone,” said Gail Anthony, CF CEO shown here presenting to representatives from MARESA, Superior Health Foundation and the seven Marquette County Elementary Schools.