

# UPDATE

KALAMAZOO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION | WINTER 2022



## WHAT KALAMAZOO “CAN-DO” TOGETHER

CAN-DO KALAMAZOO HELPS MORE LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS WIN.

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# Relationships drive change

One of the best parts of working at KZCF is the connections we make with community partners and colleagues. In my more than 15 years here, I have been incredibly lucky to build relationships with folks who have been involved with KZCF for decades as well as those just learning about the Community Foundation and the work we do.

This year, a few of our long-term relationships enter new chapters. Valerie Mitchell, who started at the Community Foundation in 2000, and Susan Springgate, who joined KZCF in 1995, retired. Their combined 49 years of service has made KZCF stronger, more welcoming, and more innovative. Please consider celebrating these extraordinary individuals with a gift to the Valerie Mitchell Loves Where She Lives Fund or, in honor of Susan, to the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Endowment Fund. Contributions will support programs that make our community safer, healthier, and more just.

We also thank Si Johnson and the Hon. Carolyn Williams for their many years of service on our Board of Trustees. They served selflessly -- advising, inspiring, and sharing, all with their trademark common sense and hopeful vision. Their board terms may be ending, but they leave endearing and enduring legacies.

As we honor these outgoing members, we are also excited to welcome new members Xiaoan Li and Lucas Mansberger. Lucas and Xiaoan bring tremendous community knowledge and critical expertise to the board.

In this issue of UPDATE, you'll find information and stories that show how our relationships help transform Kalamazoo County into a place where everyone can love where they live.



**Joanna Donnelly Dales**

*Vice President of Donor Relations*  
Kalamazoo Community Foundation



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## GIVE

Give online at [connect.kalfound.org/GiveNow](https://connect.kalfound.org/GiveNow)  
Mail a check directly to KZCF

## SUPPORT

Kalamazoo County 501(c)(3) nonprofits  
Scholarships for college

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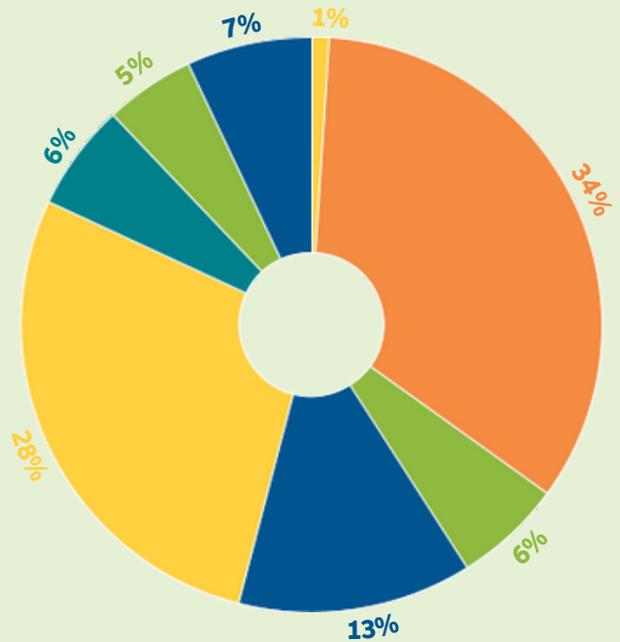
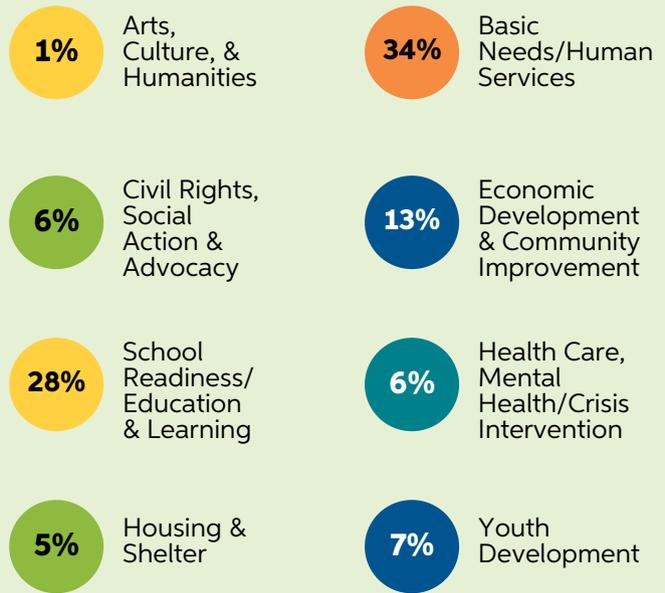
# Notable Numbers: Unrestricted Giving

The issue's Notable Numbers highlights how your gifts to our Greatest Needs Fund support local nonprofits.

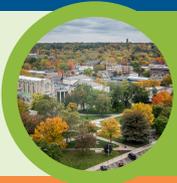
Gifts to our Love Where You Live (LWYL) Greatest Needs Fund are unrestricted. This means they have the power to do more good by flexing and responding to needs of the community as they arise.

**Contributions to the LWYL Greatest Needs Fund at KZCF supported 73 grants to 69 nonprofit programs as of Fall 2022.**

## YOUR SUPPORT REACHES ACROSS SECTORS!



Basic needs and services grants supported programs like **Intrepid Professional Women Network**. Their programs provide professional development, health workshops and financial planning to women who are underemployed, veterans, or formerly incarcerated.



Do you value increased stability and quality of life in Kalamazoo County? Grants supporting economic development and community improvement went to organizations like **Vibrant Kalamazoo**. This nonprofit is on a mission to create vibrant communities through eliminating blighted properties, creating affordable housing and stabilizing property values.

Education grants funded programs that increase children's access to high quality, culturally relevant learning and support like our partners at **Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative** in Kalamazoo.



These are just a few examples of transformational work powered by gifts to the **Love Where You Live Greatest Needs Fund at KZCF**. Make a gift today using the enclosed envelope or scan the QR code with your phone's camera!



Gifts of all sizes are making our community better. Contributions to our Love Where You Live Funds ranged from **\$5 to \$10,000** this year!

# WHAT COMMUNITY “CAN-DO” TOGETHER



Lucy Dilley understands how to take an idea and grow it into something bigger. That’s what she did in 2008 when she started Can-Do Kitchen, a supportive space for local food businesses. Fourteen years later, Can-Do Kitchen is changing its name to Can-Do Kalamazoo (CDK) as it grows into a hub for all kinds of business.

The nonprofit will continue its current types of support such as business planning, licensing and branding and marketing guidance. It will also step-up coordination with other local business support organizations like Sisters in Business, Black Wall Street Kalamazoo and El Concilio.

Can-Do Kalamazoo has supported hundreds of entrepreneurs at different parts of their journey. It’s difficult to sum up the cumulative impact in just one success story. Seeing business owners reach key milestones gives more entrepreneurs hope they can run a business with the resources and support they need.



**“Our team loves watching years-long efforts become real,” Dilley says. “It’s exciting when people come to us with some of the pieces of the puzzle and they just need help putting it together. Seeing small steps add up to the hard work of building a business is rewarding.”**



# IN IT FOR THE PEOPLE

Business ownership is a path to building family wealth that can pass to the next generation. Yet not all entrepreneurs have the same opportunities to own businesses. Can-Do Kalamazoo's anti-racism commitment and accessible business supports are helping more entrepreneurs establish businesses in Kalamazoo.

CDK honors its commitment by understanding the unique challenges business owners of color face and finding ways to support. This support looks like having a diverse staff and independent contractor network for clients to connect to. They also focus on raising awareness of systemic racism and barriers with partner organizations.

Financial barriers are also a huge obstacle. Without family money or connections, many business owners are on a more difficult journey. CDK makes business support accessible for people of color, LGBTQIA+ people and women of all racial groups.

**“We want entrepreneurs to know CDK commits to supporting them. We are in this to knock down barriers. We’re in it for the people.”**

**– Lucy Dilley**  
Executive Director of Can-Do Kalamazoo

# EVERYONE WINS

When CDK prioritizes anti-racism, marginalized entrepreneurs aren't the only group that wins. Reducing language barriers makes complex business terms and regulations easier for entrepreneurs of all backgrounds to understand.

Although Can-Do Kalamazoo is on its own entrepreneurial and anti-racism journey, the future excites Lucy and her team. They hope Kalamazoo can be more delicious, more supportive of local business and a more welcoming community for dreams of all kinds.

And she is grateful for how far they've come.

“It’s fun to be around people whose work excites them,” Dilley says. “You can tell when something bigger motivates someone.”

**“Anti-racism wasn’t an afterthought for us. We knew we had a responsibility to approach the work through that lens,” says Dilley.**



# Upcoming Events

If you're a nonprofit partner, student or engaged community member, you'll want these dates on your calendar!

 **December 18**  
**Rootead Enrichment Center:**  
Year End Fundraiser and Youth Drum and Dance Showcase

 **January 1**  
**KZCF General Scholarships (including Remyne)**  
Application opens!

 **March 1**  
**KZCF General Scholarships (including Remyne)**  
Application closes!

 **December 26**  
**Soul Artistry & Black Wall Street**  
Kalamazoo Kwanzaa Festival

 **January 17**  
**7th Annual National Day of Racial Healing**  
State Theater  
5 to 8:30 pm

 **March 15**  
**Women's Education Coalition Scholarship**  
Application opens!

 **March 22**  
Deadline for grant requests over \$25,000

 KZCF/TRHT Sponsored Events  
 KZCF Scholarships  
 KZCF Grantmaking

## Donors create new funds

Donors partnered with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation to create three new unrestricted funds since the Summer issue of UPDATE.

### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (Love Where You Live Funds)

When you establish an unrestricted fund, you place your trust in us to use our knowledge and expertise to make smart, strategic community investments. Love Where You Live Funds are unrestricted, but with focus.

- **All Creatures Great and Small**
- **Gould Fox Fund**
- **Valerie Mitchell Loves Where She Lives Fund**

**Connect with a member of our Donor Relations Team to learn how KZCF can maximize your gift to community.**





If you're still curious about racial healing, you're not alone. As Kalamazoo prepares for its 7th National Day of Racial Healing celebration, it's still a concept that sparks interest.

# Preparing hearts for healing



"Race is a subject that can feel polarizing," said **Emily Olivares**, Co-Director of Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Kalamazoo. "We generally aren't taught to reflect about race with the care and complexity it requires. Racial healing is not about bashing, victimization, or shame. It's about truth, restoration, and connection."

## WHAT IS RACIAL HEALING?

Through the Racial Healing Circle (RHC) method, TRHT Kalamazoo offers opportunities for people in our community to connect with one another over topics that are rarely discussed.

Racial Healing Circles gather people with different identities and racial backgrounds to reflect together on their lives and experiences. Through guided conversation and thought-provoking prompts, people in our community share their personal stories and experiences with one another. This process of listening, learning and connecting helps to uncover truths about racism and the different ways it harms us and others in the community.

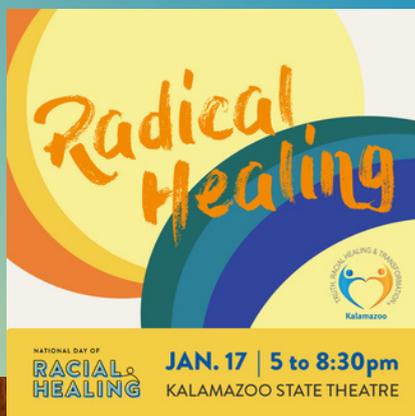
**"We don't expect to correct centuries of damage in one gathering," Olivares said. "But, having space to reflect, be heard and learn from others is transformational for a person. And that's where community healing starts."**

## RACIAL HEALING CIRCLES ARE FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN:

- Gaining new insights about the experiences of others
- Forming new relationships with people in community
- Experiencing the positive effects of vulnerability through reflection

## WHO LEADS A RACIAL HEALING CIRCLE?

TRHT Kalamazoo has trained over 60 community members to lead Racial Healing Circles. Leaders complete an extensive, multi-day process to join the cohort. In July 2022, TRHT Kalamazoo held its second New Racial Healing Practitioner Training where 16 new leaders were trained. The new practitioners did a deep dive into the TRHT Racial Healing method and put it in practice by leading circles. One person shared, "I'm feeling inspired, grateful, connected, human, and a sense of possibility."



## Still curious about racial healing?

Attend Kalamazoo's 7th National Day of Racial Healing event on January 17, 2023 at the State Theatre.

Visit [trhtkzoo.org](http://trhtkzoo.org) for more.

photos by Gabriel Giron





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# Fall Partner Social

The Kalamazoo Community Foundation gathered with community partners for food, fun, and fellowship this fall. KZCF hosted the event for nonprofit partners funded in the first grantmaking round of 2022.

Forty-five community partners attended! Many thanks to Teresa's Kitchen for the delicious food for our partners and team.

We know relationships keep us engaged, sustained, and hopeful. Thank you to all our partners who drive change and help make Kalamazoo County a place where everyone loves to live.

