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A Fund of the Community Foundation of Marquette County, 250 N. McClellan Ave, Marquette  
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## Small Donations. Large Impact. The Story of Cat Packs

At the Community Foundation of Marquette County, we're always surprised and delighted by the generosity of our donors. With some donations in the millions, we are truly able to have a positive impact on Marquette. But you don't have to be a millionaire to help your community. Donations come in all sizes, and the monies can be put toward any number of causes, from UPAWS to The Upper Peninsula Children's Museum.

### Cat Packs and Small Donations Help Hungry Children

Last fall, we were honored to put small donations to work for Cat Packs. Jan Erickson, the founder of the program, saw a need – children who received free or reduced lunch programs often didn't have food during the weekends. Of the 290 students at the school, 152 qualified for the program – over half of the school. Teachers had a process for determining which of the 152 were most in need of help, and that is where Cat Packs transformed the lives of many hungry children.

Volunteers requested funds from the Community Foundation of Marquette County to pack lunches into the backpacks of children who teachers recognized as in need. The average cost of a pack is just \$5. With about 60 kids being discreetly given food, the weekly cost to sustain this program was about \$300.

The program focused primarily on students at North Star Academy – Northern Michigan University's charter school – but those who are seeing the responses from children are hoping to expand it to others in the community.

### How the Community Foundation of Marquette County Can Help

Cassie Hill, a Cat Pack volunteer, reports seeing pure joy on the faces of children when they see what's in their pack. She's even seen 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys cry in gratitude and relief that they'll get food throughout the weekend or holiday when schools aren't in session. Though we don't always think about hunger in the U.S., it happens every day, and children are the most vulnerable. With a focus on healthy options for hungry kids, Cat Packs is a worthy cause that is funded through small donations.

In fact, only \$12,000 a year keeps about 60 children in the area fed and ready for school – without the anxiety of hunger. Your \$25 gift could provide that for 5 more children.

### 150 Ways to Give \$25

Generosity isn't about what's in your bank account, and every dollar matters. There's no gift too small, and when you give through the Community Foundation, you can decide where it goes. Your \$25 gift combines with others to support a perpetual fund for the cause that you believe needs it most. With over 150 organizations receiving donations from the Marquette Area Community Fund, you can be sure that what you care about is getting the funds it needs to keep going. Check out our list of grantees from the 2015 Annual Report. Consider donating to an organization today – it doesn't take riches, just a sharing heart.



Cat Packs volunteers assemble lunches at the Marquette Salvation Army.

## UPAWS receives \$100,000 grant from Troudt Fund



Gail Anthony, Community Foundation CEO, Donors, Mark and Christine Troudt present the \$100,000 check to Kori Tossava, UPAWS Executive Director and Capital Campaign Manager and Amber Wetton, Board President and Assistant Treasurer.

On Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> Christine and Mark Troudt issued a challenge to residents of the County by providing match money for gifts to UPAWS up to \$100,000. The Troudts have had a fund with the Community Foundation since 2013. These funds will provide a much needed boost to their building campaign toward an Animal Community Center. From October 22nd through December 31st every dollar given to the animal shelter will be matched. Nearly 1,500 animals go through the no-kill shelter per year and they have an award-winning 98% Save Rate. In order to happily facilitate housing for that many animals, UPAWS will need some more space.

This campaign aims to help them toward that goal. Community Foundation of Marquette County has been a proud supporter of UPAWS for years, with close to \$70,000 of grants awarded from multiple endowment funds prior to the Troudt grant.

## Middle School robotics team puts funding to good use

Marquette Area robotics teams are entirely volunteer organized and operated. They recently received a grant from the Marquette Fund to help support their 2016 season and to grow FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology) robotics in the Marquette area. Part of FIRST's mission is "to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders," and the program teaches youth what it calls "gracious professionalism" —being kind to others while doing your best work.

Pictured here are the five teams that participated in the Upper Peninsula FIRST Tech Challenge Robot-Scrimmage at North Star Academy. This scrimmage was in preparation for the November state-qualifying competition which will be held in Petoskey, and was a practice run for the middle schoolers and their robots.

The event was also an effort to reach out to the community and let them know what the Upper Peninsula robotics teams are all about. The goal of the team is to provide access to robotics and create opportunities for middle schoolers, regardless of whether they attend school or are home-schooled. Last season this reach extended from Marquette (North Star Academy and Bothwell Middle School) all the way to home schoolers from Big Bay and Skandia.



Bothwell Robotics Teams, The BlackRock Bots and the Robotic Narwhals and Rookie Team the NITWITS compete in a scrimmage at North Star Academy on October 22, 2016.

## Foundation supports different location of the New Free Store

The New Free Store recently moved from the First Methodist Church of Marquette to its new location at East 1420 M-28, Marquette. It's a completely volunteer-run program and depends on the generous support of the Marquette community. The Community Foundation granted \$3,500 out of the Marquette Fund to support the new location of the store.

The New Free Store's purpose is to provide for those in the community who are struggling to make ends meet and give them access to household staples such as clothing and general hygiene products.

The store had previously registered about 680 families, 180 of which received service monthly. They provide this service to anyone in need without regard to income or circumstance.



Gail Anthony, Community Foundation CEO with The New Free Store volunteer, Jackie Otis at the Grand Opening, October 20, 2016.

## Beloved Marquette community member establishes fund



Christine Pesola

Until the recent sale of The Landmark Inn, Christine Pesola has been more than a hotel owner in Marquette. She's made her place of business a second home for people in the area and out. With beautiful rooms for out-of-towners and cozy eating and drinking spots for locals, Christine's time running The Landmark Inn enhanced the whole town.

After she sold the hotel that is such a monument to the area, Pesola says she felt Marquette's arms wrapped around her. "The community supported me, and I wanted to support the whole community." Though we all know her as a philanthropist, she didn't grow up understanding philanthropy or thinking about it. When she began running the hotel, however, she could see clearly what people were doing in the community, as well as how much more was needed.

She saw an answer to that need with The Community Foundation of Marquette County. What made her decide to give through us were the many options available for contributions, but the idea of giving into perpetuity appealed to her, too. It was a fiscally responsible way for her to give back to the community that she feels has given so much to her.

During her acceptance speech for the 2014 Evergreen Award she advised us to, "find your joy, find your passion, and work hard to share it with others." Her generosity has changed the lives of many people throughout Marquette, and though we will miss her running the show at The Landmark, we're excited for her upcoming adventures.

### A few 2016 Grant Recipients

Marquette Area Public Schools

Lake Superior Hospice Association

Superior Arts Youth Theatre

Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve Inc.

The Cedar Tree Institute

Bay Cliff Health Camp

Peter White Public Library

Trillium House

Upper Peninsula Luge Club

Janzen House, Inc.

Superior Child Advocacy Center

YMCA of Marquette County

Noquemanon Trails Network

Camp New Day U.P.

Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy

Chocolay Township



# Make the Gift of a Lifetime

## Turning Retirement Accounts into Charitable Good

There is good news for community foundation donors in their 70s—and for the communities and causes they care about. A recently made permanent law makes it possible to give individual retirement account (IRA) assets to charity, free from federal tax, annually. Prior to 2006, all lifetime distributions from IRAs were taxed—even those given to charity.

As such, our donors can give far more with less! This may be an attractive giving option for you if you are:

- Over 70½ and now receiving minimum IRA distributions—but do not need the extra income.
- Interested in making a significant lifetime gift to impact your community.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 permitted individuals to roll over up to \$100,000 from an IRA directly to a qualifying charity without being taxed. On December 18, 2015 Congress passed the PATH Act, making permanent this unique charitable giving opportunity. Single and married individuals 70½ and older are eligible to give in this way from their individual retirement accounts.

Using IRA assets to make a gift during your lifetime, as opposed to giving via bequest in your will, enables you to experience the joy of making a major gift.

“We’re ready to help our donors take advantage of this legislation and make gifts during their lifetimes. Our personalized service and local expertise helps donors address the issues and causes most important to them,” said Gail Anthony, Community Foundation of Marquette County CEO.



Mr. Smith, age 75, has accumulated approximately \$2,000,000 in his IRA accounts. He has other sources of wealth and plans to leave a sizable estate to his heirs and charity. Under the renewed law, Mr. Smith can create a fund at the community foundation to address the causes he cares about most by transferring IRA funds tax free. Mr. Smith can transfer up to \$100,000 annually and additionally, if Mr. Smith is married, his wife can also make a similar gift from her IRA accounts.

For more information on the charitable giving legislation and the Charitable IRA opportunity, please contact Gail Anthony at (906) 226.7666 or visit our website at [www.marquettcountycommunityfoundation.org](http://www.marquettcountycommunityfoundation.org)