

MICHIGAN LEAGUE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



**CENTERING PEOPLE
IN ADVOCACY**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

		LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT	3
		DATA IN ACTION	4
		WINS FOR FAMILIES	5
		OUR PRIORITIES	6
		OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT	7
COLLECTIVE POWER	8		
2024 FINANCIALS	9		
2024 BOARD & STAFF	10		
2024 DONORS & PARTNERS	11-14		

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



Reflecting back on 2024, there were many achievements that we as an organization celebrated in our ongoing efforts to build a stronger, better state for all Michiganders. Since 1912, the Michigan League for Public Policy has taken tremendous pride in keeping the people of Michigan at the heart of its work, which is how we landed on the theme for this year's Annual Report: Centering People in Advocacy.

In terms of basic needs, the state made some pretty major strides in 2024, most notably some transformational improvements to the Family Independence Program (FIP) – Michigan's basic cash assistance program. The League has long advocated for FIP to be strengthened by shifting more Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding to this program and we were pleased to see Michigan lawmakers finally make that a reality. The final fiscal year 2024-2025 state budget invested an additional \$62.5 million in TANF funding to address FIP's woefully outdated payment standard, extend lifetime limits and provide extra funding to families with children ages 0-14.

TANF funding was also used to support the expansion of the groundbreaking Rx Kids program, which successfully launched in Flint in 2024 to alleviate the symptoms of poverty among families with newborn children.

The program is now slated to expand to several other parts of Michigan in 2025 thanks to public and private support. We had the privilege to hear directly from the visionary co-founders of Rx Kids during our Public Policy Forum in 2024, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha and Dr. Luke Shaefer. They shared about the early successes of the program and what can be accomplished when we start reimagining our social contract.

Also in 2024, we applauded the passage of new statewide source-of-income protections for Michigan renters, major improvements to the state's Unemployment Insurance program, a repeal of the harmful and inactive work requirements for the Healthy Michigan Plan, and much more.

While there was a great deal to cheer about in 2024, there were also a number of things that were unfortunately left on the table, including a statewide paid family and medical leave program that we worked hard alongside our partners to champion throughout the year. Rest assured that we are not done fighting for paid leave, as we know it is an essential need for workers and caregivers across Michigan.

We want to thank our many partners for working alongside us in 2024 to fight for better outcomes for the people who call Michigan home. There's more work to be done and we know that, together, we will continue to rise to the occasion, no matter the headwinds we face along the way.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monique Stanton'.

Monique Stanton
Michigan League for Public Policy
President and CEO

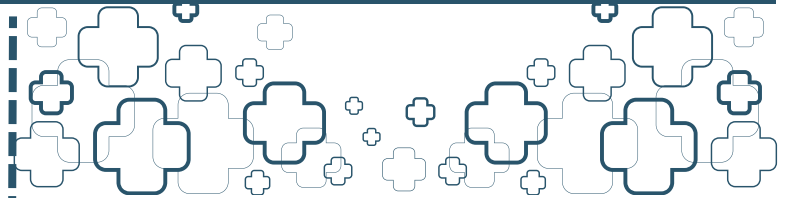
DATA IN ACTION

Many of the League's policy and budget priorities made it across the finish line for the people of Michigan in 2024. These wins would not have been possible without the support of our partners and the hard-fought, data-driven advocacy of League staff. Here is a rundown of some of what the League celebrated in 2024:



New statewide source-of-income protections that prohibit landlords from discriminating against tenants who plan to pay their rent using non-wage sources of income, such as Housing Choice Vouchers and veterans or social security benefits. These protections will make safe, stable housing more accessible for Michigan families with low incomes, veterans and retired individuals.

Long-overdue improvements to the state's Unemployment Insurance program, including an increase to the maximum weekly benefit from **\$362 to \$614** and an increase in the maximum number of weeks from **20 to 26 weeks**.



A repeal of work requirements for the Healthy Michigan Plan – the state's Medicaid expansion program – in order to remove a harmful and inactive law from the books, while safeguarding the health and financial security of Michiganders who rely on the program for their health care needs.



Passage of a bill that will allow for the licensing of freestanding birth centers – facilities where midwives provide prenatal, birth and postpartum care. Birth centers serve as an alternative to giving birth in a hospital for low-risk pregnancies and are often less expensive for families.

COST

The elimination of birth cost recovery – the practice of the state collecting money from unmarried fathers to cover a portion of Medicaid-paid birth expenses. Michigan was one of three states still operating a birth cost recovery program.



Several changes to the Michigan Energy Assistance Program, including increasing the income eligibility threshold, raising the amount of assistance available and expanding the program's reach to more households.



Improved protections for working children to ensure they are being treated lawfully by their employers.



Elimination of the requirement that beneficiaries comply with child support enforcement in order to receive child care scholarships and food assistance.



Increased investment in schools, specifically targeting students who need additional resources to access high-quality education. While the basic per-pupil funding level was not adjusted, additional funds were provided through the Opportunity Index, supporting students who grow up in poverty, English-language learners, students with disabilities, and students in rural or isolated schools.

A 15% increase in reimbursement rates for child care providers who care for kids with child care scholarships. When increased federal investment lapsed, providers dealt with a reduction in rates, resulting in budget instability and potential wage cuts, private pay rate increases, and closure of slots and/or rooms which disproportionately impact infants and toddlers who need the most care.

MAJOR WINS FOR FAMILIES

At the League, we know that families thrive when they are given the resources to afford basic needs. In 2024, several important budget and policy decisions helped in lifting up families across the state:



Investments in Michigan's basic cash assistance program, providing support for Michiganders with very low incomes. Major improvements to the Family Independence Program (FIP) included: an increase in the lifetime limits from 48 to 60 months, in line with federal guidelines; an increase of the FIP payment standard; and additional benefits for families raising children under the age of 14.



Focused significant investments in housing programs. State funds supported the revitalization of downtown areas, rehabilitation and new construction of single- and multi-family housing units, and home- and community-based supportive housing for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.



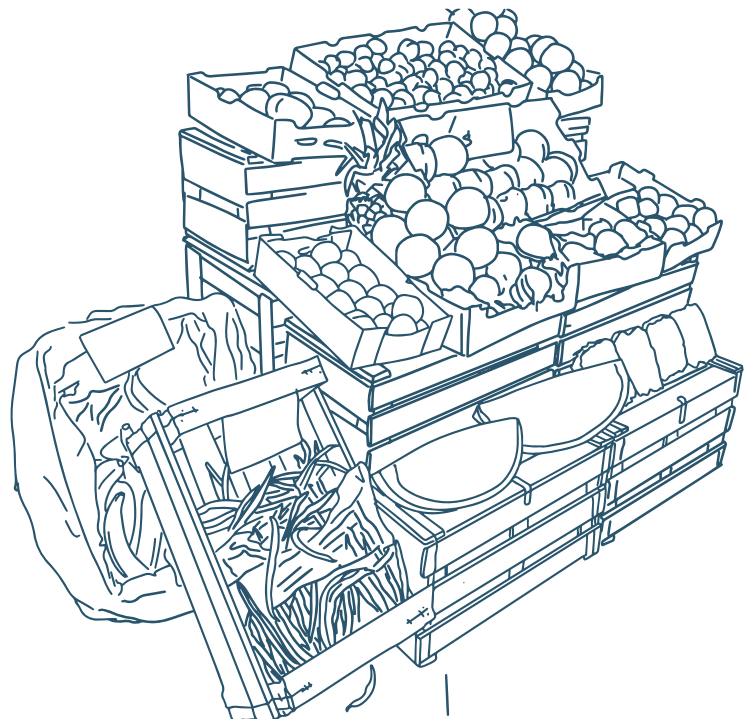
Support for new moms and babies. The budget included \$20 million in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding to expand Rx Kids – a cash program for moms and babies that was initially launched in Flint and is slated to launch in Kalamazoo, the Eastern Upper Peninsula and Pontiac in 2025. This trailblazing, first-of-its-kind program helps improve the well-being of kids by reducing the toxic stress of poverty on families welcoming newborn children.



Made health care access for tens of thousands of Michigan kids more affordable. The \$10-per-month premium for all families with children enrolled in the MIChild program was eliminated. MIChild regularly provides low-cost, high-quality health care to tens of thousands of kids each month.



Continued access to nutritious food for school-aged children. In the 2023-2024 school year, Michigan became the seventh state in the nation to authorize universal school meals for all public school students. In the 2024-2025 school year, state funding was maintained for this, saving families money, reducing the stigma many students experience around free school meals and making sure they have what they need to be successful in class. Additionally, federal funds were allocated so that Michigan could maintain food assistance for school-aged children during summer months, when children lose access to school meals.



OUR PRIORITIES



INCORPORATE RACIAL EQUITY WITHIN ALL OF OUR GOALS AND ACTIVITIES.

MAKE MICHIGAN A WELCOMING STATE FOR IMMIGRANTS.

MAKE SURE ALL MICHIGANDERS CAN MEET BASIC NEEDS.

ENSURE THAT ALL MICHIGANDERS HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.

MAKE AFFORDABLE, HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE AVAILABLE TO WORKING PARENTS.

REFORM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TO REDUCE RACIAL AND ECONOMIC DISPARITIES.

STRENGTHEN PUBLIC EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS, FROM PRE-K TO ADULT EDUCATION.

ENSURE THAT MICHIGAN HAS ADEQUATE REVENUES TO INVEST IN AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Engagement matters in continuing to build partnerships and strengthen advocacy efforts across the state. Thanks to the support of engaged partners and stakeholders, the League was able to significantly build on its outreach efforts in 2024.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS

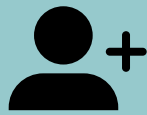
75 Policy Recommendations

36 Reports, Fact Sheets and Briefs

62 Blog Posts and Columns



112,417
Website Visitors



16,178
Social Media Followers

1,216 Media Hits

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The League held its 2024 Public Policy Forum in April, which brought together roughly **200** attendees from across Michigan to explore the theme of Economic Justice for All. The event included a keynote conversation with Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha and Dr. Luke Shaefer, who partnered to launch Rx Kids – a first-of-its-kind cash program for pregnant moms and babies.

The League held its 2nd Annual Champions for Kids event in August, which brought together approximately **350** child advocates and state leaders for the official release of the 2024 Kids Count in Michigan Data Profiles. The event also featured honored guest Angelique Power from The Skillman Foundation, who received the 2024 Champion for Kids ward for her dedication to improving outcomes for Detroit youth.



The League at the 2024 Kalamazoo Advocacy Boot Camp.

A total of **96 advocates** from around the state participated in three Advocacy Boot Camps and **54 campers** returned for Boot Camp Boost hosted by the League in 2024. In addition to learning communications tools, campers garnered essential legislative knowledge in order to advocate for the policies they and their communities care about most. They also learned how to use data in their advocacy work.

In addition to the Advocacy Boot Camps, the League held **two** focus groups, attended **334** meetings and **53** events with partners across Michigan, and hosted **48** presentations and **31** training sessions to aid partners in better understanding the state budget and advocating for their priorities. These community engagement efforts also helped the League to continue to identify policy and budget priorities that will help Michiganders thrive.

A total of **98** people participated in the League's 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge in 2024.

COLLECTIVE POWER

As the League continues to champion policy changes that improve the lives of all Michiganders, we also remain committed to our strong partnerships with advocates who share in our values and vision for Michigan. We know that, through our collective power, we can achieve real, lasting, positive change for our state's workers, families and children.

“

“MLPP is the place to go for any advice our nonprofit has about advocacy.”

—2024 Boot Camp Boost participant

”

ADVOCACY BOOT CAMPS

- * The League's Advocacy Boot Camps continue to grow strong partnerships with advocates from every corner of the state, while also instilling the knowledge fellow advocates need in order to advance state policies that will improve outcomes for the people of Michigan.

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

- * Each year, the League's Public Policy Forum brings together hundreds of individuals who care deeply about building a stronger, more economically just Michigan for all people — from policymakers to legislators, advocates, educators, members of foundations and community organizations, and other community members and stakeholders.

CHAMPIONS FOR KIDS

- * Michigan's children are our future, which is why events like the annual Champions for Kids luncheon are so important. The event provides a space for the League to share its latest Kids Count in Michigan data and trends with a room full of stakeholders committed to addressing the most pressing needs facing children and young adults in Michigan today.

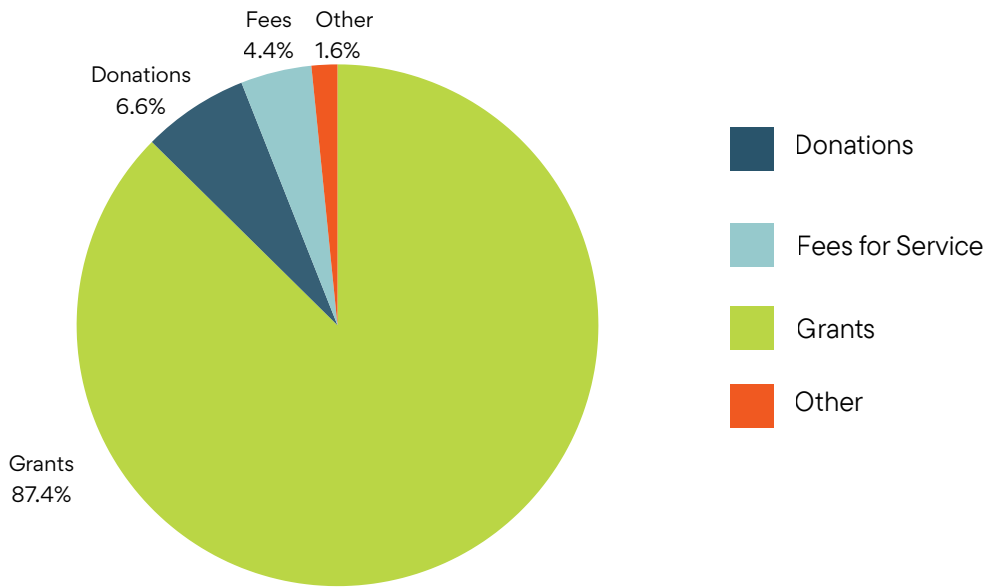
CIVICS LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES

- * In partnership with the North Flint Neighborhood Action Council, the League hosted the Flint Youth Civics Leadership Academy and Flint Civics Leadership Academy in 2024. The Youth Academy was in partnership with Accelerated Learning Academy, where League staff were brought into the school's classroom to provide students with a better understanding of how both state and local government work and how they can get involved. This culminated in a trip to the Michigan Capitol for the students, where they got to meet with their lawmakers and ask questions important to them. The adult academy brought together community members from the Flint area and provided participants with advocacy tools for both local and state government. The League's partners at the North Flint Neighborhood Action Council brought in legislators from all sectors of government to help foster understanding of how government works and build stronger relationships with the community.

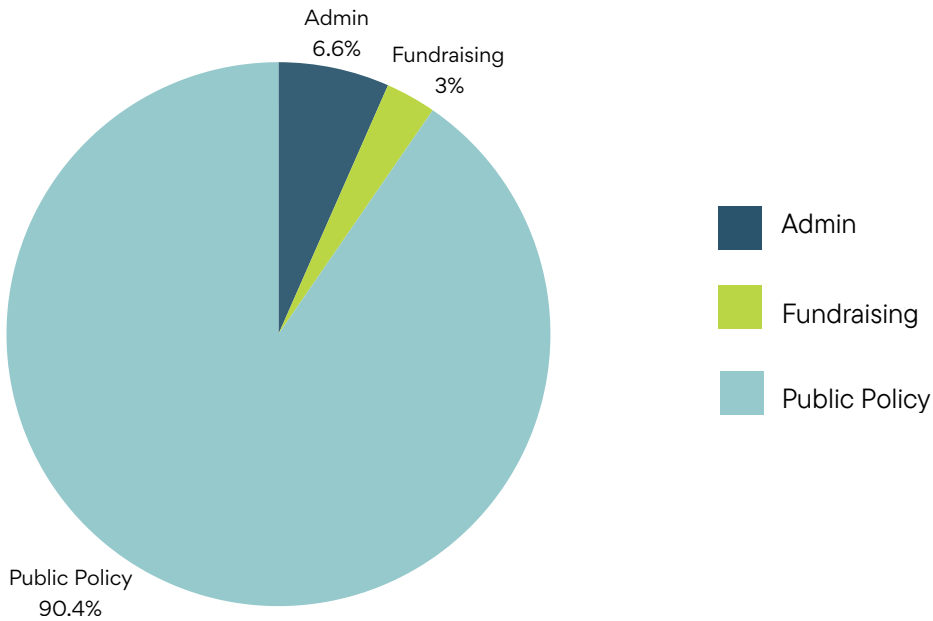


2024 FINANCIALS

SOURCES OF FUNDS



EXPENDITURES



NET ASSETS

Beginning of Year
\$8,233,040

End of Year
\$9,166,654

* In total, the League raised **\$933,614** in 2024.

2024 BOARD & STAFF

Board of Directors

Sonia Harb
Board Chair

Charles L. Ballard
Immediate Past Board
Chair

Richard Chang
Vice Chair

Robert Kleine
Treasurer

Denise Boucke
Secretary

Greg Anderson

Nancy W. Duncan

Martha Gonzalez-Cortes

David Hecker

Ja'Nel Jamerson

Dan Little

Alycia Meriweather

William Rustem

Lisa Sauv 

Robert W. Swanson

Edgar Vann, III

Staff

Monique Stanton
President and CEO

Karen Holcomb-Merrill
COO

Amber Bellazaire
Senior Policy Analyst

Kelli Vanderburg
Kids Count Data Analyst

Julie Cassidy
Senior Policy Analyst

Megan Farnsworth
Executive Assistant

Mikell Frey
Writing and Messaging
Specialist

Amari Fuller
Community Engagement
Specialist

Nicholas Hess
Fiscal Policy Analyst

Emily Jorgensen
Lead Communications
Coordinator

Anne Kuhnen
Kids Count Policy Director

Audrey Matusz
Visual Communications
Specialist

Rachel Richards
Fiscal Policy and Government
Relations Director

Simon Marshall-Shah
Senior Policy Analyst

Laura Millard Ross
Communications Director

Patrick Schaefer
Economic Security Policy
Analyst

Alexandra Stamm
Education Policy Analyst

Donald Stuckey II
Community Engagement
Specialist

Jayne Vosovic
Community Engagement
Director

2024 DONORS & PARTNERS

NOKOMIS LEGACY FOUNDERS SOCIETY

Nokomis Foundation | Ann Marston | Lynnette Rhodes |
Marianne Udow-Phillips & Bill Phillips | Gilda Z. Jacobs

\$500,000-\$750,000

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

\$250,000-\$500,000

Ballmer Group

\$100,000-\$249,999

Center on Budget & Policy Priorities

Ford Foundation

Hudson-Webber Foundation

Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation

The Kresge Foundation

The Skillman Foundation

United Way for Southeastern Michigan

\$50,000-\$99,999

Annie E. Casey Foundation

McGregor Fund

Michigan Public Health Institute

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation

Steelcase Foundation

Wege Foundation

\$15,000-\$49,999

Alliance for Early Success

Frankel Health and Research Foundation

Ruth Mott Foundation

The Children's Foundation

The Frey Foundation

\$5,000-\$14,999

Blue Cross Blue Shield Of

Michigan Foundation

Gilda Z. Jacobs

Michigan Association for Infant
Mental Health (MI-AIMH)

Michigan College Access Network

Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters

School-Community Health
Alliance of Michigan

Monique Stanton

Starfish Family Services

Marianne Udow-Phillips & Bill Phillips

\$2,500-\$4,999

Bellwether Public Relations

Black Family Development Inc.

Corewell Health

George Johnson and Company

Güd Marketing

Ann Marston

McAlvey Merchant & Associates

Michigan Advocacy Program

Michigan Head Start Association

Michigan Public Health Institute

Peckham Inc.

Lynette Rhodes

Robert and Renee W. Swanson

The Center for Michigan

Jane Zehnder-Merrell

\$1,000-\$2,499

ACCESS

ACLU of Michigan

Charles Altman

American Federation of Teachers Michigan

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation
Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS)
Comcast
Judith and Douglas C. Drake
Edgewood United Church
Jackson National Life Insurance
Paula Milgrom and Jim Barnett
Lynn Jondahl and Judy Martin
Toni and Scott Klus
Macomb County Intermediate School
District
Michigan Community Action
Michigan Council for Maternal &
Child Health
Michigan Nonprofit Association
Michigan Primary Care Association
Michigan State Housing Development
Authority
Oakland Family Services
Jeffrey Padden
Sharon and Lee Parks
Quattro Business Support Services
Samaritas
The Guidance Center
The Woll-Yellin Family Foundation
University of Michigan

\$500-\$999

Allegan County Community Foundation
Charles Ballard
Tim Bartik
Anne Chaffee
Children's Hospital of Michigan
Community Mental Health Association of
Michigan

Council of Michigan Foundations
Erica Peresman and David Jaffe
Nancy Duncan
Robert Emerson and Judy Samelson
David Hecker
Hillegonds Family Fund
Janet and Jerrold Joseph
Nancy Keils
Robert Kleine
Susan Konop
Daniel Little
Melany and Robert Mack
Matrix Human Services
Alycia Meriweather
Michigan Association for the
Education of Young Children (Michigan
AEYC)
Michigan Association of Community
& Adult Education
Michigan Health & Hospital Association
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
National Association of Social Workers
- Michigan Chapter
Orchards Children's Services
Lana Pollack
Public Policy Associates, Inc.
Public Sector Consultants
Judith Putnam
William R. Rustem
Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health
United Way of St. Clair County
Vista Maria
Lynn Weimeister

\$200-\$499

Barbara and Peter Alter
Marcia and Martin Baum
Joan Binkow
Community Foundation for Southeast
Michigan
Dottie and Hon. David Gubow
Catherine M. Davis
Anne Ginn
Sonia Harb
Karen Holcomb-Merrill
Klein/Goldman Family Foundation
Ann and Richard Kraft
Leaps & Bounds Family Services
Kathy and Robert Lovell
Metro Health Foundation
Michigan Association of United Ways
Elizabeth C. Moore
Glenn Nelson
Roberta Patt and Fred Fechheimer
Judy Pritchett
Rachel Richards
Lisa Sauvé
Karen Schrock
Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Bob Steeh
Kate Stocker
Kathleen Straus and
Hon. Walter Shapero
Richard Teets
Robert Tomasik and
Norman Horowitz

United Way of the Lakeshore
Gail Warden
Charles Warpehoski
Watkins, Ross & Co.
Amy Winans

Other Generous Supporters

Martha and Stephen Bartlett
Bruce Biundo
Linda Bodzin
Suzanne Boschan
Denise Boucke
Gus Breymann
Kathleen Bruinsma
Kyle Caldwell
Judith Case and Karl Hausler
Susan and Robert Citrin
Diane and Robert Collier
Michael Colman
Timothy J. Conroy
Barbara and Gerald Cook
Don Cooney, Ph.D.
Vikki Crouse
Leslie Curry
Molly Dean
Murray Ehrinpreis
Mary and William Fairgrieve
Tom Fehsenfeld
FiveCAP, Inc.
Michael Frezell
Erin Frisch
Juanita Gittings
Barbara and Fred Goldberg

Martha Gonzalez-Cortes
Mark Halkola
Susan Hartman
Barbara Heller
Don Hoyle
Janice Hudson
Eric Hufnagel
Margaret and James Hunt
Emily Jorgensen
Linda and Dennis Kayes
Sarah Kellogg
Phyllis Killips
Zina and Michael Kramer
Marion Kucharek
Renee and Martin Laker
Gail Lanpheaar
Jeannine LaPrad and David Dickinson
Alden Leatherman
Barbara R. Levine
Catherine Liesman
Jesse Lipson
Lori Lutz and Greg Gamalski
Nancy and Allen Martling
Lisa Mason
Marilyn McKinney
Miriam and Dan Medow
Midland Area Community Foundation
Susan R. Miller
Noel Niemann
Ruthanne Okun
Armida and Robert Paramo
Doug and Jane Paterson
Mary and Edward Pawlak

Linda and Steven Permut
Dr. Nathaniel L. Pernick
Peter Remington and Peggy Daitch
Nadine Piggott
Mary Pollack
Arnie Portner
Michael F. Radner
Michael F. Reagan
Debora Renner
Jane and James Richardson
Karen Roback
Laura Ross
James E. Schaafsma
Mary Scoblic
Dr. Jack Shartsis
Hon. Samir Singh
David Smith
Patricia Sorenson
John Speier
Susan Steinhart
Sheila and Gordon Taylor
Gary Thesing
Laurel Berger and Tom Trainer
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
Jayme Vosovic
Wendy and Dr. Elliot Wagenheim
Dr. Sam and Judith Weiner
Beverly and David Wiener
Mary Alice
Zenon Wisniewski
Kate and Rick Zimbelman

Donate today.