Embracing a new era

KZCF WELCOMES DR. GRACE LUBWAMA AS PRESIDENT AND CEO

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A warm welcome from our trustees and staff

It is a very exciting time for the Kalamazoo Community Foundation (KZCF), and our team is delighted to experience it with all of you! After a six-month comprehensive search, KZCF is pleased to welcome Dr. Grace Lubwama to her role as our new president/CEO. After nearly 100 years of serving Kalamazoo community members, KZCF has hired its first Black woman president/CEO.

The possibilities of how KZCF can leave a lasting impact on our community are limitless in the eyes of Dr. Lubwama. Arriving to the team with fresh perspectives, an unwavering commitment to the Kalamazoo community, and a wealth of experience in public health and public policy, Dr. Lubwama begins her new role with the goal of establishing a solid foundation that will propel KZCF forward.

As our new president/CEO, we look forward to implementing her fresh perspectives on how to better serve all of our community members and leave a lasting impact for many years to come.

KZCF HAS HIRED ITS FIRST BLACK WOMAN PRESIDENT/CEO.
EMBRACING A new era

EQUITY AT THE CENTER

Dr. Grace Lubwama’s decades-long career has been fueled by her desire to see communities prosper and thrive. What began as a dream of making the world a better place evolved into a strategic and coordinated effort to dismantle long-standing, harmful systems, replacing them with equitable ones. For Dr. Lubwama, equity means giving community members what they need and accounting for the fact that everyone’s needs may be different.

“Equity is flexible and adaptive to what everyone’s individual needs are,” Dr. Lubwama said. “It brings out the humanity and empathy in all of us. Today, somebody might be vulnerable, and tomorrow we might ask, ‘What can I do to support that person?’”

“WE HAVE TO BE TRUE TO SERVING EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY.”

“EQUITY IS FLEXIBLE AND ADAPTIVE TO WHAT EVERYONE’S INDIVIDUAL NEEDS ARE”
IMPACT THAT LASTS

In addition to a clear understanding of equity, Dr. Lubwama prioritizes a clear definition of function, purpose, goal and strategy, all of which are necessary when engaging in the transformational work of strengthening communities through philanthropy.

“I think narrowing down and being very, very clear on what philanthropy can do is going to be key to the next era of the Community Foundation,” Dr. Lubwama said. “I’m hoping that in this role, the Community Foundation can go back to its original roots — finding the resources, mobilizing those resources and giving out those resources in an impactful way that isn’t just distributing. We want to be impactful so that communities can change.”

CONNECTION AS A CATALYST

At the heart of supporting community well-being is the need for relationship building.

“POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS ARE VITAL TO DRIVING CHANGE.”

Fostering long-lasting relationships grounded in trust and authenticity is one of the many things Dr. Lubwama looks forward to doing with KZCF’s various stakeholders. To her, positive relationships are vital to driving change and ensuring that everyone remains excited, engaged and connected to the work our community members are doing.

“PART OF MY PERSONALITY IS BEING A RELATIONSHIP BUILDER.”

“I just want to be real and authentic,” Dr. Lubwama said. “I think when we embrace relationships and, again, remain authentic with each other, we express ourselves differently. Our differences bring out what we’re interested in, and understanding these things is going to be key to my leadership and relationship building with our different community partners and donors.”
“Leadership and relationship building.”

VALUING EVERY VOICE

Within these first few months, Dr. Lubwama looks forward to realigning the mission, vision and purpose of KZCF. In addition to learning more about the relationship between philanthropy and direct service from the philanthropic perspective, she seeks to rearticulate the purpose of KZCF in the community and ensure that every community member’s voice is valued equally.

“WE HAVE TO BE TRUE TO SERVING EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY,”

“If we are about everyone in this community thriving in a way that is equitable, that means we have to be true to serving everyone in our community,” Dr. Lubwama said. “The key is we have to be true to what our values are. We will not discriminate against anybody based on whatever their identity is or based on what their belief is. We’ll have everybody at the table and engage in a conversation about how we can thrive collectively.”

A PROMISING NEW PATH

Sensing the shifts and opportunities for growth in the philanthropic sector, Dr. Lubwama looks forward to continuing to serve the residents of Kalamazoo in new and improved ways. This guiding principle of community support and enrichment will remain at the center of Dr. Lubwama’s agenda as she champions positive change for community members.

Dr. Lubwama said, “I believe that with our stakeholders, staff, trustees and community partners, we are collectively going to figure out what that looks like — what makes us relevant. I’m excited to get to the era when KZCF becomes an irreplaceable pillar in the community.”

“KZCF...AN IRREPLACEABLE PILLAR IN THE COMMUNITY.”
UNDERSTANDING THE POWER OF your gift.

Your gift represents a commitment to ensuring that everyone in Kalamazoo County feels supported. It is because of the generous gifts of our donors that KZCF is able to pour back into the community we value and love. Check out how your gifts over the last six months are leaving a legacy that lasts!

HERE’S WHAT YOU GAVE!

Total Amount: $10,466,446

UNRESTRICTED & FIELD-OF-INTEREST FUNDS:
Your gifts provided funding to 76 nonprofit organizations and 81 nonprofit programs.

DONOR ADVISED/ ADVISED FUNDS:
In addition to gifts from our Unrestricted & Field-of-Interest Funds, donor advisors invested over $1.3 million into our local nonprofits.

DESIGNATED FUNDS:
Your gifts, combined with KZCF’s stewardship of investments, increased nonprofit fund assets by $10.7 million.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:
Your gifts allowed us to provide nearly $1.5 million in scholarships this year, an increase of 24.7% compared to 2022.

NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL TO MAKE A BIG IMPACT!
Maybe it wasn’t just a coincidence that Howard D. Kalleward was born the same year KZCF was established. In hindsight, it makes perfect sense. **Thirty-six years after he retired as executive director of KZCF, we now cherish Howard’s memory and legacy.**

Howard was born in Kalamazoo, graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. The 20-year-old veteran attended Parsons Business School and University of Toledo before joining The Upjohn Company in 1948. For 19 years, he held a variety of administrative and then executive positions, working his way up in the Insurance Department and then with the Legal Division. His duties offered his first taste of philanthropy, being responsible for product donations.

As KZCF grew during its first three decades and trustees began meeting in the Upjohn Building, Howard took over for Harold Allen, the organization’s former secretary. His title was later changed to executive director.

**For the 20 years Howard served as executive director of KZCF, he increased relationships with donors and nonprofits.** Highlights of his tenure include moving KZCF from the Upjohn Building to the Industrial State Bank Building in downtown Kalamazoo (now the Comerica Building) in 1973 and assisting with the establishment of the Council of Michigan Foundations. Howard also mentored his successor, Jack Hopkins, who took over in 1987.

Following his retirement, Howard was a member of KZCF’s Emeritus Council. He was also a trustee emeritus of the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and an emeritus member of the board of directors at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre. He served as president of the Richard U. Light Foundation and vice president of the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation. Howard was also active in the Kalamazoo Rotary Club and Western Michigan University Foundation.

When Howard retired after 39 years at Upjohn, former KZCF Board President Bill Lawrence and trustees recognized Howard’s service to KZCF with a resolution and established a fund in his honor. Per the family’s request, memorials in Howard’s memory may be directed to the **Howard D. Kalleward Operational Fund** at KZCF or your favorite charity.
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Kalamazoo County
501(c)(3) nonprofits and scholarships for college.

PROUD TO SERVE all of Kalamazoo County

KZCF is happy to serve all of the townships in Kalamazoo County, including Alamo, Augusta, Brady, Climax, Charleston, Comstock, Cooper, Galesburg, Kalamazoo, Oshtemo, Parchment, Pavilion, Portage, Prairie Ronde, Richland, Ross, Schoolcraft, Scotts, Texas, Vicksburg and Wakema.

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